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Development of Buddhist thought in Korean Peninsula

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Buddhism was the most precious gift that the far Eastern countries received from India. There is evidence to show that Buddhist monks of India who were subjected to various types of harassment, with the growing influence of Hindusium had to flee to china and the kingdom in the neibourhood for protection. The most prominent Buddhist tradition in India at that time had been Mahayana and that was the form of Buddhist thought that began to spread in China and the far Eastern countries. Buddhism found its way to Korea as a result of the influence of China. It is also evident that Buddhism spread to Japan as a result of the influence of Korea.

Korea, at that time, included the present North Korea, South Korea, Southern part of Manchuriya and some part of Southern Siberia. Korea was surrounded on three sides, by the sea. The other side was the borders of china and Russia. In ancient Korea and China, a number of independent states have come up in different parts of the two countries. These independent states, which have arisen, probably on linguistic or territorial or ethnic consideration have been identified.

People in Korea belonged to a race called 'Han'. This race split in to three groups namely 'Mahan', Chinhan' and 'Pyonhan'. There was an old kingdom called Chosen, which was built by the Han race. Later on this state was again divided into three and they were ruled as three independent states.

Buddhism in the states of Shilla, Koguryo and Paekche

Korean peninsula, when it functioned as three independent state was considered a very important era in the political history of the country. These three independent states Shilla, Koguryo and Paekche in the Korean Peninsula, later on, united as a single state under the leadership of Shilla.