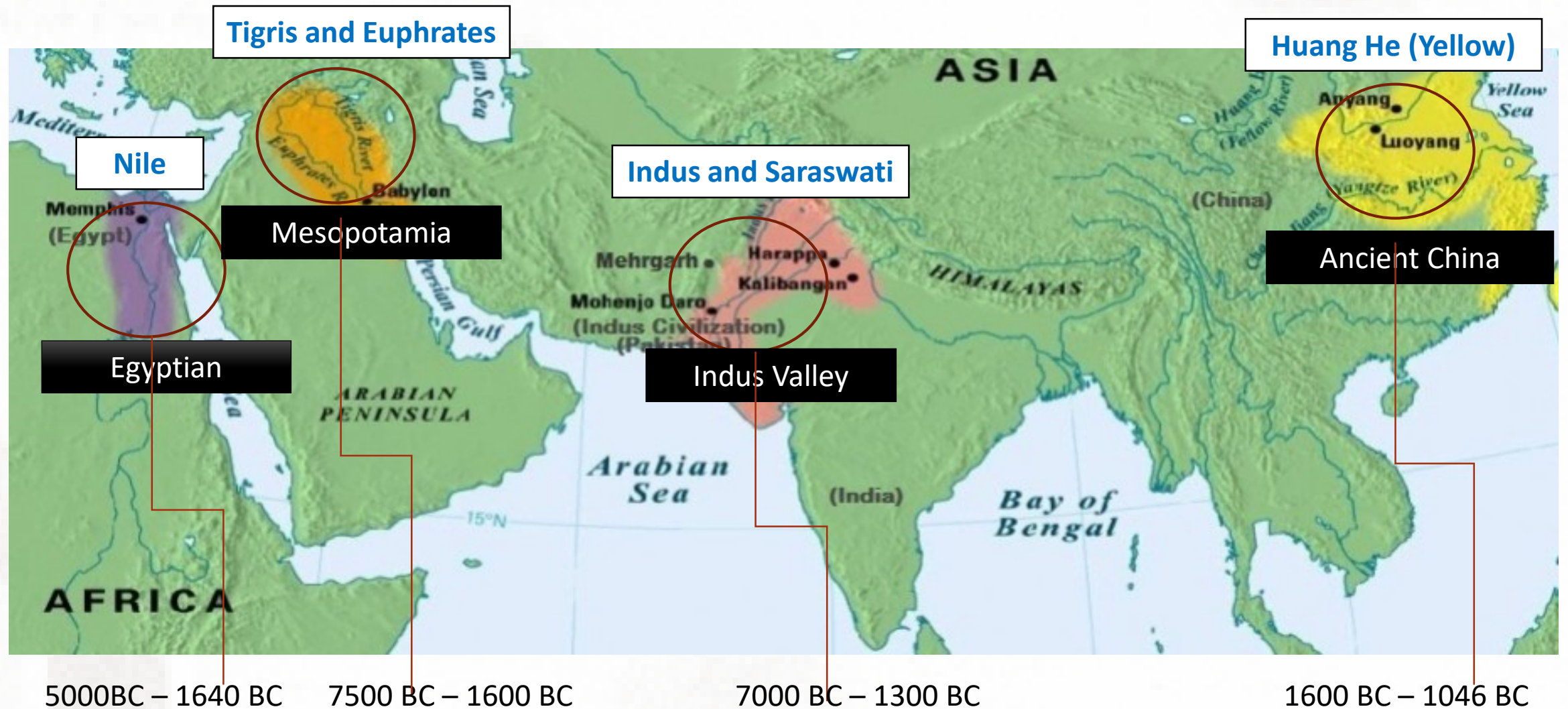


Indus (Sindhu-Saraswati) Civilization

Geography and People

Swati Dave

Ancient River Valley Civilizations



Sindhu - Saraswati



The civilization evolved in the north-western part of the Indian subcontinent. It flourished and grew to 500,000 square miles.

