

The Golden Age of the Gupta: Why and to what extent was it “Golden”?

What's the **BIG** deal?

- In India, the global pattern of empire development in Era 3 was best embodied by the rise of the Gupta Empire, an empire that built on pre-existing societies and emerged in India around 320 CE.
- The Gupta Empire was considered to be a Golden Age for India, and was characterized by prosperity, peace, and advances in culture, technology, and science.
- The Gupta seem to have emphasized these areas of culture and knowledge development more than military expansion, making them somewhat different from other empires of the time.
- Despite this Golden Age, Gupta India was similar to other empires in that it was characterized by a strong hierarchy. At this time, India had a caste system, which meant that people were born into social groups that determined their occupation and status for life