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Powerful Empires Emerge in India

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As a Young Historian, I will be able to...

- Analyze how Mauryan rulers created a strong central government for their empire.
- Explore the kingdoms that arose across the Deccan.
- Explain why the period of Gupta rule in India is considered a golden age.
- Understand how family and village life shaped Indian society.

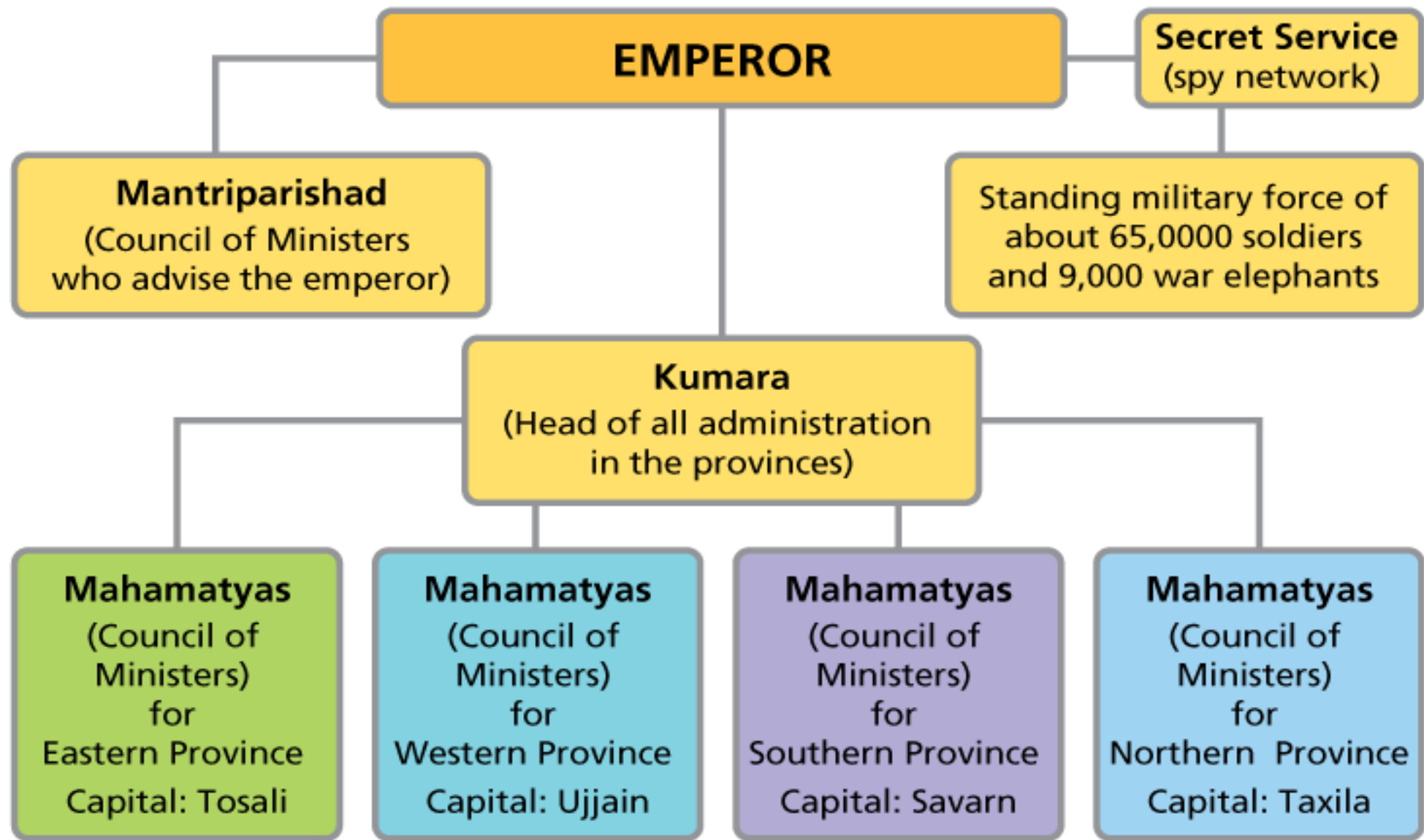
Maurya Empire Government

Chandragupta builds an empire in India
known as the Maurya Dynasty

The empire was run through well-organized
laws & trade

Dissent- Ideas that oppose those of the government, a
police force reported on this

Chandragupta had women warriors, food tasters, &
secret passages around palace for protection



The Mauryan government was a monarchy that used a well-organized royal bureaucracy to manage government services in the empire.

Asoka Governs

Asoka, the grandson of Chandragupta, takes over the region in a bloody war

He becomes a Buddhist & decides to lead by setting a moral example

Missionaries- people sent on religious mission to spread word of religion

Future rulers learned the importance of a well-organized government

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Deccan Kingdoms Arise

The Deccan was the plateau of India, most trade came out of this region

Cultures would often mix due to Hinduism & Buddhist traditions

The Tamil Kingdom ruled over the harbors to trade with distant lands

Literature was important to this culture as they described wars, heroic deeds, & festivals

A Golden Age Under Gupta Rulers

Golden Age- Period of great cultural achievement in India

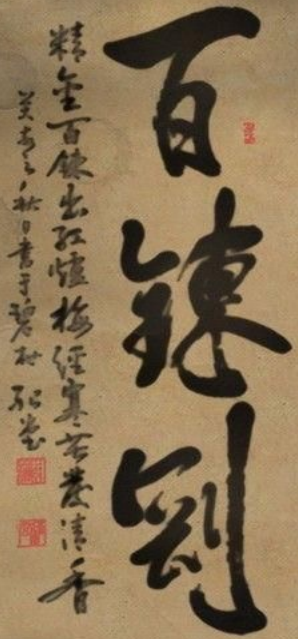
Gupta empire led with a strong central government elected by merchants & artisans

Decimal System- Numbers based on the number 10

Astronomy & medicine was developed such as some of the first vaccines

Kalidasa- Playwright who writes *Shakuntala*

Due to civil war & Huns invasions, empire was split apart again



Family & Village Life Shape Indian Society

Joint Family- Several generations of parents & children share a common dwelling

Usually only wealthy families as the poor died young

Family was more important than the individual, daughters learned to be obedient at a young age

Dowry- Payment to the bridegroom for a wedding ceremony



Women's Roles & Villages

Women held a high status in the past, thought to have creative energy that men did not have.

Gupta empire women were restricted to the home, cover themselves outside, or labor in the field

Villages were built by fields & were dependent on summer monsoons

Government was decided by the caste rules & traditions

