

# Political Changes After the Mauryas

Chapter 6: The Age of Reorganisation · Topic 1

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## Key Concept

Following the Mauryan Empire's decline around 185 BCE, no single empire immediately dominated India, leading to the rise of regional kingdoms like the Shungas and Satavahanas.

This period saw increased trade and cultural exchange, as various kingdoms interacted with each other and with foreign traders through land and sea routes.

Despite political fragmentation, this era also saw significant developments in art, religion, and society, as different regional rulers patronised various cultural activities.

This period eventually gave way to the rise of the Gupta Empire, which would later unify large parts of India again and usher in a golden age of art and science.

## Quick Revision Notes

- The Mauryan Empire declined around 185 BCE.
- Regional kingdoms like the Shungas and Satavahanas rose.
- This period saw increased trade and cultural exchange.
- Various kingdoms interacted through land and sea routes.
- This era saw developments in art, religion and society.
- Rulers patronised cultural activities despite fragmentation.
- This period led to the rise of the Gupta Empire.
- The Gupta Empire later unified parts of India again.

## Practice Questions

- 1 Research the Shunga or Satavahana dynasty.
- 2 Discuss how trade increased during this period.
- 3 Explain how fragmentation still allowed cultural growth.
- 4 Research the transition from Mauryan to Gupta rule.
- 5 Create a timeline showing this transitional period.
- 6 Discuss why political fragmentation doesn't always stop progress.