Regions

Indo-Gangetic Plains



Precipitation

Average rainfall 25 to 60 inches per year increasing from west to east



Soil

Rich alluvial soil



Main Crops

Wheat, rice, **jute**



Animals

Cattle, camel, and sheep
Gazelle, blackbuck, wild boars, tigers, lions



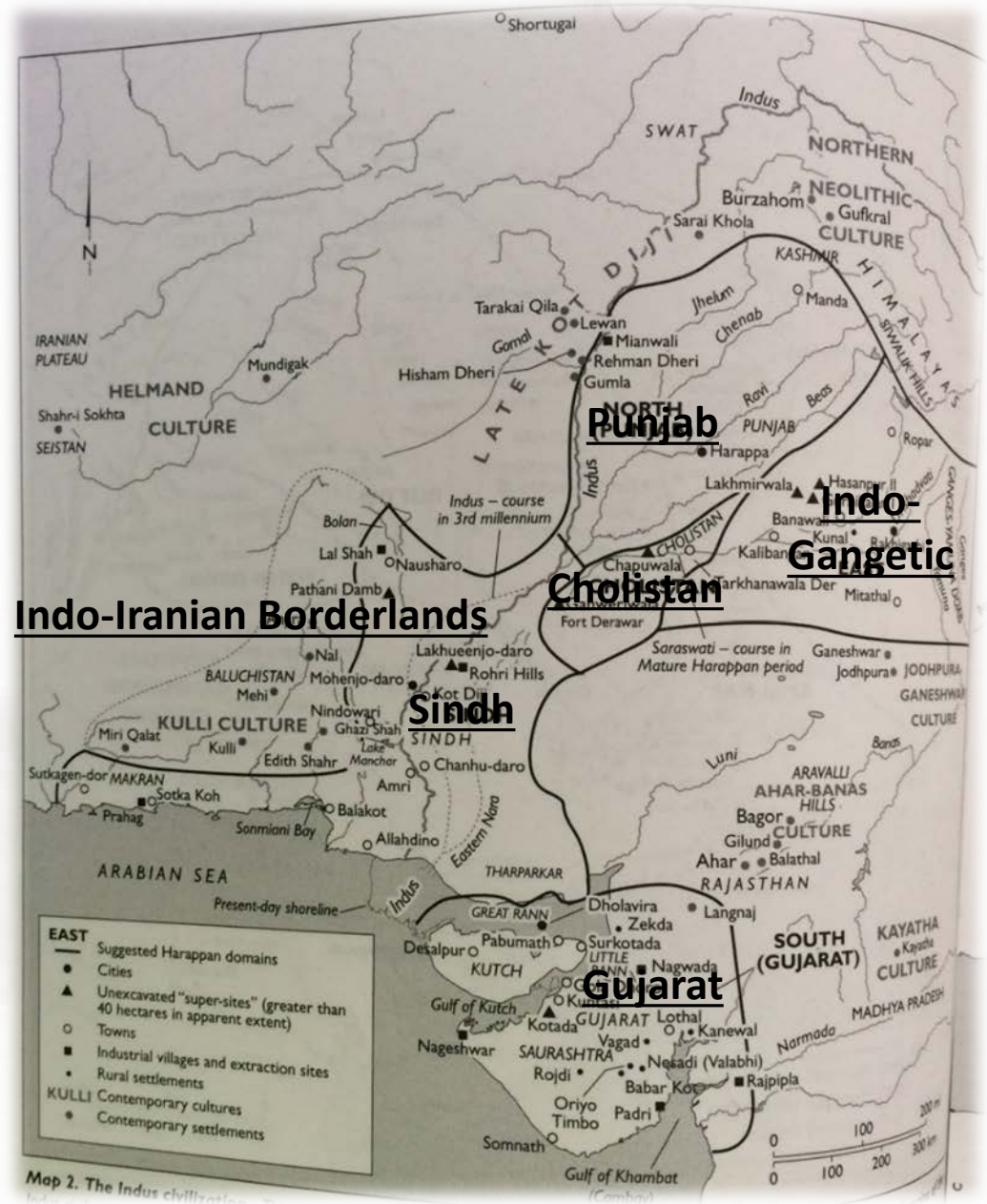
Vegetation

Thick forest in land between rivers.
Sisso, sal, acacia providing timber



Minerals

Clay



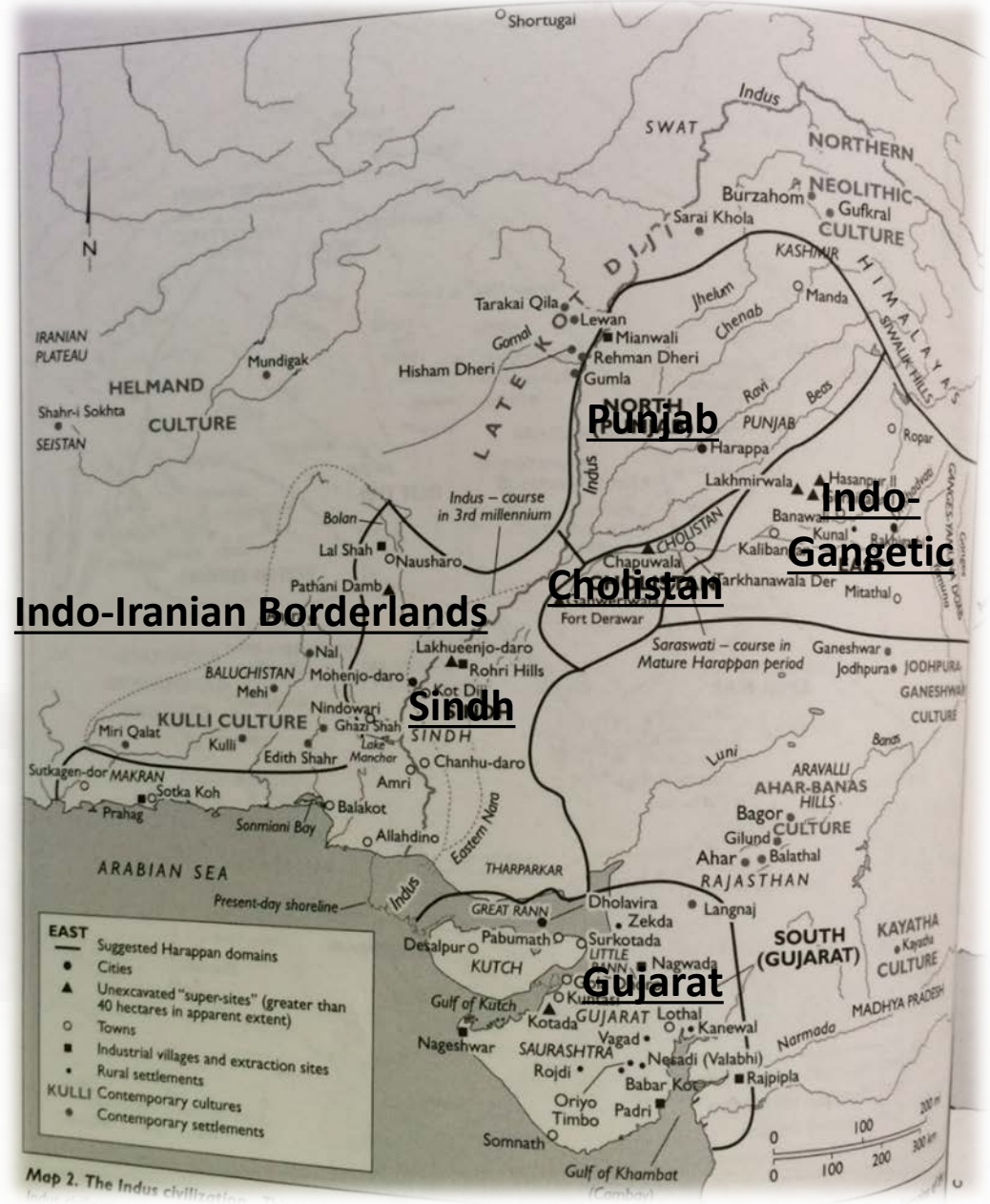
Map 2. The Indus civilization (New Perspectives)

Regions

Gujarat









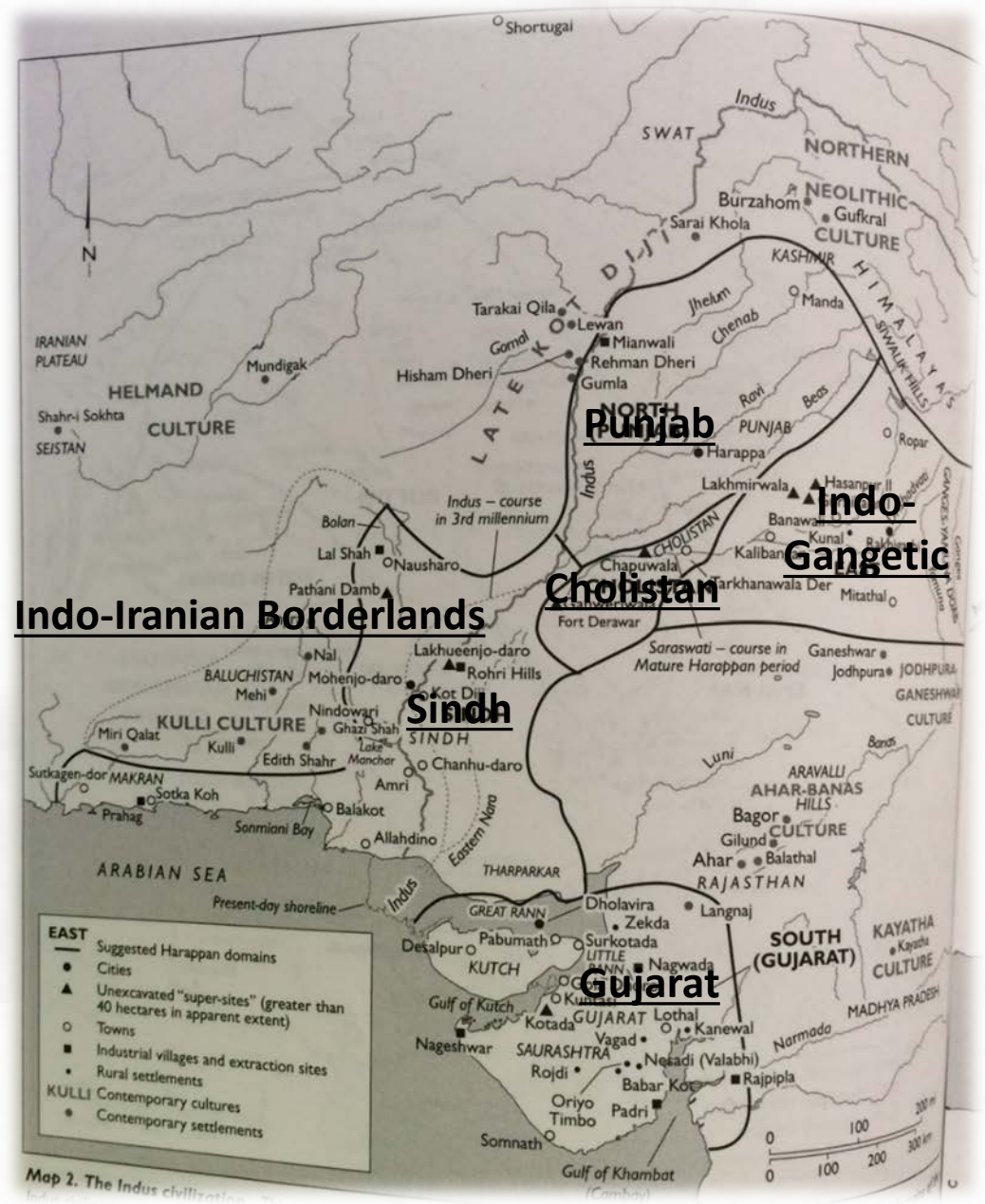
Precipitation	Average of 15 to 30 inches per year
Soil	Saurashtra has black cotton soil
Main Crops	Millet , mustard, dates, cotton , green and black gram, sesame and rice
Animals	Cattle, goat, sheep, Elephants , rhinos, lions
Vegetation	Acacia, euphorbia
Minerals	Agate, Steatite, alabaster.



The Ancient Indus Valley (New Perspectives)

Regions

Sindh	
 Precipitation	Less rainfall
 Soil	Desert overlaid by alluvial deposits
 Main Crops	Wheat, barley, pulses, grapes, and other crops
 Animals	Cattle, sheep, water buffalo, goats Swamp deer, wild boar, tigers, lions, elephants
 Vegetation	Acacia, pipal , sisoo, neem , jujube
 Minerals	Limestone, deposits of high-quality flint, alum, gypsum, building stone, bitumen in Kachi plain

