That Other Sea: Memories, identities, archipelagos Nurope XI, Zadar, 22-26 August 2010



The silk road: Passeurs sans Passports

Lichia Saner-Yiu Diplomacy Dialogue, Geneva

Objectives



- ◆To follow up on the reflections made during the Graz "Oasis"
- **◆**To research the lost memories of the Silk Road
- ◆To review the theme of *identity* from the viewpoint of "passage", "connections", "innovations" and "renewal".

Contour



- ① Contour of the Silk Road
- ② Goods & ideas that were exchanged through the Silk Road (examples)
- 3 People and Passeurs
- 4 Lost memories
- S Renewal

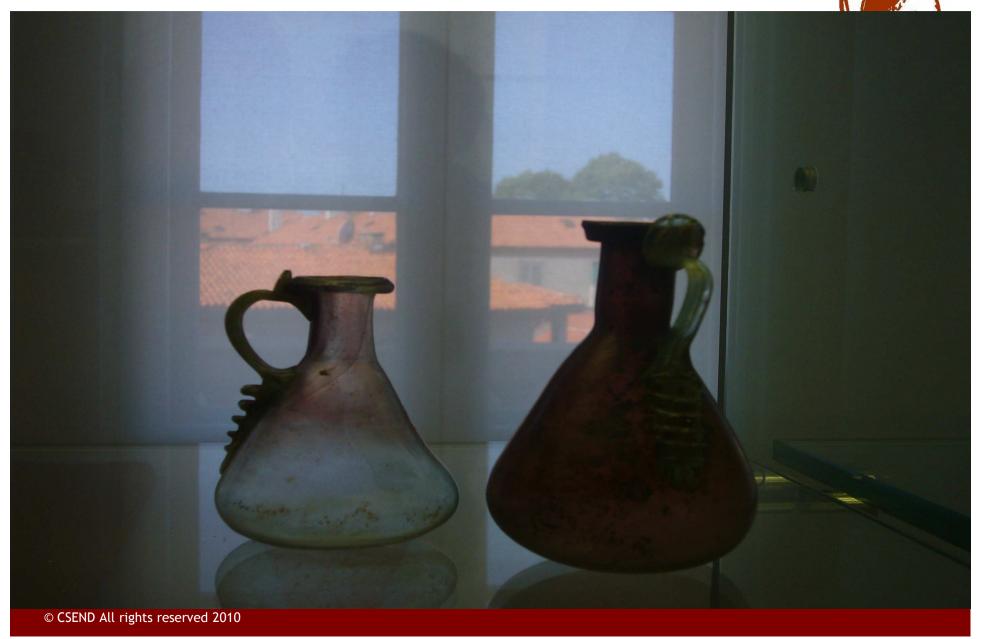
Contour of the Silk Road



Story that we heard



Zadar: An Encounter



200 B.C - 1500 A.D.

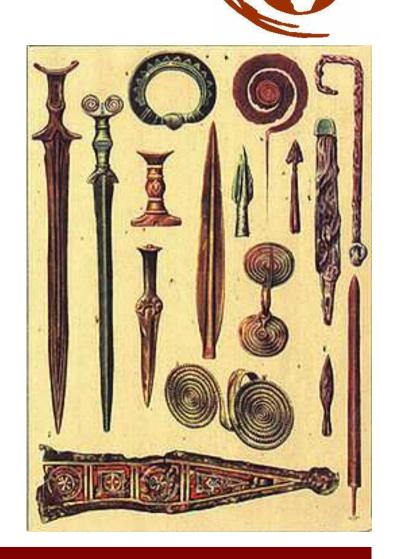
Ferdinand von Richthofen (German geographer) named it silk road in 1877. Romans already knew about the "Seres" ("land where silk comes from")





History of silk road

- Ancien connections between China, Middle East, and Europe
- existed since
 Bronze Age (for
 example to exchange
 knowledge about
 metal production)



The Silk Road

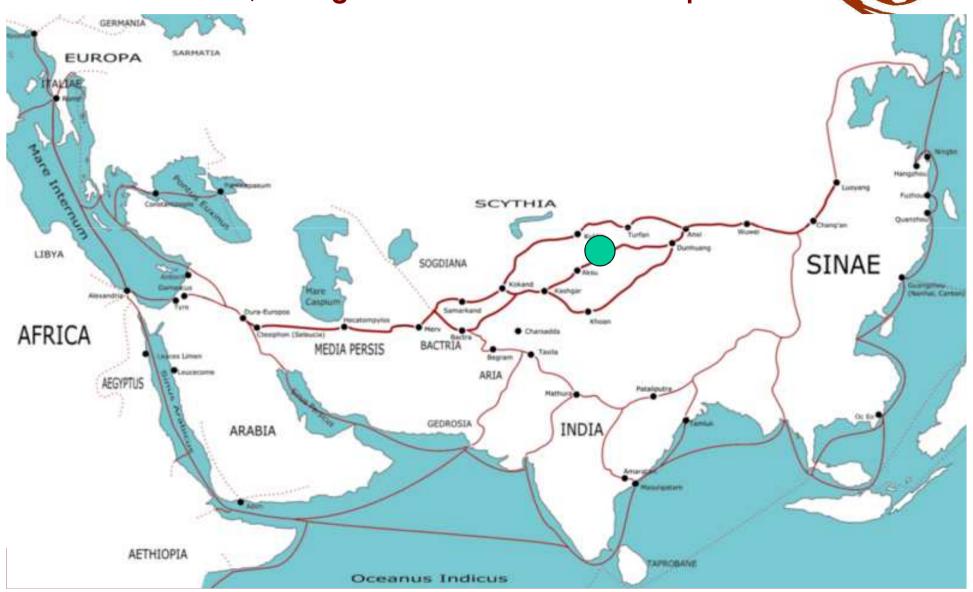
- ◆Extending 4,000 miles, the routes enabled people to transport goods, especially luxuries such as slaves, silks, satin and other fine fabrics; musk, other perfumes, spices, medicines, jewels, glassware and even rhubarb.
- ◆Serving also as a conduit for the spread of knowledge, ideas, cultures and diseases between different parts of the world (Ancient China, Ancient India [Indus valley, now Pakistan], Asia Minor and the Mediterranean)

The Silk Road-2

- ◆Trade on the Silk Road was a significant factor in the development of the great civilsations of China, India, Egypt, Persia, Arabia and, and in several respects helped lay the foundations for the modern world.
- ◆Although the term the Silk Road implies a continuous journey, very few who travelled the route and traversed it from end to end. For the most part, goods were transported by a series of agents on varying routes and were traded in the bustling mercantile markets of the oasis towns.

