

GANDHARA STYLE OF ARCHITECTURE

GANDHARA CIVILIZATION

1 B.C-11th century A.D

- ❖ AN ANCIENT KINGDOM LOCATED IN NORTHERN PAKISTAN AND EASTERN AFGHANISTAN.
- ❖ LOCATED MAINLY IN THE VALE OF PESHAWAR, THE POTOHAR PLATEAU AND ON THE KABUL RIVER.
- ❖ ITS MAIN CITIES WERE **PURUSHAPURA, TAKSHASHILA AND PUSHKALAVATI** WHICH ARE NOW KNOWN AS PESHAWAR, TAXILA AND CHARSADEA RESPECTIVELY.
- ❖ THE KINGDOM LASTED FROM EARLY 1ST MILLENIUM B.C. TO THE 11TH CENTURY AD, ATTAINED ITS HEIGHT FROM THE 1ST CENTURY TO THE 5TH CENTURY UNDER THE BUDDHIST RULE AND DECAYED AFTER THE MUSLIM CONQUESTS OF 10TH AND 11TH CENTURY AD.

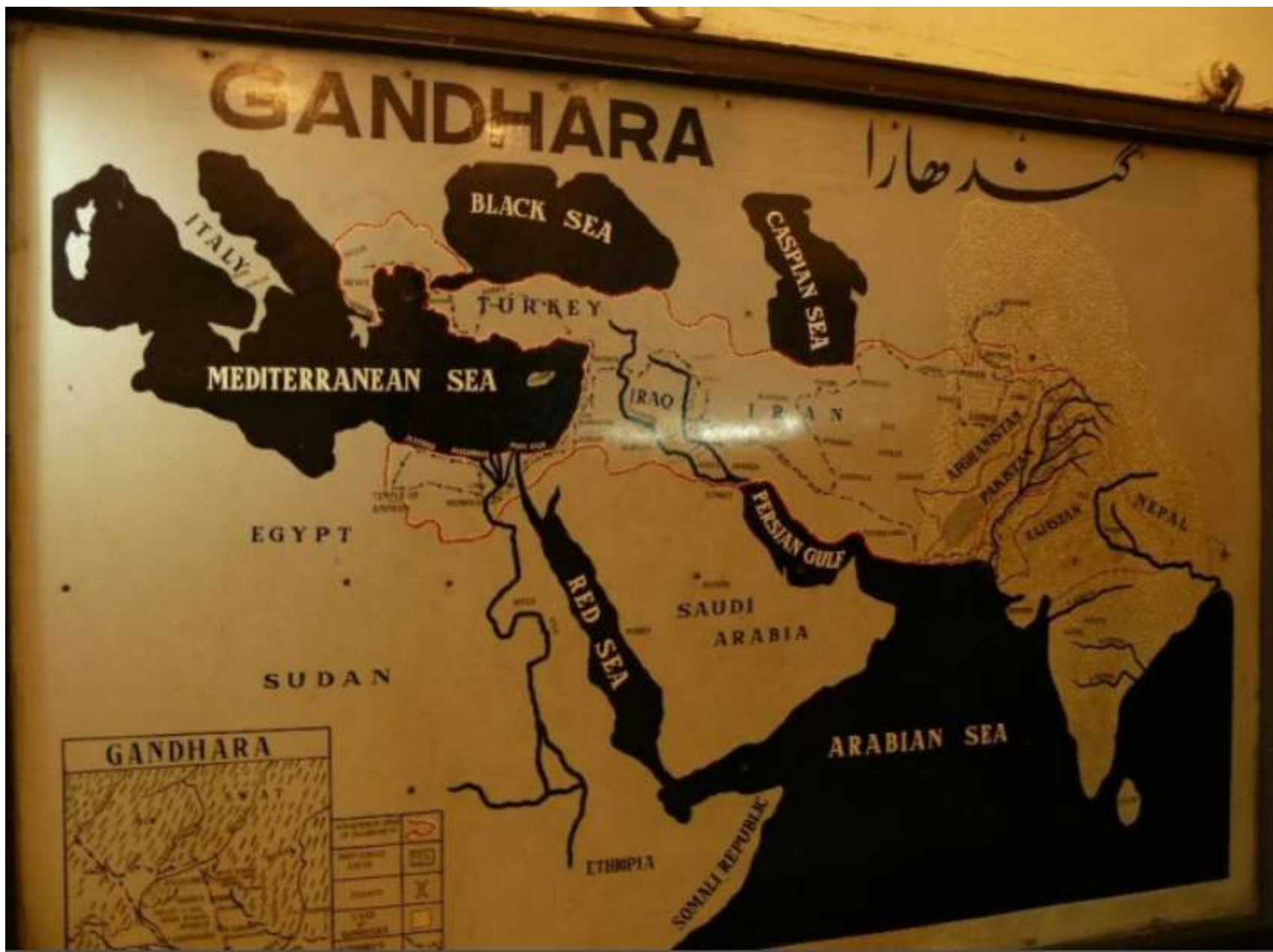
Archaeological Sites in Gandhara

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- ❖ THE BOUNDARIES OF GANDHARA VARIED THROUGHOUT HISTORY.
- ❖ SOMETIMES THE PESHAWAR VALLEY AND TAXILA WERE COLLECTIVELY REFERRED TO AS GANDHARA AND SOMETIMES THE SWAT VALLEY WAS ALSO INCLUDED.
- ❖ THE KINGDOM WAS RULED FROM CAPITALS AT PUSHKALAVATI (CHARSADDA), TAXILA, PURUSHAPURA (PESHAWAR) AND IN ITS FINAL DAYS FROM UDABHANDAPURA (HUND) ON THE INDUS.

