

The Invasion Theory

(C. 1800-1500 BC)

The Indus Valley Civilization may have met its demise due to invasion. Some historians believed the Indus civilization was destroyed in a large war. Hindu poems called the Rig Veda (from around 1500 BC) describe northern invaders conquering the Indus Valley cities. According to one theory by British archaeologist Mortimer Wheeler, a nomadic tribe called the Aryans suddenly overwhelmed and conquered the Indus River Valley.

Wheeler suggested that many unburied skeletons found in the top levels of the Mohenjo-daro archaeological site were victims of war. The theory suggested that by using horses and more advanced weapons against the peaceful Harappan people, Aryans may have easily defeated them.

Yet shortly after Wheeler proposed his theory, other scholars dismissed it by explaining that the skeletons were not victims of invasion massacres, but rather the remains of quick burials. Wheeler himself eventually admitted that the theory could not be proven.

Various elements of the Indus Civilization are found in later cultures, suggesting the civilization did not disappear suddenly due to an invasion.

<https://courses.lumenlearning.com> and <https://www.bbc.com/bitesize>

The Climate Change Theory

(C. 1800-1500 BC)

Other research suggests the collapse of Harappan society resulted from climate change. Some experts believe the drying of the Saraswati River, which began around 1900 BCE, was the main cause for climate change, while others conclude that a great flood struck the area.

Any major environmental change, such as deforestation, flooding, or droughts due to a river changing course, could have had disastrous effects on Harappan society, such as crop failures, starvation, and disease. Skeletal evidence suggests many people died from malaria, which is most often spread by mosquitoes. This also would have caused a breakdown in the economy and society within the city.

Another disastrous change in the Harappan climate might have been eastward-moving monsoons, or winds that bring heavy rains. Monsoons can be both helpful and harmful to a climate, depending on whether they support or destroy plants. The monsoons that came to the Indus River Valley helped the growth of extra food, which supported the development of cities, such as Harappa. The population came to rely on seasonal monsoons to water their crops rather than irrigation systems. If the monsoons shifted eastward, the water supply would have dried up.

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The Trade Theory

Trade was very important for the Indus civilization. Their main trade partner was Mesopotamia, which was an advanced civilization in the Middle East.

Around the time the Indus cities started to fail, Mesopotamia was going through huge political problems. Their trade networks collapsed, and this would have had a big impact on the Indus cities. There would have been less work for traders and for manufacturers, who made the things which the traders sold to people in Mesopotamia.

Some historians think this is why the cities collapsed.

We know that only the cities fell into ruins. Farmers in the Indus Valley went on living in their villages and working on their farms, but the civilization would never return to greatness again. This could suggest that people who worked in crops for a living were unaffected by whatever made the cities collapse, supporting the idea of trade as the main reason for the downfall.

<https://www.bbc.com/bitesize>

The Nuclear Theory

There exist a number of 'alternative archaeologists' and researchers who have not settled for theories that do not satisfactorily explain the conditions of the skeletal remains. One such individual is David Davenport, British Indian researcher, who spent 12 years studying ancient Hindu scripts and evidence at the site where the great city once stood. In his book Atomic Destruction in 2000 B.C. he reveals some startling findings: the objects found at the site appeared to be fused by high heat. Within the city itself there appeared to be an 'epicentre' about 50 yards wide within which everything was crystallized, fused or melted, and sixty yards from the center the bricks are melted on one side indicating a blast. The History Channel's Ancient Aliens series featured this idea.

However, modern scientists and historians have pointed out that the so-called bomb blast 'epicenter' is the ancient dumping ground for broken pots that were often made by vitrifying sand in high-temperature kilns.

As for the irradiated bodies, unfortunately this appears to be nothing more than a fictional account put through the rumor mill, with no original source. Despite the skeletal remains being extensively studied down to finest details, not a single scientific paper reports on the discovery of radiation.

But scientific papers aside, common sense dictates that the 15-foot (4.5m) high walls that can be seen in Mohenjo Daro today, would not have survived a nuclear blast!

<https://www.ancient-origins.net>

The Trade Theory



The Nuclear Theory

