

Media and Lost History

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Abstract: History has actually become history. The society is neither bothered nor concerned that a major part of the evolution of society has disappeared. Only the archaeologists and historians have taken the responsibility to preserve whatever they have been able to assimilate. History itself has various examples, where, for various reasons, events, books and landmarks have been destroyed. This destruction has led to a lacuna in history. To fill this gap is next to impossible.

Since the evolution of media, it has taken on the initiative to revive, restore and preserve historical events. The preservation of history has taken on various forms of folklore, tales, cinema, television programmes to name a few. The objective of this study is to trace lost history in the Indian Subcontinent and how media has contributed in bringing to light the importance of history and the rich culture it preserves. Television has been for decades exploring the lost world or the contribution of various dynasties through its programmes on various channels, be it the EPIC channel or the History Channel. These channels are dedicated to providing information on various facets of history.

Keywords: revival, lost history, Indian

I. Introduction

History is probably the richest subjects that has been and is studied. It is also encompasses the biggest mystery that probably will never be solved. Academicians have not been able to generate the kind of interest that will encourage the students to learn history. Archaeologists and historians have been discovering and re-discovering history and historical facts for centuries together. The facts were so embroidered in myths and legends that it is difficult at times to differentiate between reality and mythology.

Technology today has helped to decipher the history and has even rewritten history. There is a whole world waiting for someone to explore it. The world that is known to us also is wrapped up in so many layers. The more each layer is removed, the more astonishing the civilization seems (Mantikore420, 2012). Organizations like UNESCO are trying to preserve these heritage sites. The true beauty and the advancement of the Indian civilizations are an eye opener for the world. Cities like Lothal from the Indus Valley era was discovered in 1954. This city was about 2000 years ahead in navigation, metallurgy and bead-making (Kaur, 2013). That is one of the reasons why the philosophers have considered India as a major source of philosophy and scientific and mathematical development. The world cannot ignore the contribution of Indian history in the field of mathematics. Who can forget the Man who knew Infinity or the invention of zero and decimal? The book Aryabhata is a rich source

of how place value system was used. (The men who knew infinity: India's lost history of mathematical genius, 2016).

Technological advancements like satellite mapping of river beds has helped the historians and the archaeologists to understand and to go back and discover the source and identify how old the source is. (Hancock, 2014). Historians and archaeologists now have proof that the art of yoga and the Vedas belonged to the Indus Valley Civilization. The seals portraying the image of Manu in a yogic posture are a proof that it is more than 4700yrs old. The language of yoga was codified more than 6000yrs old, which means that the art itself was probably older than that. According to the NRSA Deptt. Of Space, Hyderabad there is proof that Saraswati River was probably 10,000yrs old and was there till 6000yrs from the present day.

Thanks to new age media, these facts about our history are coming to light. Media in its various forms through various documentaries and articles have changed the way history will be seen and understood in future (T, 2012).