The Silk Road

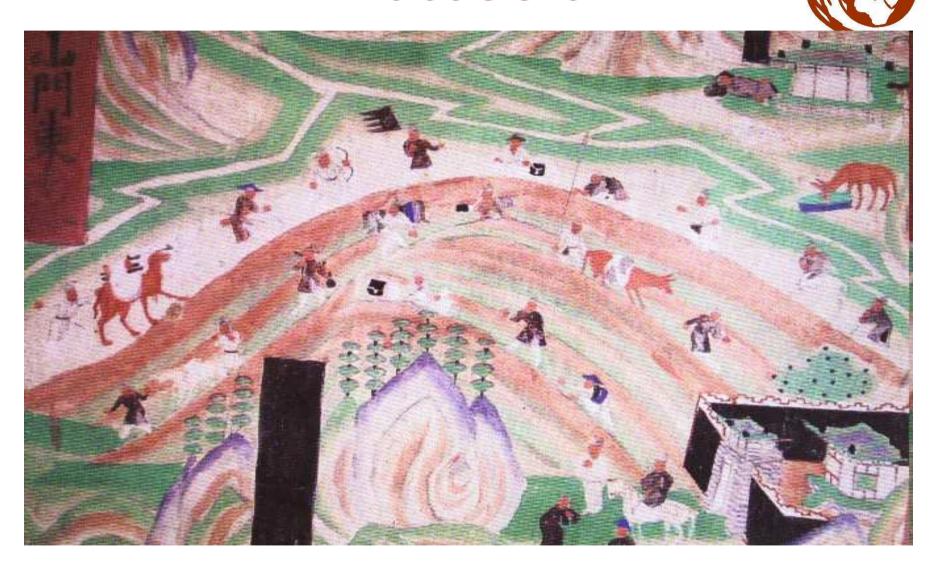
Chang'an (now Xian) in the east till Mediterranean in the west, linking China with the Roman Empire



The Connections

- ◆Formal (recorded) connection was made when emperor Han Wudi (141-87 B.C) expanded and doubled the size of the Han-empire.
- Wudi sent Chan Chien and later on other emissaries to extend diplomatic, military ties to the peoples in the West.
- Trade and commerce flurished because of stability.

Passeurs



Lapis lazuli





Originally found in Badakhshan, Afganistan, traded since 1300 BC.

Late Han Dynasty 2nd century AD





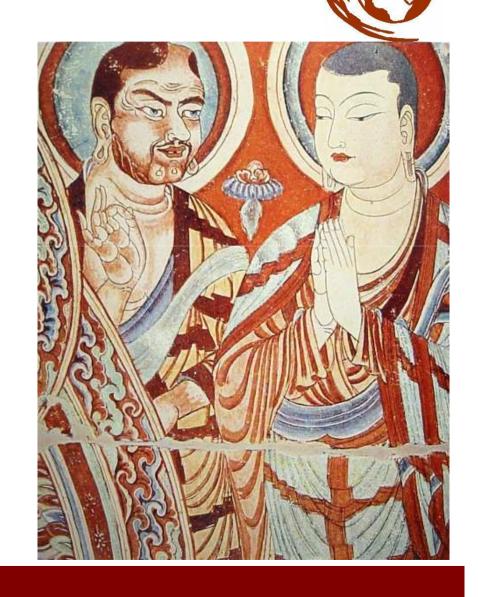
The « Silk » Connection



◆But this ancient route not only circulated goods, wise men, soldiers, but also exchanged the cultures of China, India, Persia, Arabia, Greek and Rome, ideas, religions and cultures from East to West and West to East.

Transcontinental exchange

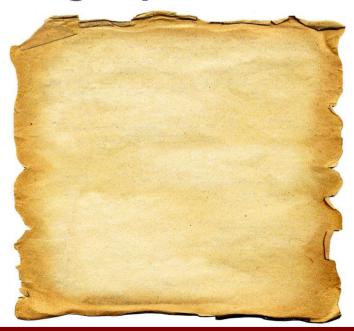
- Because of the silk road Buddism reached China and Japan from India
- ◆Islam (first arabic peninsula, Syria, Egypt, Nordafrica)
- ◆Influence of christianit, Zoroastrism, Manichäism also reached Xi'an,



◆Knowledge of black powder (arms) and paper reached arabic countries and later arrived in Europe in the late 13th Century.

◆Roger Bacon (Alchemist, 1214-1292) revealed the ingredients of

gunpowder)









◆An European merchant in the eyes of a Chinese artist (During the Tang Dynastie, 7th century)

- Diseases travelled also on the silk road
- Plague originated in Egypt and spread through the trade route
- First outbreak in 6th century in Europe originated Gobi
- ◆The Bubonic plague in 14th century killed 25 mio in Europe, 35 mio in China, originated in Europe.





The Connections

- ♦ Wars of Romans-Persians (ca 700 ye from the late Romon Republic): low times
- ◆Persistant conflicts amongst the Central Asia tribes and emergence of minor states due to waning power of Han
- **◆**Tang Dynasty: high times due to the stability of the region
- Yang Dynasty: stability of the political system and safe passage



Examples of Exchanges

- **♦**Silk
- Paper & Papermaking
- ◆Imperial examination (Civil Service Examination)





Journey of the Silk

Silk





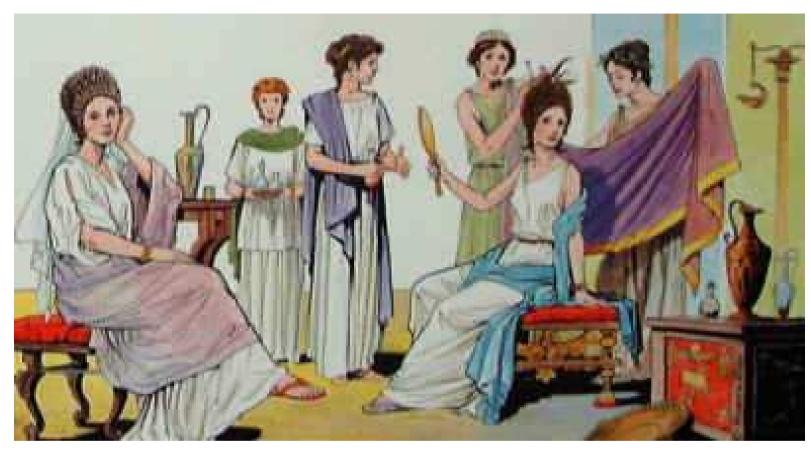
- Gives silkroad its name
- Started a fashion trend
- Eventually a cause of the decline of the Roman Empire?



