

The Early Discovery and Confirmation of the Indus Valley Civilization

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Abstract : The Indus Valley Civilization is predominantly found in the northeast of Afghanistan, Pakistan, and the northwest of India and is considered one of the four ancient civilizations of the Old World, as well as the first urban civilization in South Asia. In 1920, John Marshall and other archaeologists established the existence of this civilization. Over the course of a century, India and Pakistan have made significant advancements in their joint archaeological investigation and excavation, contributing to the study of the Indus Valley Civilization. Given the importance of early discovery and confirmation of this civilization, our research focuses on the academic history of its archaeology by gathering published research material. Our research begins by collecting research data associated with the Indus Valley Civilization and documenting the process of archaeological investigations and excavations from the 19th century until the present day. We also summarize the archaeological works conducted during different periods. Furthermore, we present the primary academic views on the Indus Civilization from the 19th century until the present, explaining their developmental process and highlighting recent research. This forms a foundation for further study. We discovered that the archaeological research of the Indus Civilization is significantly influenced by Western archaeology and has yet to establish an independent, local research system. We delve into the three primary sites of the Indus Valley Civilization - Harappa, Mohenjo-Daro, and Chanhudaro - discussing their history and archaeological excavation records. Our findings indicate that the Indus Civilization is solely dependent on archaeology, distinguishing it from the Sumerian Civilization and verifying that it originates from the Bronze Age of the Indus Valley. Lastly, we examine the primary academic issues associated with the Indus Civilization in greater depth. These issues include climate environment, political system, primitive religion, and academic contribution.

Keywords : Indus Valley civilization, archaeology, Harappa, Mohenjo-Daro

Conference Title : ICA 2024 : International Conference on Archaeology

Conference Location : Vancouver, Canada

Conference Dates : May 20-21, 2024