

# Traditions of India

Answer the following question in a paragraph:

Evaluate the following statement:

“In the US, people’s lot in life is a result of how hard they work and how smart they are.”

# The Indo-Aryan Invasions

## “PUSH” factors vs. “PULL” factors

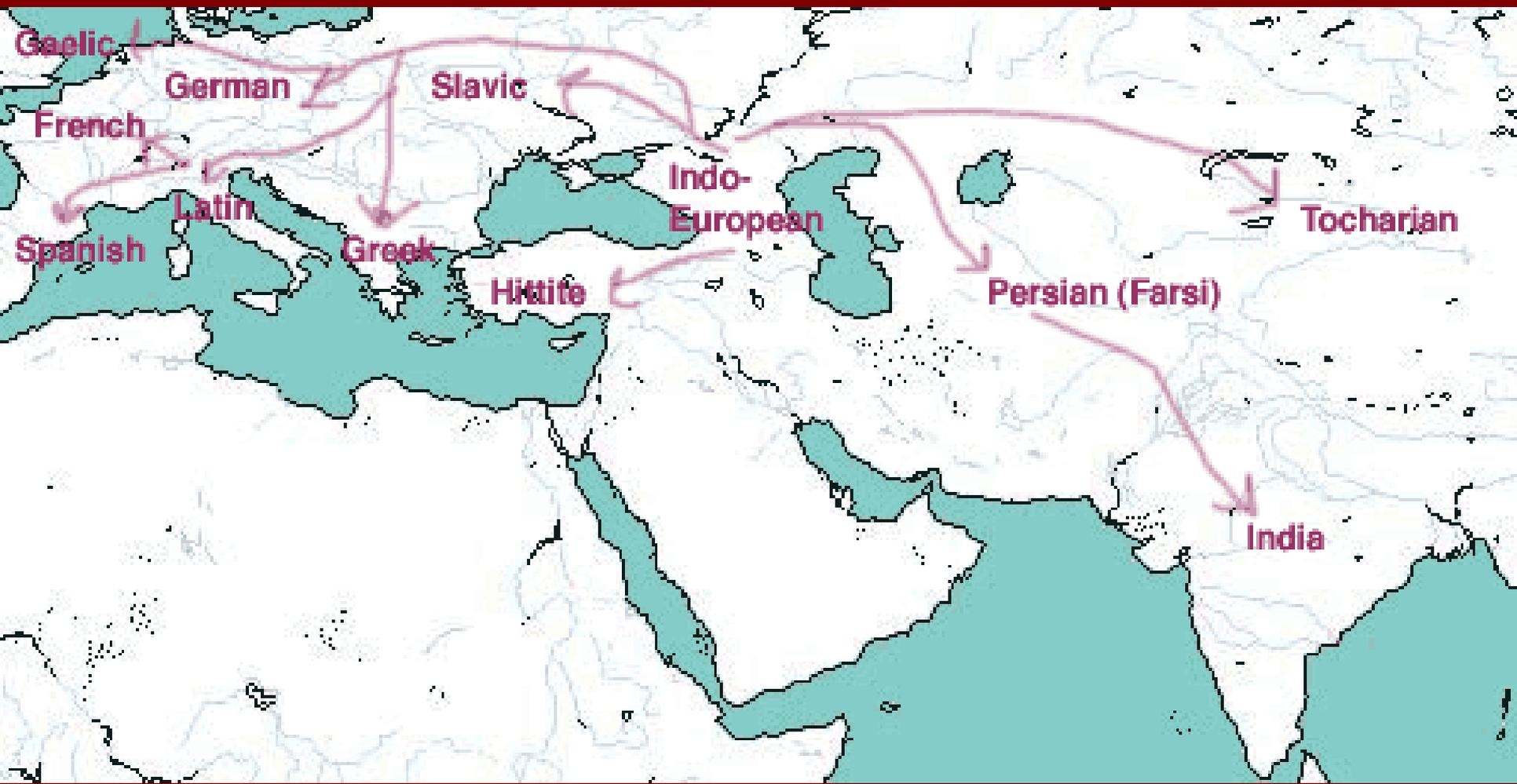
- “PUSH” = why they left their homeland
- “PULL” = why they came to new place
- **Push Factors:**
  - As nomads, vulnerable to dry spells
  - Population may have outpaced land
  - May have been tempted by wealth of settled civilization
  - May have relied on warfare but run out of close areas to conquer