GANDHARA MAP IN NATIONAL MEUSEUM PAKISTAN



TIMELINE

PREHISTORIC PERIOD:

❖ EVIDENCE OF STONE AGE HUMAN INHABITANTS OF GANDHARA, INCLUDING STONE TOOLS AND BURNT BONES, WAS DISCOVERED AT SANGHAO NEAR MARDAN IN AREA CAVES.

AROUND 5000 BC (RAMAYAN ERA):

❖ BHARAT, THE BROTHER OF LORD RAMA OF KOSALA, RULED FROM GANDHARA, HIS SONS WERE TAKSH AND PUSHKALA, WHO INHABITED NEW CITIES CALLED TAKSHA-SHILA (TAXILA), AND PUSHKARVATI (PESHAWAR).



MAHABHARATA ERA(AROUND 800 B.C):

- ❖ GANDHARA WAS FIRST MENTIONED IN THE RIG-VEDA, AS TEXILA REMAINED THE STRONG HOLD OF THE ARYANS, WHOSE GREAT EPIC BOOK MAHABHARATA WAS FOR THE FIRST TIME RECITED HERE.
- ❖ GANDHARA HAD PLAYED AN IMPORTANT ROLE IN THE HINDU EPIC OF MAHABHARATA, AS THE PRINCESS NAME GANDHARI WAS MARRIED TO HASTINAPUR'S BLIND KING DHRITRASHTRA, THEIR DESCENDENTS SUBSEQUENTLY RULED THE REGION UP TO 1 MILLENNIUM B.C..
- ❖ THE FAMOUS BATTLE OF KURUKSHETRA WHICH ELIMINATED THE ENTIRE KURU FAMILY INCLUDING BHISHMA AND 100 KAURAVA BROTHERS ALSO TOOK PLACE IN THE GANDHARA KINGDOM IN THE VEDIC ERA.



RULE OF CYRUS (AROUND 550BC):

- ❖ Cyrus the great (558–530 B.C.) built first the "universal" empire, stretching from greece to the indus river.
- ❖ Both Gandhara and kamboja soon came under the rule of the achaemenian dynasty of persia during the reign of cyrus the great and in the first year of darius I.



PERSIAN EMPIRE(520-326 B.C):

- ❖ WHEN THE PERSIANS TOOK CONTROL OF THIS KINGDOM, PUSHKARASAKTI, A CONTEMPORARY OF KING BIMBISARA OF MAGADHA, WAS THE KING OF GANDHARA. HE WAS ENGAGED IN A POWER STRUGGLE AGAINST THE KINGDOMS OF AVANTI AND PANDAVAS.
- ❖ ISSUANCE OF COIN CURRENCY FOR THE FIRST TIME IN THE INDUS LAND

- ❖ THE MOST SIGNIFICANT DEVELOPMENT WAS THE GREAT USE OF IRON TECHNOLOGY, WHICH PRODUCED IRON TOOLS, WEAPONS AND OTHER OBJECTS OF DAILY USE AS KNOWN FROM THE EXCAVATIONS AT TAXILA.
- ❖ AT THE SAME TIME **THE OLDEST UNIVERSITY OF THE WORLD WAS FOUNDED AT TAXILA**, WHERE TAUGHT THE GREAT GRAMMARIAN PANINI, BORN AT THE MODERN VILLAGE OF LAHUR IN SAWABI DISTRICT OF THE FRONTIER PROVINCE. IT IS THE BASIS OF THIS GRAMMAR THAT MODERN LINGUISTICS HAS BEEN DEVELOPED.
- ❖ **BY ABOUT 380 B.C. PERSIAN HOLD ON THE REGION WEAKENED.** MANY SMALL KINGDOMS SPRANG UP IN GANDHARA.

ALEXANDER CONQUEST(326-305 B.C):

- ❖ IN 327 B.C. ALEXANDER THE GREAT CONQUERED GANDHARA AND THE INDIAN TERRITORIES OF THE PERSIAN EMPIRE.
- ❖ HE WAS WELCOMED BY THE LOCAL KING AMBHI IN HIS PALACE AT BHIRMOUND NEAR TAXILA.
- ❖ THE ERA LASTED FOR 25 YEARS.

MAURYAN DYNASTY(305-180 B.C):

- ❖ CHANDRAGUPTA, THE FOUNDER OF MAURYAN DYNASTY IS SAID TO HAVE LIVED IN TAXILA WHEN ALEXANDER CAPTURED THIS CITY.
- ❖ CHANDRAGUPTA LED A REBELLION AGAINST THE MAGADHA EMPIRE AND ASCENDED THE THRONE AT PATALIPUTRA IN 321 B.C., AND ULTIMATELY SNATCHED THE ENTIRE KINGDOM BACK AFTER A BATTLE WITH SELEUCUS, NICATOR ALEXANDER'S SUCCESSOR IN ASIA IN 305 B.C.



