

The Silk Roads

APWH Lecture (10/30/13)

• The Growth of the Silk Roads

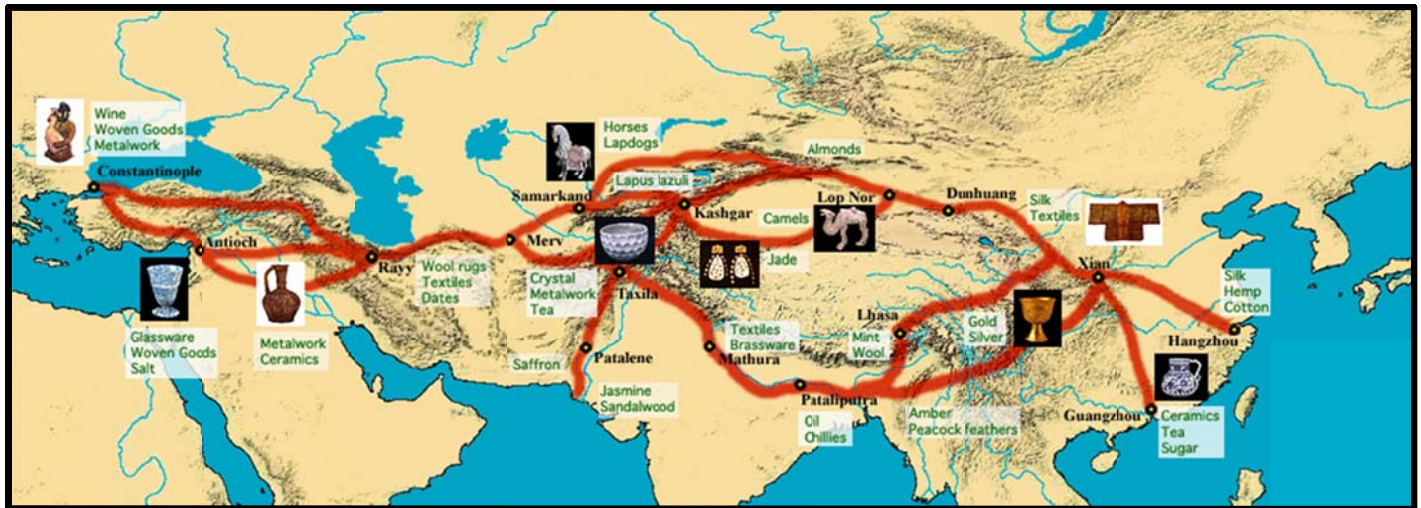
- Eurasian landmass has long been home to the majority of _____ as well as the world's most productive _____, largest _____, and greatest concentration of _____ peoples.
- It also gave rise to one of the world's most _____ and _____ networks of exchange among its diverse peoples.
- Eurasia is often divided into inner and outer zones with different ecologies
 - _____ Eurasia: relatively warm, well-watered (China, India, Middle East, Mediterranean)
 - _____ Eurasia: harsher, drier climate, much of it pastoral (eastern Russia, Central Asia)
 - _____ (forest and grasslands) products were exchanged for agricultural products and manufactured goods
 - Movement of _____ in and out of these zones served to _____ Indo-European languages, bronze metallurgy, horse-based technologies and more.
- The creation of classical civilizations and imperial states in 500–0 BCE included efforts to _____ pastoral peoples (Persian Empire, Alexander the Great, Han China's efforts to control the Xiongnu)
 - by the early centuries of the Common Era, there was a _____ of transcontinental exchange, often _____ by pastoral peoples (relay system of trade)
- Trading networks did best when large states provided _____ for trade (3 phases)
 - In the classical era when _____ and _____ empires anchored commerce
 - In the seventh and eighth centuries, the _____ Empire, _____ dynasty, and _____ dynasty created a belt of strong states
 - in the thirteenth and fourteenth centuries, the _____ Empire controlled almost the entirety of the Silk Roads

• Goods in Transit

- A vast array of goods traveled along the Silk Roads, often by _____
 - mostly _____ goods for the elite
 - high _____ of transport did not allow movement of _____ goods