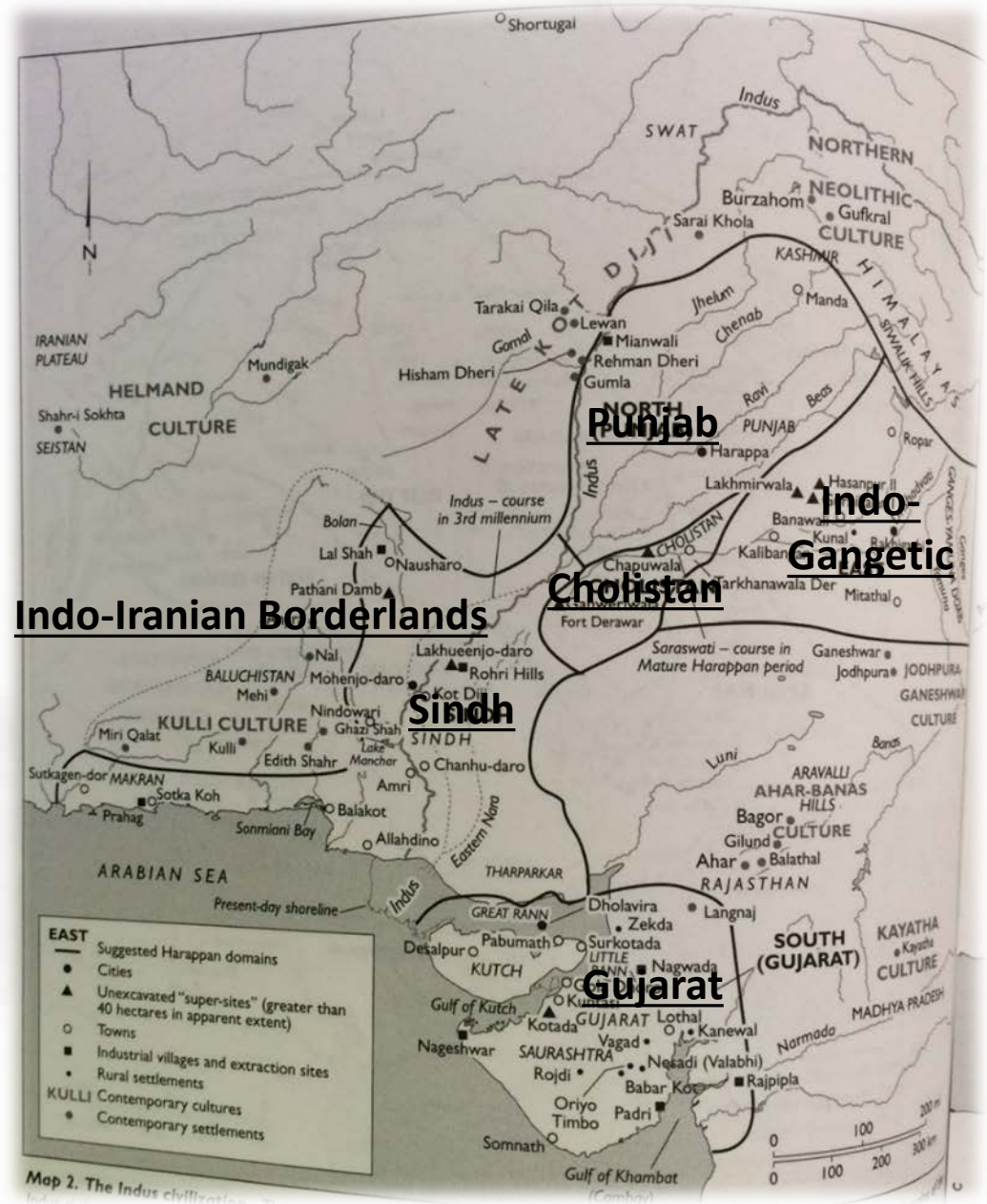


The Ancient Indus Valley (New Perspectives)

Regions



Indo-Iranian Borders	
Precipitation	Hill rain off when rain and snowmelt feed seasonal streams and rivers
Soil	Semi-arid
Main Crops	Dates in coastal region, melons
Animals	Sheep, goats, and cattle's Gazelle, wild sheep, boar etc.
Vegetation	Acacia, juniper, jujube, almond, pistachio
Minerals	Salt, Steatite, agate, and semi-precious stones, alabaster, copper, and others

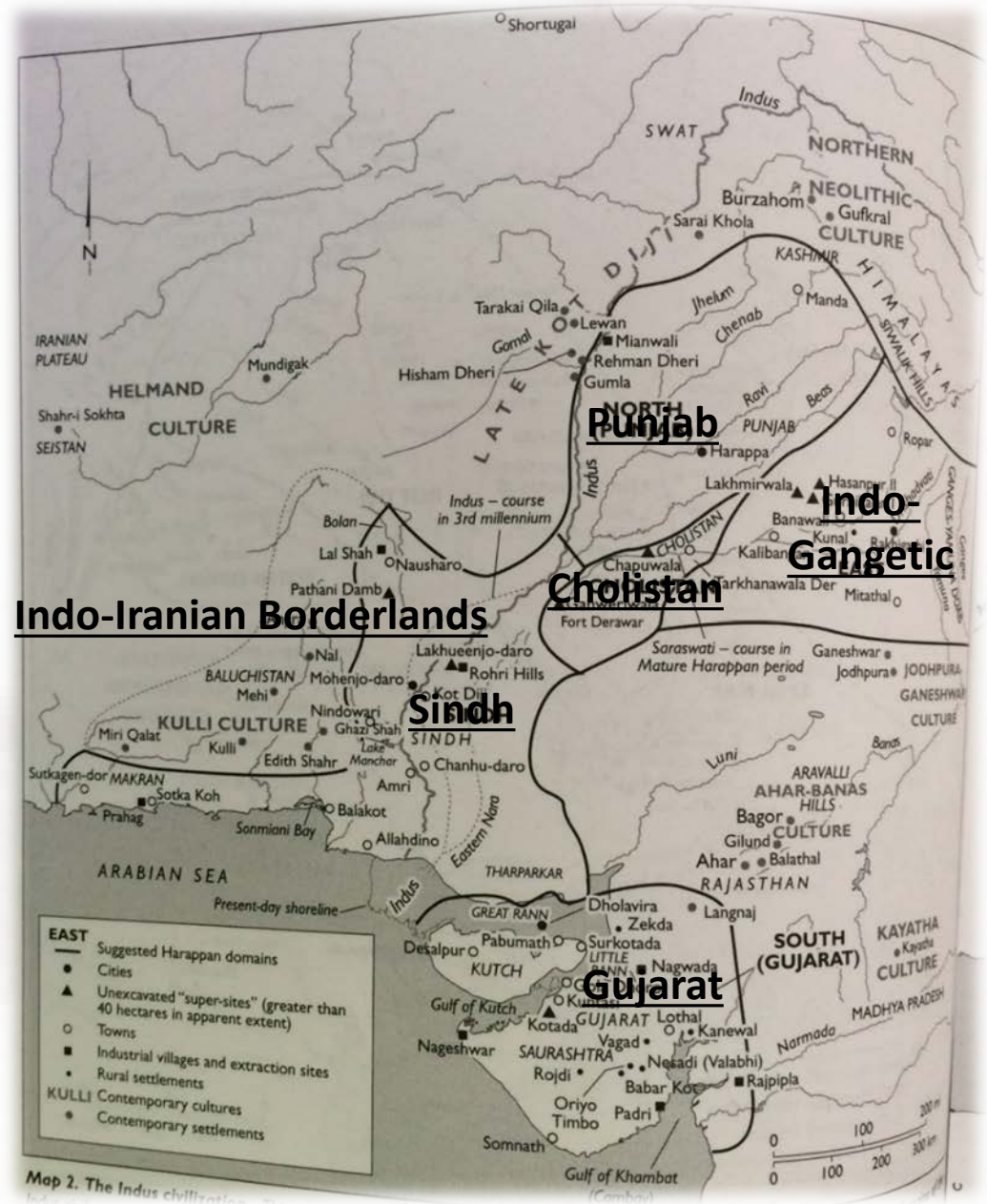


Map 2. The Indus civilization (New Perspectives)

Regions









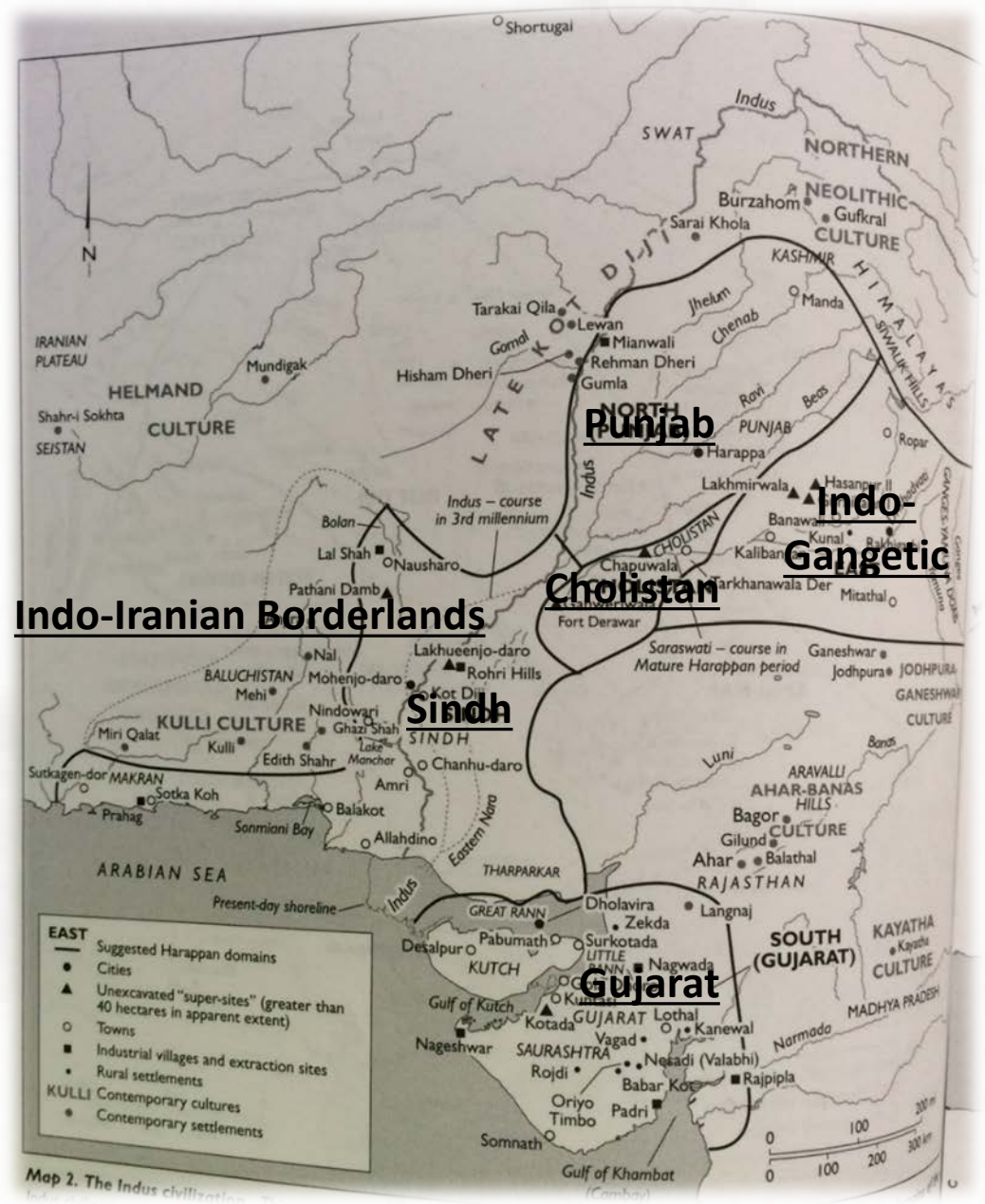
Cholistan	
Precipitation	Low, with less than 3-5 inches in some parts
Soil	Borders desert
Main Crops	
Animals	Blackbuck, desert foxes, gazelles
Vegetation	Acacia, and tamarisk
Minerals	Main source of copper and steatite . May have provided tin, gold, silver, lead