RULE OF ASHOKA (MAURYAN DYNASTY)(273-232 B.C):

- ❖ HE DEVELOPED THE MAURYAN CITY AT BHIRMOUND IN TAXILA, WHERE RULED HIS GRANDSON, ASHOKA, TWICE AS GOVERNOR.
- ❖ HE INTRODUCED BUDDHISM IN GANDHARA AND BUILT THE FIRST BUDDHIST MONASTERY, CALLED DHARMARAJIKA VIHARA, AT TAXILA.



INDO GREEK (180-97 B.C):

- ❖ THE DECLINE OF THE EMPIRE LEFT THE SUB-CONTINENT OPEN TO THE INROADS BY THE GRECO-BACTRIANS, AROUND ABOUT 185 B.C., DEMETRIUS OF BACTRIA INVADED AND CONQUERED GANDHARA AND THE PUNJAB
- ❖ LATER, WARS BETWEEN DIFFERENT GROUPS OF BACTRIAN GREEKS RESULTED IN THE INDEPENDENCE OF GANDHARA FROM BACTRIA AND THE FORMATION OF THE INDO-GREEK KINGDOM

- ❖ MENANDER WAS ITS MOST FAMOUS KING. HE RULED FROM TAXILA AND LATER FROM SAGALA (SIALKOT). HE REBUILT TAXILA (SIRKAP) AND PUSHKALAVATI. HE BECAME A BUDDHIST LATER ON.

KUSHAN EMPIRE(75-230A.D):

- ❖ THE KUSHANS, KNOWN AS YUEZHI IN CHINA MOVED FROM CENTRAL ASIA TO BACTRIA, WHERE THEY STAYED FOR A CENTURY. AROUND 75, ONE OF THEIR TRIBES, THE KUSHAN UNDER THE LEADERSHIP OF KUJULA KADPHISES GAINED CONTROL OF GANDHARA.
- ❖ THE PERIOD IS CONSIDERED THE GOLDEN PERIOD OF GANDHARA. PESHAWAR VALLEY AND TAXILA ARE LITTERED WITH RUINS OF STUPAS AND MONASTERIES OF THIS PERIOD.
- ❖ GANDHARAN ART FLOURISHED AND PRODUCED SOME OF THE BEST PIECES OF INDIAN SCULPTURE.



- ❖ UNDER KANISHKA, GANDHARA BECAME A HOLY LAND OF BUDDHISM AND ATTRACTED CHINESE PILGRIM TO SEE MONUMENTS ASSOCIATED WITH MANY JATAKA TALES.
- ❖ AFTER KANISHKA, THE EMPIRE STARTED LOSING TERRITORIES IN THE EAST. IN THE WEST, GANDHARA CAME UNDER THE SASSANID, THE SUCCESSOR STATE OF THE PARTHIANS, AND BECAME THEIR VASSAL FROM AD 241 UNTIL 450.

WHITE HUNS AND NEZAK(450-644A.D):

- ❖ THE HEPTHALITE HUNS CAPTURED GANDHARA AROUND AD 450, AND DID NOT ADOPT BUDDHISM. DURING THEIR RULE, HINDUISM WAS REVIVED BUT THE GANDHARAN CIVILIZATION DECLINED.
- ❖ THEY CAPITAL WAS SHIFTED TO HUND NEAR THE BANK OF INDUS.



HINDUSHAHI (870-1020A.D):

- ❖ SOMETIME IN THE 9TH CENTURY THE HINDUSHAHI REPLACED THE TURKISHAHI.
- ❖ JAYAPALA WAS THE LAST GREAT KING OF HINDUSHAHI DYNASTY, HIS EMPIRE EXTENDED FROM WEST OF KABUL TO THE RIVER SUTLEJ.



- ❖ DEFEATED TWICE BY SABUKTIGIN AND THEN BY MAHMUD OF GHAZNI IN THE KABUL VALLEY, JAYAPALA COMMITTED SUICIDE
- ❖ ANANDAPALA, A SON OF JAYAPALA, MOVED HIS CAPITAL NEAR NANDANA IN THE SALT RANGE. IN 1021 THE LAST KING OF THIS DYNASTY, TRILOCANAPALA, WAS ASSASSINATED BY HIS OWN TROOPS WHICH SPELLED THE END OF GANDHARA.

EMPIRE OF MAHUMAD OF GHAZNI (1032-1350A.D):

- ❖ BY THE TIME GANDHARA HAD BEEN ABSORBED INTO THE EMPIRE OF MAHMUD OF GHAZNI, BUDDHIST BUILDINGS WERE ALREADY IN RUINS AND GANDHARA ART HAD BEEN FORGOTTEN

DISCOVERY OF CIVILIZATION:

- ❖ IN THE 19TH CENTURY, BRITISH SOLDIERS AND ADMINISTRATORS STARTED TAKING INTEREST IN THE ANCIENT HISTORY OF THE INDIAN SUB.C.ONTINENT
- ❖ IN 1848 CUNNINGHAM FOUND GANDHARA SCULPTURES NORTH OF PESHAWAR. HE ALSO IDENTIFIED THE SITE OF TAXILA IN THE 1860S. FROM THEN ON A LARGE NUMBER OF BUDDHIST STATUES HAVE BEEN DISCOVERED IN THE PESHAWAR VALLEY.
- ❖ JOHN MARSHALL PERFORMED AN EXCAVATION OF TAXILA FROM 1912 TO 1934. HE DISCOVERED SEPARATE GREEK, PARTHIAN, AND KUSHAN CITIES AND A LARGE NUMBER OF STUPAS AND MONASTERIES.
- ❖ AFTER 1947 AHMED HASSAN DANI AND THE ARCHAEOLOGY DEPARTMENT AT UNIVERSITY OF PESHAWAR MADE A NUMBER OF DISCOVERIES IN THE PESHAWAR AND SWAT VALLEY.

