

CHAPTER

3

SECTION 2

# Note Taking Study Guide

## HINDUISM AND BUDDHISM

**Focus Question:** In what ways were religion and society intertwined in ancient India?

*As you read this section in your textbook, complete the following chart to sequence important events in the development of Hinduism and Buddhism.*

The beliefs of diverse groups who settled India begin to overlap.		
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## CHAPTER

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## Section Summary

## HINDUISM AND BUDDHISM

## READING CHECK

Who became known as the "Enlightened One"?

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## VOCABULARY STRATEGY

What does *aspirations* mean in the underlined sentence? What prior knowledge do you have about this word? If you heard someone say that they *aspired* to a career in medicine, does that mean they want or don't want a career in medicine? Use these clues to help you figure out the meaning of *aspirations*.

## READING SKILL

**Recognize Sequence** Did Buddhism develop before or after Hinduism?

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Two major religions, Hinduism and Buddhism, emerged in ancient India. Although Hinduism grew out of the overlapping religious ideas of diverse groups, all Hindus share basic beliefs. One force, the **brahman**, is the basis of everything. People have an essential self, or **atman**. Their goal is to achieve **moksha**, or union with brahman. Because most cannot achieve it in one life, **reincarnation** allows people to continue working toward moksha through several lifetimes. **Karma** affects a person's fate in the next life, and people who act correctly are reborn closer to brahman. By following **dharma**, or personal religious and moral duties, people can escape the cycle of death and rebirth. One part of dharma is **ahimsa**, or nonviolence, toward all people and things.

Hinduism was connected to a system of **castes**, or social groups. This system included strict rules for every part of life. People in higher castes were believed to be more spiritually pure; the lowest caste was considered untouchable. Despite its inequalities, the caste system ensured a stable social order by giving people a sense of identity. Each caste had a role in Indian society.

**Siddhartha Gautama** was born a Hindu prince in 563 B.C. When Gautama became aware of human suffering, he left his home to search for answers. Eventually, he believed he understood the cause and cure for suffering. He became known as the Buddha, or "the Enlightened One."

The Buddha taught the **Four Noble Truths**, which explain life as suffering and give ways to cure it. The fourth truth is to follow the **Eightfold Path**. The Eightfold Path includes "right aspirations" and directs people in achieving the goals of a moral life and enlightenment. Buddhists strive to achieve **nirvana**, or union with the universe and release from the cycle of rebirth.

Buddhism and Hinduism share many beliefs. However, Buddhism teaches people to seek enlightenment personally, rather than through priests or gods. It also rejects the caste system and teaches that everyone can reach nirvana.

Buddhism spread throughout Asia but gradually broke into two **sects**, or subgroups, with differing beliefs. Buddhism remained very popular in Asia but declined in India. Hinduism there absorbed some Buddhist ideas.

## Review Questions

1. How does reincarnation relate to moksha?

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2. How does Buddhism differ from Hinduism?

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