

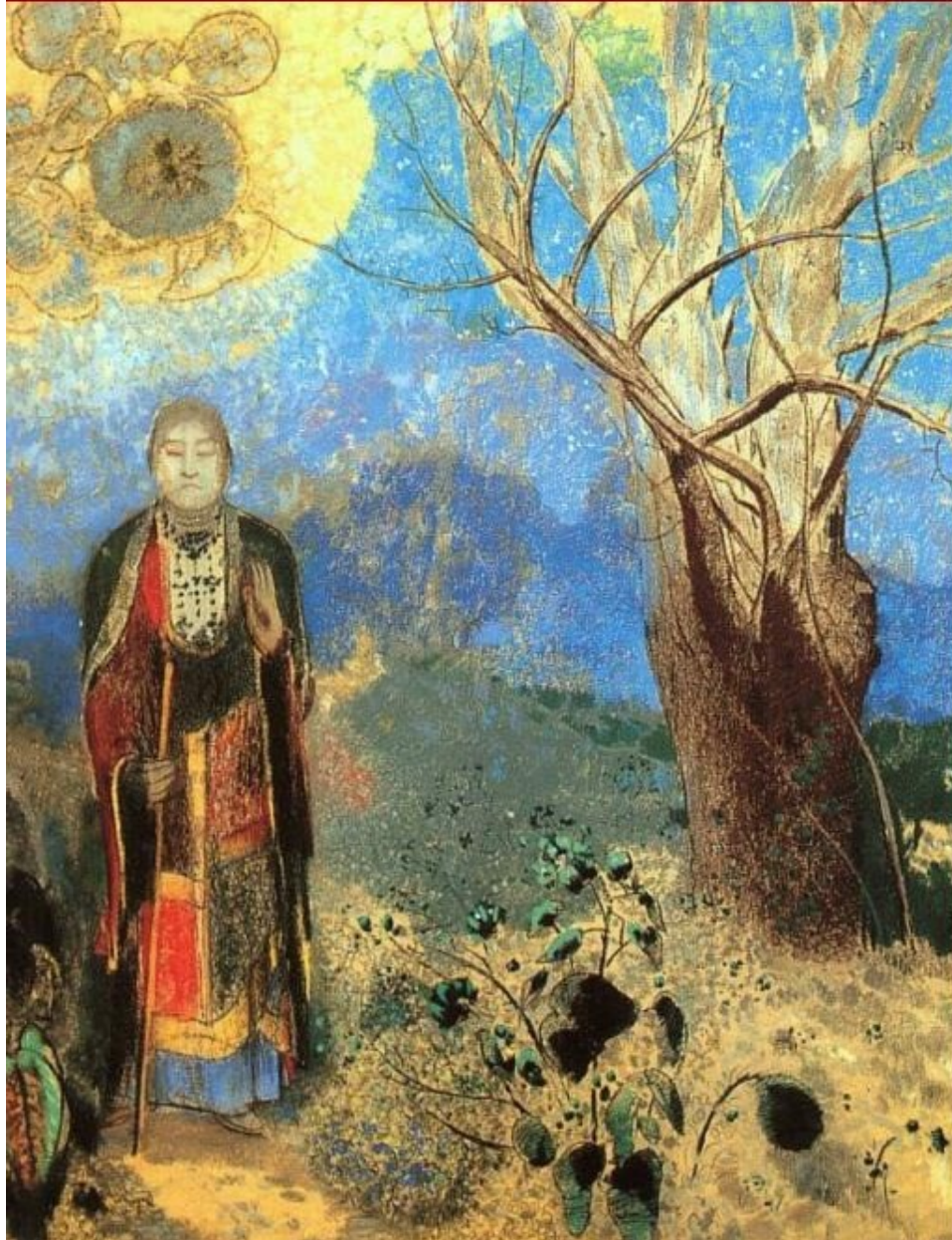
BUDDHISM: A BRIEF INTRODUCTION

(Journey from India to the World)



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Siddhartha Gautama Sakya: Buddha



ca. 563-483 bce

- Prophesied to be king or world redeemer at birth
- A prince who gave up his wealth to find escape from human suffering
- Studied with Hindu masters
- Became an ascetic
- Meditated under Bo tree for 49 days and nights until he experienced enlightenment
- Became a wandering teacher dedicated to help others achieve Nirvana

Buddhism

- A religion without a god
- Each individual must find his/her own way to enlightenment
- Four Noble Truths:
 - Life consists of suffering, impermanence, imperfection, incompleteness.
 - The cause of suffering is desire (selfishness).
 - Ceasing to desire relieves suffering.
 - The answer to the problem of suffering is the Eight-fold Path



The Eight-Fold Path

- Knowledge of the Four Noble Truths.
- Right aspiration toward enlightenment.
- Right speech that is honest and charitable.
- Right conduct: no drinking, killing, lying, lust.
- Right living.
- Right effort.
- Right thinking with emphasis on self-awareness.
- Right use of meditation.