Map 2. The Indus civilization (New Perspectives)

Regions

Punjab	
 Precipitation	Average 25 inches per annum
 Soil	Rich alluvial soil
 Main Crops	Wheat, sesame
 Animals	Cattle, and small number of sheep and goats Dee, gazelle, boar, rhino, elephant , tigers etc.
 Vegetation	Foothills of Himalayas is thick forest providing timber
 Minerals	From mountains bitumen , steatite, various gems and other stones in Kashmir



The Ancient Indus Valley (New Perspectives)

Precipitation

Rains are associated with two major systems:

- Winter Cyclonic System in the Western Highlands
- Summer Monsoon System in the Peninsular Region

Graph interpretation

- Between 8000 BC and 4000 BC
 - Net precipitation volume shows a steady increase
 - Graph 1: From approx. **280mm** to **310mm**
 - Graph 2: Although the monsoon rains were reduced there were high winter rains
- Between 4000 BC and 2000 BC
 - Net precipitation volumes fluctuated drastically.
 - Graph 1: Mean running rainfall totals range from a peak of **300mm** to a minimum of **240mm**
 - Graph 2: The monsoon precipitation is the least 200mm in 2000 BC.

Rita P. Wright, Reid A. Bryson & Joseph Schuldenrein

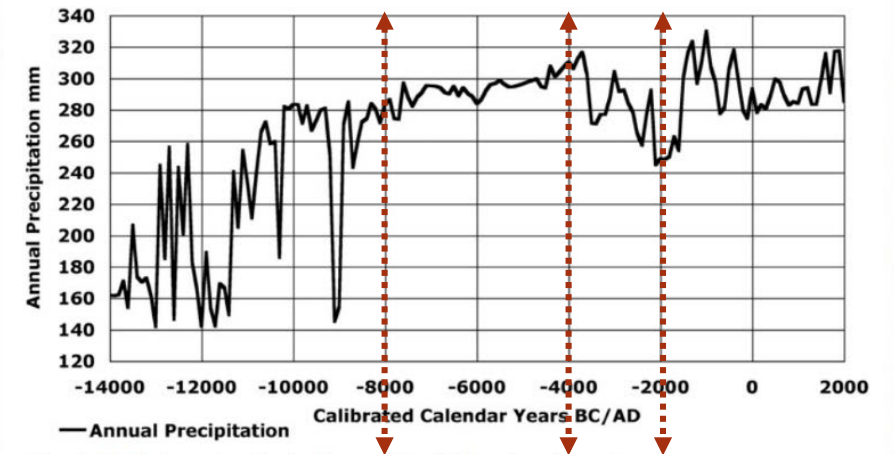


Figure 4. Modelled annual precipitation history at Sabiwal, Pakistan (near Harappa).

Modeled annual precipitation history near Harappa

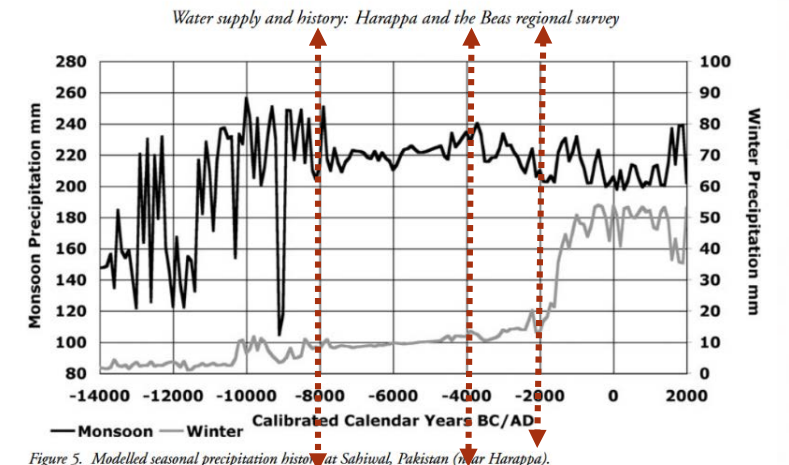
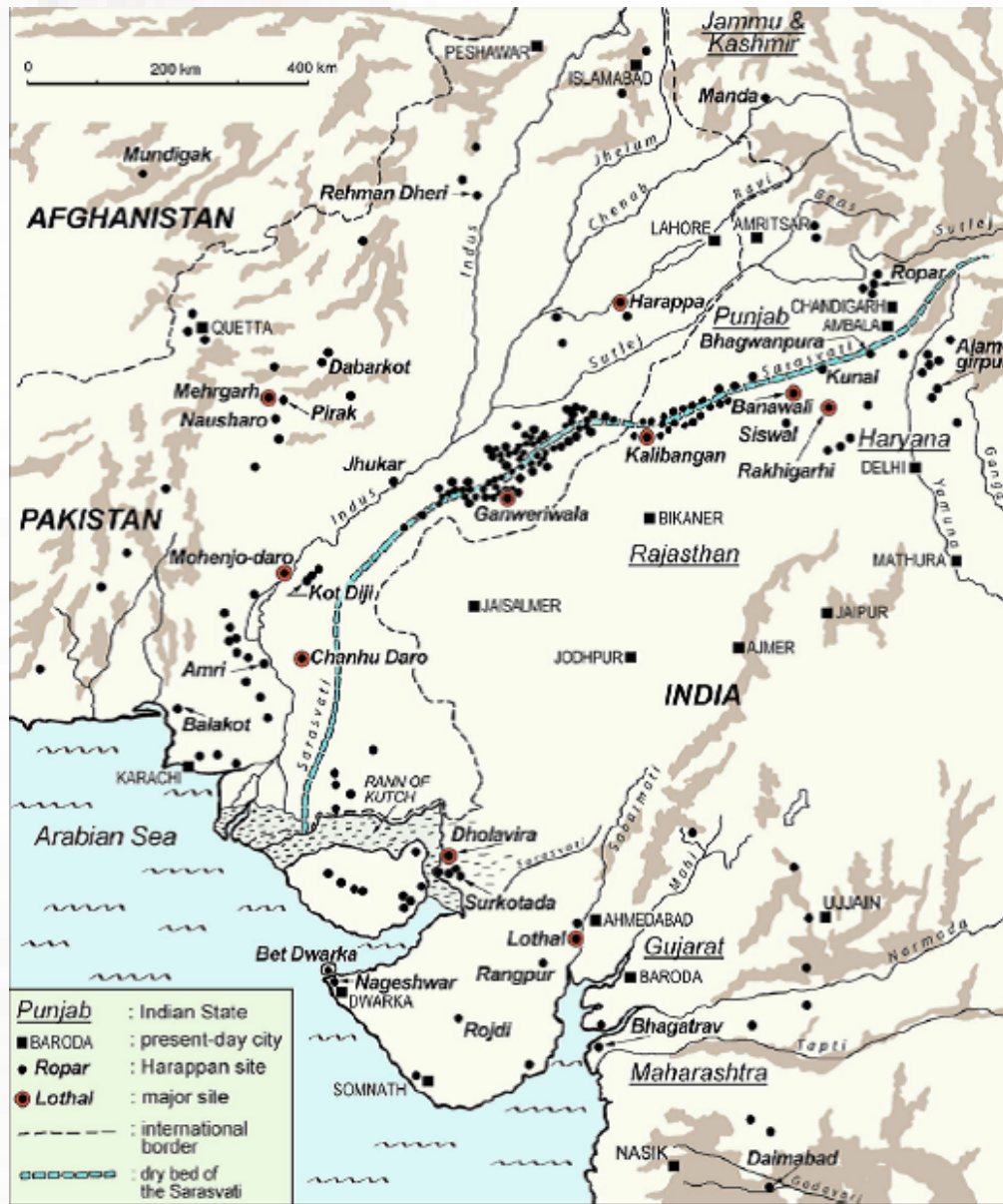


Figure 5. Modelled seasonal precipitation history at Sabiwal, Pakistan (near Harappa).