GHANDHARA ART

❖ GANDHARA ART, NAMED AFTER THE REGION OF GANDHARA NOW IN PAKISTAN, PRESENTS SOME OF THE EARLIEST IMAGES OF THE BUDDHA.

❖ THE GANDHARA STYLE WAS PROFOUNDLY INFLUENCED BY 2D-CENTURY HELLENISTIC ART AND WAS ITSELF HIGHLY INFLUENTIAL IN CENTRAL AND EASTERN ASIA.

❖ GANDHARA SCHOOL WAS BASED ON GRECO-ROMAN NORMS ENCAPSULATING FOREIGN TECHNIQUES AND AN ALIEN SPIRIT. IT IS ALSO KNOWN AS **GRAECO-BUDDHIST SCHOOL OF ART**.



Buddha Head as depicted in Gandhara Art



❖ THE FOREIGN INFLUENCE IS EVIDENT FROM THE SCULPTURES OF BUDDHA IN WHICH THEY BEAR RESEMBLANCE TO THE GREEK SCULPTURES. GREY SANDSTONE IS USED IN GANDHARA SCHOOL OF ART.

❖ THE BAMYAN BUDDHA OF AFGHANISTAN WERE THE EXAMPLE OF THE GANDHARA SCHOOL. THE OTHER MATERIALS USED WERE MUD, LIME, STUCCO. HOWEVER, MARBLE WAS NOT USED IN GANDHARA ART. TERRACOTTA WAS USED RARELY.



Meditating Buddha of Gandhara Art



PORTRAITS FROM THE SITE OF HADDA,
GANDHARA, 3RD CENTURY, GUIMET MUSEUM

THE VARIOUS MUDRAS OF BUDDHA IN GANDHAR ART

❖ IN ALL THE BUDDHA DEPICTED IN THE GANDHARA ART IS SHOWN MAKING FOUR TYPES OF HAND GESTURES AND THIS IS A REMARKABLE FEATURE IN THIS ART. THE GESTURES ARE AS FOLLOWS:

- ❖ **ABAHAYAMUDRA** : DON'T FEAR
- ❖ **DHYANAMUDRA** : MEDITATION
- ❖ **DHARMACHAKRAMUDRA**: A PREACHING MUDRA
- ❖ **BHUMISPARSHAMUDRA**: TOUCHING THE EARTH.