Appeal of Buddhism

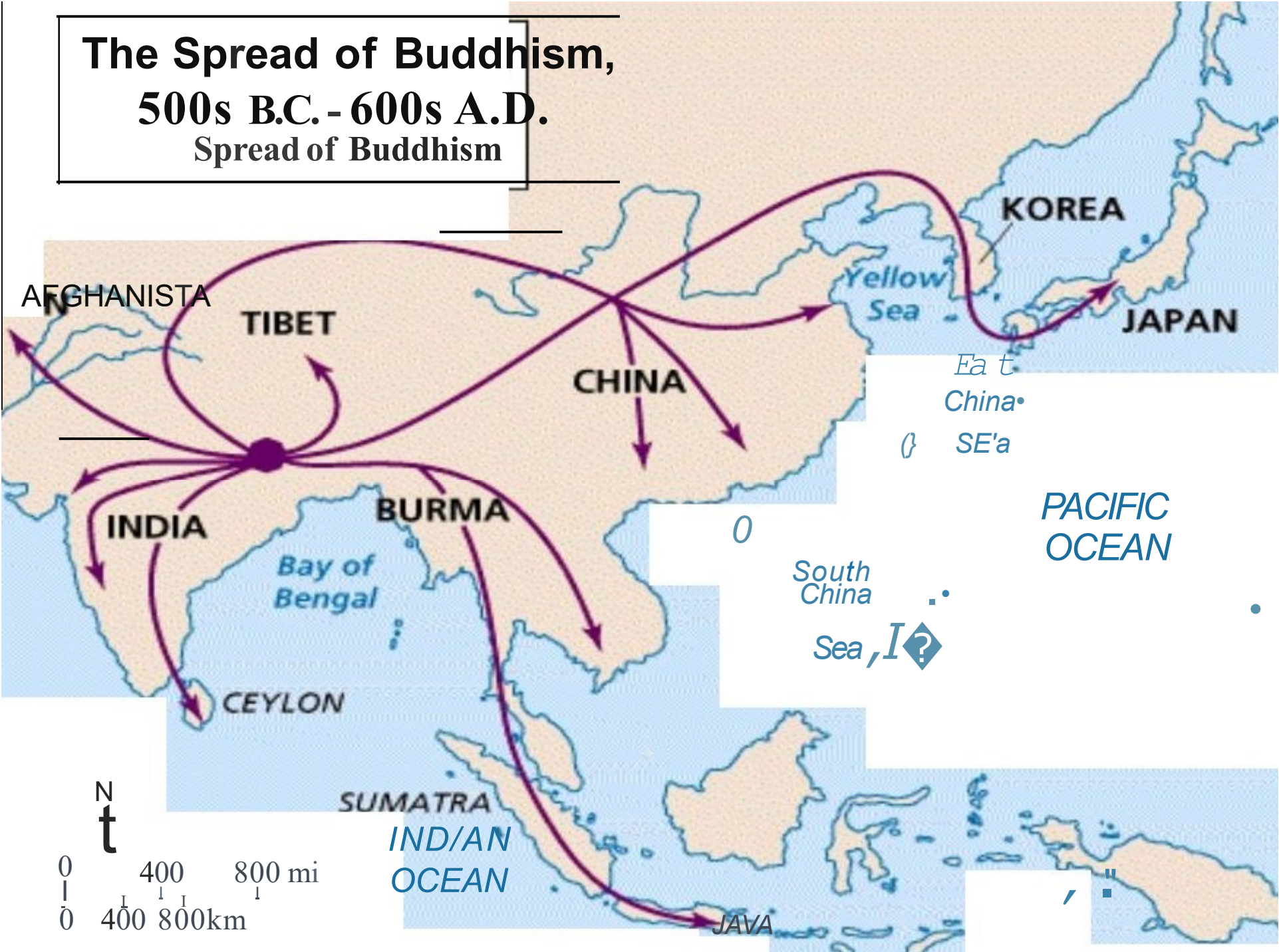
- Escape from endless cycle of birth, death and rebirth through enlightenment: Nirvana.
- Egalitarian: anyone can achieve Nirvana.
- Reliance on individual will and searching: individuals work out their own salvation.
- Avoidance of extremes of self-indulgence and self-mortification: 'the middle path'.
- Profoundly ethical.

Pitakas

‘Baskets of Law’

- Disciples memorized Buddha's teachings and collected them in 3 main books.
- Languages: Pali and Sanskrit.
- The Sutras teach Meditation: discourses, recounted together with their particular context, i.e. the location of the teaching, who was present and who asked a question, and so on.
- The Vinaya teaches Discipline: Accounts of how certain rules came about by mentioning the particular context and who was involved.
- The Abhidharma teaches Wisdom: arranges topics in the sutras according to their classifications and divisions.

The Spread of Buddhism, 500s B.C. - 600s A.D. Spread of Buddhism



Mauurya Empire

4th c. bce -- 2nd c. bce

- Response to power-vacuum created by Alexander the Great's conquest of northern India c. 326 bce
- First emperor **Chandragupta Maurya** (r.324-301 bce)
- **Asoka Maurya** (r.273-232 bce) conquered and ruled almost entire sub-continent: encouraged spread of Buddhism
- Last Maurya emperor assassinated 184 bce