Modeled monsoon and winter precipitation history near Harappa

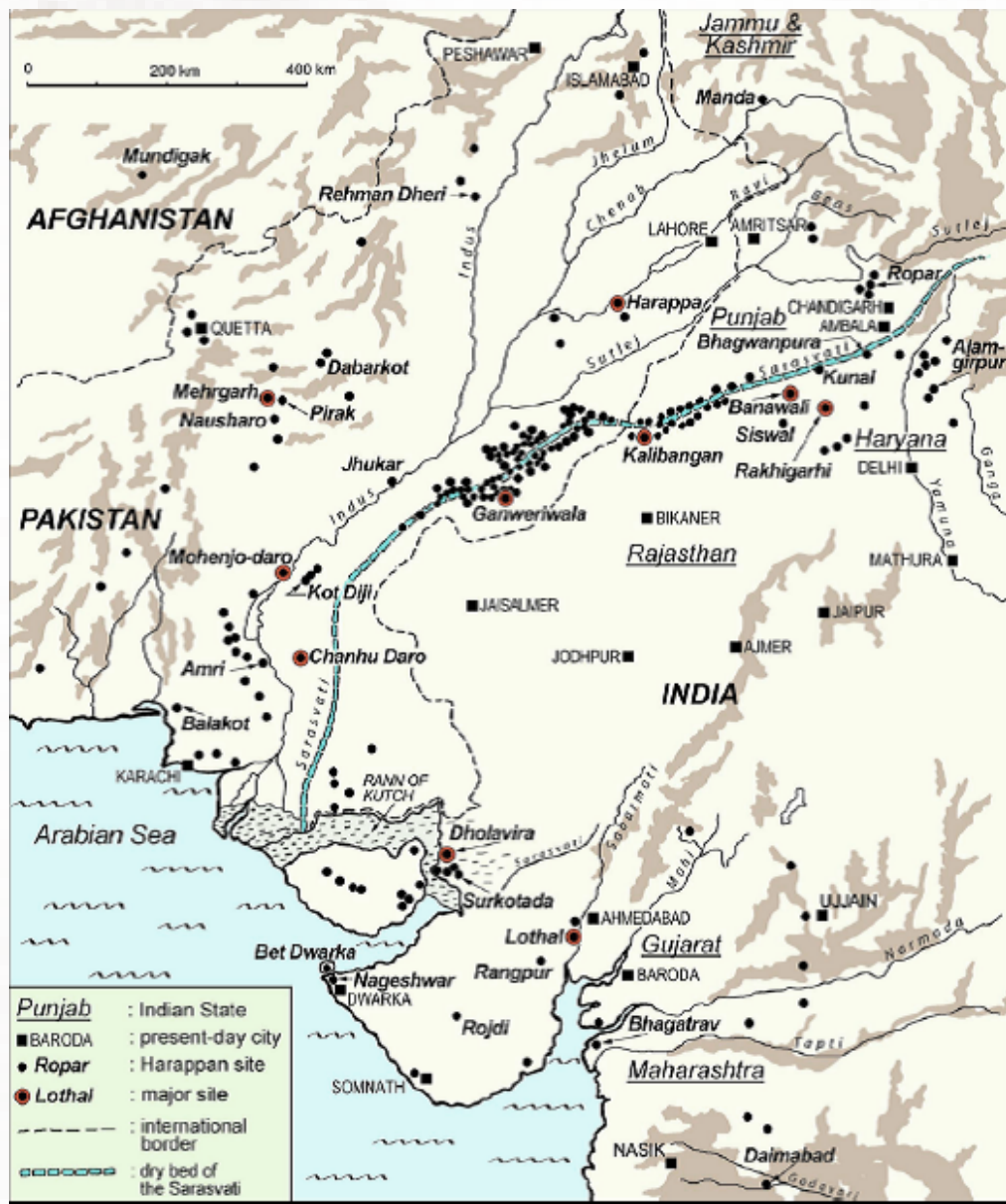


Indus and Saraswati

It is one of the longest rivers in the world, with a length of some 2,000 miles .

Its total drainage area is about 450,000 square miles.

The river's annual flow is about 58 cubic miles (243 cubic km)—twice that of the [Nile River](#) and three times that of the [Tigris and Euphrates](#) rivers combined.



