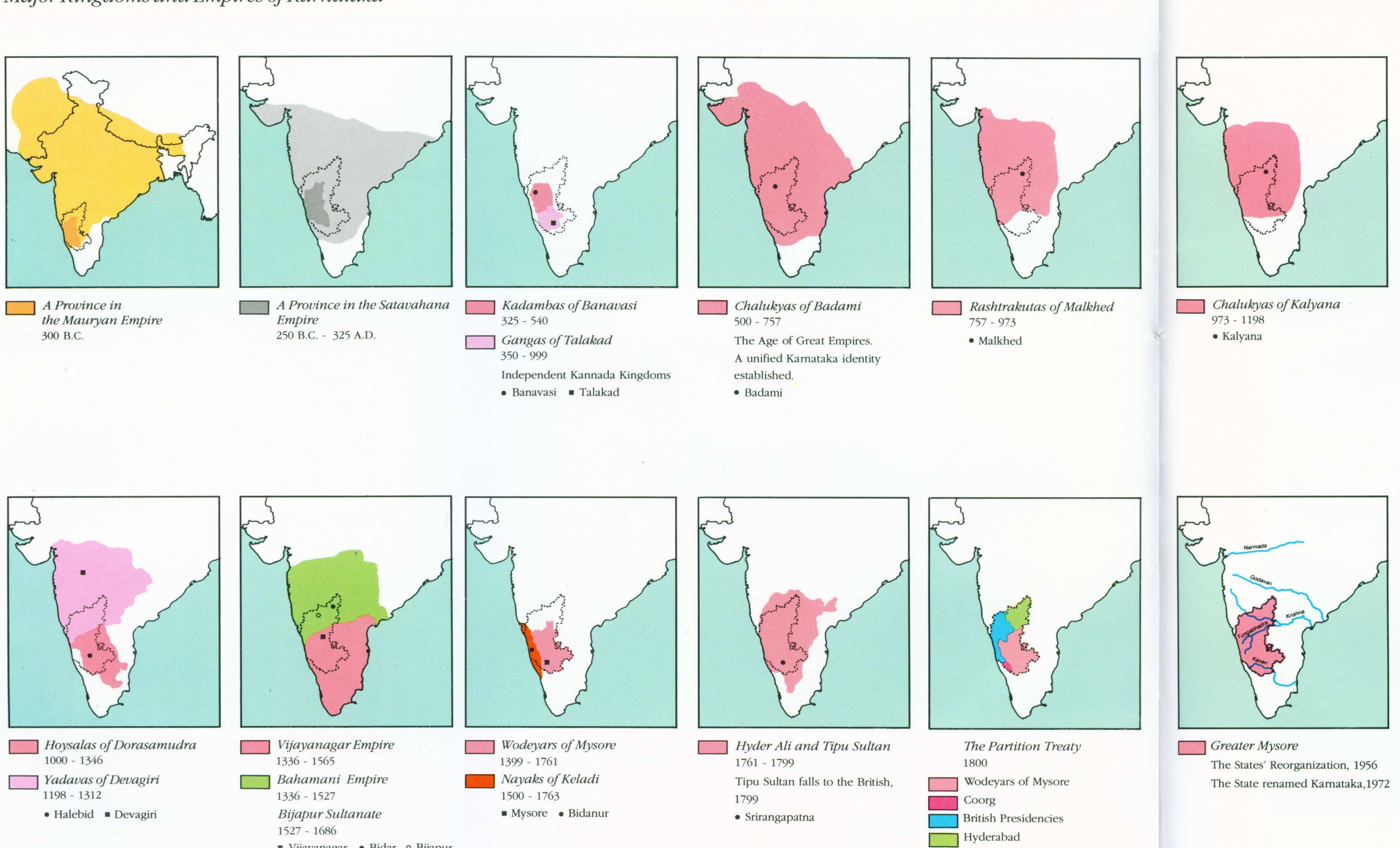
Major Kingdoms and Empires of Karnataka

Vijayanagar
Bidar
Bijapur



Origins of the Kannada Language When Aryans from north-west overran the original Dravidians in India, some of the latter migrated in different directions to the south, east and even north-west. The Dravidian linguistic groups, speaking 23 Dravidian languages, are today found in south India, and in some pockets in Madhya Pradesh, Bihar and Baluchistan. North Dravidian Central Dravidian South Dravidian Gondi Gadaba Kodagu PROTO-DRAVIDIAN 3000 B.C. 1500 B.C. North Dravidian Central Dravidian South Dravidian Pre Old Kannada Pre Old Tamil 500 A.D. Old Tamil Toda Badaga Old Kannada Kodagu Medieval Kannada 900 A.D. Kannada is one of the four major Dravidian languages New Kannada 1200 A.D. alongwith Tamil, Telugu and Malayalam. Tulu and Kodagu, the two other important languages in the family, are spoken in the State's coastal plain and Kodagu(Coorg)district, respectively. The chart represents the stages of evolution of spoken Kannada. The scripts of all Indian languages that are written from left to right, have evolved from Brahmi, and Kannada is one of them. Brahmi is the script used in the Asokan rock edicts. By 300 B. C. studying the stone inscriptions of various periods in history, scholars have traced the evolution of the Kannada script. The

letter 😝 (Aa) is shown here in selected stages of its evolution.