

Mohenjo-Daro: A Mysterious and Radiant Destruction

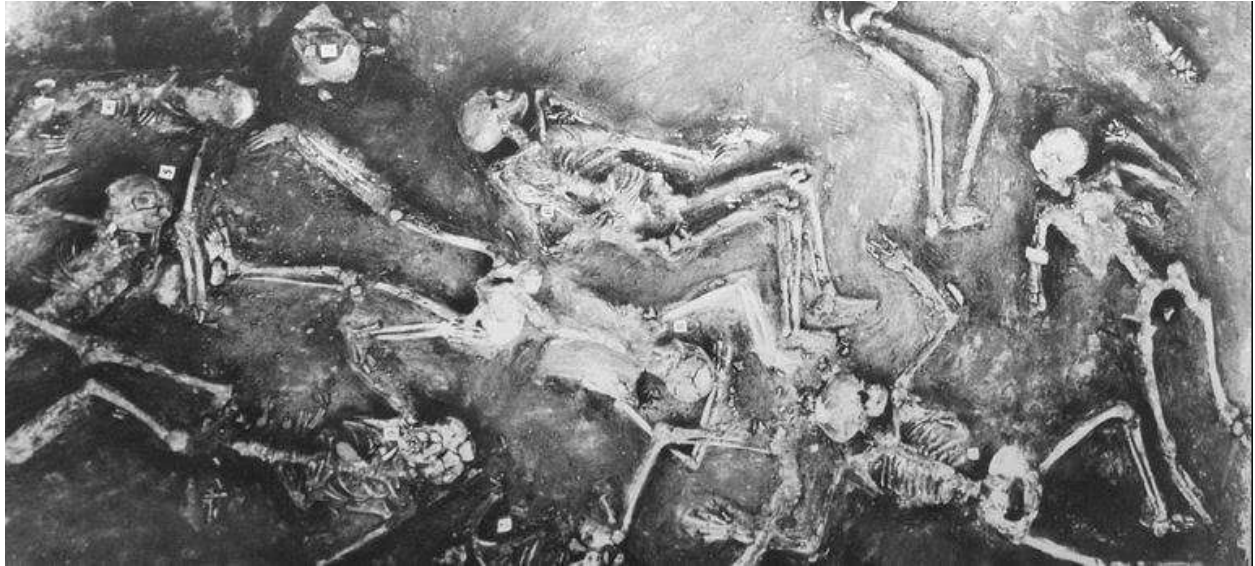
Mohenjo-Daro, located in the Indus Valley in present-day Pakistan, was once a thriving city, with a sophisticated infrastructure that included a complex sewage system, brick buildings, and public baths. However, the city's decline remains shrouded in mystery. While archaeologists have uncovered many fascinating details about the city's daily life, the ultimate cause of its demise remains a topic of debate.



A view of the Buddhist stupa in the background located in the higher settlement to the west, generally referred to as the citadel mound, and it is mostly comprised of the ruins of ancient administrative buildings constructe)

One of the most intriguing discoveries made in Mohenjo-Daro was a set of skeletons found on a street.

The remains belonged to a child and two adults who appeared to have died holding hands. The emotional impact of the discovery is undeniable. But what is perhaps even more striking is the fact that the skeletons were found to be highly radioactive, similar to those found after the nuclear bombings of Hiroshima and Nagasaki.



Excavations down to the streets of Mohenjodaro revealed 44 scattered skeletons, sprawled on the streets as if doom had come so suddenly they could not even get to their houses. All the skeletons were flattened to the ground, including a father, a mother and a child who were found still holding hands. Lying in streets in contorted positions, within layers of rubble, ash and debris, archaeologists have concluded that these people all died by violence, but what caused the violence still remains unexplained

The presence of radioactivity has led to much speculation about what might have caused the destruction of Mohenjo-Daro. Some have suggested that the city was destroyed by an ancient nuclear weapon, while others have argued that a natural disaster, such as a meteoric strike or volcanic eruption, may have been responsible.



Regularity of streets and buildings suggests the influence of ancient urban planning in Mohenjo-daro's construction.

Despite decades of research, no definitive answer has been found. There is little evidence of a fierce battle or conflict, and no evidence of a large-scale volcanic eruption or meteoric strike. It is possible that a natural disaster occurred that did not leave any visible traces, or that some form of weapon or technology was used that has not yet been discovered.



Skeleton in lane between XVIII and XXXIII, VS area

While the cause of Mohenjo-Daro's destruction may never be fully understood, the city's remains continue to offer tantalizing clues about the past. The streets and buildings that have been excavated provide a glimpse into the daily lives of the city's inhabitants, revealing a sophisticated and well-organized society. The city's decline and eventual destruction may remain a mystery, but the insights gained from the excavation of its remains are invaluable.



View of the site's Great Bath, showing the surrounding urban layout

As we continue to explore the world's ancient civilizations, the mysteries of the past remain as compelling as ever. Mohenjo-Daro may be gone, but its legacy lives on in the ruins that remain. Perhaps one day, we will uncover the truth behind its mysterious and radiant destruction.



Boat with direction finding birds to find land. Model of Mohenjo-Daro seal, 2500-1750 BCE.