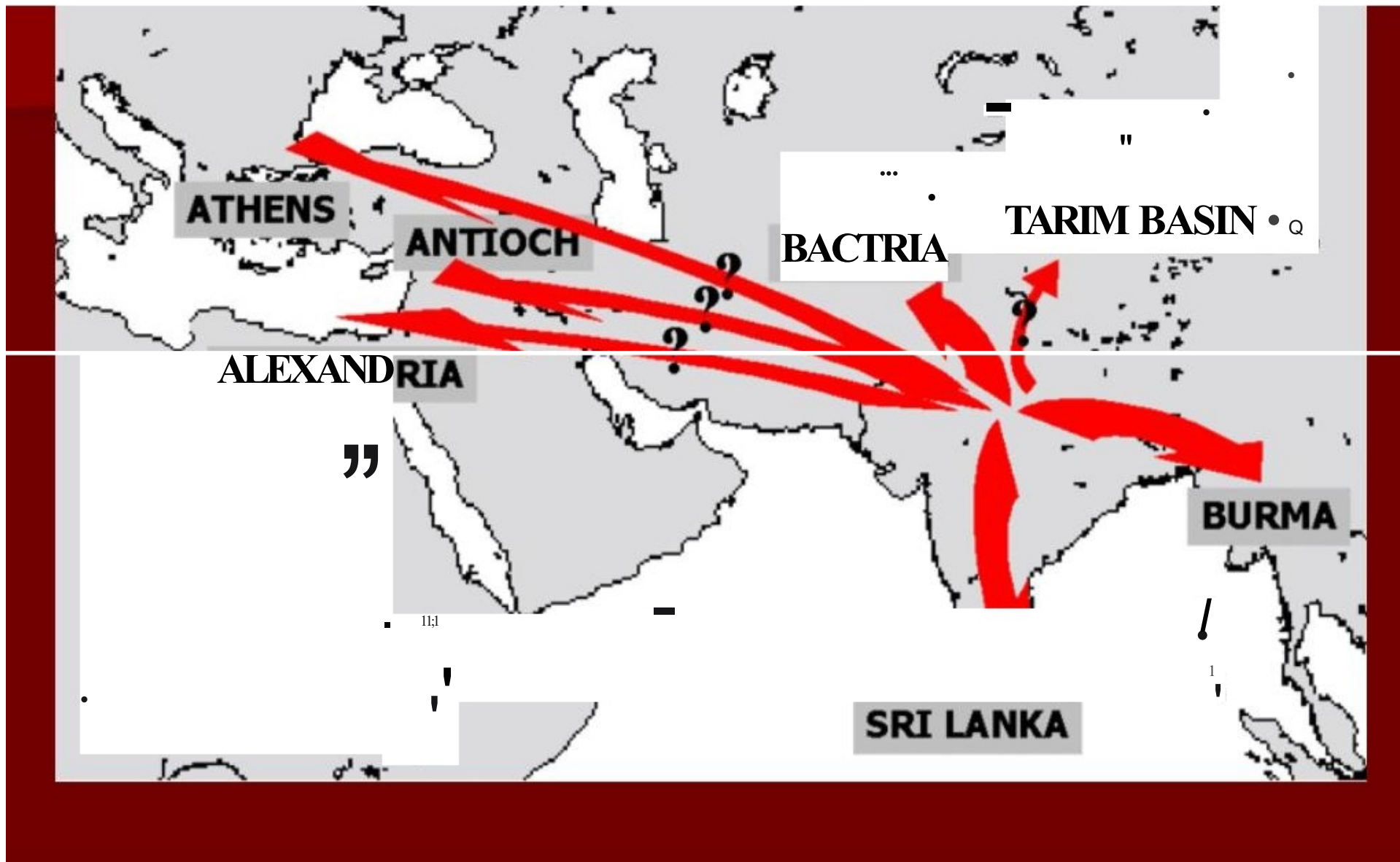
Asoka Maurya

273-232

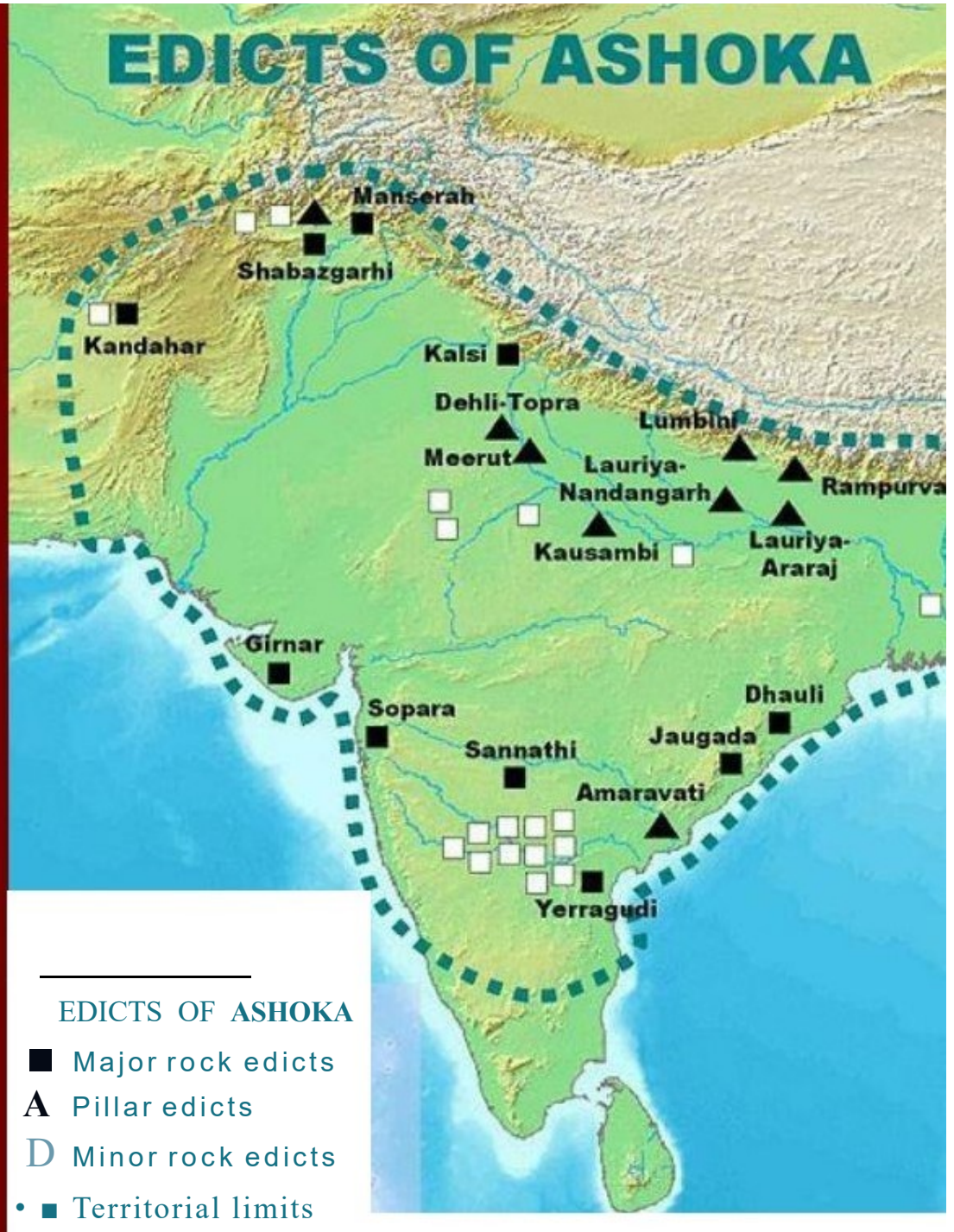


- Renounced violence after the devastating battle for **Kalinga** in which over 100,000 were killed
- Built thousands of **stupas** and **viharas** (monasteries)
- Sponsored 3rd Buddhist Council in 250 bce
- Declared Buddhism the state religion
- Sent forth monks, well versed in the Buddhist teachings, to teach in nine different countries

Buddhist proselytism at the time of King Asoka (260-218 BCE)



