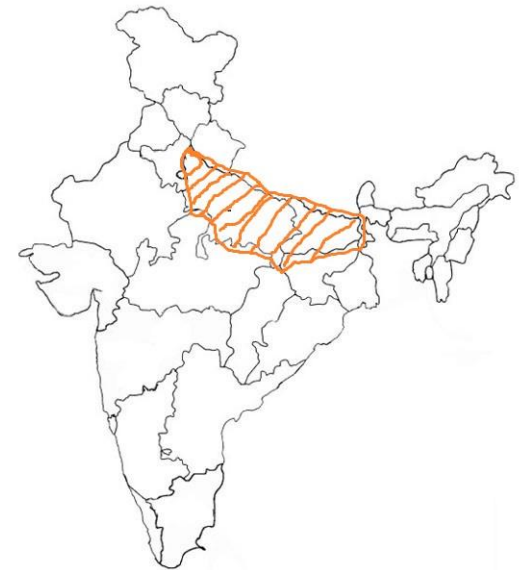


Spread of Buddhism

A 2,500 year journey

The Buddha's life

- lived 563 BC - 483 BC
(80 years)
- enlightened aged 36
- walked and preached 44 years
(Uttar Pradesh and Bihar)



Religious Organisation

- Communities of monks **and nuns**
- Vinaya - set of 227 rules for monks
- No Buddhist "pope" → no rigid hierarchy
- Death : 1st Buddhist Congresses
 - systematised teachings
- Buddha's teachings - oral tradition 400 years

Religious competition

Brahmanism

- Primitive religion brought by Indo-European invaders (1300 BC)
- Priests - paid for sacrifices & rituals, monitor caste system
- Enemy of Buddhism for 2600 years

Jainism

- The founder, Mahavira, lived same time as Buddha. Today about 4 million.

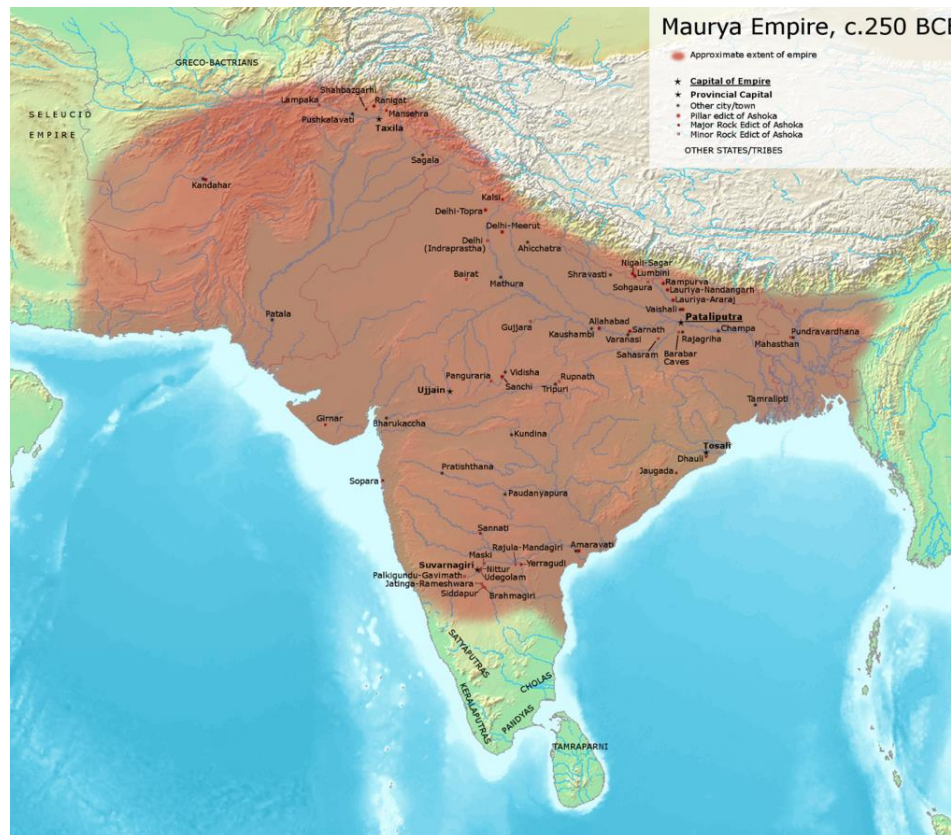
Ajivikas

- Atheistic meditating monks that lived in monasteries. Have died out.