ABAHAYAMUDRA



DHYANAMUDRA

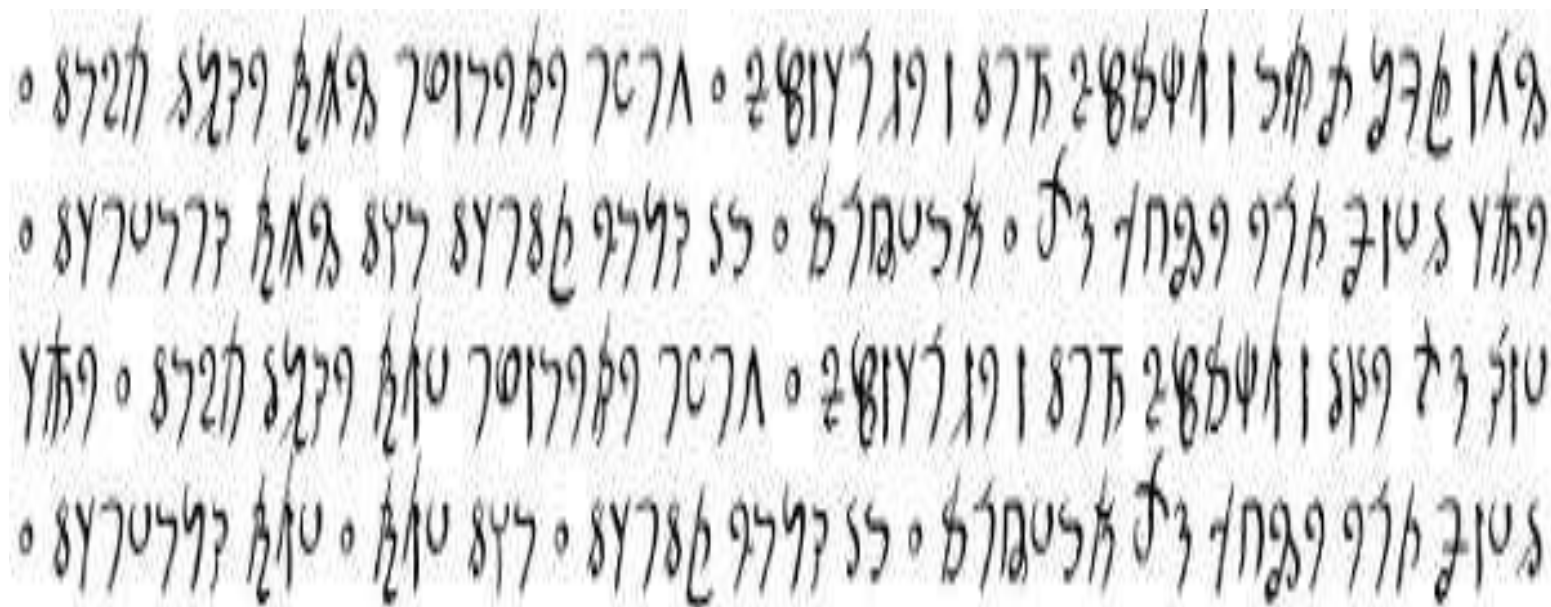


DHARMACHAKRAMUDRA



BHUMISPARSHAMUDRA

- ❖ **GANDHARA'S LANGUAGE WAS A "MIDDLE INDO-ARYAN" DIALECT, USUALLY CALLED GĀNDHĀRĪ. TEXTS ARE WRITTEN RIGHT-TO-LEFT, WHICH HAD BEEN ADAPTED FOR INDO-ARYAN LANGUAGES FROM A SEMITIC ALPHABET.**



- ❖ **THE GREEKS INTRODUCED THEIR LANGUAGE, ART AND RELIGION IN THE COUNTRY OF GANDHARA, WHERE RULED THIRTEEN GREEK KINGS AND QUEENS. THEIR LANGUAGE LASTED MORE THAN FIVE HUNDRED YEARS AND THEIR ART AND RELIGION AND CONSIDERABLE INFLUENCE ON THE FLOURISH OF GANDHARA CIVILIZATION.**



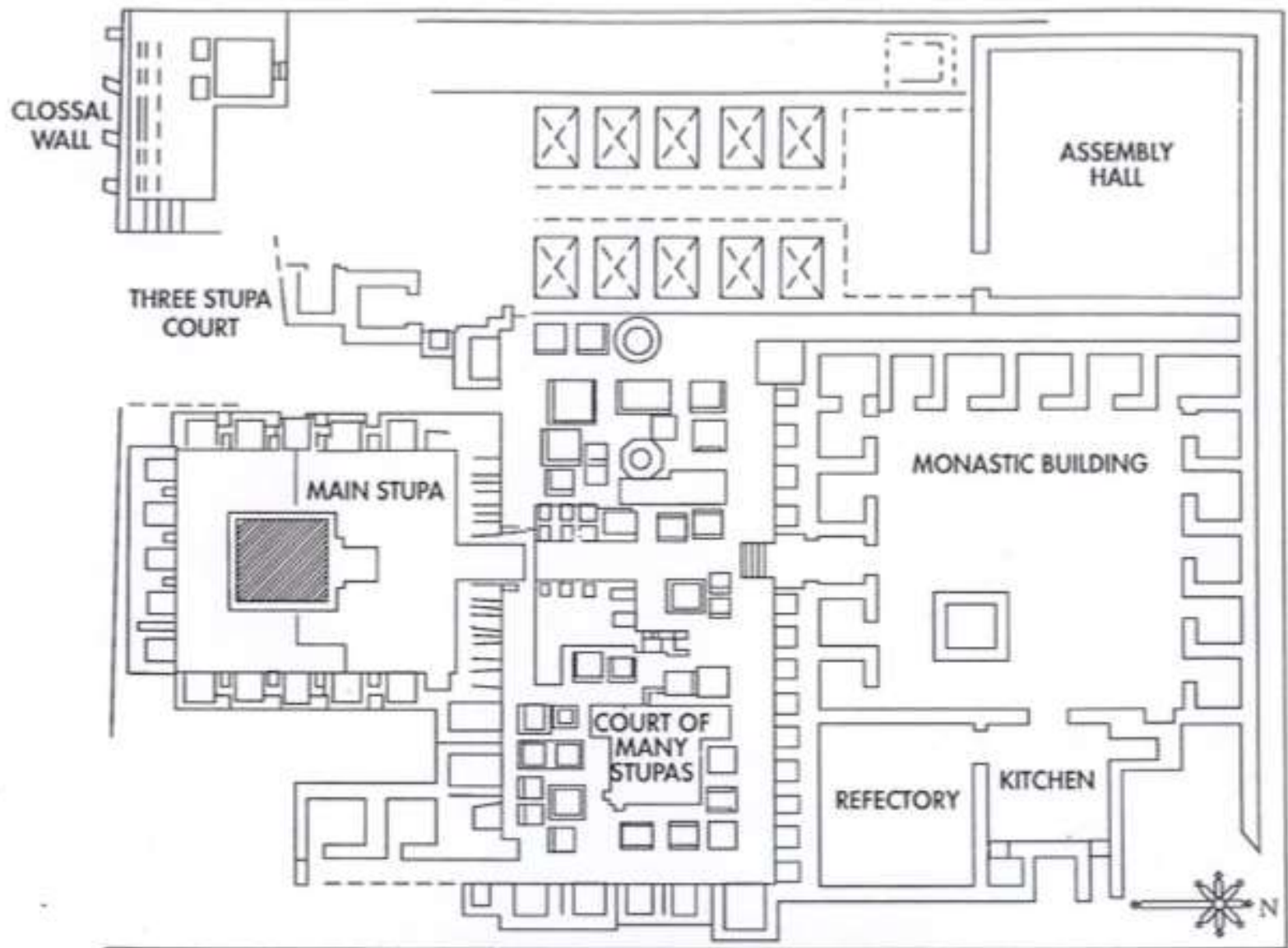
FAMOUS ARCHEOLOGICAL SITES

THE MOST FAMOUS ARCHEOLOGICAL SITES ARE:

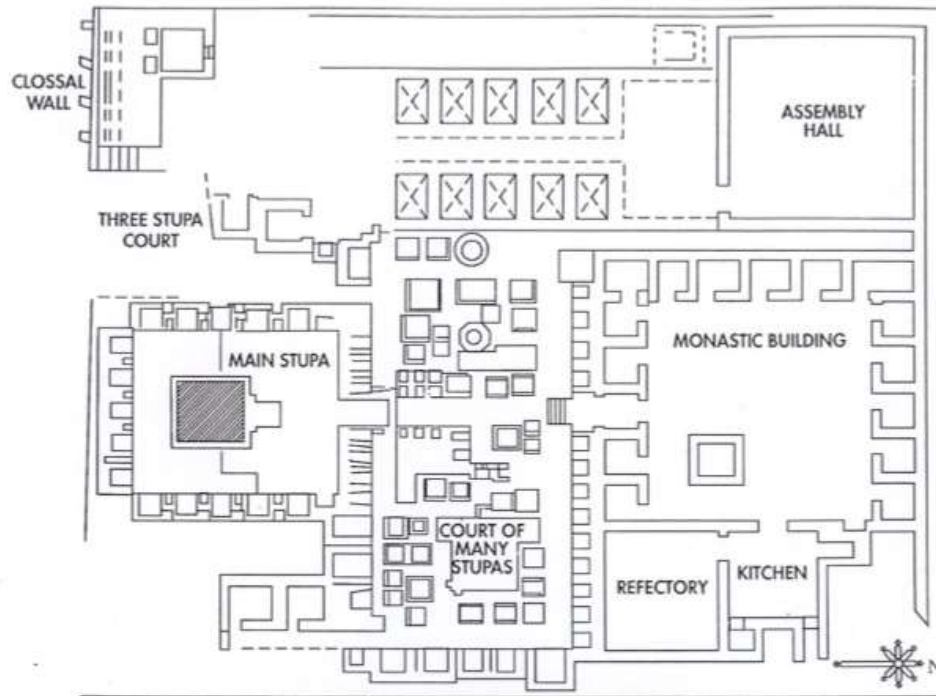
- ❖ **HADDA AND BAMMIAN IN AFGHANISTAN**
- ❖ **SHAH-JI-KI-DHERI IN PESHAWAR**
- ❖ **BALA HISAR AND SHEIKHAN DHERI IN CHARSADDA**
- ❖ **TAKHT-I-BAHI, JAMAL GARHI AND SAHRI BAHIAL IN MARDAN**
- ❖ **AZIZ DHERI IN SWABI**
- ❖ **BUTKARA-I & II IN SWAT**
- ❖ **SIRKAP, SIRSUKH, JULIAN IN TAXILA**

TAKHT-I-BAHI



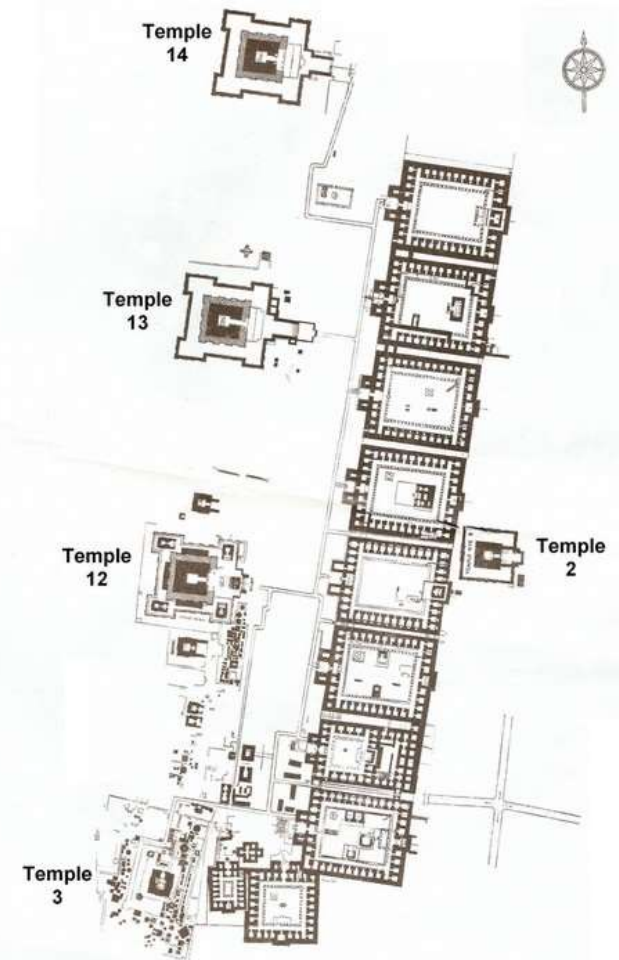


Plan of the Monastic Complex of Takht-I-Bahi



Plan of the Monastic Complex of Takht-i-Bahi

TAKHT-I-BAHI



Plan of Nalanda

MONASTRY PLANS IN 5TH CENTURY IN TAXILA AND NALANDA CITY

A black and white photograph of a rugged, eroded landscape. The foreground and middle ground are dominated by steep, rocky slopes with visible vertical erosion patterns. A dirt path or road runs horizontally across the middle of the frame. In the background, a line of trees is visible under a clear sky.