- A collection of 33 inscriptions on the Pillars of Ashoka
- The edicts describe the first wide expansion of Buddhism.
- Buddhist proselytism during this period reached as far as the Mediterranean.
- The inscriptions revolve around a few themes:
 - Asoka's conversion to Buddhism,
 - his efforts to spread Buddhism,
 - his moral and religious precepts,
 - his social and animal welfare program.





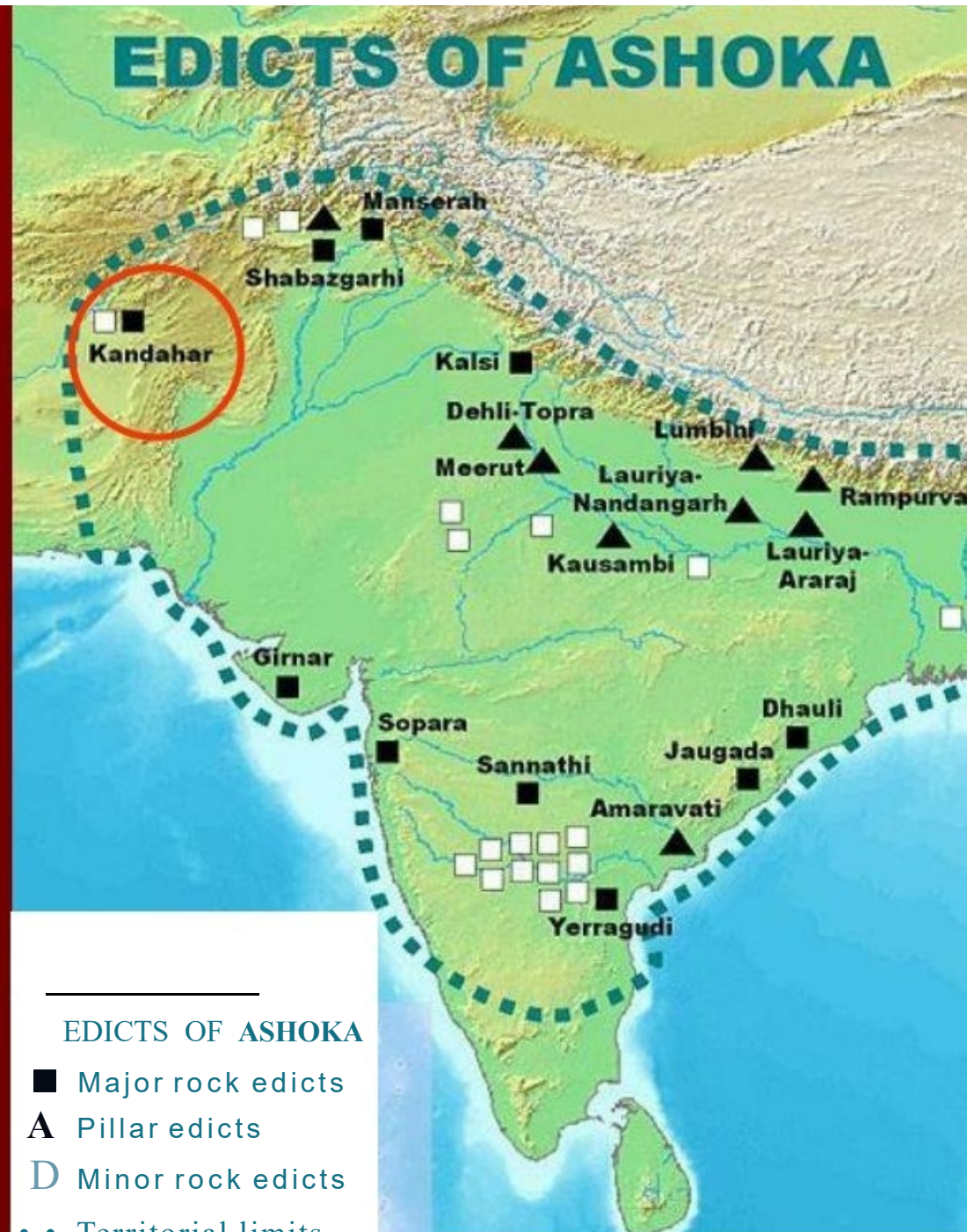
Pillar of Asoka at Vaishali, Bihar, India