Roman Empire and silk

- **♦**When did the trade with silk start?
 - Trade between the Roman Empire and the Han-Dynasty 100 B.C.
 - After Chan Chien was sent to establish military alliance with Da Yeu Zi in order to fight the Xiongnu (forefather of Hun) tribe.
 - Travelled through the Hexi Corridor to Lap Nur and learned about different city states or empire, Fergana, Sogdian, Bactria, Shendu (Indus River), Parthia...



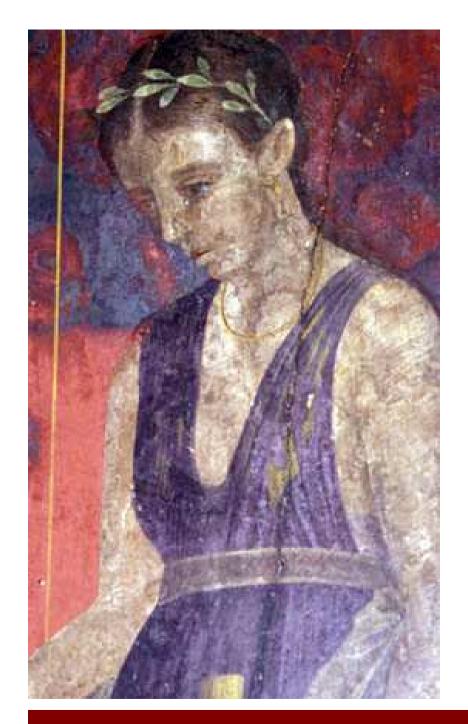


Silk: a fashion trend

http://www.duerrholz.de/latein-welt/alltagsleben/kleidung/frauen2.jpg

Silk, a fashion trend... & an identity accessary

- ◆ The trend of forms (Toga etc) changed only slightly over time.
- ◆ But with the possibilities of trade with China on the silk road the preferences changed: from linen and wool to cotton and essentially (but only for the rich people) to silk. Which is lighter and finer.
- Plinius (Roman philosopher) says about silk clothes of women
 women wearing silk look like they're naked ».
- ◆ The passion for finery of the women was often criticized during Roman times (for example by Valerius Maximus).





 http://www.planetwissen.de/alltag_gesund heit/mode/unterwaesche /img/intro_uw_tunica_g.j pg



Consequence of this trend:

- Roman demand for silk became unsatiable.
- **◆Silk was weighted in gold.**

Silk: a cause of the decline of the roman empire?



- With the high demand for imported silk, the balance of trade (proportion between import and export) was negative
- Why did the Romans had to import silk? Why did the romans not produce themselves silk?
 - Because the secret of production of silk was highly protected
 - There was a death penalty by the imperial court if the Chinese would give eggs or larval away to the foreigners

New Suppliers

- ◆ Around 550 AD, some Christian monks who had gone to China managed to smuggle out two baby mulberry trees and some silkworms under their tunics and in their walking staff and brought them back to West Asia.
- ◆ Soon these silkworms were making silk in Syria, and silk became a lot cheaper than it had been before.
- ◆ When the Islamic Empire took over Syria less than a hundred years later, it also took over the silk business. Because of this, silk was generally much cheaper and more available in the Islamic Empire than it was in medieval Europe.



Military and silk

 One reason for the military succes of the mongols was because they were wearing silk clothes as protection. Together with leather the silk was difficult to be steeped by darts. So this was a light and fonctional armament.

Mongols & Silk Substitute



- ◆ In the Yuan Dynasty, the Mongols brought cotton to China.
- ◆ At first people didn't want to grow cotton, maybe because the people running the silk industry wanted to keep people buying silk. But the Mongol invasion in the 1200's destroyed a lot of the mulberry trees that were needed to make silk.
- ◆ The Mongol emperors, like Kublai Khan, turned to cotton to fill the gap.
- ◆ In 1289 AD they ordered the opening of special training centers to teach farmers how to grow cotton. And in 1296 they ordered that farmers who grew cotton could pay lower taxes.





Journey of the Papermaking



China and Paper

- The oldest paper was found in the graves of the early Han-Dynasty (180-50 BC), discovered in Dunhuang
- The art of making paper is mentioned for the first time in 105 AD, invented by Tsai Lun (light and good quality)





- Developed at various places
- Spreading of paper production through the trading/Silk Road
 - First invented in China in the 1st century AD
 - ➤ Korea (600 AD)/Japan (800 AD/(Tibet)
 - ➤ Diffused first to the Middle East (Baghdad, Samarkand, Damascus)
 - Later arrived in Europe (Spain) in 12th Century
 - 1448 Johannas Gorterburg invented printing press

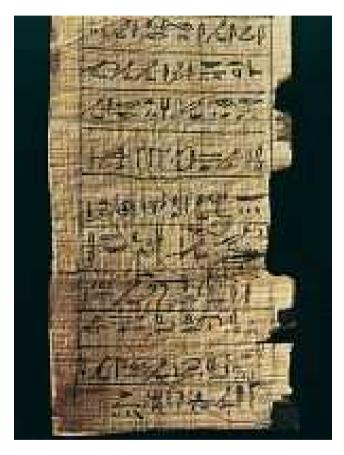




In the main elements (preparing the fibres, dewatering with a filter, pressing, drying) the production of paper is still the same as at the beginning

