

# Why are History and the Chronology Important

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Namaste and Swaagat

It is taken as largely axiomatic in the study of the History of the Indic peoples<sup>1</sup>, that the civilization that remains extant has been brought into the area by migrating races such as the Aryans , and in fact some would argue, that such a statement holds also for the so called Dravidians of India. According to such a narrative everything that was worth preserving has been handed down to us over the centuries by migrations, within the last 3 1/2 millennia, into the subcontinent, from somewhere else. It is also true that the history that is taught the children of India today is vastly at variance with the puranic accounts handed down to us over several millennia. It is to state it without any embellishments, a revised history that is completely at odds with the traditional history of India. Even so great an effort as *the History and Culture of the Indian people* edited by RC Majumdar, the most famous of Indian historians at the time of Independence accepts the basic framework, the steel frame, of the History of India as revised by the British colonialists, aided and established with great fervor by the Cambridge and Oxford School of historians. Fifty years after independence the narrative has not changed and the banner of the colonial version of history is now borne by the Indian left including the Communists and the rump of the Congress party left behind after successive defections from its fold and whose only common ideology is the adulation of the Nehru Gandhi dynasty .

A substantial percentage of Indians now feel they have a stake in the preservation of this false history and when confronted with the reality of their acquiescence to a false and revised history of their own land by a very recent arrival on the scene, react with irrelevant responses such as “why blame the British” (the issue is not one of blame, and the issue is not about Britain, for after all we are in great admiration of the British for the extraordinary sagacity they displayed in prolonging their imperial rule by every artifice imaginable). We have also dealt with the systematic approach that the British used to remake the weltanschauung of the Indic and to create an international image of the Indic that is much at variance with reality , and the success they achieved in the resulting internalization of these views by the Indic himself in our essay titled [the South Asia File](#).

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<sup>1</sup> We will define the adjective Indic (as in Indic civilization) to be inclusive of all the people who derived their civilization from the Dhaarmic traditions of the Indian subcontinent.. For the most part we will restrict ourselves to the subset of those residing in the subcontinent including most of present day Afghanistan and some eastern regions of present day Iran

**My objective in this seminar is not to recite a litany of grievances against the Occidental (rhymes with oriental) but to give a philosophical underpinning to the long and steady evolution of the Indic civilization its breadth and what is indeed remarkable its staying power. The other great civilizations have either altered significantly or been driven extinct. There is very little left of the Greek civilization (although the west fancies itself the successor to the Greco Roman civilization. The ancient Greeks would be considered Pagans by the established churches today, and hardly any of their life style remains. It is also important to remember that most of the Greek savants were natives of Asia Minor and their life style was more akin to that of Persia than that of France or England, neither of which were pretty far along the Civilizational curve, in any event, during that period of history.**

### **Importance of Chronology**

**The Indic civilization is for all intents and purposes the only one, amongst the ancients, surviving virtually intact. The Gayatri mantra and the invoking of Savitur is at least 7000 years old. It already asks for enlightenment and not for bread, because they had mastered agriculture and had no problem with adequate food. People (west of the Urals) wonder what happened to the Indus Valley civilization. Nothing dramatic happened they just moved on and their descendants became the Gujaratis, Maharashtrians and other residents of modern India. It is this unbroken continuity that rankles with the Occidental, because he is all too conscious that his own history is replete with wars (e.g. the hundred year's war between England and France), extinct civilizations, and destruction. Hence arose, this obsession to endow India with a similar heritage.**

**A false chronology leads to false conclusions about who we are as a people in very fundamental ways. For example the Aryan Invasion Theory seeks to bestow on us a heritage which is far removed from the Vedic heritage in very significant ways and constrains our History with a timeline that is totally artificial, ignores our whole Puranic history and devalues the unique nature of the culture and ethos of the subcontinent**

