

SOCIO-ECONOMIC HISTORY OF INDIA

(FROM 500 BCE TO 1000 CE)

POLITY: It had evolved from Republic to Kingdom to Empire.

For example, Licchivi Republic, sixteen Mahajanpads followed by Mauryan Empire. Satavahana Empire, Guptas, Cholas and Chalukyas.

These Empires straddled across a major geography of the subcontinent. They were Intercepted by Vindhyan mountains or rivers like Krishna, Tungabhadra in the south.

ECONOMY: It was a mix of animal keeping, crop husbandry and trade including export of iron and cotton textiles.

- 1) Agriculture and its management was superb.
- 2) Industries like textiles, metals and handicrafts were vigorous in domestic as well as exports market.

POPULATION

Year	0 CE	1000 CE
INDIA	7.5 Crores	7.5 Crores
WORLD	23.8 Crores	26.76 Crores

PER CAPITA INCOME (In Dollars at 1990 Rate)

India was at the apex of the Global Economic order.

Year	0 CE	1000 CE
INDIA	450	450
WORLD	445	436

SOCIETY

- 1) People lived in tens of thousands of villages and hundreds of towns and cities, scattered across the sub-continental geography.
- 2) Division of work in a rural economy created as many occupational groups in the society. The village economy was organically integrated.
- 3) Population had intense faith in its rivers, mountains, Gods and Goddesses.
- 4) A tank and temple was the economic and social fulcrum of the Hindu society. The arrival of Buddha and Mahavira introduced new religions. Broadly speaking, there was harmony and co-existence, in the beginning.
- 5) Starting from 6th century CE or so, the two faiths came into conflict.
- 6) Status of women was quite high in the family as well as society. But from 6th century onwards, it went down precipitously. Sati came to be practiced from 6th century onwards.

STATUS OF SCIENCE, TECHNOLOGY AND MATHEMATICS

Temple architecture bloomed across India. Thanjavur, Madurai, Kailashnath at Ajanta and Ellora, Dilwara and Vimalavashi in Rajasthan, Nalanda, Vikramshila, Khajuraho and Konark are living examples of the glory of those days.

Medicine, surgery, astronomy and mathematics was well developed. Aryabhata, Varahimihira and Shushruta are well known names.

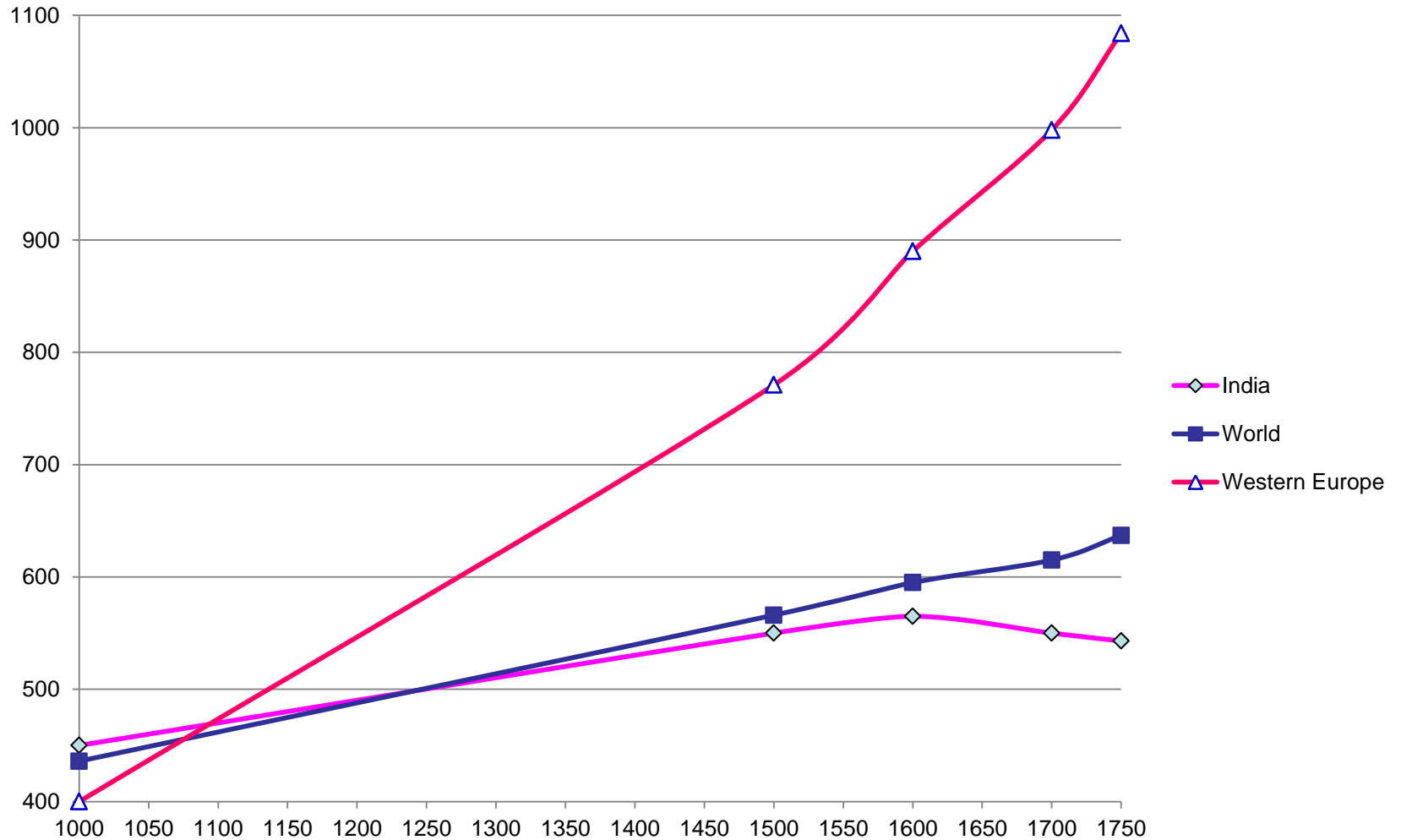
The concepts of zero, decimal numerals, square root, cube root and quadratic equations were known.