- Lion Capital of Ashoka preserved at Sarnath Museum
- originally erected around 250 BCE atop an Ashoka Pillar at Sarnath.
- Adopted as the National Emblem of India showing the Horse on the left and the Bull on the right of the Ashoka Chakra in the circular base on which the four Indian lions are standing back to back.
- The "Ashoka Chakra" has been placed onto the center of the National Flag of India.

Greco-Buddhism

- Syncretism of Hellenistic culture and Buddhism in areas of modern-day Pakistan and Afghanistan and Indian border states
- Influenced the artistic expression and conceptual development of Buddhism



The Silk Road



- In the second century bce, caravans began traveling a 4,000 mile route linking Southeast Asia with the West.
- Silk carried along this route made its way to Rome
- In both directions, various political, social, religious, and artistic ideas flowed.

Princes from Central Asian states in Lamentation, Dunhuang Cave 158. This painting not only depicts their devotions to Buddha, but also accurately presents the appearances, garments and customs of different nations along the Silk Road and the history of cultural exchange between them.



Anthropomorphic Representations of Buddha

- Before Greco-Buddhist interaction, the representations of the Buddha were “aniconic” – symbolic – Bodhi tree, footprints, prayer wheel
- Greeks were first to attempt sculptural representation of the Buddha – syncretic representation: Buddha/Apollo
- Stylistic characteristics:
 - Greco-Roman toga
 - Curly hair
 - Artistic realism
 - Stylistic stance



The Buddha, in Greco-Buddhist style, 1st-2nd century CE, Gandhara (Modern Pakistan).

Buddhist Sects

- Buddhism split into two sects, Mahayana and Hinayana (Theravada).
- Mahayana laid stress on the concept of the Bodhisattva or 'one destined to be the Buddha' and also conceived of Eternal Buddhas who resemble gods or deities.
- Hinayana regarded the Buddha as a man and had a doctrine, Theravada, stressing the salvation of the individual.
- The interaction of Mahayana philosophy and Hinduism gave rise to Tantric Buddhism or Vajrayana.

Gupta Era

320 ce — 550 ce

- Gupta dynasty was founded by **Chandra Gupta I**
- Development of Mahayana Buddhism
- Classical Age in north India
- Cave paintings at Ajanta
- *Shakuntala*, *Jataka*, *Panchatantra* and *Kamasutra* were written
- Aryabhata's Astronomy.





AJANTA CAVES

- During the 4th century c.e. in a remote valley, work began on the Ajanta Caves to create a complex of Buddhist monasteries and prayer halls.
- As centuries passed, numerous Buddhist monks and artisans dug out a set of twenty-nine caves, converting some to cells, and others to monasteries and Buddhist temples.
- These caves are adorned with elaborate sculptures and paintings which have withstood the ravages of time



Ajanta Caves

- The Ajanta caves depict the stories of Buddhism spanning from the period from 200 bce to 650 ce.
- These 29 caves were built by Buddhist monks using simple tools like hammer & chisel.
- The elaborate and exquisite sculptures and paintings depict stories from *Jataka* tales .
- The caves also house images of nymphs and princesses.





