

# The Silk Road In World History

The Silk Road in World History Along the Silk Roads in Mongol Eurasia The Silk Road The Silk Road Encyclopedia The Silk Road Aspects of the Maritime Silk Road The Silk Road The Silk Road The Silk Road in Transformation The Silk Road Journeys on the Silk Road The World of the Ancient Silk Road The Silk Road - China and the Karakorum Highway The Silk Road Maritime Silk Road The Last Secrets of the Silk Road The Silk Road: A Very Short Introduction The Silk Road and Cultural Exchanges between East and West Life Along the Silk Road The Silk Road Xinru Liu Michal Biran Donald Wells Su-il Jeong Jonathan Tucker Ralph Kauz Frances Wood Sven Hedin Zhang Tianli British Library Joyce Morgan Xinru Liu Jonathan Tucker Jonathan Tucker Qingxin Li Alexandra Tolstoy James A. Millward Xinjiang Rong Susan Whitfield British Library

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the silk road was the contemporary name for a complex of ancient trade routes linking east asia with central asia south asia and the mediterranean world this network of exchange emerged along the borders between agricultural china and the steppe nomads during the han dynasty 206bce 220ce in consequence of the inter dependence and the conflicts of these two distinctive societies in their quest for horses fragrances spices gems glassware and other exotics from the lands to their west the han empire extended its dominion over the oases around the takla makan desert and sent silk all the way to the mediterranean either through the land routes leading to the caravan city of palmyra in syria desert or by way of northwest india the arabian sea and the red sea landing at alexandria the silk road survived the turmoil of the demise of the han and roman empires reached its golden age during the early middle age when the byzantine empire and the tang empire became centers of silk culture and established the models for high culture of the eurasian world the coming of islam extended silk culture to an even larger area and paved the way for an expanded market for textiles and other commodities by the 11th century however the silk road was in decline because of intense competition from the sea routes of the indian ocean using supply and demand as the framework for analyzing the formation and development of the silk road the book examines the dynamics of the interactions of the nomadic pastoralists with sedentary agriculturalists and the spread of new ideas religions and values into the world of commerce thus illustrating the cultural forces underlying material transactions this effort at tracing the interconnections of the diverse participants in the

transcontinental silk road exchange will demonstrate that the world had been linked through economic and ideological forces long before the modern era

during the thirteenth and fourteenth centuries chinggis khan and his heirs established the largest contiguous empire in the history of the world extending from korea to hungary and from iraq tibet and burma to siberia ruling over roughly two thirds of the old world the mongol empire enabled people ideas and objects to traverse immense geographical and cultural boundaries along the silk roads in mongol eurasia reveals the individual stories of three key groups of people military commanders merchants and intellectuals from across eurasia these annotated biographies bring to the fore a compelling picture of the mongol empire from a wide range of historical sources in multiple languages providing important insights into a period unique for its rapid and far reaching transformations read together or separately they offer the perfect starting point for any discussion of the mongol empire s impact on china the muslim world and the west and illustrate the scale diversity and creativity of the cross cultural exchange along the continental and maritime silk roads features and benefits synthesizes historical information from chinese arabic persian and latin sources that are otherwise inaccessible to english speaking audiences presents in an accessible manner individual life stories that serve as a springboard for discussing themes such as military expansion cross cultural contacts migration conversion gender diplomacy transregional commercial networks and more each chapter includes a bibliography to assist students and instructors seeking to further explore the individuals and topics discussed informative maps images and tables throughout the volume supplement each biography

examines the history of the silk road the name given to a series of three major trade routes and hundreds of smaller side roads by which goods were transported from china to countries and empires around the mediterranean sea and discusses the importance of the silk road in the exchange of information and ideas

celebrating the cultural heritage of the countries along the silk route this text explores the ancient trade route between europe and the far east more specifically between rome and the old chinese capital of xian it examines the beautiful works of art discovered in each country and sets them in their historical and geographical context the author provides a comprehensive history of the silk road drawing freely on anecdotes and literary and historical sources he examines the lives of the merchants and other travellers who used this route vignettes and poems from the heyday of the great trading route punctuate a lively and colourful text which also features antonia tozer s evocative photographs

in the recent years trade cultural exchange and transfer of knowledge in the indian ocean have come increasingly into the scope of various scholarly disciplines the previous perception that the exploitation of this sea did only start with the european colonial expansion at the end of the 15th century had to be abandoned the europeans absorbed the long existing structures rather than creating new ones this concept of the indian ocean as a coherent space of transfer is also adopted in this volume some of the articles were presented at a conference held in vienna while the others were supplied independently the contributions are arranged around the two poles represented by the western and the eastern part of the indian ocean especially iran and china but also other cultures and the manifold relations with the land based silk road are discussed the time frame ranges from the 14th to the 17th century