Other Forms of Recording, Remembering

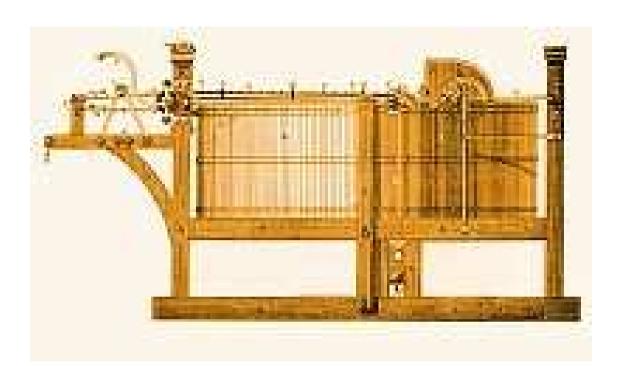






Papyrus (Egypt)

Parchment (Europe)





- The first paper machine invented by Nicolas-Louis Robert in 1798.
- It was now possible to produce a paper role (a really long paper) and not just a single page
- Before: paper was made by hand, high quality, but not an efficient production

Demand for Paper



- With the expansion of Buddhism, the need for writing material grew.
- ◆In Japan, besides the use of paper for Sutras and official documents, paper was also used for poetry and private purposes. Japanese culture grew, freed from the influence of China.
- ◆Paper was also used in religious ceremonies as symbol for pureness. Ornanements of paper are still today talismans.

Demand for Paper - 2



- Around 750 AD China fought against Arabs. Chinese were severly defeated in the region of Turkestan.
- ◆When the city Samarkand was captured, there were also Chinese papermakers among the prisoners, who were forced to educate the Arabs in the art of papermaking. Then this art spreaded in the arabic world.

Demand for Paper - 3

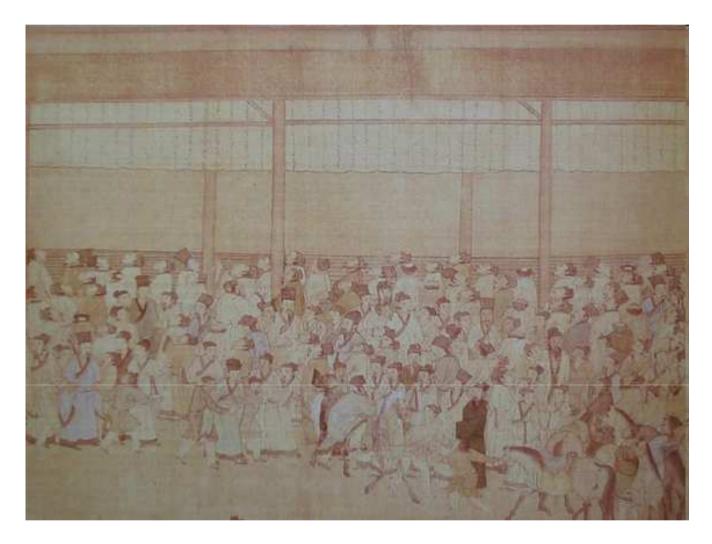


- ◆794 AD Baghdad
- **♦**1000 AD Damaskus exported their paper to Europe
- **♦1100 AD: from Cairo to Marocco**
- Moguls brought the paper making technique to Spain
- **♦**Later, the technique spreaded to France, Italy



Secondary Innovation

 In the 10th century, Arabs replaced the mortar (mulberry Tree & bamboo fibers) with stamper technique (linen fiber), which made the paper production more efficient





Journey of 科舉, the Imperial Examination

Imperial Examinations



- Major influence in China's social structure and organisation
- Designed to select the best adm officers for the state bureaucracy
- Created a class of scholarbureaucrats irrespective of their family pedigree.
- Japan, Korea, Vietnam had similar system

Imperial Examinations



- ◆First established in 605 AD during the Sui Dynasty.
- Developed and matured during the Tang Dynasty.
- A brief interruption during the Yuan/Mongal Dynasty
- ◆A history of 1300 years



http://fr.wikipedia.org/wiki/Fichier:Qing_Dy nasty_Mandarin.jpg

- A mandarin (Qing-Dynasty)
- The last Imperial Examination was held in 1905

Modern Times

- National exams continues
- In 1911, after the revolution, Dr. Sun Yat-Sen developed similar procedures through Examination Yuan (1 of the 5 government branches)
- In between WWI & WWII, it was suspended and in 1947 revived by Kuomintang.
- In 1990's Communist China reinstated the system

Imperial examination



- The first institutionalised exam.
- ◆ "Five Studies": military strategy, civil law, revenue and taxation, agriculture and geography, and the Confucian classics.
- ◆ It lasted between 24 and 72 hours, and were conducted in spare, isolated examination rooms; sometimes, however, it was held within cubicles.
- ◆ In order to obtain objectivity in evaluation, candidates were identified by number rather than name, and examination answers were recopied by a third person before being evaluated to prevent the candidate's handwriting from being recognized.

Imperial examination



- Theoretically anyone can apply.
- Under some dynasties members of the merchant class were excluded
- **Significance:**
 - ➤ Major mechanisms that central govt captured and held the loyalty of local elite. Their loyalty in turn reinforced centralised governance system.
 - Instrument to maintain cultural unity & consensus on basic values

Imperial examination



- **Extremely tough 5% pass rate**
- Degree levels offered
 - ➤ At county level xiùcái (秀才) yearly
 - ➤ At provincial level Jǔrén (舉人) or "recommended man" every 3 years
 - > At national level Gongshi (貢士), "tribute personnel"
 - ➤ At national level -Jinshi (進士) a graduate of the palace examination, administered in the capital immediately after the metropolitan examination every three years

