

Original Home of Aryans

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Abstract: Vedic literature give plenty of source of Indian history and similarly it also linked to a number of questions, like – “Who were the Ando-Aryans”? Is the most famous and controversial topic amongst them. There were several theories and historical evidence which give plenty of views on the origin of these people, but we can only give that which seems to be most reasonable and accepted by a majority of historians.

Keywords: Ando-Aryans, Linguistic, Race, Immigrant, Theory, Sub-continent, Indigenous.

1. Introduction

The composer of Rig Veda describes themselves as Arya’ which literally means kinsman or companion or it may be etymological derived from ‘ar’ mean to cultivate, the terms Indo-Aryan and Indo-European basically linguistic terms, referring to families of languages and their speakers. So, the Indo-Aryans were the speakers of a sub group of the Indo-Iranian branch of the Indo-European family of languages. But some historians thought a still use it in the sense of a race. So, nowadays “Aryan debate” is not treated as purely academic ones, they have political implication and have been used to diverse political agenda both in colonial and post-colonial era. Even in 20th century the theory of superior white, blond-haired, and blue-eyed Aryan race which was a part of Hitler’s Nazi propaganda. So, this debate sparing over two centuries and there is still no definite answer.

2. Research Methodology

For this research paper the type of research conducted can be categorized as debate research. The information has been interpreted from already existing works and information collected from historical sources on the topic. This research follows falls under qualitative study, because the date has been occupied from various sources, forming its foundation as one belonging to the qualitative field of research. A method of “debate analysis” is exploited by the researchers in achieving the results at a conclusion by collecting qualitative data from media such as journals, books, and google chrome etc.

3. Literature Review

Existing literature, in the form of books, articles and documents have been referred to for the purpose of this project. The main source of reference is the article – “Aryan and others by Dorothy M. Figueira (24th Sept. 2020).

The books (a) The wonder that was India by A. L. Basham, (b) A history of ancient and early medieval India by Upinder Singh (c) Ancient and medieval India by Poonam dalal Dahiya (d) Indian History second edition by Krishna Reddy have been referred to this research project. The existing literature fails to trace and assess the issue which led to the different hypothesis of such topic.

4. Data Analysis

Generally, Indo-Aryans is the subject of continuing debate among philologists, historians, linguistics and archaeologists and others. So, on the basis of different views, it should be divided among two main hypotheses. The first hypothesis dominant in the views that, Indo-Aryans came to the subcontinent as immigrants, this were widely supported by historians like Brandan Stine, Maria Gigambutas, E-Meyer, Herzfeld, P. Nehring, Morgan etc. According to second hypothesis there were indigenous to the sub-continent and it was widely supported by some Indian historians like Dr. Sampurnanand, A. C. Das, Ganganath Jha, L. D. Kala and R. B Pandey were well known among this group.

Actually, the problems were brought into focus in the late 16th century when Filippo Sasetti, made a comparative study of many ancient languages, he discovered close affinities between Sanskrit and some principal European languages like Greek, Latin, Gothic, Celtic and Persian too. But it was Sir William Jones, who in 1786 suggested that these striking similarities and affinities could not be accidental but rather must have originated from a mother language unknown to us. This mother language was Indo-European and all were the successors of this mother language.

There have been proposed many original home lands for Indo-Aryan over the year, these are central Asia-steppes, Western Asia, Tibet, Afghanistan, Iran, Southern Russia, Turkey, Scandinavia, Finland, Sweden, Aral Sea, The Caspian Sea, The Black Sea, Lithuania, The Artic, The Baltic, The Caucasus, The Ural, The Volga Mountain and India. But all these claims are not supported equally because lack of convincing evidence, and none of them is free from problem of historical proofs.

On the focus of linguistic studies, scholars have often made use of ancient literature to trace the original home of Aryans. Amongst them Rig Veda Samhita and old Persian Zend Avesta were carrying very similar words like-Ahura/Asura,

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haoma/soma, Daha/Dasa, so it finds striking linguistic relationship between them of not just words but of concepts too. So on the basis of this linguistic similarity Central Asian theory was widely accepted by historian Max Muller, E. Meyer, Herzfeld etc.

The European theory seems to be more famous than another Aryan theory. According to this concept continent of Europe is the home land of Indo-Aryans due to the comparative linguistic of Indo-European families of language like Greek, Latin, German, Gothic and Sanskrit. For example, Sanskrit word *matri* and *pitri* are similar to the Latin *mater* and *pater*. So, the Indo-Aryans came to India from Eurasia, they were semi nomadic people and came from the plains of Eastern Europe, especially the area of north Black Sea. From this region they moved to different parts of Asia and Europe.

The main popular tribes known among the Aryan speaking people are the Hittites, Indo-Aryans, Iranians, Kassites, Mitannis, and Greeks. While Hittites migrated to Cappadocia (Asia-minor) in about 1950 B.C, The Indo-Iranian came to the Pamirs and the Oxus and Jaxartes Valleys in about 2000 B.C. Then Iranian went to Iran and the Indo-Aryans entered India in about 1500 B.C. but not earlier than 2000 B.C. While the Mitannis migrated to northern parts of Mesopotamia around 1500 B.C, Kassites occupied Babylonia in about 2000 B.C. and Greek Aryan went to Greece around 1200 B.C. These European theories were widely supported by historian Sir William Jones, Giles, Schroeden, P. Nehring and Morgan.

With the help of Indian Theory Dr. Sampurnanand, A. C. Das and Ganganath Jha were tried to establish indigenous the subcontinent. According to the different literary evidence in the Vedas, the Aryans regarded the Sapta Sindhu (The Indus and its five tributaries like Jhelum, Beas, Chenab, Ravi, Sutlej, and Saraswati) as their original home. Beside this Rig Veda contain more than three hundred Dravidian and Mundari words, which had no relation with Indo Aryan languages. Sanskrit contains the largest number of original Indo-European vocables. It had gathered contact with the parent language of the Aryan than any other European languages. Although the sacrificial rituals of the Vedic Aryans point to them Indian origin. Beside this the

geographical data found in the Rig Veda fit with the geography of Punjab and the neighbouring regions.

Archaeological studies also provide some important evidence from West Asia and India, amongst them the excavations of the Boghaz Kui (Turkey) inscriptions. In the script of Babylonian cuneiform yield information about the oldest group of Aryans. The Hittites also moved into Asia minor before 1950 B.C. One of the Boghaz Kui inscription gives the copy of a peace treaty of about 1400 B.C. between Hittites and Maryanni rulers of the Mitanni. In which the name of Vedic gods- Indra, Varuna, Mitra, and Nasatyas have been invoked. Other examples of Andronovo culture flourished the second millennium B.C and from then people moved to the Hisdukush and entered India. Evidence of horses, fire cults, spoked wheels and cremation during the period between 1900 B.C to 1500 B.C. So, the artifacts also suggest movements of people from central Asia region to south Asian region.

5. Conclusion

Therefore, most historians have discarded the idea of an Aryan invasion of the Indian sub-continent in favour of several waves of Indo-Aryan migrations. The Indo Aryan languages of India include the non-Sanskrit or Dardic language spoken in the north west, which may represent an earlier wave of Indo-Aryan immigrants, superior military technology and the use of the horse and chariot may give the immigrants the crucial initial advantages, enabling them to establish their political dominance in the land of the seven rivers.

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