

I. THE PREHISTORIC PERIOD

- c.3000—1500 B.C.E. The Indus Valley Civilization
 c.2000—1400 B.C.E. The migrations of the “Aryans,” the earliest hymns of the *Ṛg Veda*.
 c.1900 B.C.E. Age of the *Rāmāyaṇa*.

II. THE VEDIC PERIOD

- c.1500—1200 B.C.E. The *Ṛg Veda*.
 c.1400 B.C.E. The Great Bhārata War depicted in the *Mahābhārata* —the age of Kṛṣṇa.
 Early version of the *Mahābhārata*, surely at least in oral tradition.
 c.900—500 B.C.E. The later *Vedas*, the *Brāhmaṇas*, the *Āraṇyakas* and the early *Upaniṣads*.

III. THE EPIC PERIOD

- c. 1000 B.C.E. The *Rāmāyaṇa*.
 c.800 B.C.E.—c.400 C.E. The *Mahābhārata*.
 c.500—200 B.C.E. The *Bhagavad Gītā* (others date it to c. 100 B.C.E.—100 C.E.).
 c.300 B.C.E. Kauṭīliya’s *Ārthasāstra*.
 c.200 B.C.E.—100 C.E. The *Manusmṛti* (*The Laws of Manu*).

IV. DISSENT IN THE EPIC PERIOD

- c.600 B.C.E. The *Bṛhaspati Sūtra*, the basis of the Cārvāka Darshana.
 c.527 B.C.E. Death of Vardhamāna Mahāvīra (according to Jain tradition).
 c.563—483 B.C.E. Life of Siddhārtha Gautama, the Buddha.
 c.480 B.C.E. First Buddhist Council: The *Theravada Buddhist Canon* as it exists today was settled at this Council and preserved as an oral tradition.
 c.380 B.C.E. Second Buddhist Council: first schism of the Sangha.
 c.327—325 B.C.E. Invasion by Alexander of Macedon.
 c.322—185 B.C.E. Maurya dynasty.
 c.273—237 B.C.E. Reign of Aśoka
 c.250 B.C.E. Third Buddhist Council. Mogallīputta-tissa’s *Kathāvattthu*.
 c.200 B.C.E.—200 C.E. Period of greatest Buddhist and Jain influence in India.
 c.35—32 B.C.E. The Pali Canon or *Tripitāka* written down on palm leaves in Pali at the Aloka Cave, Sri Lanka.

V. THE SŪTRA PERIOD

- c.500—200 B.C.E. Bādarāyaṇa’s *Vedānta Sūtra*.
 c.400—200 B.C.E. Jaimini’s *Pūrvamīmāṃsā Sūtra*.
 c.300 B.C.E. Gautama’s *Nyāya Sūtra* and Kaṇāda’s *Vaiśeṣika Sūtra*.
 c.100 B.C.E.—500 C.E. Patañjali’s *Yoga Sūtra*.
 c.250—325 C.E. Īśvara Kṛṣṇa’s *Sāṃkhya Kārikā*.
 c.400—500 C.E. Vatsyāyana’s *Kāma Sūtra*.

VI. THE DEVELOPMENT OF BUDDHISM

- c.100—200 C.E. Aśvaghōṣa's *Buddhacarita*, first complete biography of the Buddha.
- c.100—200 C.E. Rise of Mahāyāna Buddhism:
The *Saddharmapuṇḍarīka Sūtra*.
The *Prajñāpāramitā Sūtras*:
Mahāprajñāpāramitā Hṛdaya Sūtra.
Vajraccedikā Sūtra.
- c.150—250 C.E. Nāgārjuna, author of The *Mūlamādhyamika Kārikās*; the development of the Mādhyamika School.
- c.300—400 C.E. The *Laṅkāvatāra Sūtra*.
- c.400—500 C.E. Vasubandhu's *Abhidharmakośa*.
- c.400—500 C.E. Asanga and Vasubandhu: development of the Yogācāra School.
- c.400—500 C.E. Buddhaghosa's *Visuddhimagga*.
- 1025—1137 C.E. Buddhism disappears as organized religious force in India.

V. THE COMMENTARY PERIOD

- c.100 B.C.E.-400 C.E. *Śābara-bhāṣya* on *Pūrvamīmāṃsā Sūtra*.
- c.400—1000 C.E. Composition of the *Mahāpurāṇas*.
- c.400 C.E. Spread of Vaiṣṇavism, especially the Kṛṣṇa cult. Beginning of Tantricism.
- C.400—500 C.E. Vyāsa's *Yoga-bhāṣya*.
- C.700—750 C.E. Life of Guḍāpāda, author of *Kārikās* on the *Maṇḍukya Upaniṣad*.
- since c 700 C.E. Flourishing of Kāśmīr Śaivism as well as *bhakti* religions.
- C.788—820 C.E. Life of Śaṅkarācārya, author of *Śaṅkarabhāṣya*.
- c.850 C.E. Vācaspati Miśra's *Tattva-vaiśārādī*.
- 1025—1137 C.E. Life of Rāmānuja, author of *Śrī-bhāṣya*.
- C.1197—1276 C.E. Life of Madhvācārya, author of *Brahma Sūtra-bhāṣya*.

VI. THE RENAISSANCE PERIOD

- 1869—1948 Life of Mahātmā Gandhi.
- 1872—1950 Life of Śrī Aurobindo Ghose.
- 1888—1975 Life of Sarvepalli Radhakrishnan.
- 1893—1952 Life of Paramahansa Yogānanda.
- 1895—1986 Life of J. Krishnamurti.

