

Notes 5.4 - The Evolution of India

EMPIRES FROM WITHIN - The **Mauryan Empire** emerged along the Ganges river in 321 BCE. A great military leader named **Ashoka** converted to **Buddhism** and many of his followers did as well.

The **Gupta Empire** arose around 321 CE also along the Ganges. The leaders practiced **Hinduism**, which became the major religion in India.

EMPIRES FROM OUTSIDE The **Mughal Empire** was established in 1526. The Mughals were from Central Asia and made **Islam** the official religion.

The **British Empire** began gaining control of India in the 1700's CE. This is called **colonialism**, the control by one power over a dependent area or people.

INDEPENDENCE - Both Muslims and Hindus came together to support a leader known as **Mohandas Gandhi**. He used **civil disobedience**, or the non-violent disobeying of laws to weaken British control. India became an **independent** nation in 1947. It has evolved into the largest democracy in the world with 817 million voters. 553 million voted in the 2014 election.

NATIONALISM - The rise of the Hindu **nationalist** movements (our nation's culture and majority religion first) is reflected by the success of the RSS party led by PM Modi.