

MODULES 11 AND 12: TIMELINES

TIMELINE OF MAJOR WORLD RELIGIONS

- 2000 BCE: Hinduism: Divine Immanence and Hereditary-graded Social Structure
- 1500-1350 BCE: Judaism via Moses: Ethical Monotheism
- 628-527 BCE: Zoroastrianism via Zoroastria: Freewill Choice between Good and Evil
- 599-527 BCE: Jainism via Mahavira: Asceticism
- 563-483 BCE: Buddhism via Buddha: Peaceful, Ethical Self-Actualization
- 580-500 BCE: Taoism via Lao Tzu: The Divine Way
- 551-479 BCE: Confucianism via Confucius: Social Propriety
- 100 CE: Christianity via Jesus: Fatherhood of God and Brotherhood of Man
- 100 CE: Shintoism: Nature Worship, Worship, and Purity
- 600 CE: Islam via Muhammad: Submission to God
- 1500 CE: Sikhism via Guru Nanak: Reconciling Opposing Forces

TIMELINE OF MAJOR TEXTS DISCUSSED IN OUR PROGRAM

- 1500–1100 BCE: *The Rigveda*
- 1200-500 BCE: *The Upanishads*
- 400 BCE: *The Tao Te Ching*
- 500 BCE-200 BCE: *The Bhagavad Gita*
- 100 BCE-500 CE: *Yoga Sutras of Patanjali*

BRIEF TIMELINE OF ANCIENT INDIA HISTORY

- 5000 BCE: Kurgan culture established in the steppes west of the Ural Mountains (Indo-Aryans)
- 3120 BCE: Mythical Indian War of the later Mahabharata (Gita a part of this) tale
- 3000 BCE: The proto-Indo-European language develops in Central Asia
- 3000 BCE: Development of the early civilization in the Indus Valley
- 2500 BCE: The cities of Harappa and Mohenjo-Daro in the Indus Valley develop
- 2000 BCE: The civilization of the Indus Valley declines
- 2000 BCE: Kurgan culture spreads to eastern Europe and northern Iran

1500 BCE: Religious texts are written in Vedic, an Indo-European language

1500-1100 BCE: *Rig-Veda* is composed in Vedic Sanskrit (hymns/mantras)

1100 BCE: Indo-Aryans use iron tools

876 BCE: Hindus invent the zero

700 BCE: Caste system emerges, with the Brahman priests at the top

600 BCE: *The Upanishads* are composed in Sanskrit as part of The Vedantas ("The End of the Vedas")

527 BCE: Prince Siddhartha Gautama enlightened, becomes the Buddha

521 BCE: Darius of Persia expands the Persian Empire beyond the Indus River

500 BCE: Ascetic prince Mahavira founds Jainism in northern India

500 BCE: *The Mahabharata* is composed (24,000 verses: 10x longer than the Iliad and the Odyssey combined)

500 BCE: *The Gita* (becomes part of the Mahabharata) is composed (700 verses, 18 chapters)

TIMELINE OF IMPORTANT INDIAN, U.S., AND WORLD CULTURAL, POLITICAL, AND YOGIC EVENTS FROM THE MIDDLE AGES TO THE MODERN ERA

1200-1600: Muslim Conquests in India

Influences Hinduism. Muslims and Persians in India write and illustrate yogic life.

1400s: *The Hatha Yoga Pradipika*

15 seated yoga postures described. Breathing exercises, locks, diet, and meditations.

1499: Vasco DeGama (Portuguese) Lands in Calcutta, India

Europe's discovery of India

1502: Colonial Era in India Begins

Portuguese, Dutch, Spanish, and British

1600: Queen Elizabeth Funds Charter Voyages to India

1602: Britain's EIC (East India Company) Established

1652-1865: U.S. Abolitionist Movement

New England Transcendentalist, Quaker, and Unitarian Groups by 19th C. form strong corps of national movement to end slavery

1661: English Settlers in India

Cross-cultural influences in Calcutta

1757-1858: India under Rule by Britain's EIC

1780: Trade between India and America Begins

Ship called *United States* arrives in Pondicherry, India, from Salem, Massachusetts. Indian goods start to become available in Salem, Boston, and Providence.

1785: World's first English translation of *The Bhagavad Gita* (Charles Wilkins)

American philosopher Ralph Waldo Emerson in 1843 owns one of the only copies in the Boston area

Late 1700s-late 1800s: Industrial Revolution, Victorian Era, and Print Media

Culture of Health, Culture of Vanity, Culture of Competition give rise to European Physical Fitness Movement. Bodybuilding, gymnastics, calisthenics, wrestling, stretches, acting/performing co-create what becomes MPY (Modern Postural Yoga)

1820: Bengali Reformer Rammohun Roy (1772-1833) Founds the Brahmo Samaj

The Bengali intelligentsia. Neo-Hinduism movement espouses monotheism and rejects idolatry and leads to the Indian Nationalism Movement

1820-70s: Philosopher Ralph Waldo Emerson Studies/Writes about India

Obtains copies of *Rig Veda*, the *Upanishads*, and *The Bhagavad Gita*. Loans copy of the Gita to Henry David Thoreau

1838: Thoreau at Walden Pond

Embracing Indian thought, and with a copy of *The Bhagavad Gita* with him, he retreats to "confront the essential facts of life" at Walden Pond, which he calls "God's drop" and compares it to the holy Ganges River in India

1840: Ralph Waldo Emerson Publishes Sanskrit Notebook

1842: The American Oriental Society is Founded

India is society's top priority. Harvard alumni in Boston found this for the purpose of advancing scholarship on Asian topics

1848: First Meeting of the Women's Suffragate Movement in the U.S.