Region	Products Contributed to Silk Road Commerce
China	Silk, bamboo, mirrors, gunpowder, paper, rhubarb, ginger, lacquerware, chrysanthemums
Forest lands of Siberia and grasslands of Central Asia	Furs, walrus tusks, amber, livestock, horses, falcons, hides, copper vessels, tents, saddles, slaves
India	Cotton textiles, herbal medicine, precious stones, spices
Middle East	Dates, nuts, almonds, dried fruit, dyes, lapis lazuli, swords
Mediterranean Basin	Gold coins, glassware, glazes, grapevines, jewelry, artworks, perfume, wool and linen textiles, olive oil

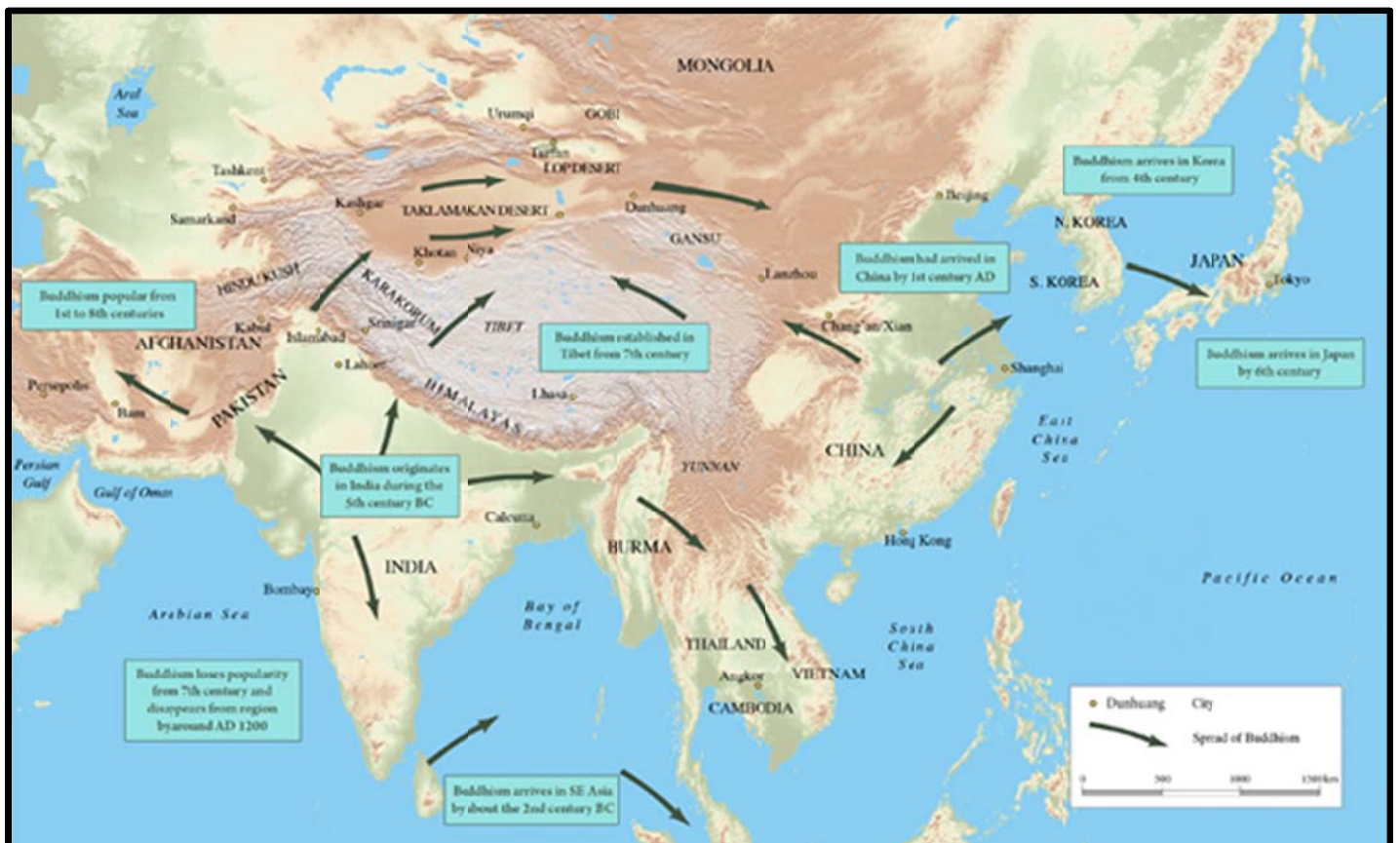
- Silk symbolized the Eurasian exchange system
 - At first, China had a _____ on silk technology
 - Silk from China and cotton textiles from India led to a drain of _____ from the Roman Empire to the east
 - Romans regarded silk as _____
 - By the sixth century c.e., other peoples produced silk
 - Stories of _____ led to silk being produced in the Byzantine Empire, Korea, Japan, India, and Persia
 - Silk was used as _____ and a means of accumulating _____ in Central Asia
 - Silk was a symbol of high status
 - _____ laws restricted silk clothing to the elite in China and the Byzantine Empire
 - Silk was linked to the _____ in Buddhism and Christianity
 - Gifts to _____ as a sign of honor and respect
 - Christianity – silk wall hangings and altar covers were signs of _____ and piety
 - Silk industry only developed in _____ in twelfth century
 - Irony of splendid _____ churches depending on silks manufactured in the _____ world
- Volume of trade was _____, but of economic and social importance
 - peasants in the Yangzi River delta of southern China produced _____ goods (silk, paper, porcelain, etc.) instead of _____
 - well-placed individuals could make enormous _____