# The Indo-Aryan Migrations

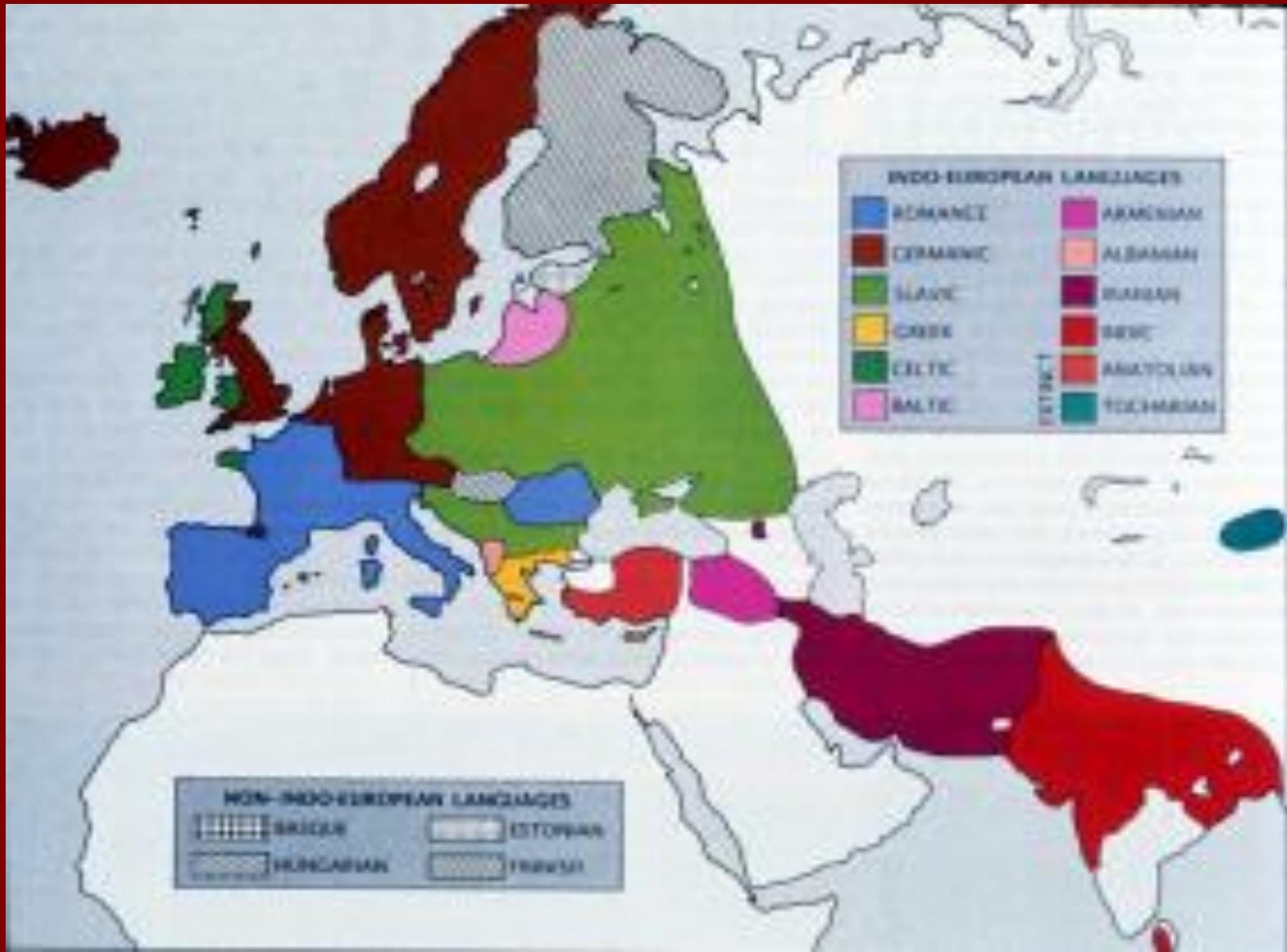
- PULL factors
  - Fertile river-valley area
  - Weakened civilization meant easier to conquer
  - Skill with chariots meant military advantage
  - Lure of the “civilized”