II. Review of Literature

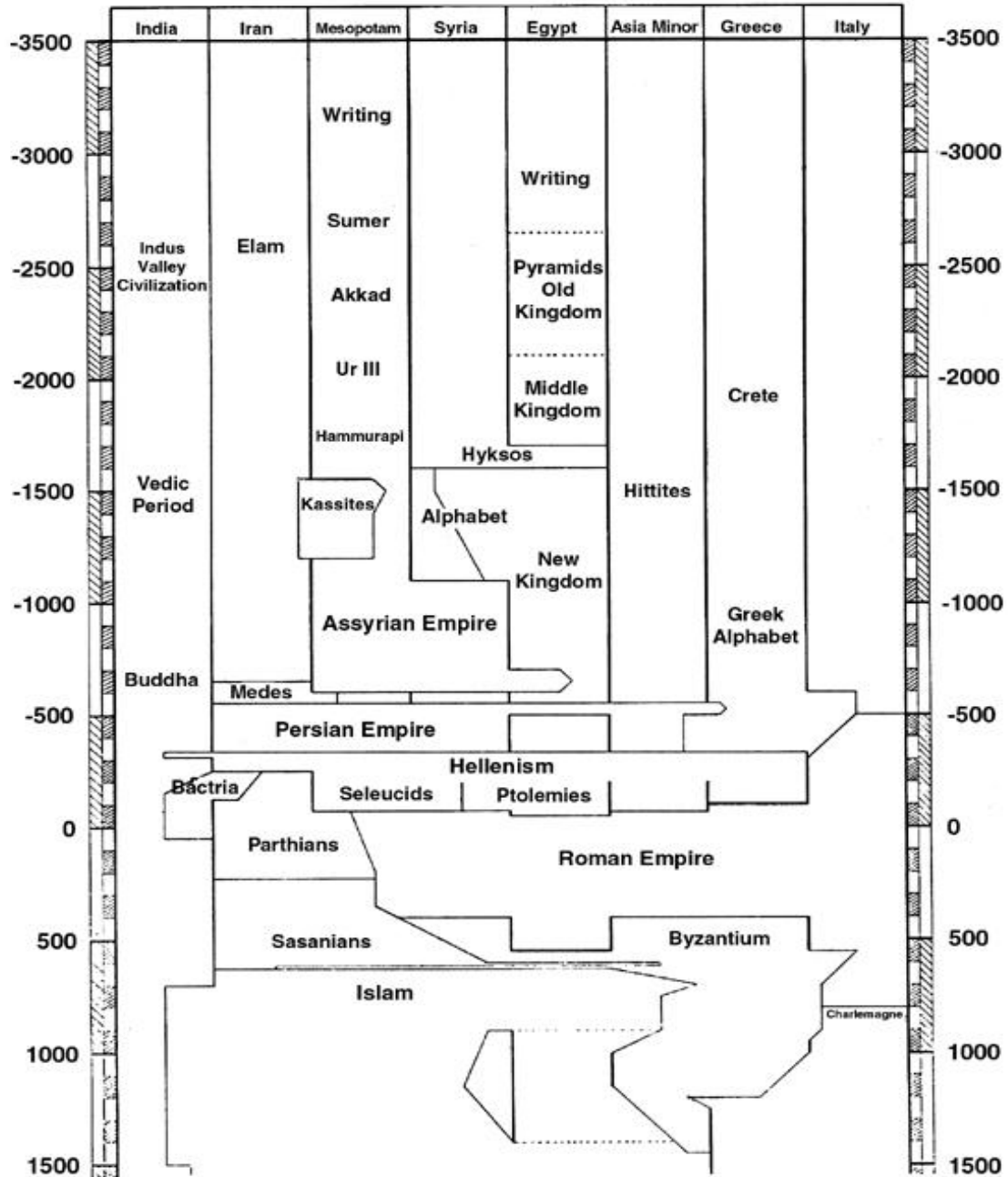
History tends to be written by the victors and about the powerful. When history is not even written, as was the case in early ancient India, there are still ways to extract information -- mostly archaeological, but also "obscure literary texts, inscriptions in forgotten languages, and stray foreign notices," but it doesn't lend itself to "straight line political history, the history of heroes and empires" (Ancient Historians on India | Ancient Sources on Ancient India, 2016)

If you see, India is one of the very few countries to have a civilization which goes back to about 3000 BC. No other country has a history that is mystifying (Lost Treasures Of The Ancient World: Episode 13 - Ancient India, 2014). To put it in perspective, India's last golden age was in the 6th century BC. (KS, 2011). India has been blessed with a vast and magnificent history. From the Indus Valley Civilisation, the Delhi Sultanate, Hindu kings, the Marathas, Mughal emperors, and colonialism to a newly independent India, there are just too many things to remember (Nijhawan, 9 Places In India That Changed The Course Of History But Got Lost On The Map, 2016).

Indians have always believed that like individuals, nations also have a soul. Discovery of each and every heritage point revives the soul and adds to the culture of the country. Recently Indian archaeologists have discovered a site in Mizoram that could be a lost city of lost civilization (Das, 2016).

For, up to the 18th century, philosophers and thinkers in Europe, such as Voltaire, Hegel and even as late as Nietzsche, kept referring to Indian philosophy and science, as the mother of all philosophies and sciences. (GAUTIER, 2008).

Ancient history- Chronological Distribution of various Civilizations



(Hatch)

III. Objective

To ascertain the contributions of media in discovering the lost history of the Indian Subcontinent.

IV. Research Methodology

The research is Exploratory in nature. The aim is to explore and understand the contribution of media in deciphering the mysteries of the lost history of the Indian Sub-continent.

V. Data Collection

The Data Collection will be collected through Secondary Data. The secondary Data was collected on the basis of Documentary Films *Ancient Tamil Civilization - Truths Hidden by The Indian Government, Lost Treasures Of The Ancient World: Episode 13 - Ancient India, What the Ancients Knew – India* and a Book titled *REWRITING INDIAN HISTORY*.

VI. Data Analysis

The finding on the basis of in-depth study of the documentary films and the book, revealed that there are number of facts that were not documented authentically. These interesting and fascinating facts are being revealed to the masses through documentaries and articles. This is helping not only the historians but the general public in understanding history. These documentary films have shown that with advanced technology it is possible to decipher unknown facts and bring them to public light.

VII. Limitations

The study was not done on a very small scale, using majorly only two documentaries. It would have helped if we had explored more options only the Indian perspective was taken. Taking a global perspective would have broadened the scope of the study

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