

Asoka

Society

- Kalinga WAR:
 - Fought between the Mauryan empire with Asoka the great and the ruler of the state of Kalinga
 - The blood shed of war has prompted Asoka to adopt buddhism
 - 100,000 deaths on Ashoka's side and more 200 000 on the Mauryan empire.
 - Reign: 273-232 bc
 - After his conversion to Buddhism he felt a tremendous remorse for his act and expressed his sorrow and repentance. This fuelled an extraordinary policy of non- violence by which he governed the largest empire in the world at the time.
 - Among many other innovations he announced amnesty for prisoners and measures for their rehabilitation, banned the slaughter of many kinds of animals, set up medicine that would help animals and humans and established a system of messengers so the people could convey their concerns to their king.

Asoka

- According to oral histories, a woman approached him and said, *"Your actions have taken from me my father, husband, and son. Now what will I have left to live for?"* Moved by these words, it is said, that he accepted/adopted Buddhism, and vowed to never take life again.
- sri lankan sarvodaya work to apply dharma on village level → in areas of social poverty and environmental damage that stem from social injustice.

Cultural

- Asoka made contact with other cultures, and was an active part in spreading cultural ideas beyond his own immediate walls
- Reign covered India, South Asia and other countries.