Indus and Saraswati

Water supply and history: Harappa and the Beas regional survey

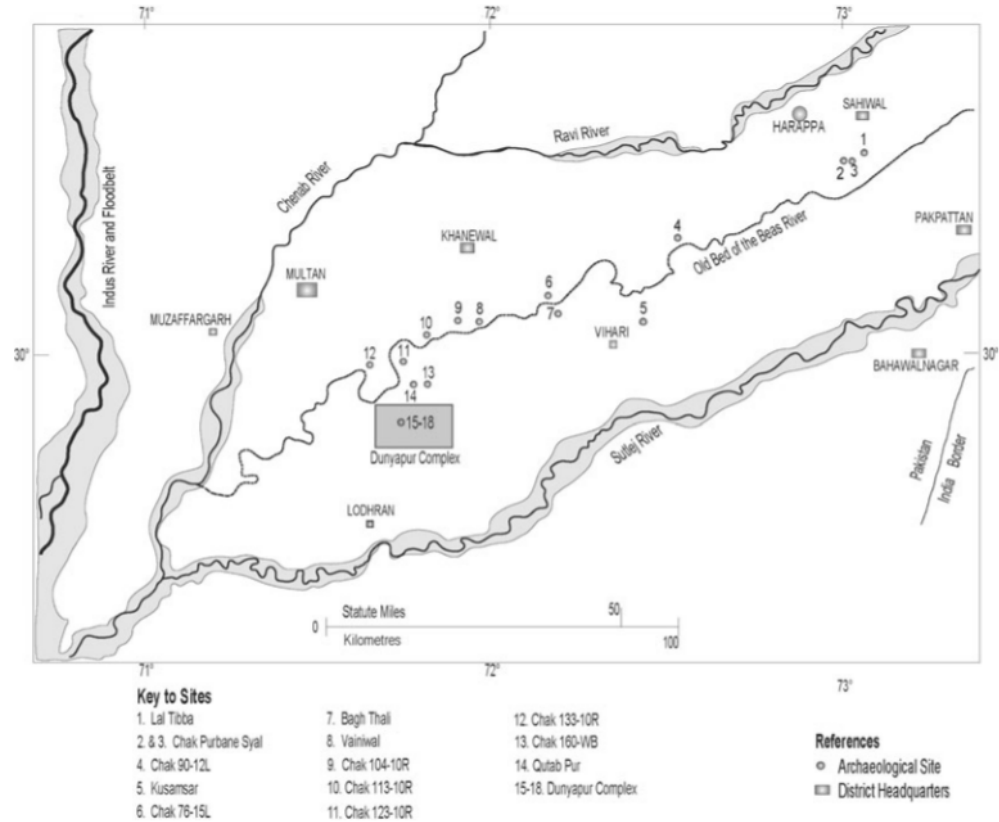
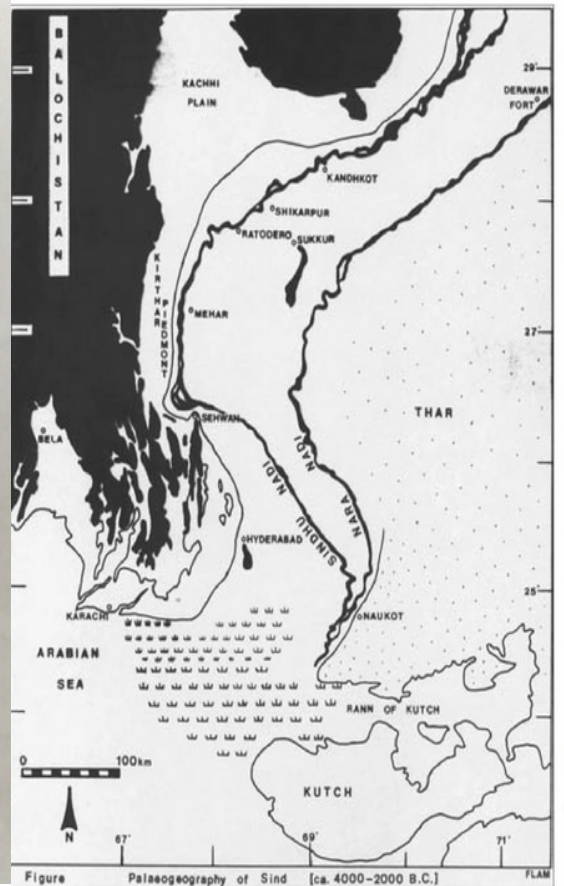
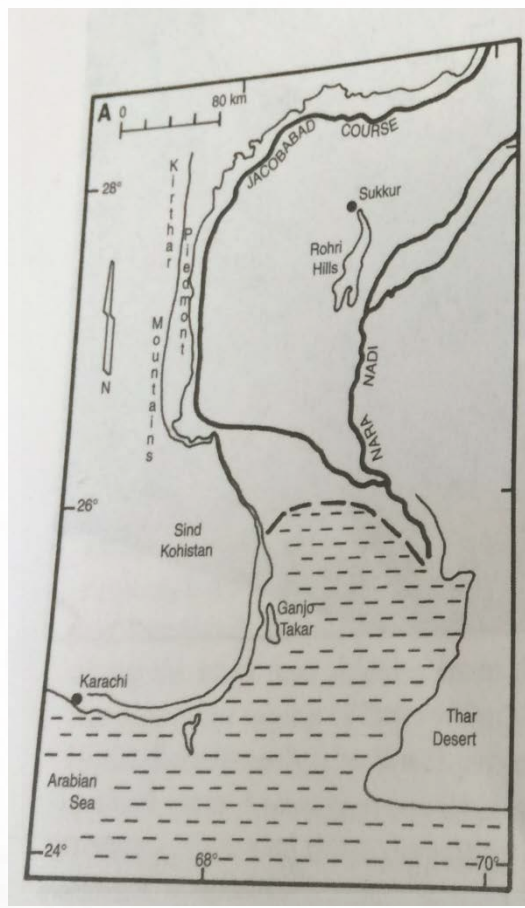
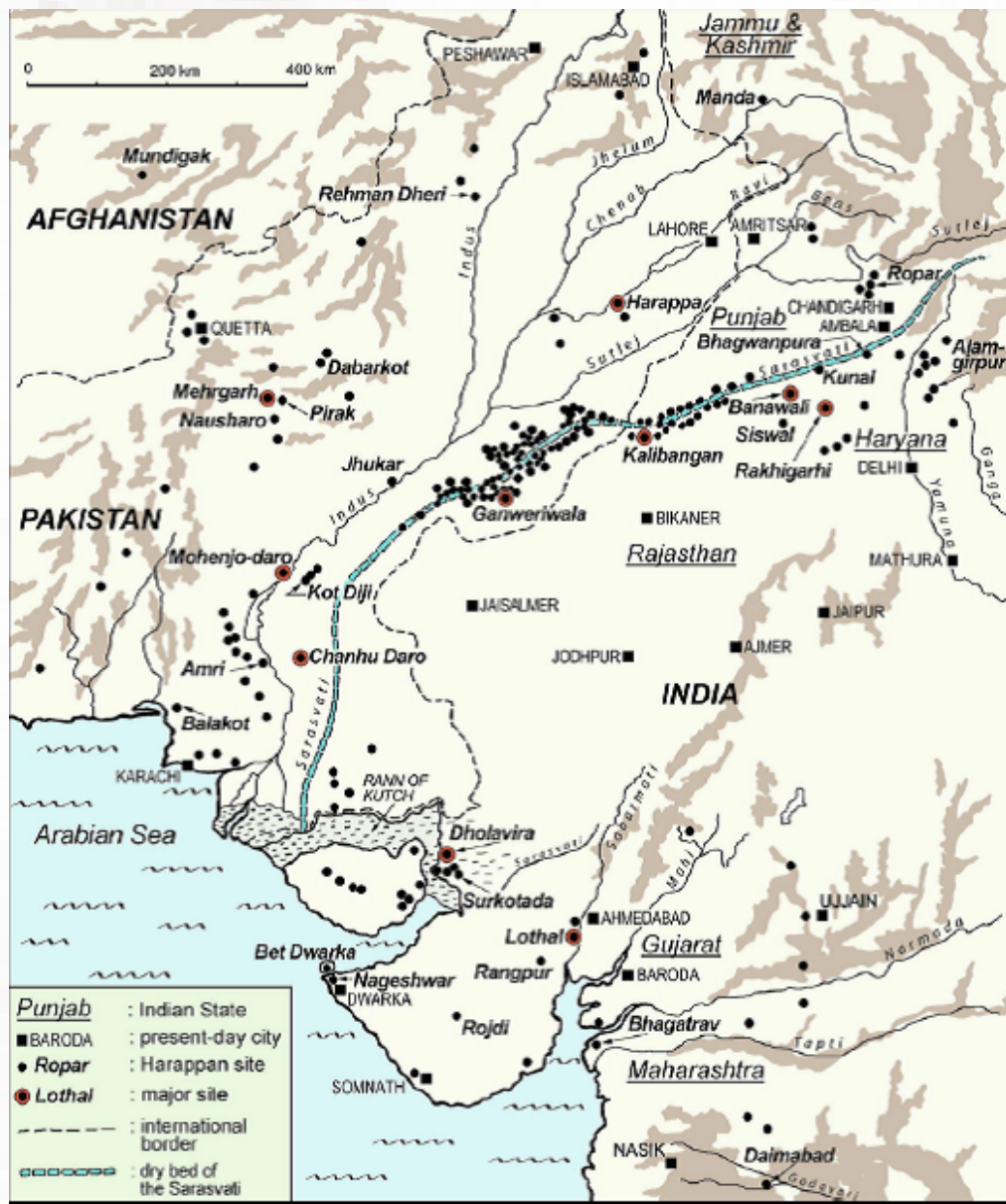
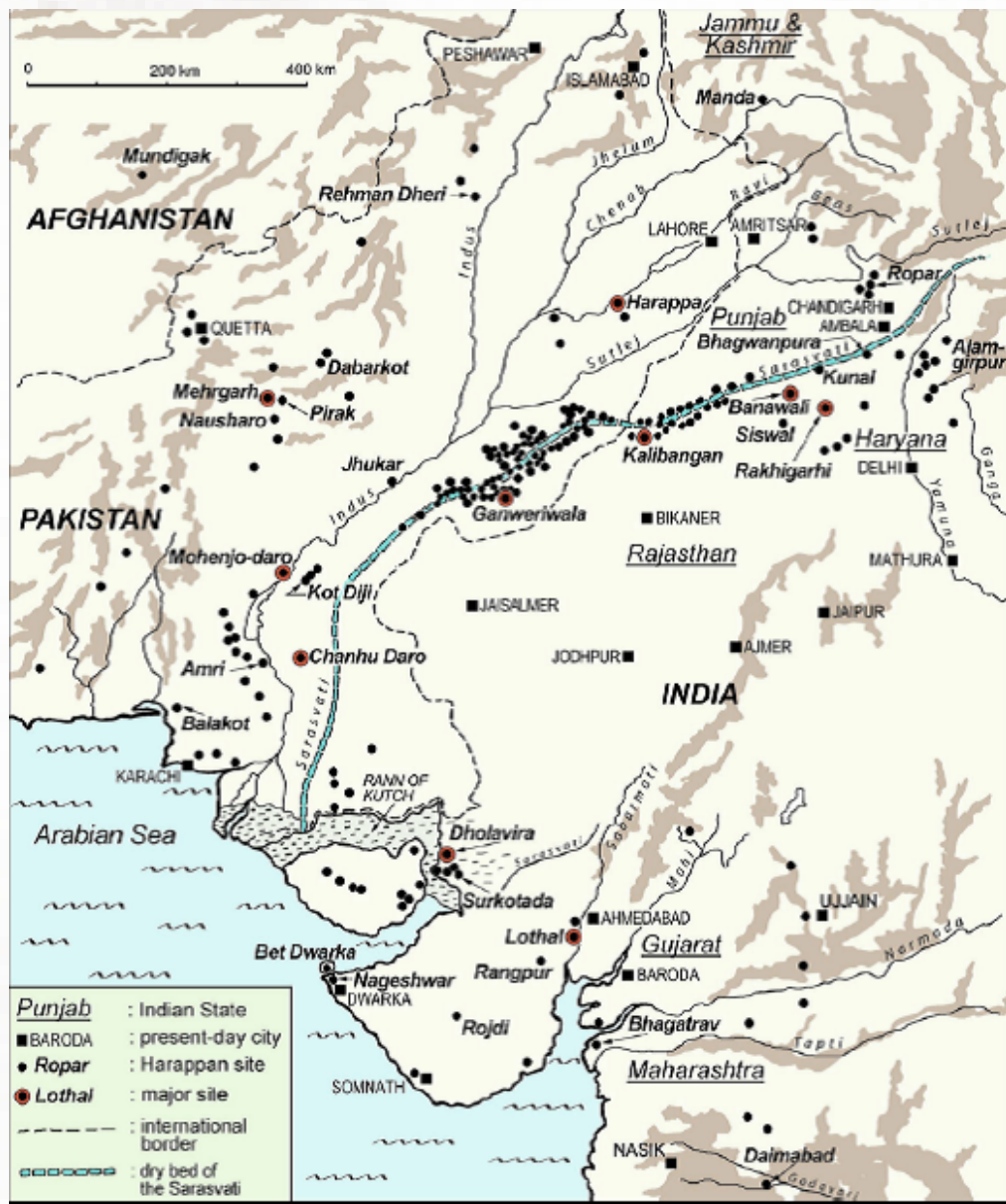


Figure 1. Site locations of Harappa and the Beas regional survey.