Emperor Ashoka

Mauryan Empire

India, 3rd cent. BC - ruled 40 years



Not in line for throne

Struggle

- 4 years warfare
- killed many ministers, governors
- Killed all half brothers (~100)

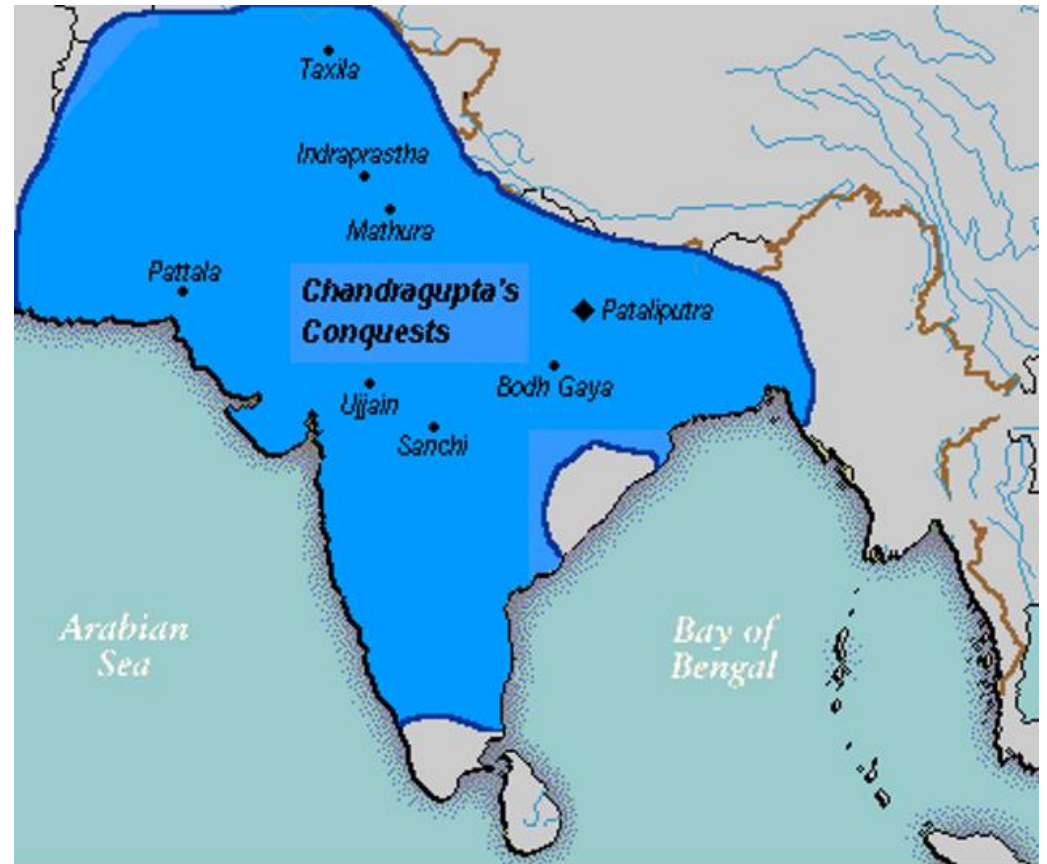
Conversion to Buddhism

- His first and favourite wife Buddhist
- Compared religions – favoured Buddhism



Kalinga conquest

- Unfinished business
- Possible threat



Brutal campaign

- o 100,000 dead
- o 150,000 “carried off”

REMORSE



Buddhist ruler (kindness)

- Foreign affairs: no more wars of conquest
(Pax Ashoka)
(2000 yr later: Pax Britannica)
- Health: grew and imported medicinal herbs.
Distributed around empire



- Infrastructure: Extended highways.
Wells and shade trees.
- Judicial System:
abolished death penalty, allowed appeals
- Administration: inspectors to check on tax collectors, governors
- Religious Affairs: inspectors - encourage cooperation, prevent strife



- Famine Relief

Sohgaura bronze plate



*"The 2 granaries at Vamsagrama are in urgent need
and grain it should not be withheld".*

- Animal Rights:

- * sacrifices banned

- * royal hunts stopped

- * turtles and monkeys protected



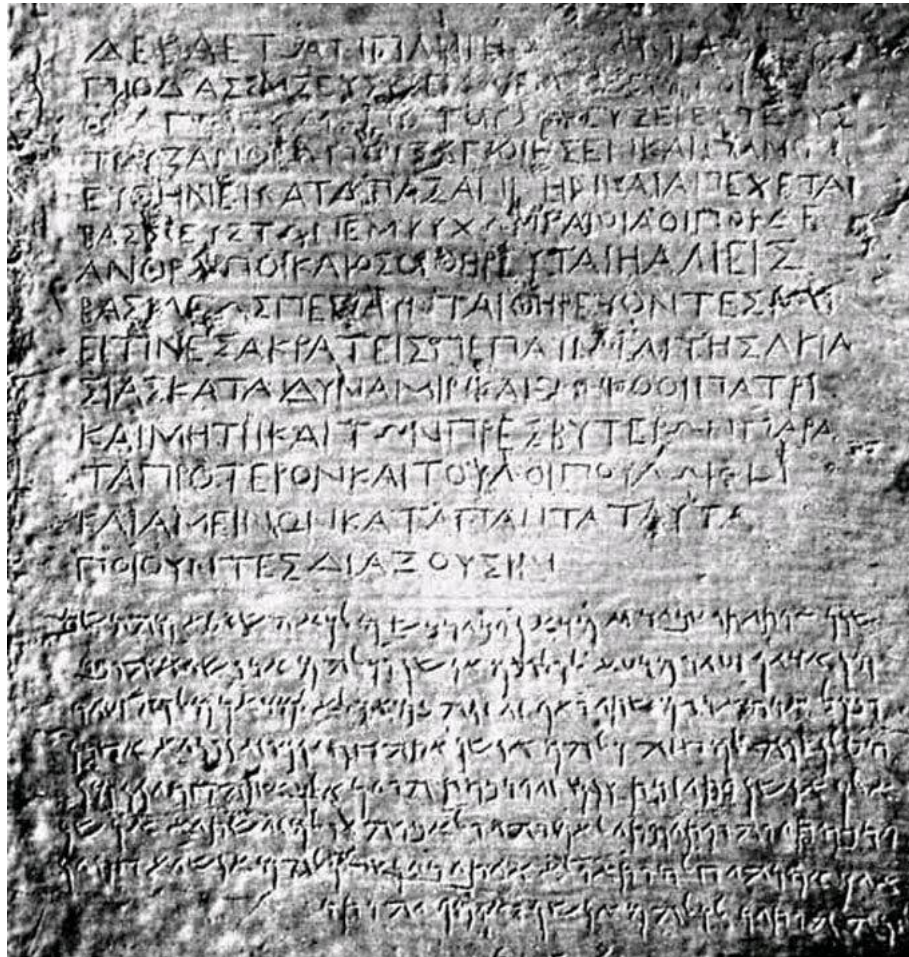
- Select forests protected



Encouraged Righteousness

Rock Edicts/Pillars and Officials

- Respect for parents, teachers & monastics
- Show kindness to servants and slaves



Rock edict at Kandahar, Afghanistan
- Written in Greek and Aramaic scripts
- Discovered in 1958

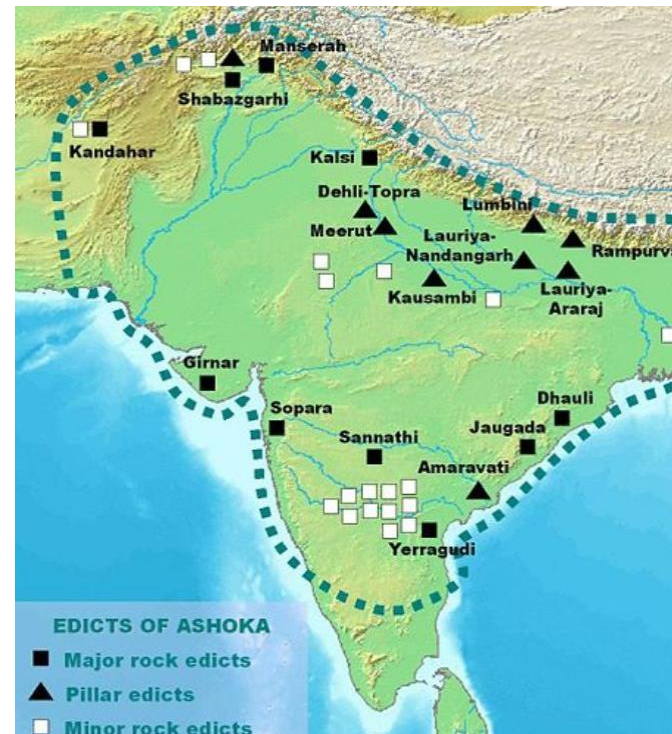
- Do acts of kindness
- Moral behaviour
 - rewards here and hereafter

Ashokan pillar, Rampurva

- 40 to 50 feet high
- weighed up to 50 tonnes
- 20 (only 4 standing)



- Spoke of his story:
 - remorse after Kalinga conquest
 - becoming a father to his subjects



Benefited Buddhism

- Royal patronage
 - more Buddhists
- Built 100's of monasteries
 - more Buddhists



- Built 100's of stupas



Stupa at Sanchi

Relics divided up → more sacred sites

- Buddhist Council (3rd)

(more monks, lower quality)

- expelled unsuitable

- formalised ordination

- formalised teachings (Theravadan)

- Buddhist Missions
(accompanied ambassadors)
 - Within empire borders (eg. Kashmir, sth India)
 - neighbouring countries (Burma, Seleucid Empire)
 - Greek kingdoms (Macedonia, Egypt, Turkey)