TOUR TO SIRKAP



Door Way To Sirkap



Well At Sirkap



Round Stupa at Sirkap

EARLY EVOLUTION OF THE STUPA

(BUTKARA Great Stupa, 3rd century BCE - 2nd century CE)

①

MAURYAN

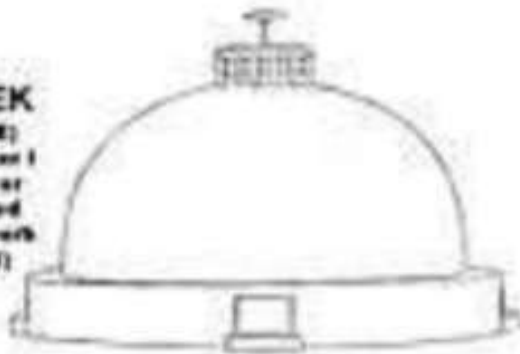
(3rd century BCE)
Calmage: Mauryan
Schist and plaster



②

INDO-GREEK

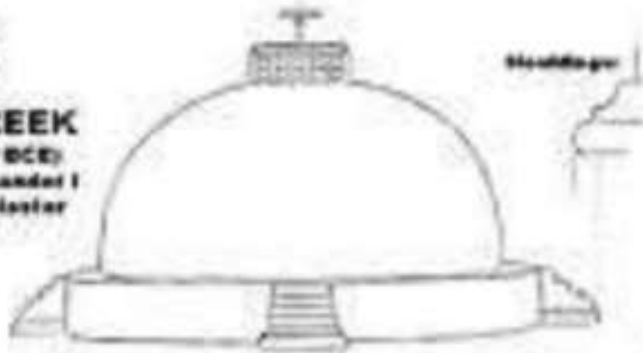
(2nd century BCE)
Calmage: Menander I
Schist and plaster
Niches for figured
panels or relief-work
(Butkara I, p.37)



③

INDO-GREEK

(2nd century BCE)
Calmage: Menander I
Schist and plaster



④

Late INDO-GREEK/ INDO-SCYTHIAN

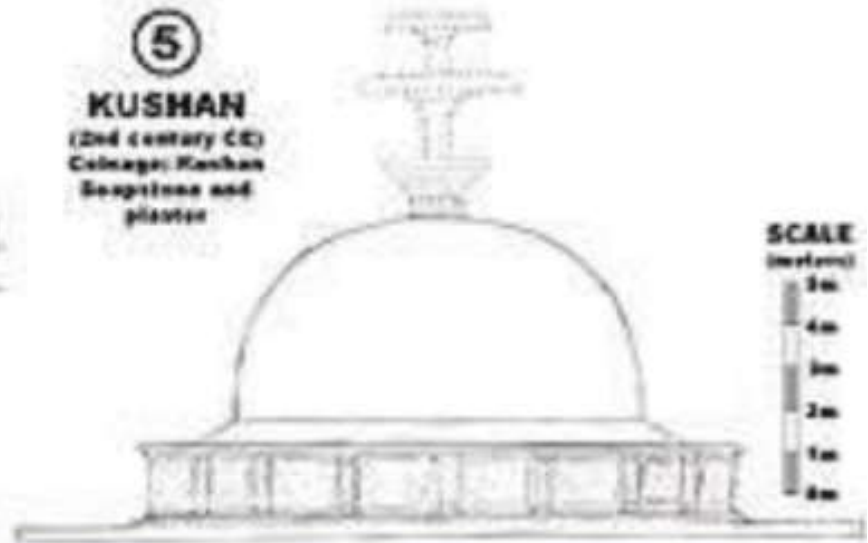
(End of 1st century BCE)
Calmage: Azes II
Serpentine and plaster



⑤

KUSHAN

(2nd century CE)
Calmage: Kushan
Serpentine and plaster



SCALE
(meters)