Scene
From
The Jataka



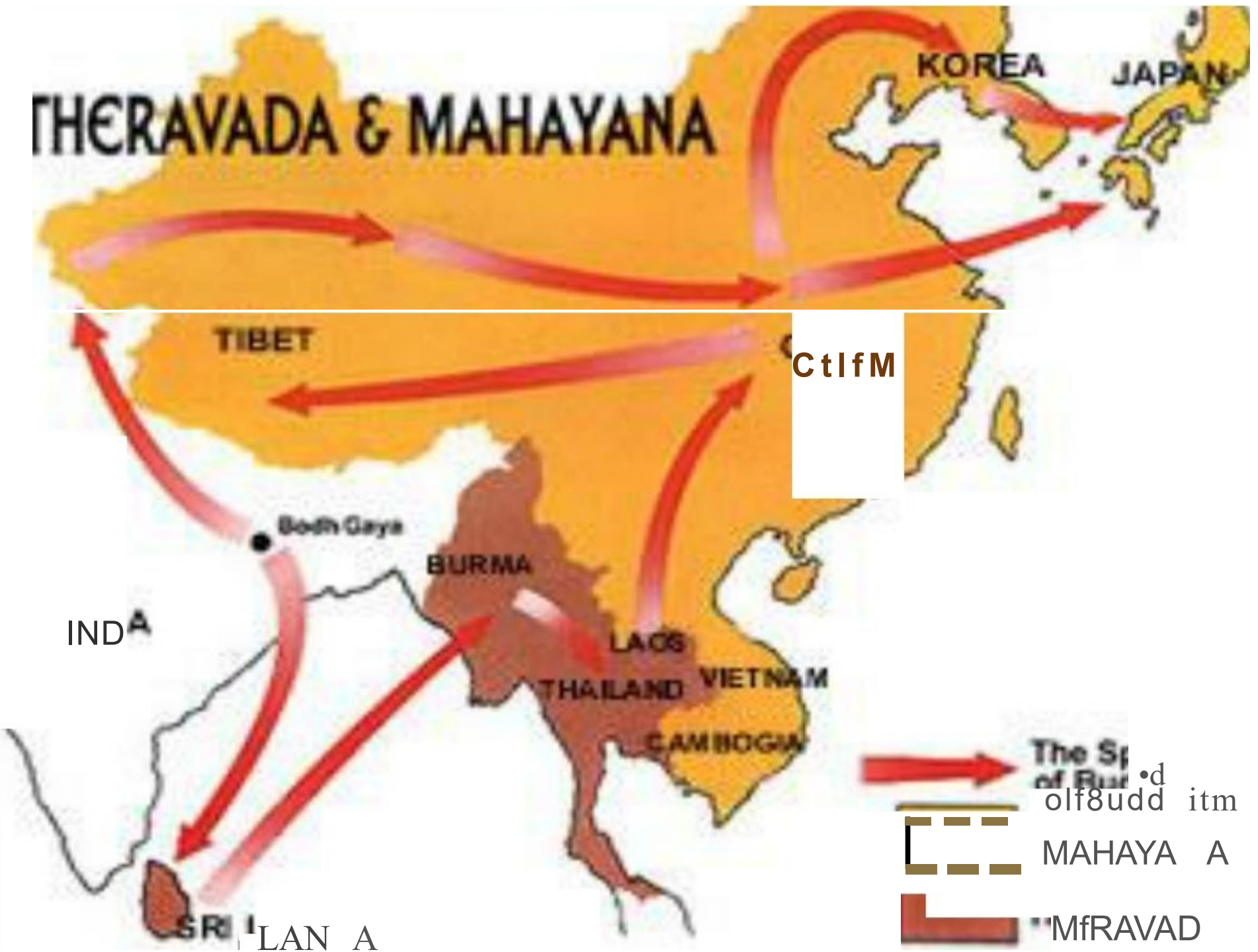
Greco-Buddhism and Mahayana

- Elevation of the Buddha to a man-god status with a pantheon of Bodddhisatvas.
- Incorporation of Greek philosophical ideas.
- Stoic attitude of equanimity and dispassionate outlook- especially in Zen Buddhism.
- Buddhist monks from the region of Gandhara, where Greco-Buddhism was most influential, played a key role in the development and the transmission of Buddhist ideas in the direction of northern Asia.



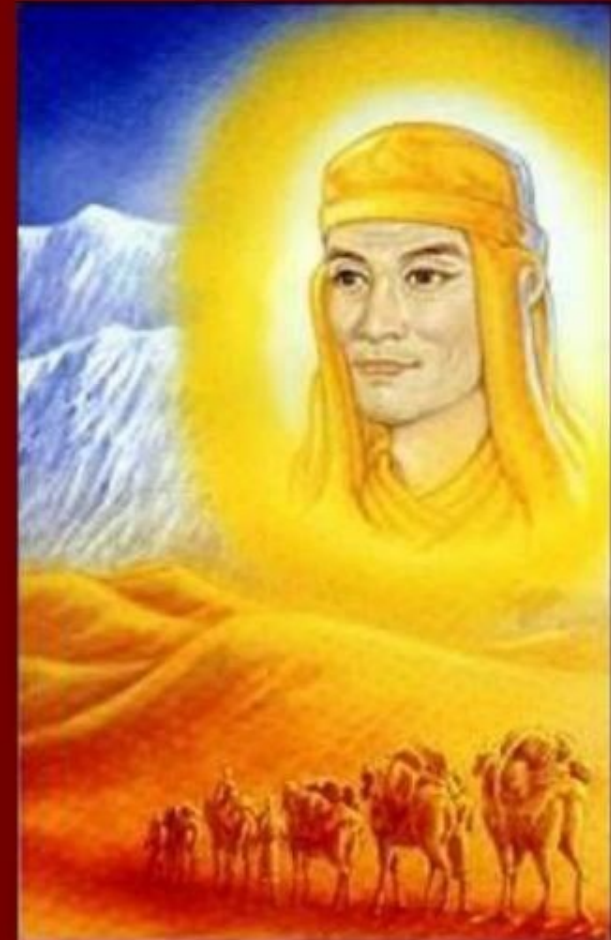
Blue-eyed Central Asian and East-Asian Buddhist monks, Bezaklik, Eastern Tarim Basin, China, 9th-10th century.

THERAVADA & MAHAYANA



Chinese Buddhism

- Two missionaries wrote "The Sutra of forty-two sections spoken by the Buddha" to provide guidance on the ideas of Buddhism and the conduct of monks. It is the first Buddhist text in the Chinese language.
- Their arrival in 67 CE marks Buddhism's official introduction in China.
- The first documented translation of Buddhist scriptures into Chinese occurs in 148 CE
- **Mahayana Buddhism** was first propagated into China by Kushan Lokaksema (active ca. 164-186 C.E.), the first translator of Mahayana sutras into Chinese.