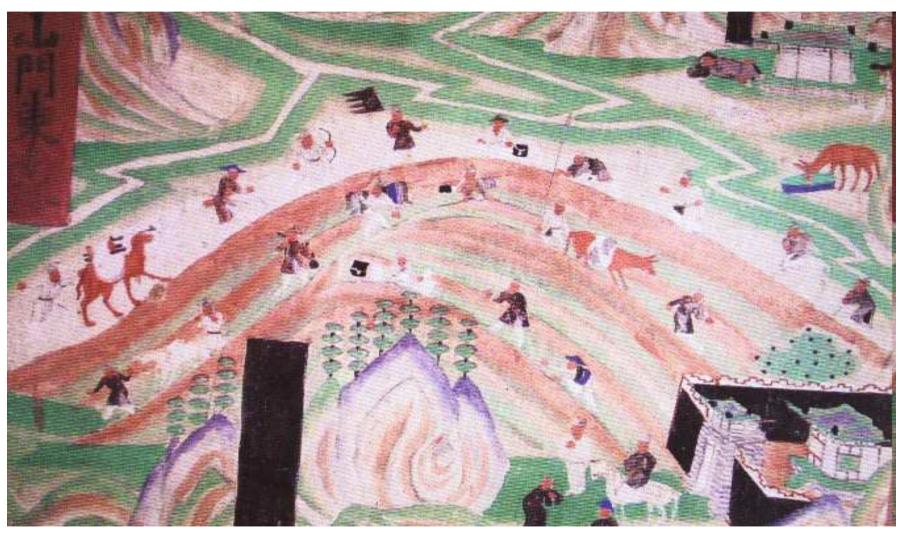




You are your ranks

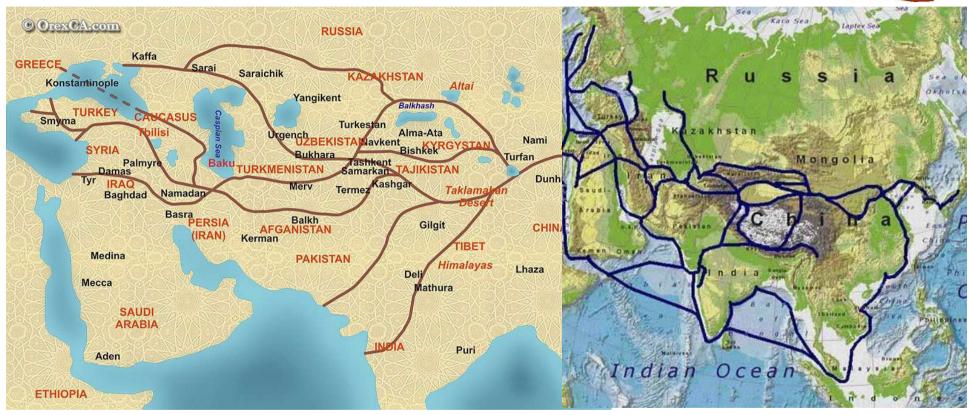
Who were these Passeurs?





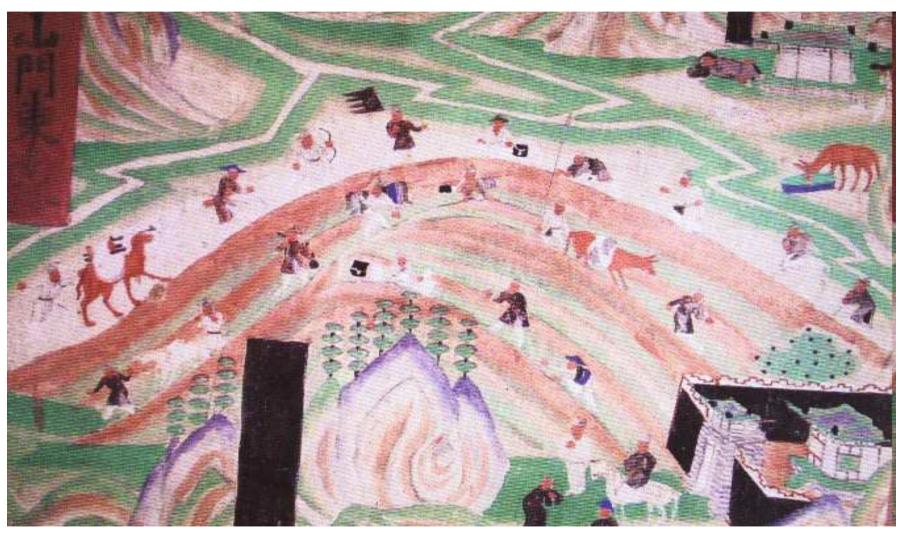
The travelers' footprint





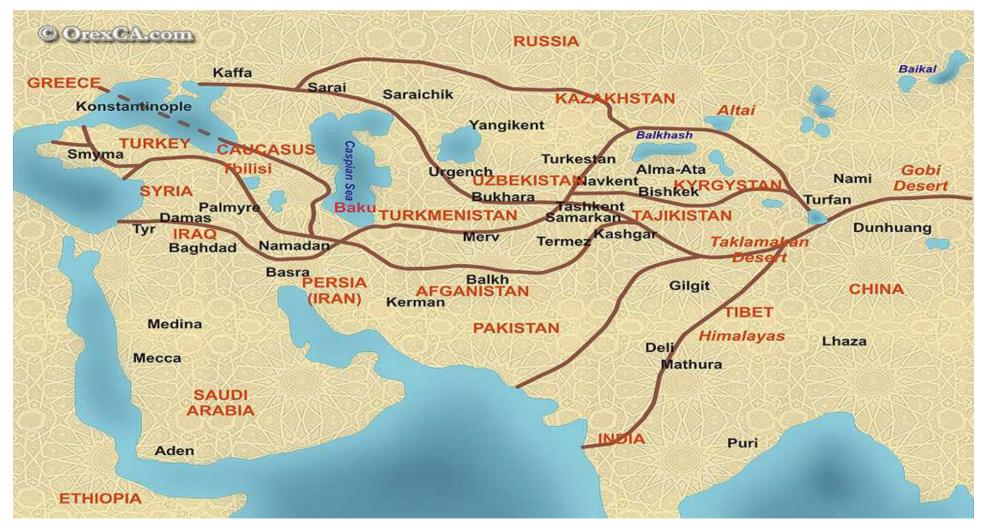
Remembered & Forgotten





Famous travellers on the silk road



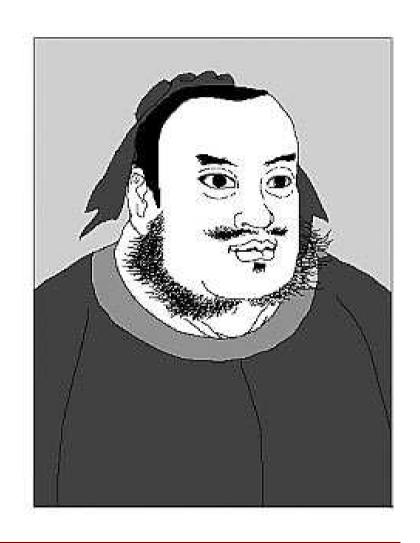






Chinese general leader and diplomat in the Easter Han Dynasty

lived 31 years in Western Regions tried to guarantee peace and harmony along the silk road (with the help of many soldiers)



