

## CENTRAL ASIA

## BC

6th century	Achaemenid Empire founded by Cyrus the Great
530	Cyrus dies
522-486	Reign of Darius the Great
c 336	Alexander the Great begins campaigns in Central Asia
323	Death of Alexander at Babylon
322	Seleucus I takes control of Alexander's Asian empire
247	Parthian rebellion against the Seleucids
232	Nisa becomes capital of Parthians
91	First Chinese embassy, from Emperor Wu-ti, to Parthia

## AD

224	Sasanians seize power from the Parthians
by 652	Persia overrun by Muslim armies
661-750	Umayyads control the Arab Empire from Damascus
750	Abbasid dynasty rules from Baghdad (destroyed by the Mongols in 1258)
821	Tamirid dynasty declares independence from Abbasids
10th century	Seljuks become a powerful new force
1040-1256	Seljuk Empire
1256-1383	Mongols control Central Asia. Timurid dynasty rules from Samarkand

## MERV AND KHURASAN

## BC

End of the 3 <sup>rd</sup> and early 2nd	First settlers in of the oasis. millennium.
Gonur-depe	
1st millennium	Many settlements along the ancient river in the Murghab valley
c 6th century	Erk Kala, the first city of Merv
after 291	Antiochus builds a new city Antiochia Magiania (later Gyaaur Kala)
53	The Parthians defeat the Romans in battle near Karrah (in Mesopotamia). 10,000 Roman soldiers became prisoners of war and were settled in Merv

## AD

220	Sasanian Ardashir overcomes Artabanus V in single combat at Hormizdgan to become King of Kings.
241-272	Reign of Shapur I
651	Last Sasanian king, Yazdirigid III, murdered near Merv
c 652	Merv under Umayyad rule. Abbasid revolt against the Umayyads
c 740s	New city of Sultan Kala established; Gyaaur Kala becomes industrial quarter
748	Abu Muslim leads Abbasid revolt against the Umayyads
755	Abu Muslim assassinated in Iraq
821	Tahir ibn Hossein governor. Declares independence and founds the Tahirid dynasty.
867	Start of the Saffarid dynasty
892	Samanids seize power
977	Ghaznavids become the new power

1037	Seljuks take control of Merv
1040	Merv the Seljuk capital
c 1080	Walls around Shariyar Ark and then Sultan Kala constructed
1153	Sultan Sanjar taken prisoner by the Ghuzz
1157	Sultan Sanjar dies at Merv at the age of 71
1221	Mongol army sack city and murder the inhabitants
c 1409	New city of Abdullah Khan Kala founded
1454	Last great Timurid ruler, Husayn-i Bayqara, marries in Merv
1498	Rebellion against Husayn. Merv besieged
1506	Death of Husayn. Timurids cease to be a powerful force. Safavids and Uzbeks fight for control
1510	Uzbek army defeated in battle with the Safavids
1727	Sultan Band dam destroyed. Inhabitants of Merv forced to leave
1737	Inhabitants return to Merv
c late 18 <sup>th</sup> century	Bairam Ali Khan Kala built
1850-1890	Merv a city independent from its Qajar rulers of Iran
1884	Russians annexe Merv. New peoples arrive
1991	Central Asian Republics gain independence

### The beginnings of farming

BC	
9000	First wild sheep flocks are managed in the Zagros Mountains of Iraq
9000-8000	First cultivation of wild cereals in Mesopotamia
8000-7000	Wheat and barley domesticated in Mesopotamia
6500	Rice cultivation in China
6000	Wheat, barley and sheep farming begins in Egypt
6000	Earliest evidence for farming in Indian subcontinent