Sri Lankan mission

- * Son, Mahinda led mission
 - founded monastery
 - founded order of monks
- Daughter, Sanghamitta
 - founded order of nuns
 - brought cutting of the Bodhi tree



Sri Lanka's Buddhism

- gave us Pali scriptures
- spread Buddhism through SE Asia via trade



End of empire

- 50 years after Ashoka – empire ended
- Emperor assassinated by his general, Shunga (Brahminist)
- Monasteries destroyed, monks murdered
- Monks fled to Kashmir, Afghanistan
- Later Shunga kings tolerant, even supported Buddhism

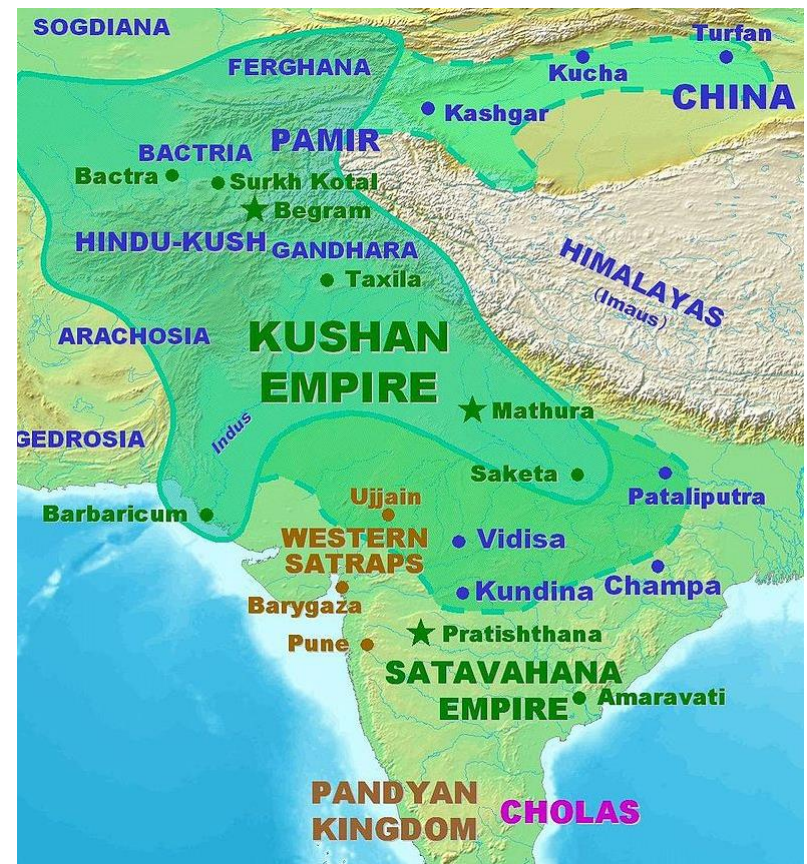
(200 year legacy of tolerance)

Kushan Empire

(1st to 3rd century AD)

(Chinese: Yuezhi people)

- * Indo-European people, came from China (allies)
- * Conquered Afghanistan and northern India
- * Controlled Silk Road (rich from taxes)

