This project offers the first comparative study of the distinctive Shahi artistic culture. The Shahi Kingdom (7th to 10th century) extended from Afghanistan to the borders of the Chinese, Tibetan, and north Indian empires. The powerful Shahi confederation secured the silk routes which connected the royal courts of Asia and permitted the exchange of materials, objects, and ideas during a period of intense conflict and change resulting from the advancing Tibetan and Islamic armies. The extraordinary artistic production at Buddhist and Hindu cult sites, as well as portable luxury objects, were financed by profits derived from the largest mineral resources in the extended region and silk route trade.