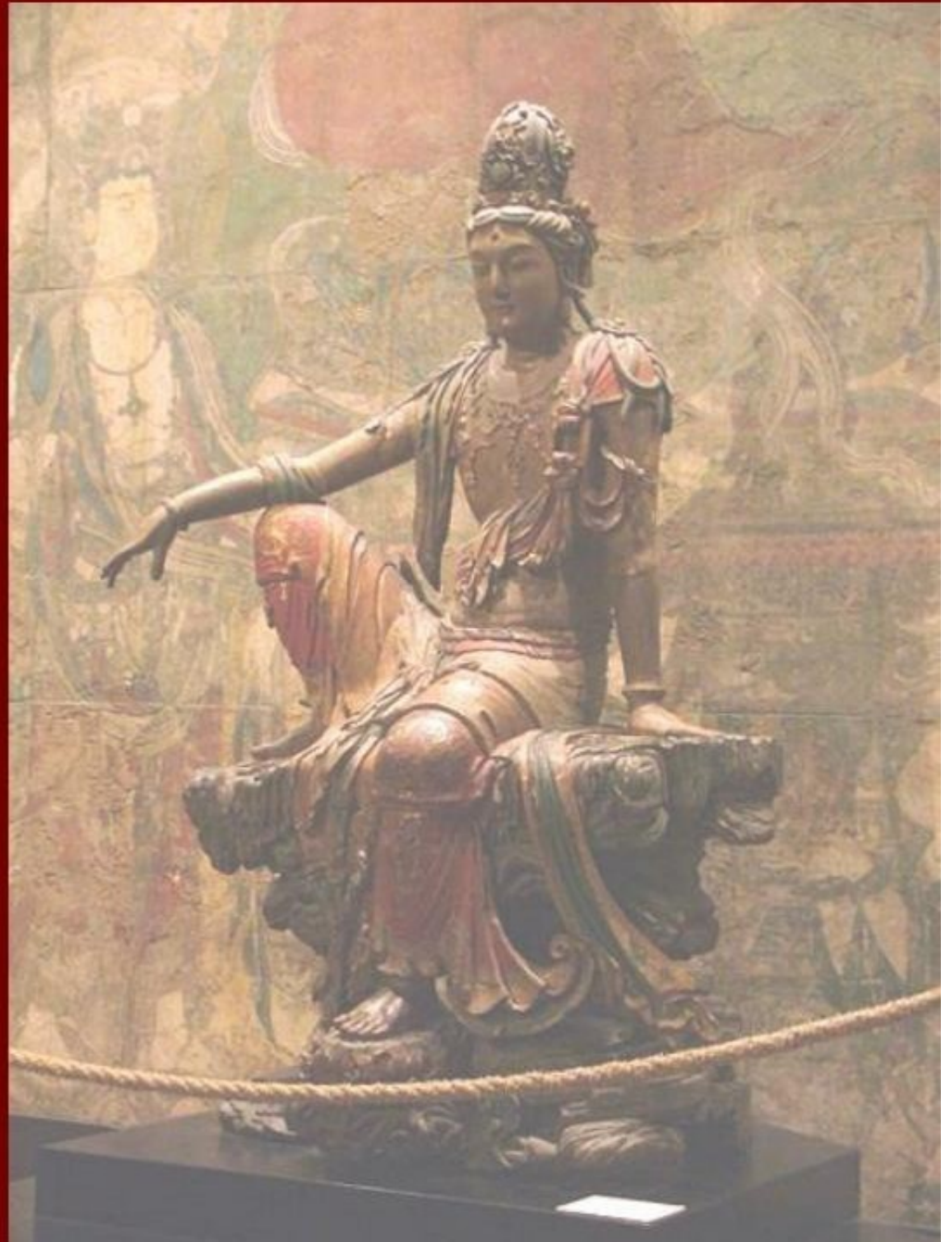


Chinese Adoption of Buddhism

- Many tenets of Buddhism were antithetical to Confucian philosophy with its emphasis on social responsibility-Buddhist ideals of monasticism and enlightenment contradicted Confucian ideals of family and emperor.
- More attuned to Taoist attitudes.
- Chinese Buddhism emphasized sutras that advocated filial piety and incorporated ancestor worship.
- The collapse of the Han Dynasty and political instability led to the spread of Buddhism.
- Through the actions and example of monks, Buddhists successfully laid claim to the high moral ground in society.

Guanyin

- **Guanyin** is the Chinese name for the Bodhisattva **Avalokiteśvara**.
- She is the **Bodhisattva of Compassion** as venerated by East Asian Buddhists.
- **Guanyin and the 1000 arms**: One Buddhist legend presents Guan Yin as vowing to never rest until she had freed all sentient beings from **samsara**, reincarnation. Despite strenuous effort, she realized that still many unhappy beings were yet to be saved. After struggling to comprehend the needs of so many, she attempted to reach out to all those who needed aid, but found that her two arms shattered into pieces. Amitabha came to her aid and appointed her a thousand arms with which to aid the many.





This wooden statue of Quan Am Nhin Mat Nhin Tay (Quan Am of 1000 Eyes and 1000 Hands) was created in Bac Ninh Province of Northern Vietnam around the year 1656 for the But Thap Pagoda.

Guanyin Dance from 2004 Special Olympics, Athens
<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=5HpWkNsGCms&feature=related>

Guanyin, goddess of mercy enthroned, blanc-de-Chine, with modeler's seal of Ha Chaozong, 17th c.



Ringling Museum



Sakyamuni Buddha teaching. Zhang Shengwen, Yunnan, 1173-1176 AD.

