

## South Asian Archaeology: Late Prehistoric Cultural Continuity or Discontinuity

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### ABSTRACT:

Human created artifacts, human remains themselves and, sometimes, flora and fauna remains can be found at many archaeological sites worldwide. Site stratigraphic chronology is measured against carbon dating, to interpret the varied human activities being catalogued for a specific site. Multiple archaeological site data of South Asia reveal considerable cultural continuity detailing early South Asian prehistory and history, one that resulted in the cultural complexity and innovation that defines Harappan culture. Harappan culture was part of a larger, indigenous South Asian Indo-Gangetic cultural mosaic of human populations, who responded to varying geological and environmental changes over a lengthy time period. This broader Indo- Gangetic cultural mosaic tradition of South Asia is revealed via direct archaeological evidence and absolute radiometric chronology. That data describe both indigenous South Asian cultural continuity and indigenous South Asian cultural discontinuity, in terms of human response to changing climatic and geological conditions for the time period under consideration.

Archaeology's scientific confirmation basis of absolute chronology authenticates archaeological interpretation. Historical linguistic studies of South Asian prehistory and history postulate a linking of culture, "race" and population to conjecture a proto-Indo European/ Aryan homeland, with supposed migrations away from the homeland becoming the imagined "Indo-Aryan invasions". The discipline of archaeology reveals concrete data, not conjecture. Interpretations of South Asian prehistory and history must be described by confirmed data validity.