# Spread of Indo-European Speaking People



# Map of Indo-European Languages

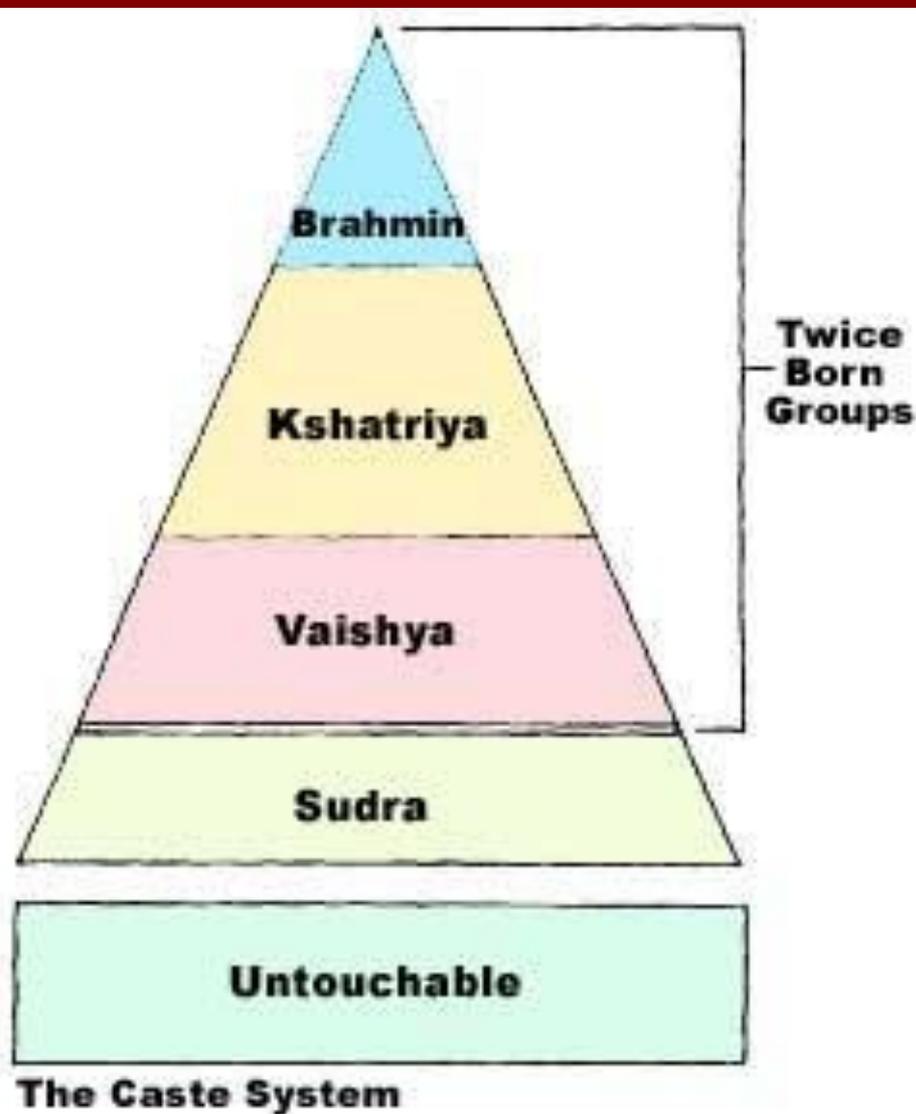


# The Indo-Aryans brought new ideas and technologies

- Chariot warfare
- Iron tools and weapons
- The Vedic religion
- Indo-Aryan language (branch of Indo-European)

