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RISE AND FALL OF INDUS VALLEY CIVILIZATION

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ABSTRACT

The theories regarding the origin of Indus Valley Civilization reflect the differences in interpretations among various archaeologists around the world. The difference in opinion is caused by the state of information available to archaeologists who advocated these theories. For e.g Mortimer Wheeler had suggested about the sudden emergence of this culture due to foreign influence but the thinkers of 20th century have rejected this theory and came up with the theory of indigenous-combination of various village settlements into Harappan Civilization.

Similarly the gradual fall of Harappan Civilization should not be attributed to one specific cause. The reasons like Aryan invasion, changes in the course of the river, decline in rainfall, tectonic changes, drying up of Ghaggar-Hakra region, alkaline soil and destruction of forests, epidemics etc did not suffice to the cause. But, can a civilization or culture come to an end? The end of Harappan Civilization means the end of its urban phase only. Archeological evidences proved that some of the sites were abandoned and the tradition of literacy, seals and sealings were lost. But at the same time some sites continued to exist and showed a remarkable stylish continuity from the mature Harappan phase.

My effort in this paper is to carefully and critically examine various archaeological interpretation (given by archaeologists) to solve the puzzle of the rise and fall of the most urbanized civilization of ancient world.

Keywords: Indus Valley Civilization, Mortimer Wheeler, Harappan Civilization, Aryan, Ghaggar-Hakra, seals, archaeologist.