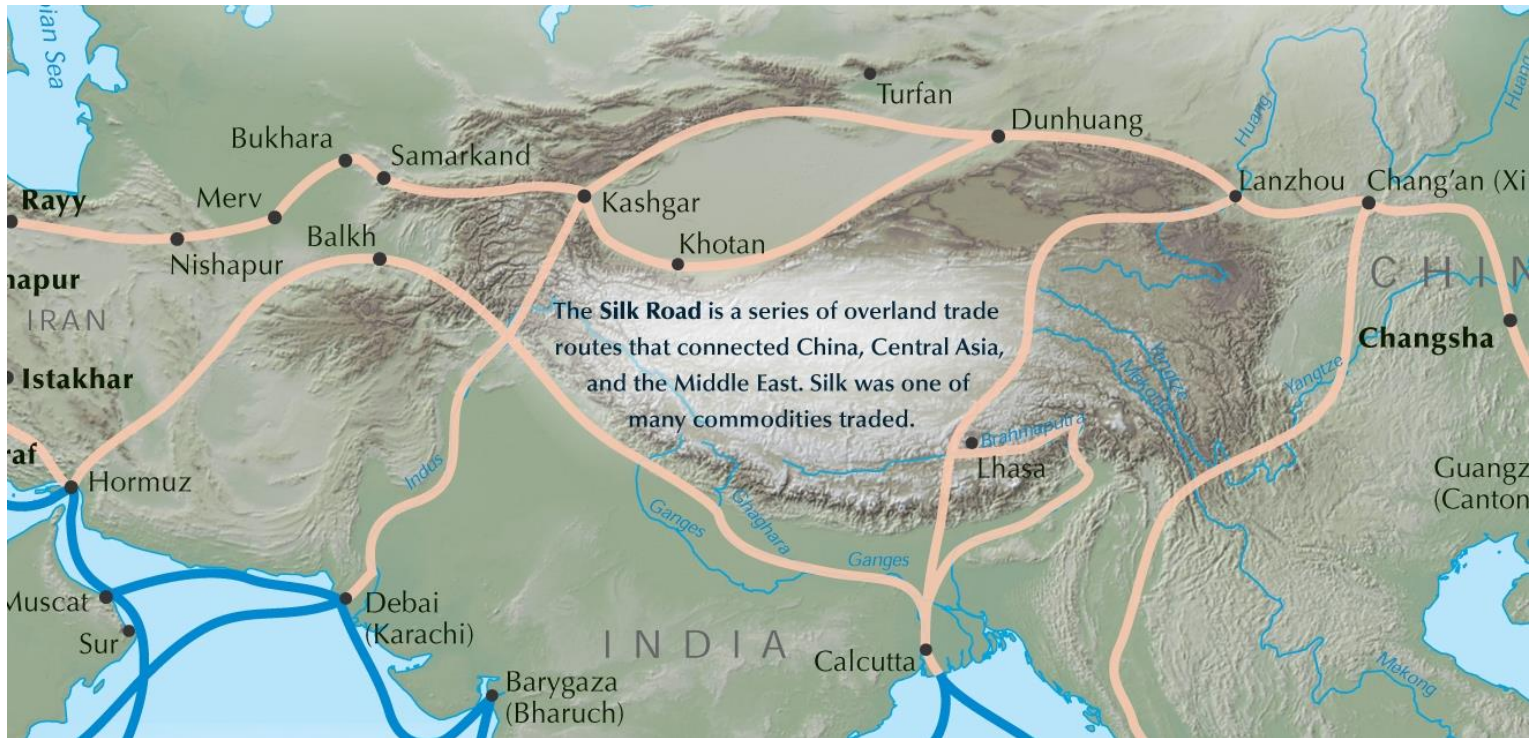


- * Converted to Buddhism
(Kanishgar the Great)
- Aided spread of Buddhism
→ Tibet and China
- Held a Buddhist congress



Buddhism in China

- Kushands – controlled Afghanistan and Tarim Basin
- Buddhism entered along Silk Road



Reasons for success

- Similarities to China's Daoism
(respect for nature, balance)
- Han Dynasty failed (220 AD)
 - Northern conquerors - Buddhism
(S.Road contact)
 - established in south China
(old ways failed)

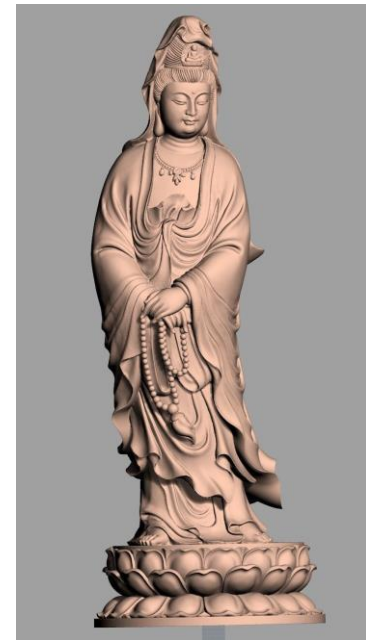
Continued Success

- China reunited 581 AD (Sui → Tang)
 - Buddhism in both north & south
- Mongol conquest 1200's (Yuan Dynasty)
 - (lasted 100 years)
 - Tibetan Buddhists
 - official state religion



Unique Chinese Buddhism

- Chen Budddhisim (Zen in Japan)
- Vegetarian
- “Re-discovered manuscripts”
- Guan-Yin:
 - goddess/saint of compassion
 - (male Indian → female Chinese)



Exported Buddhism

- Korea (3rd cent. AD)
- Japan (6th cent. AD)
- Vietnam (4th cent. AD)

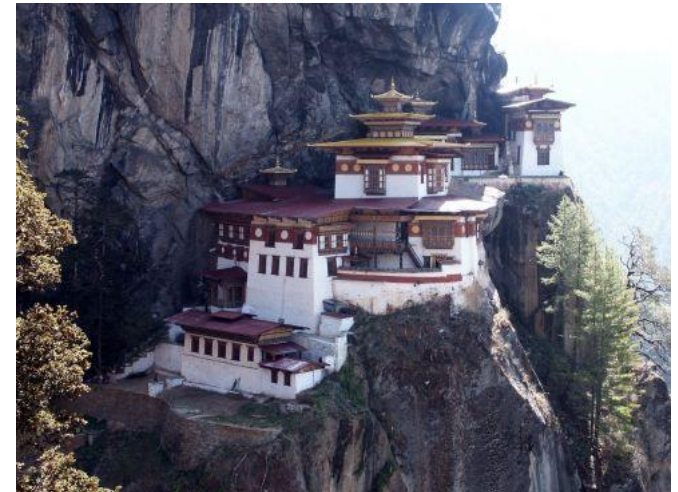
(World wide: via Chinese emigrants)