Xuan Zang (629-645)

- Chinese Buddhist monk and translator
- Route: Tarim basin, Turfan, Kucha, Tashkent, Samarkand, Bactria, Kindu Kush, to India
- Translated sutras into Chinese
- Travel stories became fantastic legends





Marco Polo (1271-1295)

Venetian, worked for Qubilai Khan, Mogol rulers, Muslim Merchant community, Dictated his experiencés to Rustichello da Pisa "Travels of Marco Polo", detailed descriptions of the wealth of China, a Japan filled with gold, and the exotic custom of Central Asia, **West Asia and Southeast** Asia. Bestseller, stimulus for travel and discovery









Silk Trade & Substitute

- Mongolians & their decline
- Decline of the silk road because of the see-trade, high tariffs in Arabia



- Advantage see travel: less dangerous and no tariffs
- 1514:
 portuguese
 reached Cathay
 (China)



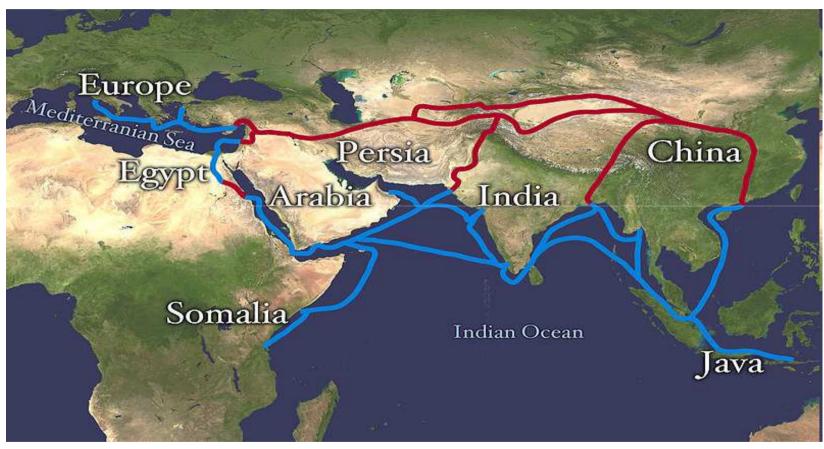


Columbus Ship a replica



Archaeological records





Who are the human conduits for the ancient connectivity?





A Uyghur naan baker.