# Chariot Warfare



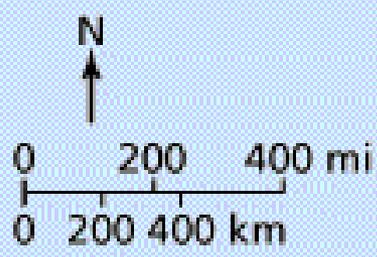
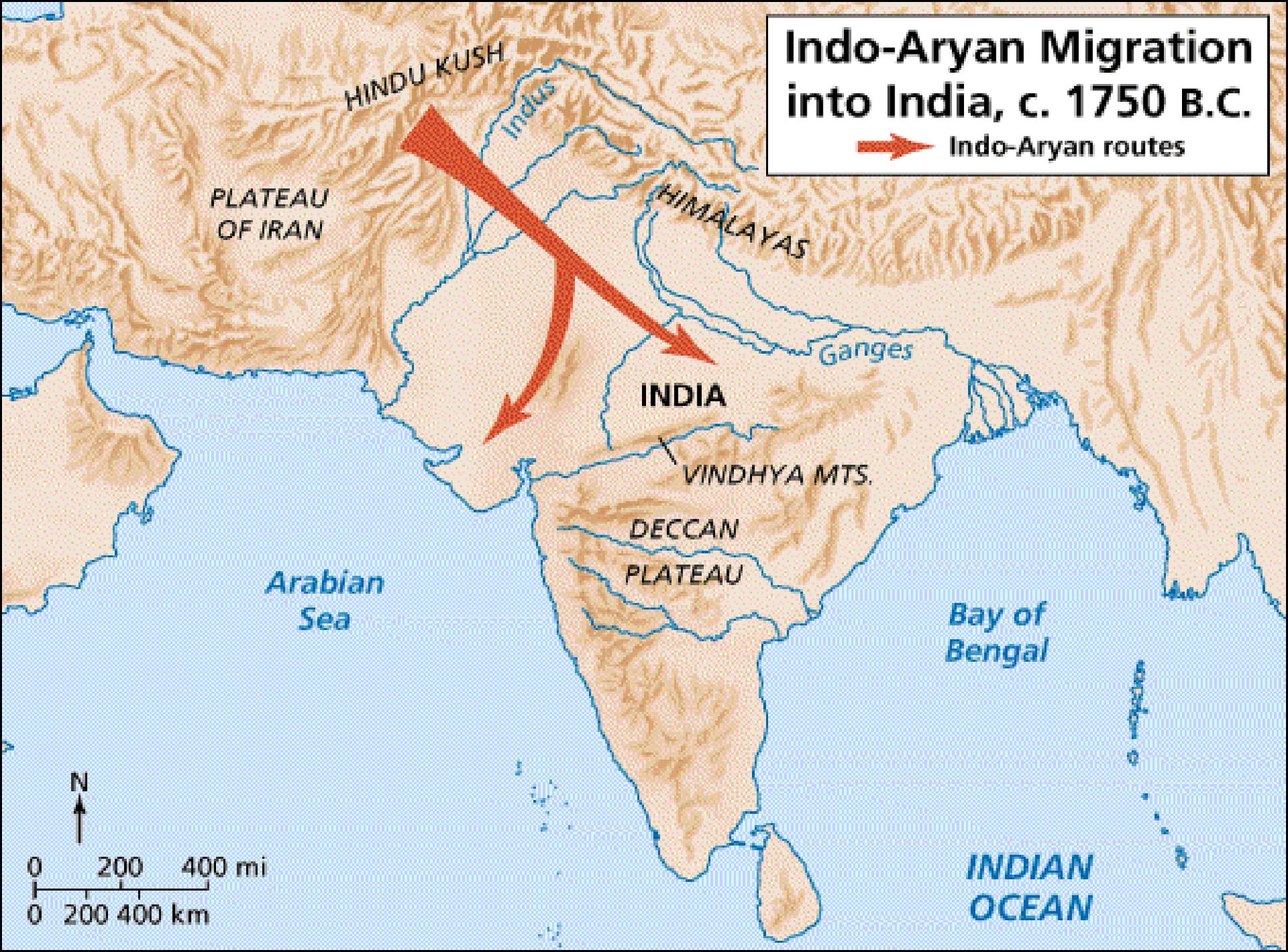


