



## Fortified Cities of Ancient India

### A Comparative Study

Dieter Schlingloff

**Pub Date:** 01 December 2014

**Binding:** Paperback

**Price:** £25.00 / \$40.00

**ISBN:** 9781783083497

**Extent:** 112 pages

**Size:** 152 x 229 mm /  
6 x 9 inches

**BISAC CATEGORY:** HISTORY / Asia / India & South  
Asia

**BISAC CODE:** HIS017000

**BIC CODE:** HBJF

**RIGHTS**

**Exclusive:** WORLD

### A comparative exploration of the development of towns and cities in ancient India, based on in-depth textual and archeological research.

Authored by one of the leading scholars of German Indology, "Fortified Cities in Ancient India" offers a comparative exploration of the development of towns and cities in ancient India. Based on in-depth textual and archeological research, Professor Dieter Schlingloff's work presents for the first time the striking outcomes of intertwining data garnered from a wide range of sources. This volume scrutinizes much of the established knowledge on urban fortifications in South Asia, advancing new conceptions based on an authoritative, far-reaching study.

### Contents

CHAPTER 1. THE LAYOUT OF THE CITY: The analysis of the reference to towns in epic, Buddhist and Jain literature shows that such texts contain a variety of stock phrases concerning city architecture (p. 11–14). Specialist statements contained in the Kauṣīya Arthaśāstra elucidate these (p. 14–16). A survey of the results of archaeological research (p. 16–28) verifies these statements and confirms the planning of Old Indian cities (p. 28–29). The investigation of house architecture (p. 30–32) illuminates the question of the population density in the cities, which had the same dimension as contemporary Greek and Roman cities (p. 32). According to Megasthenes, Pāṭaliputra, however, was 10–20 times larger than the usual towns; nearly double the size of imperial Rome, it was the greatest city of the ancient world (p. 32–33). Combining the notes of Megasthenes with statements from Indian literature (p. 33–35) and archaeology (p. 35–37), the boundaries of ancient Pāṭaliputra can be reconstructed (p. 37–40). This proves that the Bhikna Pahadi was on the one hand, in accordance with the prescriptions of the Kauṣīya, a monument in the centre of the city (p. 39–40); Kumrahar, on the other, never could have been a palatial area, but rather was a pleasure hall outside the city wall (p. 40–43). After investigating the historical development of Pāṭaliputra (p. 43–46), the similarities and differences in the development of Greek and Indian cities are discussed which proves that the different constitutions of the states are conform with the different positions of Greek and Indian cityscapes (p. 46–48). Overview (p. 49). Figures 1–29 (p. 52–56). CHAPTER 2. THE CONSTRUCTION OF A FORTIFICATION: The chapter on city fortifications in the Arthaśāstra, regarded as the most obscure in Kauṣīya's work, is elucidated by the results of excavations as well as by building technical and military considerations (p. 57–59). Its prescriptions regarding the size and form of moats, ramparts and walls (p. 59–63) generally correspond with the archaeological finds (p. 63–69). The text continues with the description of the defences, viz. towers, embrasures etc. (p. 69–72). The most elaborate description concerns the city gates, details of which reveal a striking similarity with gates, especially in Sisupalgarh and Śrāvastī (p. 72–82). Lexicographical results (p. 83–84). Figures 1–30 (p. 86–90). CHAPTER 3. THE MODEL OF THE CITY IN NARRATIVE AJANTA PAINTINGS: Some of the narrative Ajanta paintings show the depicted events embedded into an ideal city plan. This plan, divested of the figures acting in them reveals a generalised sketch of the cityscape which may complete the picture of the cities of Ancient India elaborated on in chapters 1 and 2 (p. 91–92). Figures 1–8 (p. 93–96). LIST OF ABBREVIATIONS; INDEX; ABOUT THE AUTHOR

### About the Author(s) / Editor(s)

Dieter Schlingloff is an honorary professor at University of Leipzig, and is the former head of the Department of Indology and Iranian Studies at the University of Munich.

#### Ordering in the UK/Rest of the World

Marston Book Services  
P.O. Box 269, Abingdon, Oxfordshire  
OX14 4YN, United Kingdom  
Tel: +44 (0)1235 465577 | Fax: +44 (0)1235 465556  
direct.orders@marston.co.uk | trade.orders@marston.co.uk

#### Ordering in North America

Books International  
P.O. Box 605, Herndon, VA  
20172-0605 United States  
Tel: +1 703 661 1570 | Fax: +1 703 661 1501  
bimail@presswarehouse.com

75-76 Blackfriars Road | London SE1 8HA | United Kingdom | Tel: +44 (0)20 7401 4200 | Fax: +44 (0)20 7401 4225  
244 Madison Ave. #116 | New York | NY 10016 | United States | Tel: +1 646 736 7908 | Fax: +1 646 839 2934  
info@anthempres.com | sales@anthempres.com | publicity@anthempres.com | www.anthempres.com