POLITY BY 1000 CE

It was fragmented. Several dynasties who ruled and followed were Gahadavalas of Kannauj, Parmars of Malwa, Chandellas of Khajuraho, Chauhans of Ajmer, Kalchuris of Tripuris, Chalukyas of Deccan, Tomars of Delhi, Shahis of Punjab, Senas of Bengal, Ahoms of Assam and Kesaris followed by Gangas of Orissa.

SOCIO-ECONOMIC HISTORY OF INDIA

(FROM 1000 CE TO 1750 CE)



POLITY: It was predominantly an Islamic polity. Ghori, Khilji, Tughlaq, Lodhi, Moghuls, Bahamanids, Qutubshahis, and Asaf Jahis are familiar names of various dynasties. They straddled across a major geography of the subcontinent.

TAXATION: It was the same **Al-Kharaj as in Khaybar**, Damascus, Baghdad, Kabul and Delhi followed by Gulbarga and Golconda.

50% of the gross produce was mandated to be taken from all farmers as Al-Kharaj by the state. Default was met with stringent measures.

POPULATION

Year	1000 CE	1750 CE
INDIA	7.5 Cr	18.3 Cr
WORLD	26.7 Cr	78.6 Cr

PER CAPITA INCOME (In Dollars at 1990 Rate)