Buddhism in Tibet

- Originally primitive Bon religion
 - appeal via respect for nature, magic
- Missionaries from China & India
- 600's AD. King married Nepalese Buddhist princess



- Tibetan Buddhism spread to Mongols
(today Mongolia still Buddhist)
- Theocracy started by
Yuan Mongols (1260 AD)
- Replant: Mongolia and
China plus West



Buddhism in India

- In decline by 600 AD
 - bad times (invasions)
 - resurgent Brahminism
- Moslem invasions 1100-1300
 - all monasteries destroyed



- Today more Catholics (2%)
than Buddhists (1%)
- Untouchables (dalits) - many converted to
Buddhism
(Dr. Ambedkar)
- Theravadan missionaries
(Burma, Thailand)

Buddhism in SE Asia

- Theravada Buddhism
 - more original Buddhism
 - fewer “improvements”
- Burma, Indonesia, Thailand, Cambodia, Laos, Philippines



Indian traders

Brought:

- art
- architecture
- writing

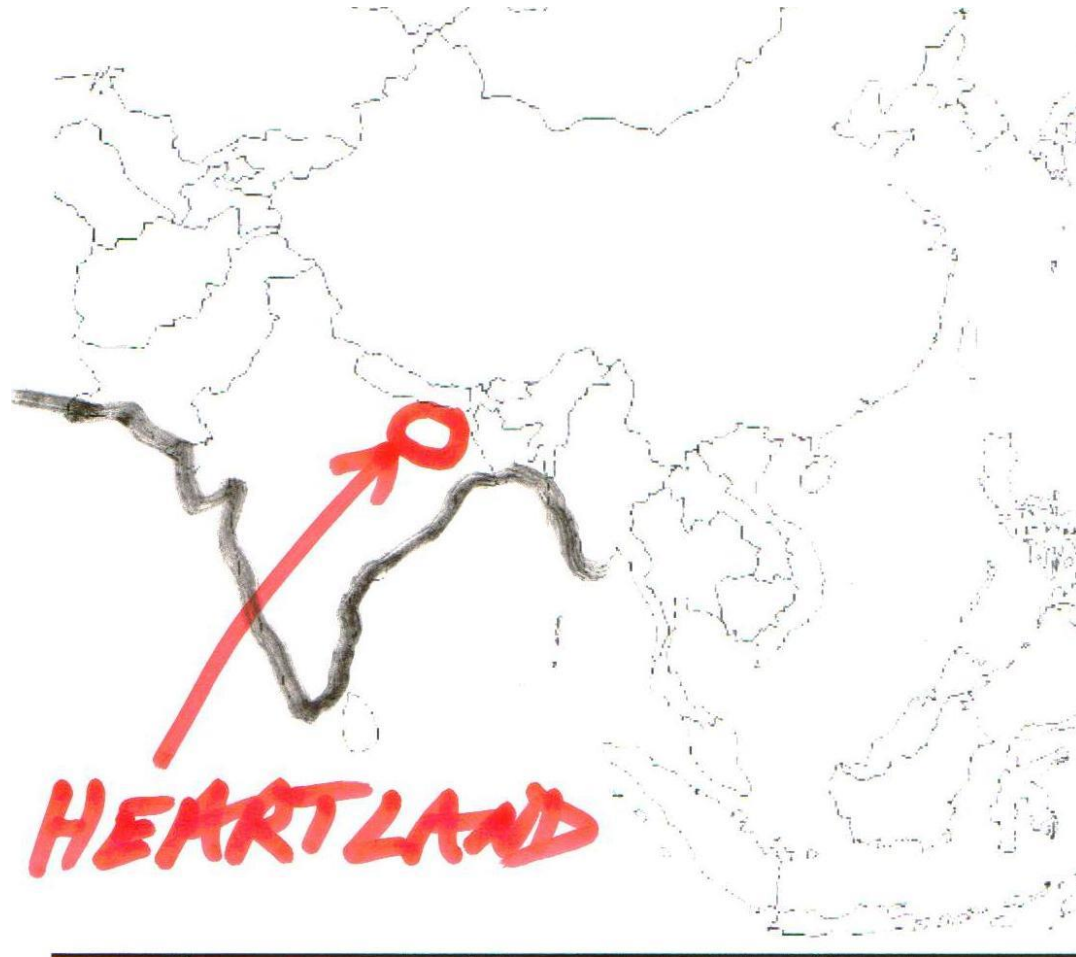


- Religion: Brahminism → Buddhism

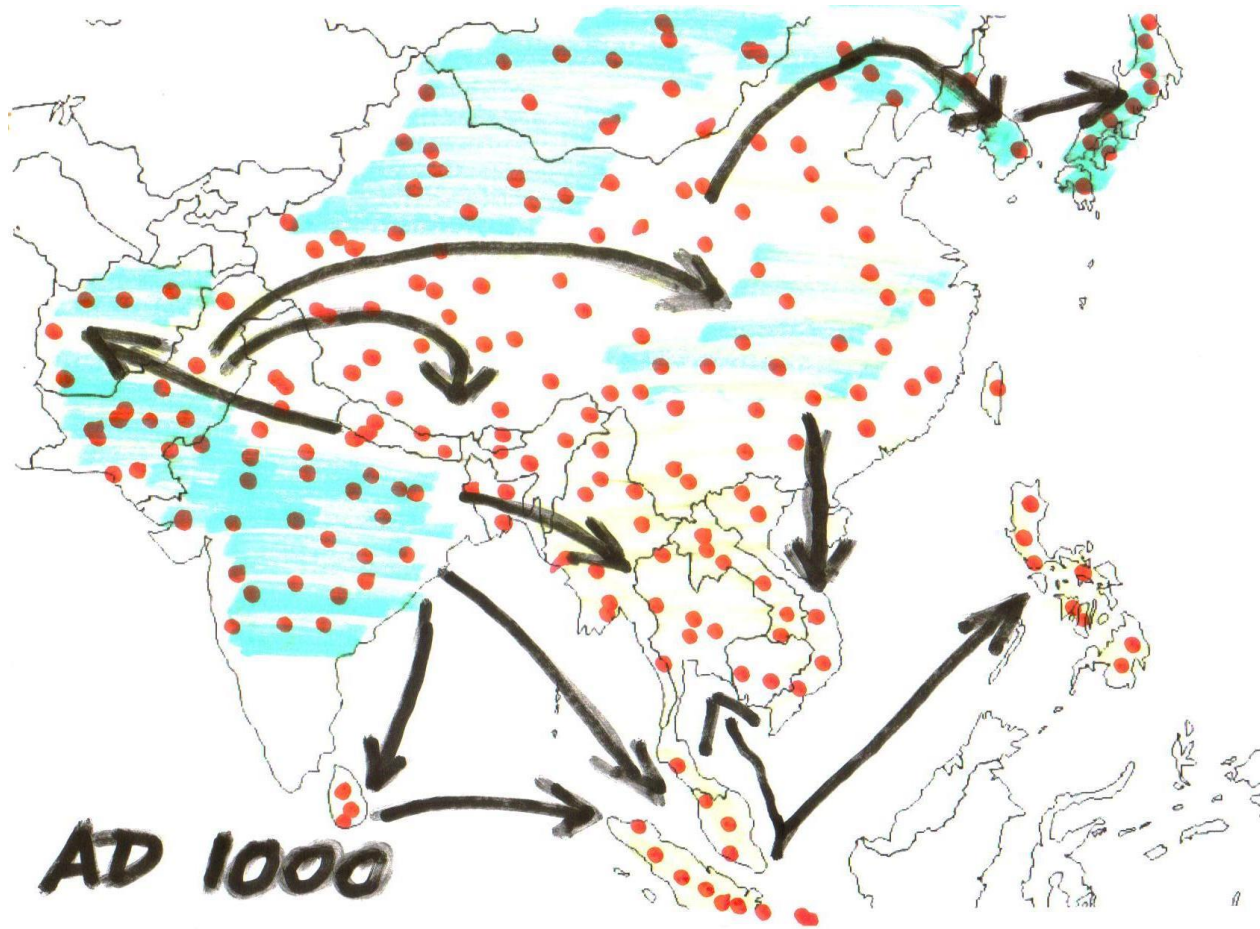
Set-backs

- Indonesia - supplanted by Moslems 1400's
- Philippines
 - exterminated by Spanish Christians in the north
(Spanish Inquisition)
 - exterminated by Moslems in the south
(Moros)