**We who are of Indic heritage realize only too well that a mere claim of antiquity will not gain us the respect of the world. We are fully cognizant that antiquity is not even necessary to achieve dignity and respect, but it is indeed remarkable to see the great lengths that some amongst the occidentals today will go to deny us the antiquity which we feel is the right one. If indeed the occidental regards antiquity as merely incidental to his heritage or to his weltanschauung, his actions bespeak otherwise. The ferocity with which he argues against our historical heritage is only matched by the tenacity with which he would deny us a place at the table with other major powers, and that is another story unto itself.**

## **Methodology**

**One of the goals of this seminar is to arrive at a robust methodology and associated axioms that Indic narrative of our past should adhere to. In every case we should examine the implied and explicit assumptions we make and the validity of the resulting inferences. We regard ALL APPROACHES as fair game (including numismatics, deciphering the inscriptions in the sky using astronomical software that can be employed for back calculating events of the past , epigraphy where available etc etc. The caveat is that it must adhere to and not violate a consistent episteme or pramaana. It is my firm conviction that the current history, as revised by the colonial overlord, and taught to our children worldwide does not meet the minimum standards of any episteme. I do not know of any civilization or nation that lets its history be hijacked by those who have a minimum accountability to ensure its veracity and in fact has an agenda that is very cavalier and nonchalant, if not hostile to our traditional heritage. Till the advent of independence we had an excuse that we were held on a short leash by the colonial overlord, but what is the excuse today ?**

**We hold as canonical, the axiom that an accurate history and chronology is an essential adjunct of any civilization as it evolves into different paradigms in the future. Put simply, if we do not know our past (or have merely a vague notion of and a nonchalant interest in our past), we would be severely handicapped in evaluating the decisions we make for the future. I was always under the impression that to repeat or emphasize the above would be akin to preaching to the choir. I was astonished to learn that there are significant numbers who do not subscribe to this notion.**

**We will focus on methodologies and principles to follow, conscious as we are that in the space of 7 hours, it would amount to hubris, to attempt to rewrite the history of this multifaceted but unique heritage of the subcontinent.**

## **Transmittal of Knowledge – Was there theft of Intellectual Property**

**There is another point to be made about the direction in which knowledge was transmitted. Many have been the individuals from other parts of the world who**

studied at Indian universities like Nalanda, Takshashila, Vikramshila, and Odantipura till the 12th century. It was a rare instance where they would go back and denigrate the knowledge they had so acquired or the land they acquired it from, and in fact went out of their way to eulogize the education they received at these locations which were studied all along the Gangetic valley, but particularly so in Vihara (Bihar). However all this changed during the 16th century when the Society of Jesus (Jesuits) sent highly educated (for those days) individuals, the number sometimes exceeding 70 or 80 at times at any given point in time, whose sole purpose was to extract as much information from the people who practiced such skills, like Jyotish Pandits and engage in intellectual property theft. What defines such activity as theft? If the recipient does not acknowledge the source of his teaching then it is fair to call it theft.

A question that often occurs to most of us, and I am certain we are not unique in this respect, is to ask why the Indic civilization which had reached such lofty levels several millennia ago, has sunk to such depressed levels today. I am sure the answers to this question are manifold, but we have attempted to peel the layers of the onion to understand why we are where we are today. If we come across as placing the responsibility for such a transformation on others such as the British and the Islamic invaders, who marauded the land for over 7 centuries, that certainly is not the intent. The responsibility for being at the current state of affairs clearly lies with the people of the subcontinent, but we feel it is an obligation even a duty to seek the causes of this transformation and let the chips fall where they may. Civilization is a precious good, in the words of Will Durant, and its fragile structure and delicate fabric can easily be disturbed leading to extinction of cultures as we have seen repeatedly throughout History. The Indic civilization may have survived one onslaught but may not prove to be resistant to future such onslaughts should they occur. It behooves us therefore to seek to understand the nature of the threat(s) that the civilization faces as she enters a new millennium.

We end with the following resolve

***“Let it resound to the distant regions of this planet, whether there are those that wish us well or ill, that we shall pay any price, bear any burden, meet any hardship, support any friend, oppose any foe to assure the survival of the cherished values and traditions of the Hindu***

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