Indus and Saraswati





Indus and Saraswati

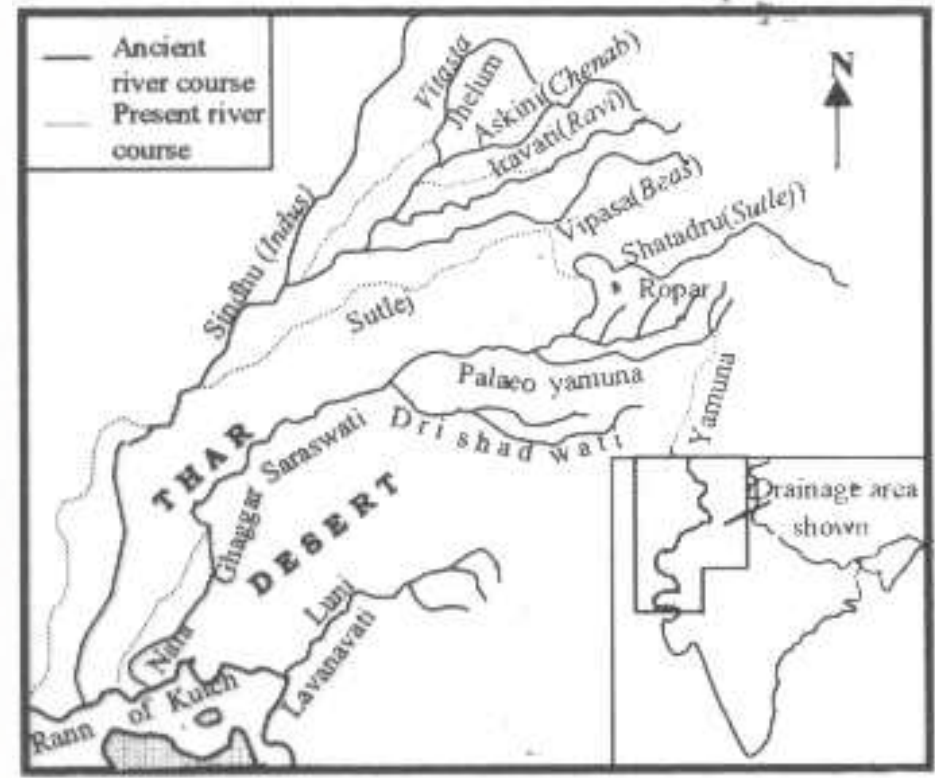
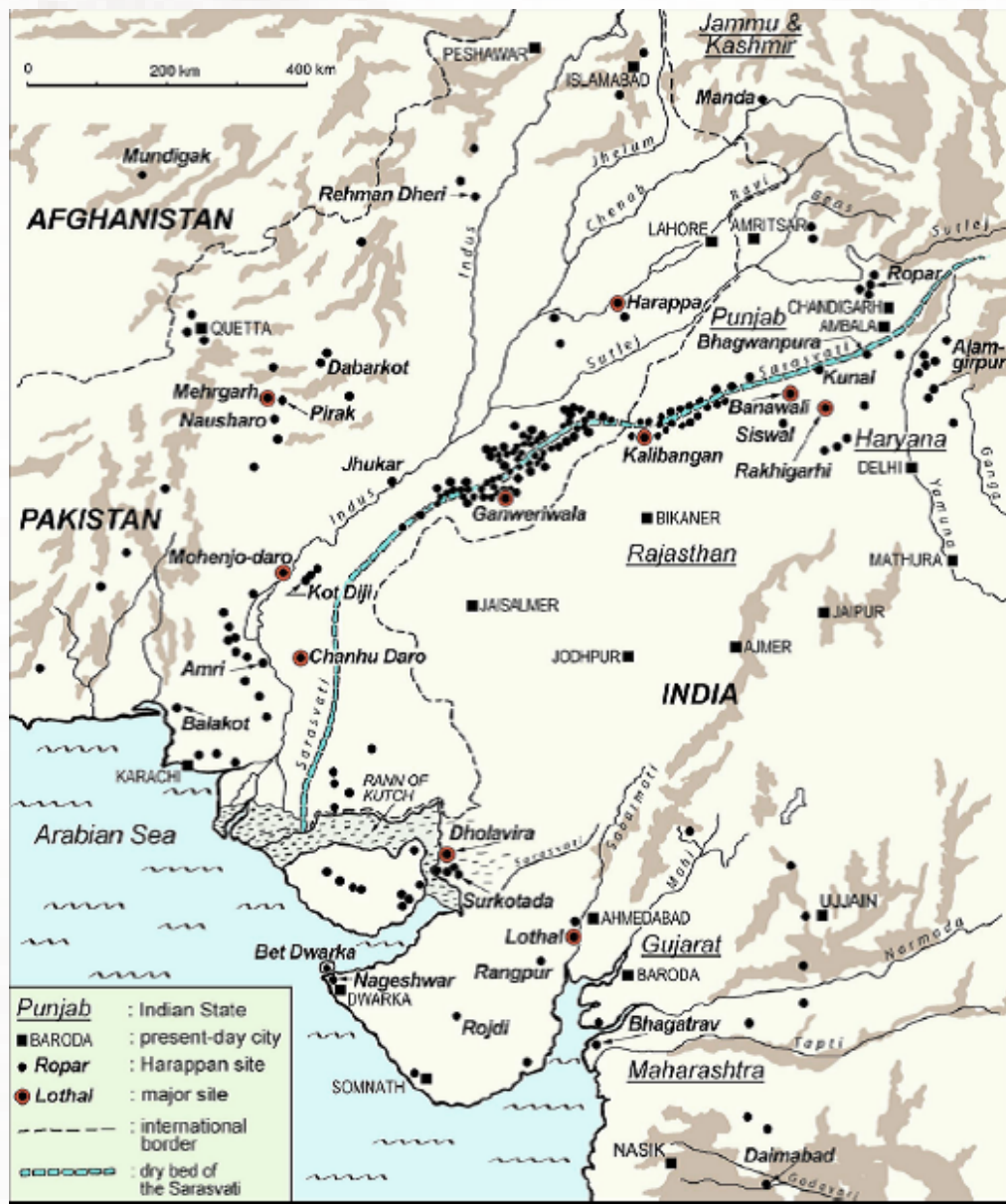
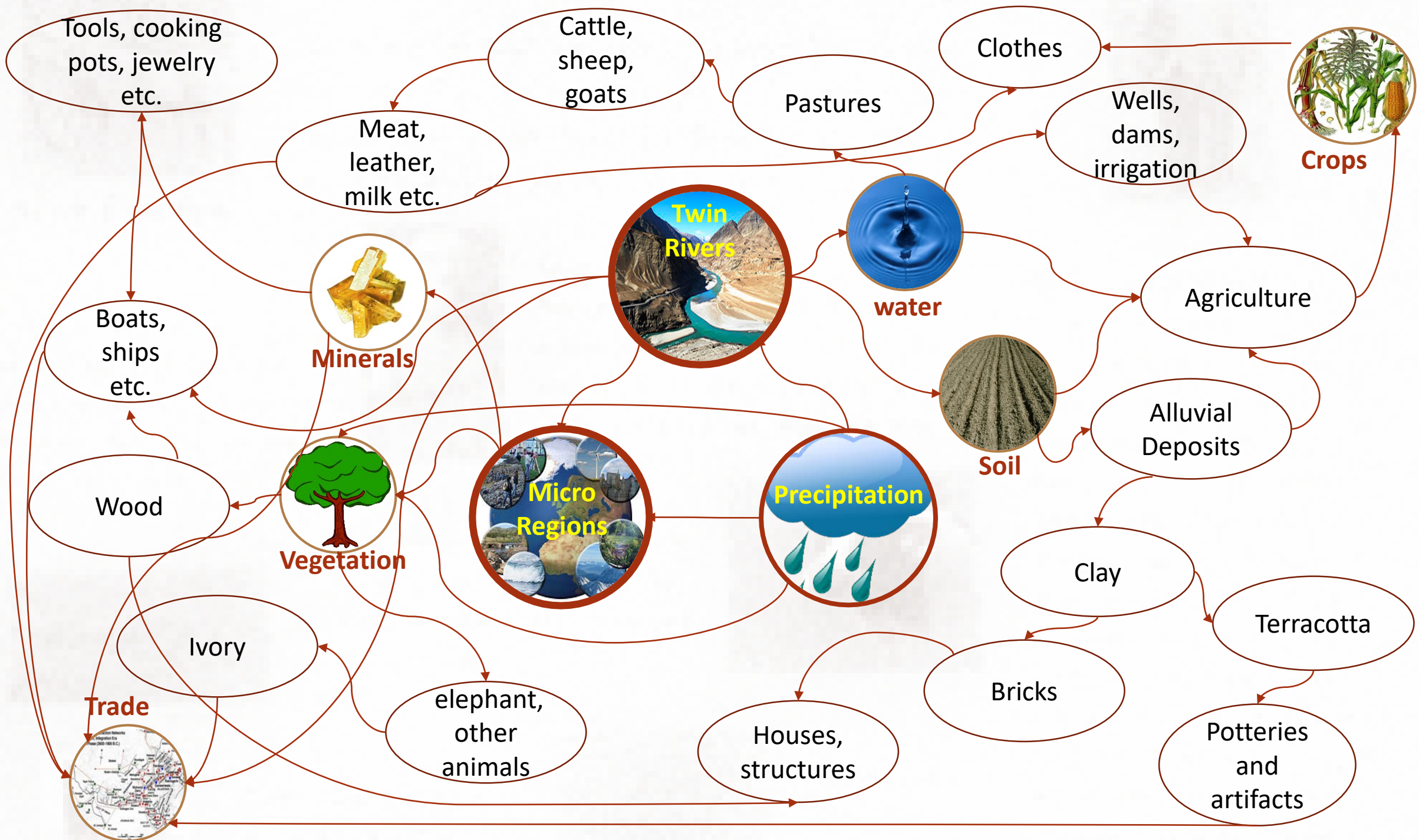


Figure 2. River systems, past and present, in the Northwestern India (ref. 11).



