

SHEREEN RATNAGAR

A PAST TO MIRROR OURSELVES

28/11/2013

In the early days of nation building the past was used as a nation-building force. Many notions of Indian civilization had already been projected by the colonial administration and the early Indologists. The Harappan past was then seen through this lens. But how „Indian“ was the Indus valley civilization? Could it have been organized on the lines of caste, and could it have been an age without war, as has often been suggested?

Shereen Ratnagar was Professor of Archaeology at Jawaharlal Nehru University in New Delhi, India and is now an independent scholar investigating aspects of the Indus Civilization. Educated at Deccan College, Pune, and at the Institute of Archaeology, University College London, her books include *Understanding Harappa* (Tulika, 2006), *The End of the Great Harappan Tradition* (Manohar, 2002), *Trading Encounters from the Euphrates to the Indus in the Bronze Age* (Delhi: Oxford 2004), *The Other Indians* (Delhi: Three Essays 2006) and *Makers and Shapers: Early Indian Technology in the Household, Village and Urban Workshop* (Delhi: Tulika 2007).

LECTURE

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Dholavira, an ancient metropolitan city. One of the largest archaeological sites in India, belonging to the Indus Valley/ Harappan Civilization. Photo: Shereen Ratnagar

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