U.S. adult females attain right to vote in 1920

1849: Thoreau writes *Civil Disobedience*

Text becomes basis of teachings, trainings, and philosophies of American Transcendentalists, American Abolitionists (anti-slavery movement), Mahatma Gandhi, and Martin Luther, King, Jr.

1840s: Formation of New England's Transcendentalists

The Transcendentalist movement in New England (especially Boston and Concord) take Hindu studies seriously. Members include Emerson, Thoreau, and Alcott (*check first name*)

1851: Salem, Massachusetts Fourth of July

A half-dozen Asian Indians march in the East India Marine Society contingent of the Fourth of July parade in Salem, Massachusetts

1857: *The Atlantic Monthly* is Founded in U.S.

Strong focus on Orientalism; R.W. Emerson contributor

1858-1947: British 'Raj' Rules India

1861-1865: United States Civil War

1865: U.S. President Abraham Lincoln Assassinated

1875: Helena Blavatsky Founds Theosophical Society

Hindu thought is basis, advocates of Hatha Yoga. Blavatsky later becomes Buddhist

1885: Rise of Indian Nationalism Movement

1893: Swami Vivekananda (from British rule Calcutta) Arrives in Chicago at the Parliament of Religions (Chicago Institute of Art)/Part of The 1893 Chicago World Fair

“Spiritual Superstar” and powerful speaker, Swami Vivekananda (1863-1902) draws phenomenal response from the audience, preaching the tolerance of Hinduism and discussing the importance of yoga

1893-6: Swami Vivekananda in U.S.

Immediately following the Parliament, Swami Vivekananda’s speaking tour takes him to many U.S. cities. Teaches yoga breathwork, Kundalini, and meditation

1914-17: World War I

1915: Mahatma Gandhi Calls for India Nation-State

Teaches and trains in Peaceful Protest/Civil Disobedience/Non-Violence

1917: America’s Asian Exclusion Act Extended to Indians

The Asian Exclusion Act of 1917 cuts off almost all immigration from India. The transmission of Hinduism to America reduced to a trickle

1920: Paramahansa Yogananda Arrives in Boston

Visit hosted by the Unitarian Church. Yogananda pens *Autobiography of a Yoga* and teaches Kriya Yoga

1925: Self-Realization Fellowship Founded

Los Angeles. Establishes 12 centers across U.S. by 1930. SRF claimed 25,000 members

1930: Civil Disobedience (Non-Violence/Ahimsa) Movement in India Clash with British in Calcutta

10,000 Indians arrested

1941-1945: World War II

1942: Gandhi Establishes “Quit India Act”

Demands orderly departure of Brits from India and non-drafting of Indian soldiers into British army during war

1948: Pattabhi Jois opens Ashtanga-Vinyasa Center in Mysore, India

Ashtanga teachers arrive to U.S. in the early 1960s to teach

1947: Indra Devi Opens Yoga Studio in Hollywood

1947: India Gains Independence from Britain

1948: Mahatma Gandhi Assassinated

1956: B.K.S. Iyengar Arrives in the U.S.

1958: Swami Devananda (Swami Sivananda students) Founds Divine Life Society in the U.S

Quebec, New York, and the Bahamas become its three western world centers. First widespread Hatha Yoga classes taught in the west are largely Sivananda-based

1959: Maharishi Mahesh Yogi Arrives in the U.S.

Teaches Transcendental Meditation. Students include The Beatles

1964: U.S. Civil Rights Act

Makes unlawful the discrimination of individuals based on race, color, religion, sex, or national origin and led to voting rights and school anti-segregation advancements

1965: U.S. Immigration Act of 1965

The act gives preference to visa applicants whose skills are needed in the U.S. and those with professional qualifications. Immigration from India rises dramatically and a highly educated and affluent Hindu immigrant population begins to grow in the U.S.

1966: Swami Satchidananda Arrives in the U.S.

Speaks/leads meditation at Woodstock; later founds Yogaville in Virginia

1968: Yogi Bhanan Arrives in the U.S.

1968: Martin Luther King, Jr. Assassinated

***1969: Woodstock: Kundalini Yoga, Meditation, and Indian Music**

Bhajan student, Satchidananda, and Ravi Shankar

1970: Bikram Choudhury Opens Studio in Los Angeles

1972: Lillias Folan hosts first First Nationally-airing Yoga Show on PBS

“Lillias, Yoga, and You”

1970s-present day: Global Yoga Renaissance