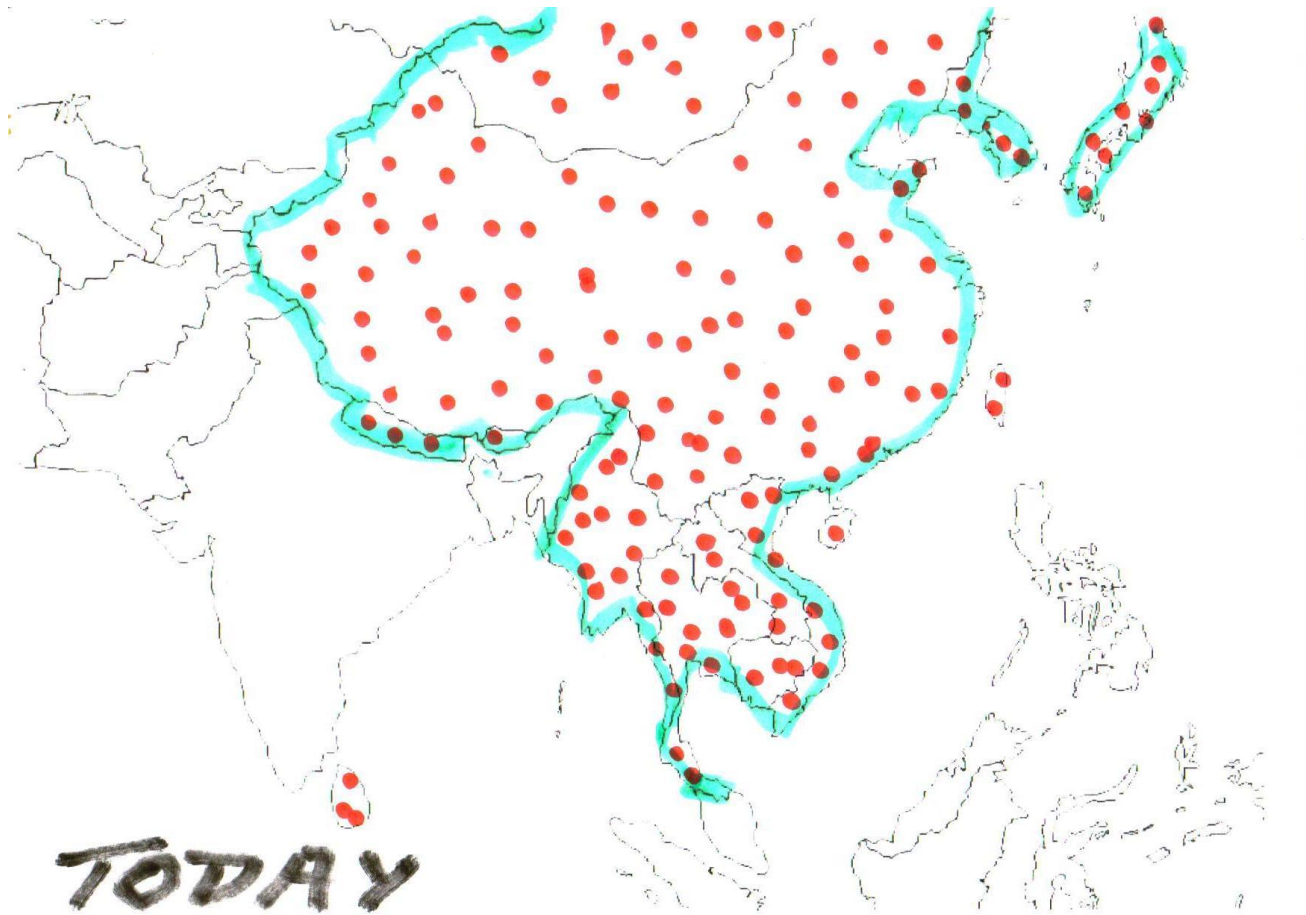
Map - Heartland



1000 AD - zenith



Buddhism today



The WEST discovers Buddhism

- **Late 1800's**
 - English and German academics translate Buddhist texts in Sri Lanka
 - Theosophists: purchase Bodhgaya, Lumbini and convert from Brahmin sites



Californian hippy movement

- Interest in meditation



- Buddhist missions (esp. Zen)

Vietnamese influence

- Refugees (France, US and Australia)
Eg. Cabramatta
- Thich Nacht Hahn (monk)
(Plum Village, France)

Thai influence

- R&R. during Vietnam war, tourists
- Achan Char missions



Tibetan influence

- Tibetan refugees
- Dalai Lama
- Missions to the West, China, Mongolia

Psychology discovers Buddhist "tools"

- In meditation
- In mindfulness
- Research supported by Dalai Lama and TNH



Buddhists in the West

- meditating Buddhists
(not "cultural" Buddhists)
- less concern for rituals
- less credence in rebirth, karma
- many lay teachers

Closing remarks

- Buddhism has shown in 2600 years
 - adaptable to new cultures
 - adopts features of existing religions
 - has benefited 100's of millions through influencing kings/emperors/politicians
(Thailand and communism)

Buddhism is:

- the atheist's religion (community)
- the "thinking person's" religion (rich philosophy)
- the "greenie's" religion (respect for all life)

The End

