

## **The Citadel in Mohenjodaro was a Market** *by Potluri Rao In Seattle ©2018 (CC BY 4.0)*



The Citadel as seen from the top



The Citadel as seen from the bottom

The view of the Citadel in Mohenjodaro, as seen from the bottom, is well publicized. It is an icon for the Indus Valley in general and Mohenjodaro in particular. It is popularly known as the Stupa.

The word “stupa” conjures a place of worship, a temple. The word “citadel” conjures a fortification, a fort. The words “stupa” and “citadel” are of the European civilization. The Indus civilization was the exact opposite of the European civilization. They never had a king, temple, or god. What was the purpose of such a magnificent construction?

Excavations in the Indus Valley consistently have a high ground and a low ground. The high ground is usually called the Citadel. There are many theories as to its function. Here we offer an empirically verifiable hypothesis.

The Citadel in Mohenjodaro was a market, Roman forum, shopping center, or bazaar. By any name, it functioned as a place where people exchanged merchandise.

A Roman Forum typically had a center of attraction, visible from all directions. The ground was typically rectangular in shape with fixed structures along the border. The open space in the middle was for shoppers to move easily from store to store. The fixed structures, along the boundary, were usually of one-room or connected-room types. Single-room units were what we call boutique stores, stalls.

The center altar suggests that it was terraced. Most likely, it was used for temporary stalls to display produce.

A close examination of the top view of the citadel confirms that it meets all the requirements of a Roman Forum. Click [here](#) for more images of the Citadel.

The Roman Forum was invented in the Current Era, thousands of years later. It was the same evolutionary process to meet the same needs. It was a commercial, not a residential, area. It had different specifications. It was invented of necessity to facilitate commerce. All civilizations that were engaged in commerce evolved the same concept under different names. Even the modern-day shopping malls employ the same principles.

In the Indus Valley, the high ground was commercial space, and the low ground was residential space. They served different functions. They required different services. For example, the residential space had running water and drainage channels. The commercial space had no need for that.

In the Indus Valley, there was a clear dichotomy between commerce and residence. It was a very advanced civilization, based on commerce and trade. Citadels (forums) were a network of commercial centers at strategic locations to facilitate trade. They were satellite stations along supply chains. They were identified by their visibility. They were feeder lines to the manufacturing centers located on the coast, along the Arabian Sea.

People lived on the coast, not in the Indus Valley. The Indus Valley was a vast wasteland, rich in raw materials. Manufactured goods were transported to the people who lived along the rivers Tigris and Narmada. It was a stretch of one thousand miles of fertile land. People lived along the stretch for tens of thousands of years. They had an extensive network of warehouses along the coast to facilitate maritime trade. The warehouses are now submerged under a hundred feet of water.

In order to interpret the image from an evolution perspective, we have to understand the people.

As shown elsewhere, [Indus Valley](#), the people were the native Hindus, DNA haplogroup L. They lived at sea level for tens of thousands of years. Around 3,000 BCE, a small group was forced to relocate to Mohenjodaro. Around 2,200 BCE, they were forced to vacate.

The Indus River was never a desirable place for human occupation. It was not fertile, was flood prone, was unpredictable, and constantly changed its course. Hindus did not

live in the Indus Valley. They lived mostly on deltas at sea level. They lived along the rivers Tigris and Narmada which were reliable and navigable. They evolved maritime trade along the coast, in the Arabian Sea. The settlements in the Indus Valley were satellite stations along supply routes of raw materials and processing facilities. They were situated at strategic locations to facilitate commerce and trade. They were capital-intensive undertakings meant for manufacturing. They did not depend on land for food. They imported food and exported raw materials. They were commercial centers.

The Hindu civilization was based on the political philosophy of peace and prosperity through fair trade. They were engaged in commerce and trade. It is only natural that they had an extensive network of forums.

They were an advanced civilization. They built port cities with warehouses to facilitate maritime trade. They employed the same technology and planning to create forums.

The physical layout and sophistication of the Mohenjodaro Forum is a testimony to their advanced state of commerce. High concentrations of seals found at these locations suggest that they were centers of commerce.

The residential portion was meant for the people who were engaged in commerce, not the general public. They could afford the luxury of indoor plumbing and public bathhouses.

They never had robbery or war. They had no need for a fort, citadel, defensive or offensive weapons, or army. They were compassionate and respected other people's rights and property. They were autonomous, self-governed democratic republics. They evolved in peace and tranquility over tens of thousands of years.

They never had any need for written documents, courts, or judges. A handshake was a binding legal contract. They did not cheat, steal, or rob. They had seals to identify ownership of property. They never had king, temple, or god. Their high ground was their most cherished value, the Forum.

As seen from the European perspective, the Forum looked like a citadel (fort), or a stupa (temple). The Hindus who lived in the Arabian Sea for tens of thousands of years were the exact opposite of the European civilization of recent origin. They evolved in a land of abundant food. They had no need for hunting tools.

The European civilization evolved in the north, in the Russian Steppe of scarce food. It was a different climate. It was steppe. The people were hunters and gatherers. They

evolved to rob each other, like animals in the wild, to compete for scarce food. They invented Kings, Forts, Armies, lethal weapons, Gods, and Temples. They developed hunting tools from the Stone Age to the Iron Age.

The Hindu civilization existed for tens of thousands of years before the European civilization was born in the Russian Steppe. They were an advanced civilization that invented boats, warehouses, and forums before the Europeans were born. They existed to the south of the Indus Valley, in the Arabian Sea. Europeans existed to the north of the Indus Valley. The Indus Valley was a vast wasteland that separated the two civilizations.

To understand and interpret the excavations near Mohenjodaro, we have to understand their civilization. Unfortunately, the civilization of the Hindu was deliberately and totally destroyed. It happened during the time of Greek occupation (200 CE to 500 CE) of India. The Greeks replaced the Hindu civilization of self-governed democratic republics with the European civilization of king, temple, and god.

What we normally expect in a European civilization and do not find in the Mohenjodaro excavations speaks volumes of the lost civilization. They were the exact opposite of the European civilization. They lived in peace and prosperity for tens of thousands of years. They respected other people's rights and property. They were compassionate. They were one big family. They cared for each other. They never had a war. It was an advanced civilization based on commerce and trade. It was based on the political philosophy that fair trade promoted peace and prosperity.

Once upon a time, there was a civilization that lived in peace and prosperity for tens of thousands of years. It was destroyed by another civilization that invented king and god.

King and God were introduced to India by the Greeks in 200 CE. They were the plague that wiped out the native Hindu civilization with no natural immunity. The baked bricks at Mohenjodaro are a reminder of the lost civilization.