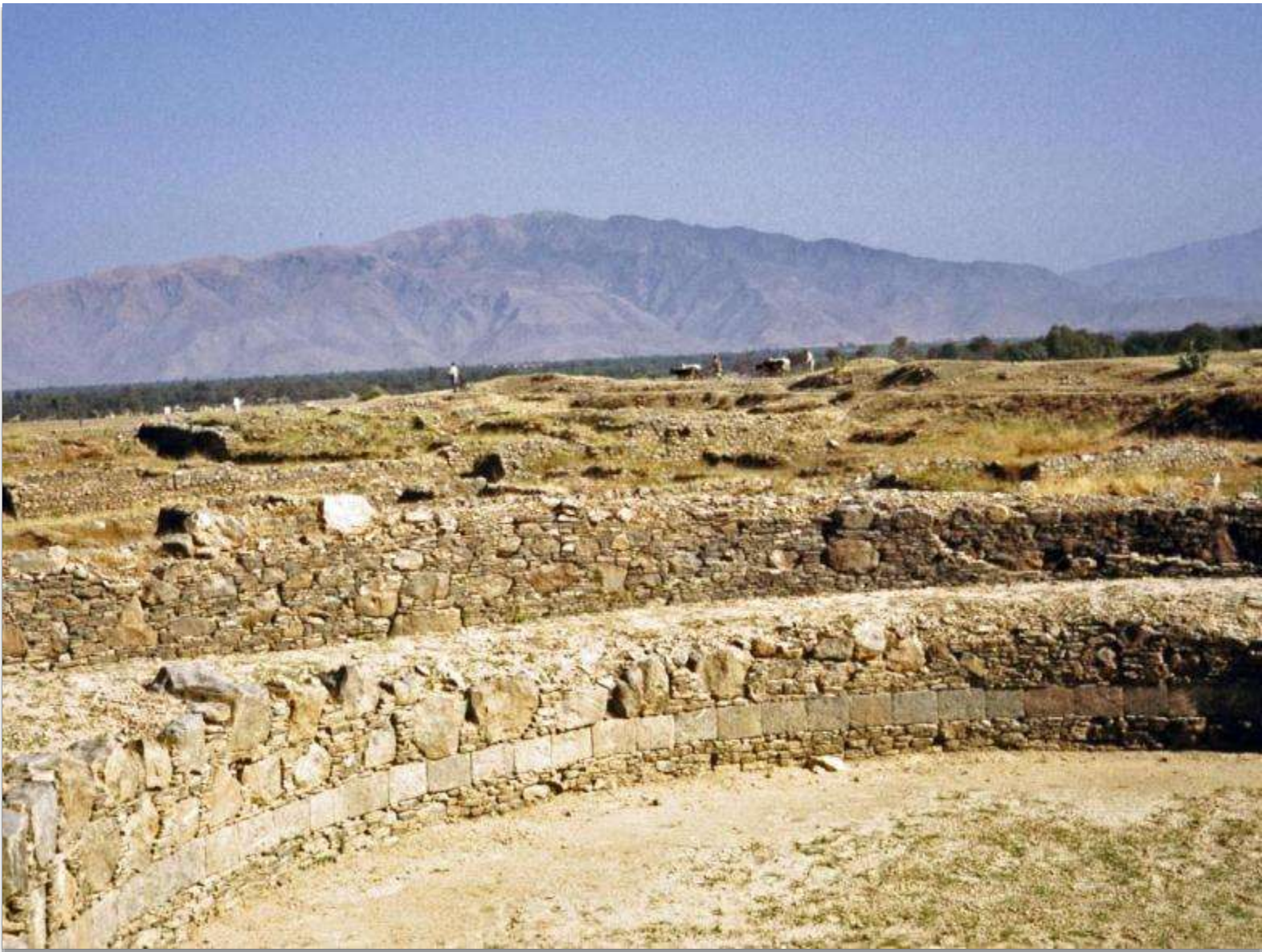




Sirkap Apsidal Temple



Sirkap Tample



Pool at Sirkap



Ruins of Sirkap

- ❖ THE PERSIAN AND GREEK INFLUENCE LED TO THE DEVELOPMENT OF THE GRECO-BUDDHIST STYLE, STARTING FROM THE 1ST CENTURY A.D.



Stupas at Sirkap Walls



Double Headed Eagle Stupa at Sirkap



❖ STUPAS AND MONASTERIES WERE ADORNED WITH RELIEF FRIEZES SHOWING FIGURES IN CLASSICAL POSES WITH FLOWING HELLENISTIC DRAPERIES.



A Bird Eye View of Dharmarajika

DHARMARAJIKA STUPA

THE DHARMARAJIKA STUPA, BUILT BY THE EMPEROR [ASHOKA](#) TO ENSHRINE THE BUDDHA'S RELICS, IS SITUATED AT A SHORT DISTANCE OF DHAMEK STUPA (THE SPOT WHERE BUDDHA GAVE FIRST SERMON) IN [SARNATH, UTTAR PRADESH](#).

- THE DHARMARAJIKA ABOUT 3 KILOMETERS FROM THE TAXILA MUSEUM ON A METALLED. ITS IMPORTANCE LIES IN THE FACT THAT ONE OF BUDDHA'S BODY-RELICS WAS BURIED THERE
- THE NAME DHARMARAJIKA COMES FROM DHARMARAJA, A NAME GIVEN TO BUDDHA WHO WAS THE TRUE DHARMA RAJA
- STANDING HIGH ON A CIRCULAR BASE, THE ORIGINAL STUPA WAS ENLARGED DURING THE GUPTA'S PERIOD, WHICH AGAIN WHEN DESTROYED BY REPEATED FOREIGN INVASIONS OF INDIA, GOT RECONSTRUCTED IN THE BRITISH ERA. HAVING FACED SEVERAL UPS AND DOWNS WITH A PASSAGE OF TIME, TODAY THE DHARARAJIKA STUPA IS ONE OF THE ONE OF THE HOLIEST STRUCTURES VENERATED BY THE BUDDHISTS.



THE PICTURES GIVEN HERE SHOW THE MAIN *STUPA* MOUND, THE CHAPELS SURROUNDING IT ARE MOSTLY GONE EXCEPT FOR THE FOUNDATIONS AND A FEW STUCCO FIGURES . THE PICTURES ARE GIVEN HERE OF THESE STUCCO. ALSO ONE CAN SEE THE GREAT TANK ON ONE SIDE OF THE *STUPA* AT DHARMARAJIKA . THE PLACE IS VERY SERENE AND IS IDEALLY LOCATED AT THE FOOT OF THE HATHIAL SPUR AND THE TAMRA *NALLAH*





Thank You!