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*World Civilization*

### *Research and Writing Assignment*

*Each region of the Axial Age attempted to answer fundamental questions pertaining to human existence, resulting in a new cultural framework. Some regions emphasized the results as the most fundamental ideals. As I see it, the answers to questions about the nature of the cosmos during the Axial Age have become some of the most common cultural beliefs of today's day and age. The answers about the origin of the universe and how it functions are a big part of Buddhism and Hinduism religions and are still India's main cultural traditions.*

***What is the nature of the cosmos and the natural world?*** *The central idea that influenced the entire development of Indian culture was reincarnation. According to Hinduism, reincarnation refers to the repeated cycle where the eternal soul takes on a physical form and lives through successive existences in various forms until it attains freedom from earthly influences. This is the idea of karma: act well, move up; act badly, move down. Finally, the essence of acting well was to do one's dharma. I believe the universe has no power in itself. Humans can not rely on a source that we, as a society, have the ability to affect its existence. I do not believe in Karma, in my opinion it is man's justice. I believe Karma is the explanation of God's law, what you sow you will reap.*

***What constitutes and justifies proper social order?*** *The belief was that human intentions had a long-term effect on society and that emphasis should be placed primarily on the behavior of individual members. I believe we are designed by God for process so I believe that human behavior has an impact on the development of proper social structure. I think we are designed for community and have the ability to to maintain stability so the society can function.*

***And what principles guide ethics, or individual decisions about right and wrong behavior?*** *The relationship between each region and their various gods I feel had and continues to have a great influence on individuals' moral behavior. The focus on immortal souls and divine forces in the Axial Age still influences ethical behavior of each society today. Principles in the world today stem mainly on who you believe created the world.*

*"Hindu Deity: Brahma, Vishnu, and Shiva." Study.com, 23 February 2014, [study.com/academy/lesson/hindu-deity-brahma-vishnu-and-shiva.html](http://study.com/academy/lesson/hindu-deity-brahma-vishnu-and-shiva.html)*