# Similarities in Vocabulary of Indo-European Languages

English	German	Spanish	Greek	Latin	Sanskrit
father	vater	padre	pater	pater	pitar
one	ein	uno	hen	unus	Ekam
sun	sonne	sol	helios	sol	Surya
god	gott	dios	theos	deus	devas

# Indo-Aryan Migration into India, c. 1750 B.C.

➔ Indo-Aryan routes



INDIAN OCEAN

# After conquering the remains of Indus-Valley civilization, the Aryans settled

- Used iron tools to open up Ganges river valley for cultivation
- Imposed Vedic religion, but also absorbed local practices
- Imposed a rigid system of SOCIAL STRATIFICATION – the VARNAS





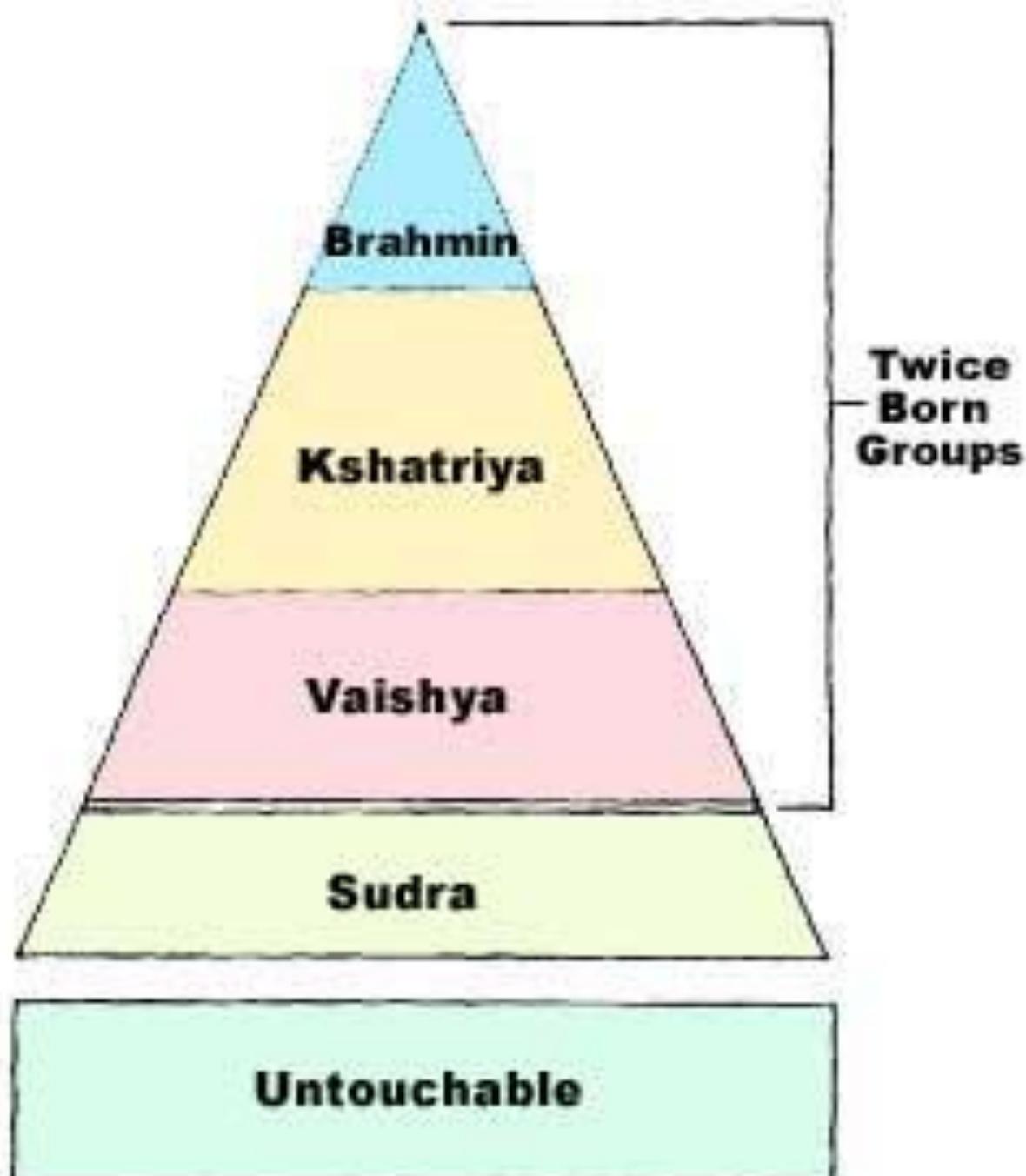
# The varna system

- Before the invasion, the Indo-Aryans had three caste levels:
  1. The Kshatriya Warriors
  2. The Brahmin Priests, and
  3. The Vaisya traders

They imposed this system on native dasyas, but altered it

# The new varna system

- Brahmins (priests)
  - Ksyatriyas (warriors)
  - Vaisyas (merchants)
  - Shudras (agricultural workers and craftsmen)
  - Pariahs (outcastes)
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- Most of the Shudras were native Punjabis, sometimes known as Dasas, who had darker skin and were shorter
  - Indo-Aryans had lighter skin and were taller and thinner
  - Case is associated with skin color



**The Caste System**

# The varna system favored the invaders

- The longer they stayed, the more rigid the system got – why?
- Varna (or “Caste”) was hereditary
- There were strict rules to preserve “purity”

# Caste rules -- examples

- Eating
- Hand signals
- Jobs
- Marriage



# The Vedic Religion

- Brahmans - special rituals and sacrifices to please gods and keep order