• Cultures in Transit

- Cultural transmission was more important than exchange of goods
 - The case of _____ (a cultural product of Indian civilization in the 6th century BCE)
 - spread along Silk Roads through Central and East Asia
 - had always appealed to _____ because of its universal message rather than Hinduism that favored the higher castes
 - _____ blocked the spread of Buddhism to the west
 - conversion was heavy in the _____ cities of Central Asia (Merv, Samarkand, Khotan, Dunhuang)
 - Cities became cosmopolitan centers of _____ and _____
 - e.g., Buddhist texts and cave temples of Dunhuang

- conversion was _____ rather than being linked to conquest or foreign rule
 - Inhabitants of Central Asian cities found a link to the larger, wealthier, and more prestigious civilization of _____
 - winning religious _____ by founding monasteries
 - monasteries provided _____ for merchants
- spread much more slowly among Central Asian _____
 - pastoralists didn't have a _____ language
 - monasticism is central to Buddhism, but pastoralists are _____
 - Shi Le, ruler of the nomadic _____ people (ruled northern China after collapse of Han), accepted _____ along with thousands of others, thanks to the monk Fotudeng
- in China, it was the religion of _____ merchants or _____ for centuries before it became popular among the Chinese themselves
- Buddhism was _____ during its spread
 - the original faith _____ the material world, however, monasteries became rich and involved in _____ affairs
 - Begging bowls became a _____ rather than a daily activity
 - Sculptures and murals show musicians and acrobats as well as women applying makeup and drink parties
 - _____ form of Buddhism flourished
 - picked up _____ influences
 - the _____ of many peoples along the Silk Roads were incorporated into Buddhist practice as _____



• Disease in Transit

- The major population centers of the Afro-Eurasian world developed characteristic disease _____ and ways to deal with them
- Long-distance trade meant _____ to unfamiliar diseases
 - early case: great epidemic in _____ in 430–429 BCE that killed up to ____% of its army
 - during the Roman and Han empires, _____ and _____ devastated both populations
 - although the diseases probably strengthened the appeal of _____ and _____ because they offered compassion in the face of immense suffering
 - in 534–750 CE, bubonic plague from _____ ravaged Mediterranean world
 - Traveled by _____ that carried the disease on ships
 - kept the _____ Empire from regaining Italy and renewing the Roman empire (10,000 people a day died over a 40-day period in 534)
 - made it harder for Christendom to _____ spread of Islam
- The _____ spread thanks to the _____ Empire’s unification of much of Eurasia (thirteenth–fourteenth centuries)
 - could have been bubonic plague, anthrax, or collection of epidemic diseases
 - killed _____ of European population between 1346 and 1350
 - not all bad, tenant _____ and urban _____ who were now in short supply could now demand higher wages and better terms
 - similar death toll in China and parts of the Islamic world
 - Central Asian steppes were badly affected (_____ Mongol power)
- disease exchange gave Europeans an _____ when they reached the Western Hemisphere after 1500
 - Less issue with disease in the Americas – absence of _____ animals, less _____ among centers of population, and _____ from the Eastern Hemisphere
 - peoples of the Americas had little _____ to European and African diseases