Uyghur princesses. Bezeklik, Cave 9, ca. 8th/9th century AD, wall painting



Embassy from Turpan, in Beijing in 1656



Uyghur princes wearing robes and headgears. Bezeklik, Cave 9

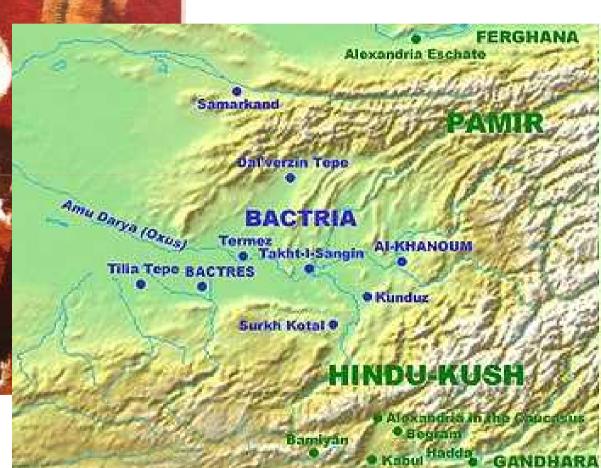


An 8th century Uyghur Khagan



Daxia/ Bactria





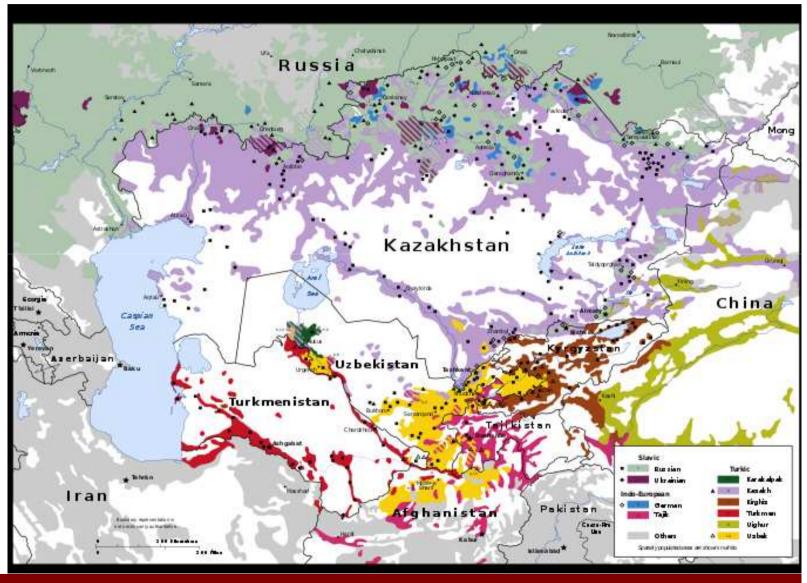
A Greek Solider, 200-300 BC



Parthia

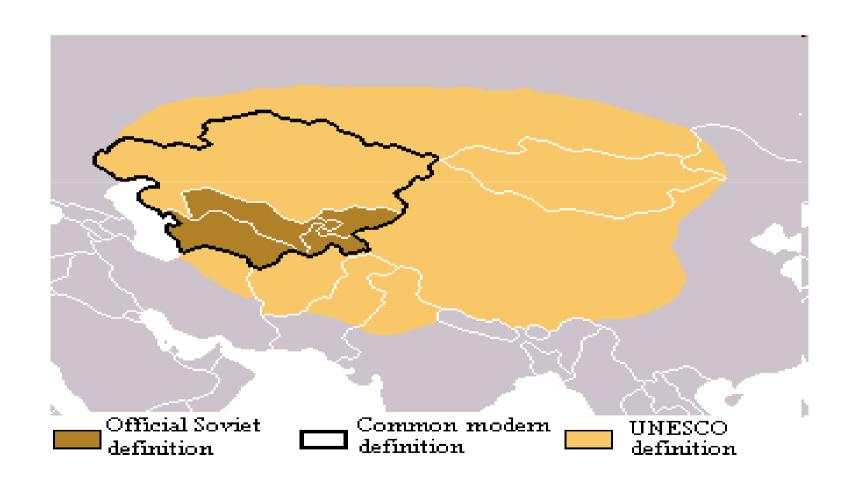




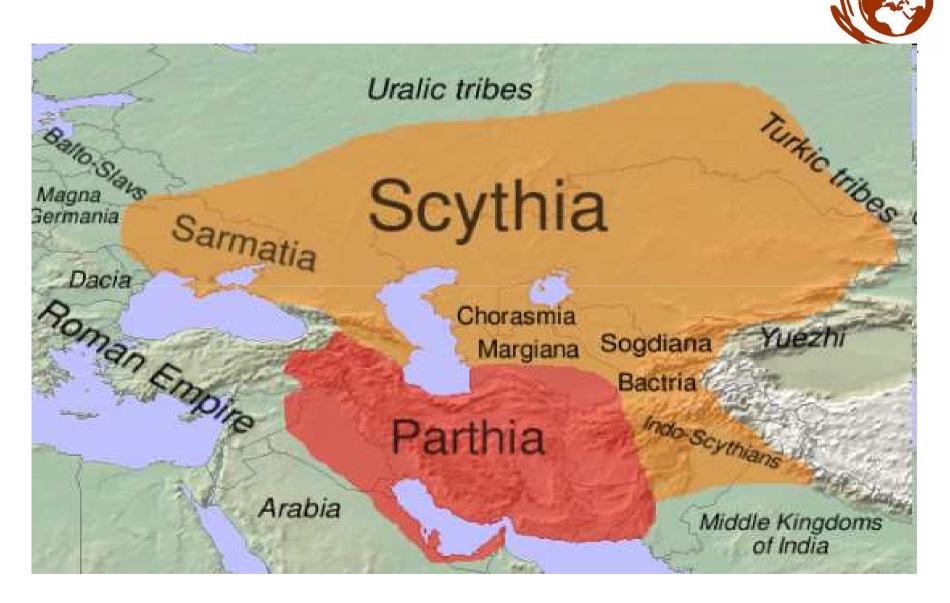








SEND



- ◆Central Asia is an extremely large region of varied geography, including high passes and mountains (Tian Shan), vast deserts (Kara, Kum, Kzyzl, Taklamakan), and especially treeless, grassy steppes.
- ◆The vast steppe areas of Central Asia are considered together with the steppes of Eastern Europe as a homogenous geographical zone known as the Euro-Asian Steppe

- Much of the land of Central Asia is too dry or too rugged for farming. The Gobi desert extends from the foot of the Pamirs, to the Great Khingan (Da Hinggan) Mountains,
- Central Asia has the following geographic extremes:
 - > The world's northernmost desert (sand dunes), at Buurug Deliin Els, Mongolia.
 - > The Northern Hemisphere's southernmost permafrost, at Erdenetsogt sum, Mongolia.
 - The world's shortest distance between non-frozen desert and permafrost: 770 km (480 miles).

- ◆ A majority of the people earn a living by herding livestock. Industrial activity centres in the region's cities.
- ◆ Major rivers of the region include the Amu Darya, the Syr Darya and the Hari River. Major bodies of water include the Aral Sea and Lake Balkhash, both of which are part of the huge west/central Asian endorheic basin that also includes the Caspian Sea.
- ◆ Both of these bodies of water have shrunk significantly in recent decades due to diversion of water from rivers that feed them for irrigation and industrial purposes. Water is an extremely valuable resource in arid Central Asia, and can lead to rather significant international disputes.



- ◆The history of Central Asia is defined by the area's climate and geography. The aridness of the region made agriculture difficult and its distance from the sea cut it off from much trade. Thus few major cities developed in the region, instead the area was for millennia dominated by the nomadic horse peoples of the steppe.
- Relations between the steppe nomads and the settled people in and around Central Asia were long marked by conflicts. The nomadic lifestyle was well suited to warfare and the steppe horse riders became some of the most militarily potent peoples in the world, limited only by their lack of internal unity.

- Any internal unity that was achieved, was most probably due to the influence of the Silk Road, which travelled along Central Asia.
- ◆Periodically great leaders or changing conditions would organize several tribes into one force, and create an almost unstoppable power.
- ◆These included the Hun invasion of Europe, the Wu Hu attacks on China (established 16 kingdoms, 304-439 AD) in and most notably the Mongol conquest of much of Euroasia.

Central Asia 6A

- Migration of Turkic peoples occurred between the 5th and 10th centuries, when they spread across most of Central Asia.
- ◆ During the 13th and 14th centuries, the Mongols conquered and ruled the largest contiguous empire in recorded history.
- ◆The dominance of the nomads ended in the 16th century, as firearms allowed settled peoples to gain control of the region.

Central Asia 6B

- Russia, China, and other powers expanded into the region and had captured the bulk of Central Asia by the end of the nineteenth century.
- ◆After the Russian Revolution the Central Asian regions were incorporated into the Soviet Union. Mongolia remained independent but became a Soviet satellite state. However Afghanistan remained independent of any influence by the Russian empire.



Buddhism was prominent in Central Asia prior to the arrival of Islam, and the transmission of Buddhism along the Silk Road eventually brought religion to China.