- Others had to go through the Brahmins for religious concerns
- The rituals and myths were transmitted orally; they were called the VEDAS

# Key beliefs of the Vedites

1. REINCARNATION: After death the soul inhabits a new body.
2. KARMA: One's actions in life determine the form of the next incarnation (spiritual "bank account")
3. DHARMA: One gets good Karma by following caste rules and rituals



# Other important beliefs

- **SAMSKARA:** Life is an illusion that draws the soul back because of the senses
- **MOKSHA:** It is possible to escape from the cycle of reincarnation by progressing through the varna system. Only Brahmins can escape.
- **ATMAN:** Every person is god, but has forgotten. The part of them that is god is the soul, or ATMAN.
- **BRAHMA:** The only real thing in the universe is god, which makes up everything.

# The Indo-Aryans justified varna with reincarnation

- Idea of Karma kept people in line.
- Reincarnation meant everybody eventually had a chance to be a Brahmin and escape.
- Reason for being low caste was own fault; negative Karma.

# Syncretism and Conflict

- The Brahmins became too powerful and elite, warriors (kshatriya) sometimes rejected their authority.
- Some Kshatriya used **YOGA** practices in forests outside of civilization.
- New movement to **reject the authority** of the Brahmins and emphasize *individual participation* called “VEDANTA” or “THE END OF THE VEDAS”



# COT Analysis

- How did Indo-Aryan society and religion change over time from the early invasions to the establishment of kingdoms?
- What **caused** the changes?