Year	1000 CE	1750 CE
INDIA	450	543
WORLD	436	637
WESTERN EUROPE	400	1084

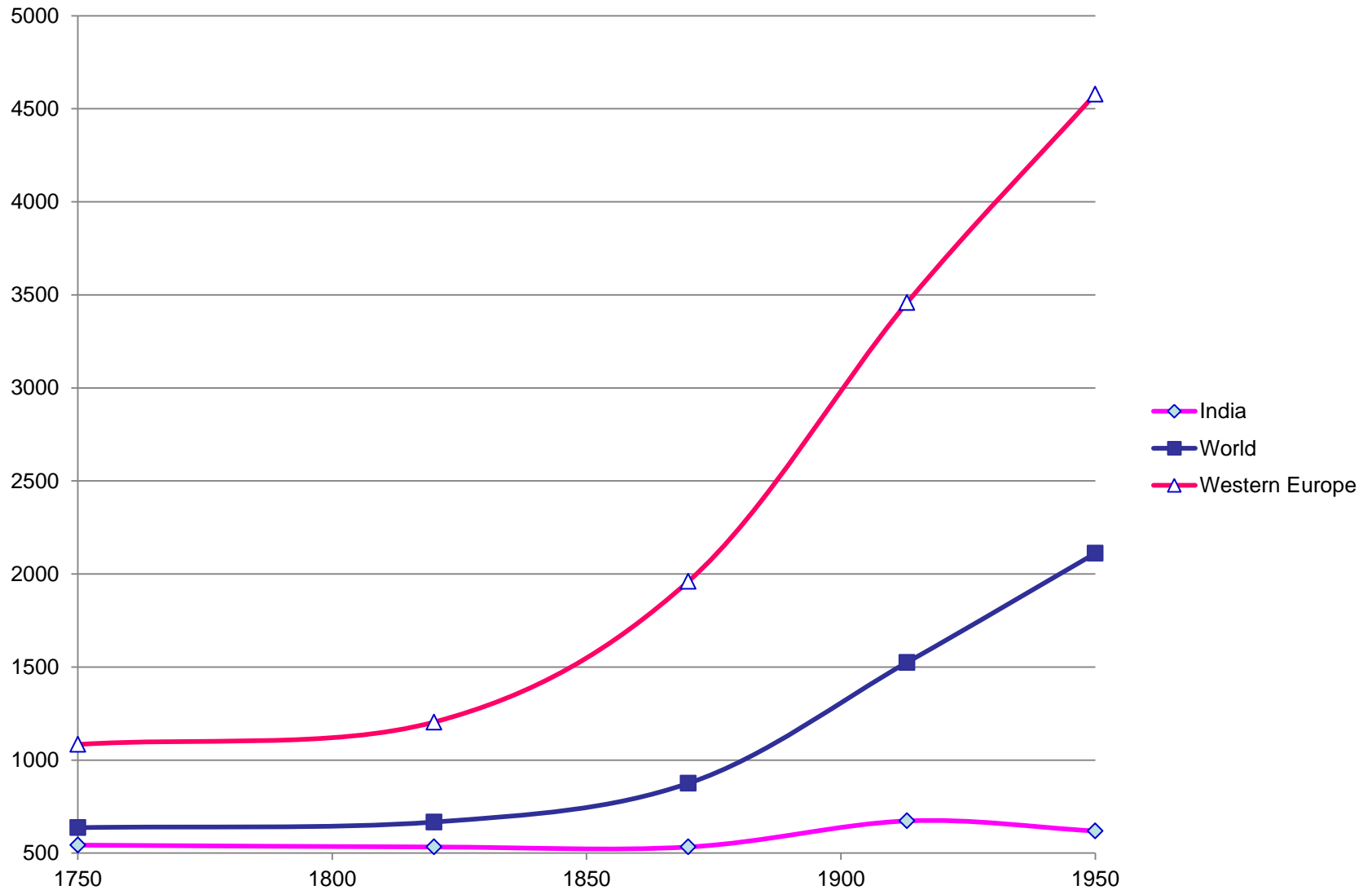
SOCIETY

- 1) Penetration of new rulers from outside the Indian sub-continent brought a new religion, fresh taxation and a different world view.
- 2) People of the land were left with just subsistence wherewithal, to make their ends meet. Economy slowed down and famines started visiting different parts of India, rather frequently.
- 3) People got emaciated, crops were desiccated and animals lost their vigour.
- 4) The new creed of Islam was rather harsh upon Buddhists. It was almost eradicated from India, the very land of its birth. Hinduism survived.
- 5) Bhakthi Movements alongwith a host of saints and poets showed up across the subcontinent. Prabhu Chaitanya, Meera Bai, Surdas, Tulsidas, Sant Gyaneshwar and a host of others travelled across the country spreading their message. Their followings were large, mostly consisting the poor of Hindu society.
- 6) **Science, Technology and Mathematics:** All these disciplines suffered. Libraries were torched, printing press, ship fitted with cannon were revolutionizing Europe. They, however, did not reach India. Similarly, the scientific revolution of the seventeenth century remained confined to Europe.
- 7) **Language:** Persian was the official language of all the courts in India. No book was translated in Persian. Printing presses were multiplying across Europe. None came to India. No books were available, even in Persian. So the scientific society could not take roots, either in India or in Ottoman Empire.

All Empires under Islamic rule regressed in science, technology and mathematics.

SOCIO-ECONOMIC HISTORY OF INDIA

(FROM 1750 CE TO 1950 CE)



POLITY: After collapse of Moghul Imperium, India was splintered in multiple regional kingdoms. Bengal, Awadh, Hyderabad, Carnatic, Gujerat, Punjab, Kashmir etc. During the next century, the British East India Company came to control 60% of the total area in the subcontinent. The other 40% area was controlled by kingdoms, with sizes ranging from a giant to a dwarf.

In 1857, after the British gained control from East India Company, the polity got frozen till 1950.

POPULATION

Year	1750 CE	1950 CE
INDIA	18.3 Cr	35.9 Cr
WORLD	78.6 Cr	252.4 Cr

PER CAPITA INCOME (In Dollars at 1990 Rate)

Year	1750 CE	1950 CE
INDIA	543	619
WORLD	637	2111
WESTERN EUROPE (Including U.K.)	1084	4579

Science, Technology and Mathematics:

It was the golden period in Western Europe. It witnessed the development of spinning, weaving, ginning, coal, steam power, locomotive, telegraph and a railway network.

Language:

In 1835 CE, English replaced Sanskrit. Yet again, a new body of rulers, well acquainted in English came to rule over India.

The Economic drain:

- 1) Advanced technology made UK the dominant importer of cotton and export of finished cloth. The weavers were destroyed. The bones of weavers are **bleaching the plains of India' (Metcalfe)**.
- 2) Steel factory and cotton factories came as late as in 1890 and 1907 CE. By that time, the Indian Economy was substantially drained out. While, **UK Boomed, India was Doomed**.
- 3) If economy dries up, the society cannot remain strong. It lost its vitality, Caste discrimination, religious conflicts and women's subjugation were the manifest social outcomes.

The Social Scenario in 1950 CE:

- 1) In 1950 CE, the literacy in British Indian Provinces was 16.2%. In various native states like Baroda, Mysore, Travancore, it was higher. But in other states like Bhopal and Hyderabad, it was lower.
- 2) Life expectancy was 32.6 years in 1950. Population was emaciated. Child mortality was high.
- 3) Irrigation was 18% due to canal works in Punjab, Uttar Pradesh, Godavari – Krishna Delta, and Kaveri Delta. Then some states had taken-up works in Hyderabad and Mysore – Vishveshrayya was the brain behind these projects. Like Cautley was the brain behind Ganga Nahar in U.P.

THANK YOU