Indus and Saraswati

- Perennial flow of water
- Rich fertile soil
- Trade routes



Indus Society

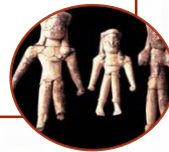
- Jewelry unearthed so far shows the sophistication with a finely developed aesthetic sense and intricate skills

Jewelry



- Elaborate and time consuming hairstyle
- Wide variety may reflected ethnic diversity or/and continuously changing styles

Hairstyles



- Fiber for clothing generally used were cotton, flax, silk, wool, linen, leather, etc.

Clothes



- Burials were found with vessels, and also ornaments like bangles.

Burial



- Technologically advanced tools in stone and metal

Tools



- Cooking was done in terracotta pots and bronze utensils.

Cooking



- Difference in size and quality of house, but not much difference in quality of housing in city and suburbs

Housing



- People were well nourished and generally in good health

Food

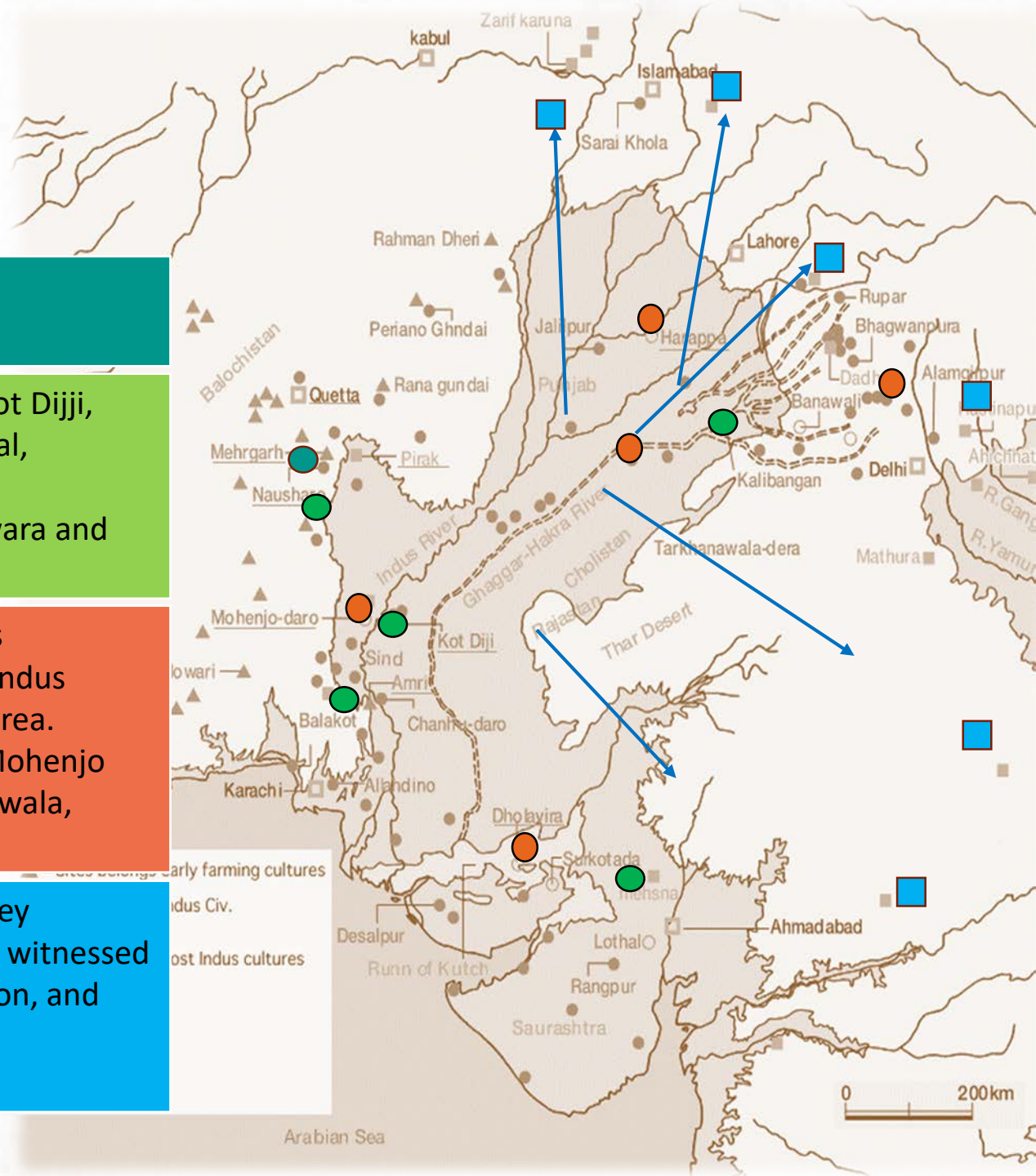


Occupation

- Farmers, fishers, hunter-gatherers.
- Summers could have been engaged in craft activities till they started farming kharif crop
- Marine fishing and shell fishing could have been seasonal, followed by shell working in slack periods
- Pastoralists and hunter-gatherers may have acted as carriers for raw materials and finished goods
- Or
- Could have been responsible for mining gemstones
- Full time specialists, like builders to maintain wells and civic amenities
- Merchants and traders
- Navigators and sailors
- Repairs to vessels, building ships
- Potters
- Artisans could have been full time or part time. Highly skilled. Probably passed from families.
- Priests, officials ?

Growth and Continuity

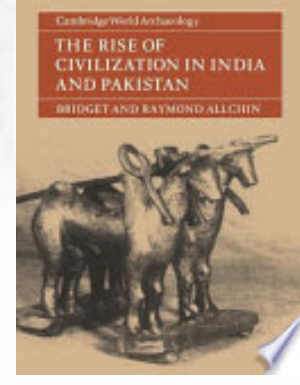
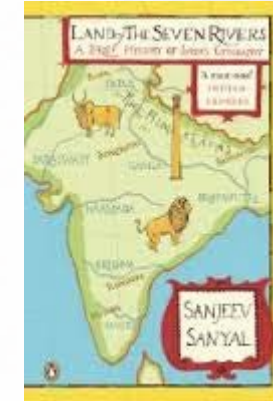
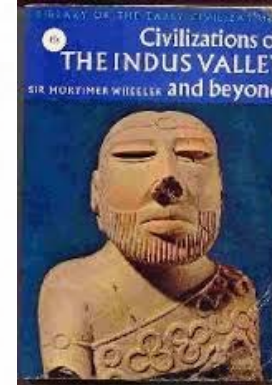
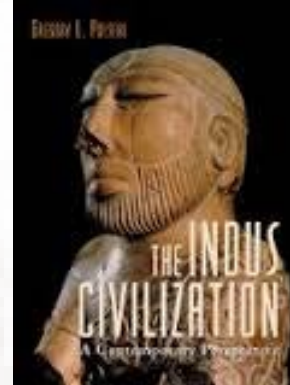
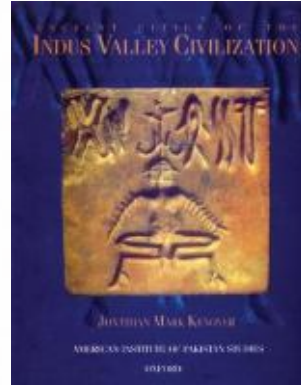
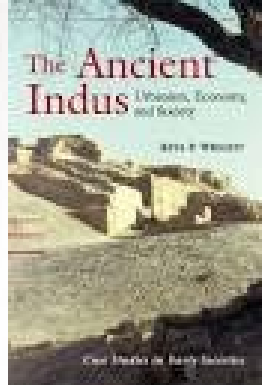
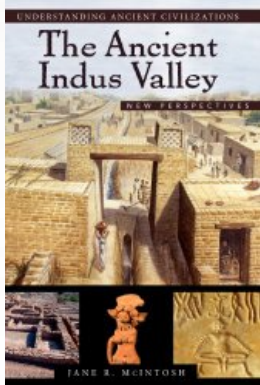
Pre Harappan	7000 BC-4000 BC	Mehragarh
Early Harappan	4000 BC-2600 BC	Mehragarh, Nausharo, Kot Dijji, Amri, Kalibangan, Balathal, Loteswhar Earliest phases of Dholiwara and Harappa
Mature Harappan	2600 BC-1900 BC	Expansion of settlements throughout the Greater Indus region and neighboring area. Major cities - Harappa, Mohenjo daro, Dholavira, Ganweriwala, Rakhigarhi
Late Harappan	1900-1300 BC	Away from the Indus valley The late Harappan phase witnessed large-scale de-urbanization, and drop in population.



Primarily situated on the banks of Indus and Saraswati, settled among rich alluvial plains, and ecologically diverse zones, the people of Indus developed and sustained a technologically advanced complex society.

Thank You

Books



Websites

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