From Korea to Japan



- A Chinese monk in the 4th c. introduced Buddhism to Korea
- During the sixth and seventh centuries, Korean monks went to China to study and brought back with them the teachings of the various Chinese schools of Buddhism – it flourished under royal patronage.
- In the sixth century, the Koreans sent gifts of images of the Buddha and copies of Buddhist texts to the Japanese imperial court.
- The Japanese people soon accommodated Buddhism along with their indigenous Shinto beliefs.
- As a religion of universal appeal, Buddhism helped to foster harmony within the country.

Prince Shotoku

573-621

- Regent during reign of Empress Suiko (r. 592-628)
- Led Japanese court in adopting Chinese calendar and sponsoring Buddhism
- Wrote the Seventeen Article Constitution, the earliest piece of Japanese writing and basis for Japanese government throughout history



Prince Shotoku
Kamakura period, early 14th century
Gilt bronze

Daibutu at Nara



The Daibutu, literally Large Buddha, is known by the Japanese as "Daibutu-sama" or "Daibutu-san": the largest bronze casting in the world

745-755ad



Nara - Temple Horyu-ji
7th c.



Nara - Temple Chugu-ji
7th c.

Buddha Sculptures

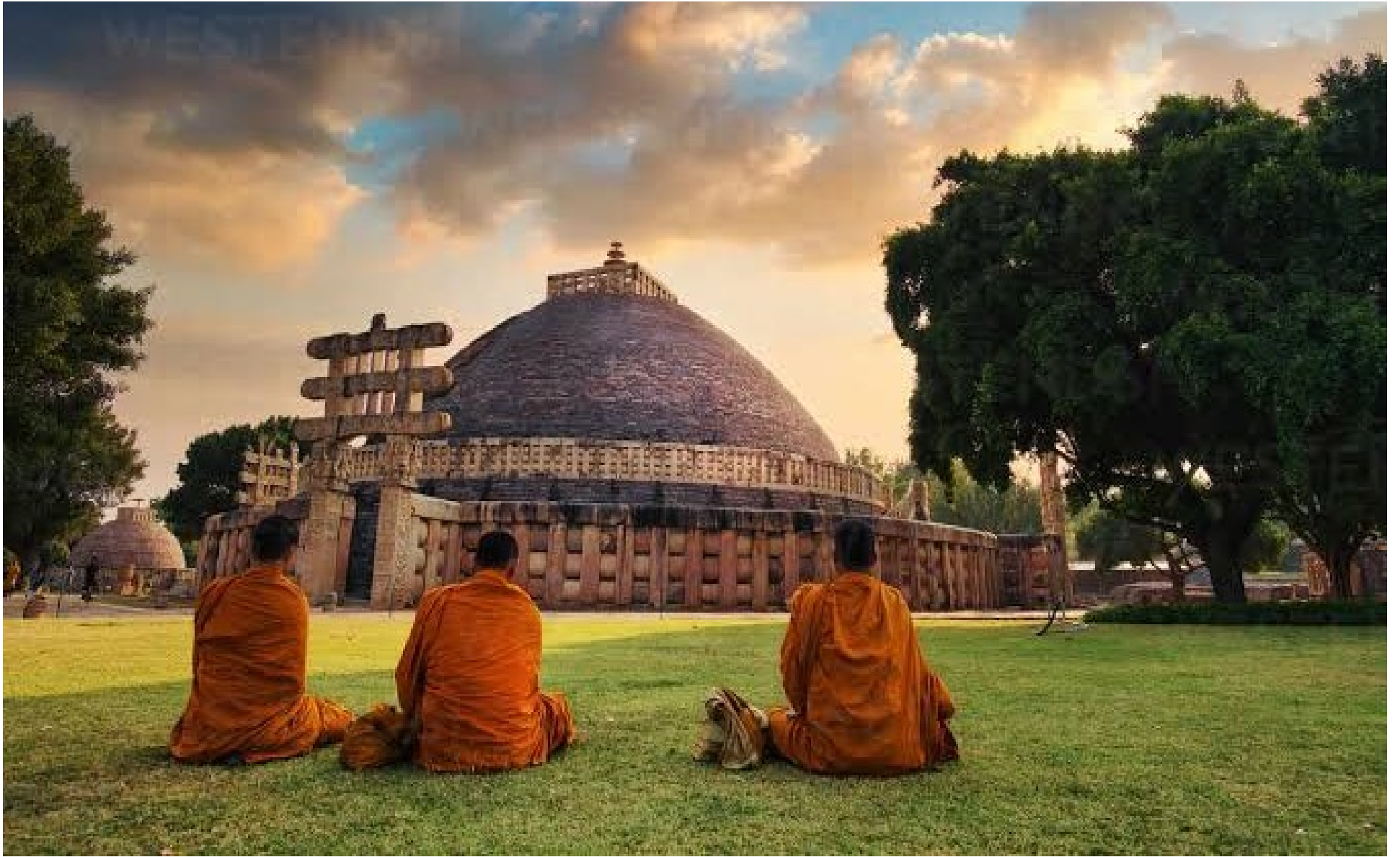


Ti-Saraṇa

The Three Refuges

Buddhaṃ saraṇaṃ gacchāmi.
Dhammaṃ saraṇaṃ gacchāmi.
Saṅghaṃ saraṇaṃ gacchāmi.

I go for refuge to the Buddha.
I go for refuge to the Dhamma.
I go for refuge to the Sangha.



THANK YOU