Blue-eyed Central Asian and East-Asian Buddhist monks, Beyeklik, 9th-10th century



- · Buddhism was prominent in Central Asia prior to the arrival of Islam, and the transmission of Buddhism along the Silk Road eventually brought this religion to China.
- · Shamanist practices live alongside and influenced some of the Buddhism deities in Tibet, China, Korea.

· Yama, or Yan Wang (閻王) or Yanluo ि Chinese mythology - a shortened transliteration of the Sanskrit term यम राज Yama Rājā (閻魔羅社), Yomra in

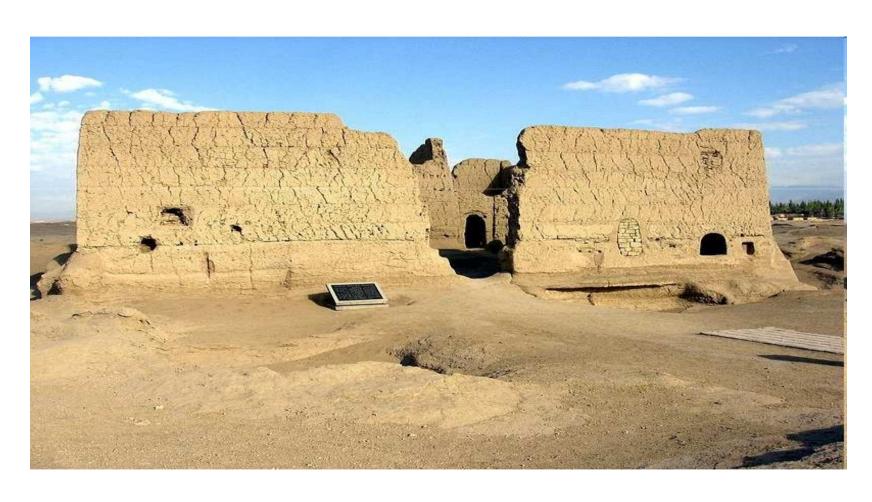
Korean.



Yomra, the Lord of Death. Brought to Tibet



Story of The Rise and Fall of Civilisations



Lost Cities in Xinjiang





Gaochang

also known as Chotscho, Khocho or Qočo



Was built in the1st BC

Was burned down in wars in the 14th AD





•First Report on the First German Turfan Expedition (1902-1903) in Kara-khōja (the ancient city of Gaochang).



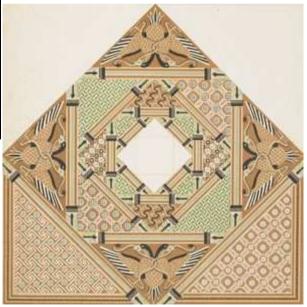
•Report on the Archaeological Work in Idikutshari (also known as Apsus or Ephesus) and Surrounds in Winter 1902-1903 (Sangim, Murtuq).





 Report on Archaeological Works of 1906-1907 at Kucha, Karashahr and in the Turfan Oasis



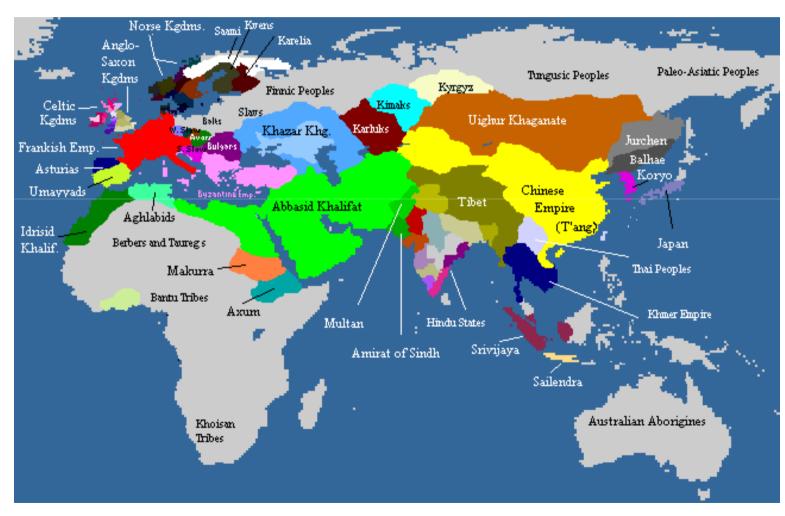


Yesterdays





Uyghur Khanate in geopolitical context ca AD 820



Bezeklik Thousand Buddha Caves

柏孜克里千佛洞









complex of Buddhist cave grottos dating from the 5th to the 9th centuries between the cities of Turpan and Shanshan (Loulan) at the north-east of the Taklamakan Desert near the ancient ruins of Gaochang in the Mutou Valley, a gorge in the Flaming Mountains, China







Bezeklik Cave



Ancient Uyghur Civilization (1)-Cave art by ancient Uyghurs.flv

Epilogue?

- SEND
- ◆Since the Bronze Age there have been interlinkages between East and West.
- ◆The apogee of the silk road was 200 B.C.-1500 A.D., where not only silk but also other goods, religions, knowledge, art, cultures, visions and diseases were exanged.
- ◆The silk road has shaped and transformed civilisations, with the contribution of many well known and unknown passeurs.
- When the sea took precendence of the land as the « royal » high way connecting the East and the West. The land route of the Silk Road declined.



Means of transport

· Kamel, (heat resistance, winter fur, adapted to extreme temperatu re changes)



The Colombo Express, one of the largest container ships in the world



Yet A New Dawn?



New forms of transportation, the internet and telecommunication, once again distance, location, cultures could be surmounted for contacts, trade, prosperity, development and human creativity....





With Silk Road Ensemble



Silk Road Ensemble Performances2_Air to Air.flv











Silk Road Project

http://www.silkroadproject.org/

"There is no tradition that exists that was not the results of successful and sustained innovation"

Yo-Yo Ma



"In this compartmentalised world, empathy is the quality that acknowledges our shared identity as members of the human family"

Yo-Yo Ma



That Other Sea

A new silk road that beckons!

THANK YOU!!







Zadar Oasis

- ✓ Importance of keeping our memories alive and open
- ✓ Importance of resistance
- ✓ Importance of being open to new horizons and knowing-andunknown