this gorgeously illustrated oversized book brings the history and cultures of the silk road alive from its beginnings to the present day covering more than 5000 years

classic travel writing linking east and west asia with europe the silk road was once the most important trading route in the world a conduit for the exchange of prized silks spices and jewels as well as philosophies cultures and religions the silk road was a catalyst for the rise and fall of some of the greatest civilisations in history from the empires of alexander the great to genghis khan today as waves of tourists tread its abandoned routes and explore its ruined caravanserais they follow in the footsteps of this original silk road explorer sven hedin was one of the world s greatest explorers this is the first paperback edition of this classic book the popularity of the silk road continues to rise people love to read about it

when a chinese monk broke into a hidden cave in 1900 he uncovered one of the world s great literary secrets a time capsule from the ancient silk road inside scrolls were piled from floor to ceiling undisturbed for a thousand years the gem within was the diamond sutra of ad 868 this key buddhist teaching made 500 years before gutenberg inked his press is the world s oldest printed book the silk road once linked china with the mediterranean it conveyed merchants pilgrims and ideas but its cultures and oases were swallowed by shifting sands central to the silk road s rediscovery was a man named aurel stein a hungarian born scholar and archaeologist employed by the british service undaunted by the vast gobi desert stein crossed thousands of desolate miles with his fox terrier dash stein met the chinese monk and secured the diamond sutra and much more the scroll s journey by camel through arid desert by boat to london s curious scholars by train to evade the bombs of world war ii merges an explorer s adventures political intrigue and continued controversy the diamond sutra has inspired jack kerouac and the dalai lama its journey has coincided with the growing appeal of buddhism in the west as the gutenberg age cedes to the google age the survival of the silk road s greatest treasure is testament to the endurance of the written word

this volume explores human migration communication and cross cultural exchange on the silk road a complex network of trade routes spanning the eurasian continent and beyond it covers thousands of years of human history from the 3rd millennium bce to the early 2nd millennium ce consolidating archaeological discoveries historical analyses and linguistic studies in one comprehensive volume the world of the ancient silk road brings to light diverse perspectives from scholars who have lived and worked across this vast region many of which are published here in english for the first time it contains extensive references of primary and secondary sources in their original languages and scripts from early bronze age cultures to the rise of regional islamic empires from the mediterranean to the yellow river basin this multidisciplinary volume seeks to offer new insights and expand silk road studies to the anglophone world the world of the ancient silk road provides an essential reference work for students and scholars of world history particularly those studying the regions cultures and peoples explored in this volume

stretching from the ancient chinese capital of xian across the expanses of central asia to rome the silk road was for 1 500 years a vibrant network of arteries that carried the lifeblood of nations across the world along a multitude of routes everything was exchanged exotic goods art knowledge religion philosophy disease and war from the east came silk precious stones tea jade paper porcelain spices and cotton from the west horses weapons

wool and linen aromatics entertainers and exotic animals from its earliest beginnings in the days of alexander the great and the han dynasty the silk road expanded and evolved reaching its peak during the tang dynasty and the byzantine empire and gradually withering away with the decline of the mongol empire in this beautifully illustrated book which covers the china section of the silk road from xian through loulan korla turfan and khotan to kashgar and onwards to india jonathan tucker uses travellers anecdotes and a wealth of literary and historical sources to celebrate the cultural heritage of the countries that lie along the silk road and illuminate the lives of those who once travelled through the very heart of the world

a celebration of the cultural heritage of the countries along the silk route this book explores the ancient trade route between europe and the far east more specifically between rome and the old chinese capital of xian it examines the beautiful works of art discovered in each country and sets them in their historical and geographical context the author provides a comprehensive history of the silk road drawing freely on anecdotes and literary and historical sources he examines the lives of the merchants and other travellers who used this route and the way in which their activities related to the works of art that were created vignettes and poems from the heyday of the great trading route punctuate a lively and colourful book which also benefits from antonia tozer's exceptionally evocative photographs of landscapes and people chapters range from precursors and the manufacture of silk through china and central asia to rediscovery in the twentieth century and lost art of the silk road there is a glossary of foreign and technical terms as well as chronologies for each period of history for the main sections of the silk road and a bibliography and index jonathan tucker and antonia tozer are partners in both business and marriage they operate a gallery in st james london and are both former employees of spink and son where jonathan ran the indian and southeast asian department and antonia was a specialist in the chinese department they both share a passion for the culture and history of asia and much of their recent travel has been to research the silk road art and history

their route had seen genghis khan tamerlane the great game no one else had completed this journey since the middle ages one that took them through turkmenistan uzbekistan kirghizstan the taklamakan desert mountains and wastelands ending up in the terminus city of xi'an in china alexandra tolstoy's absorbing book records the extremes of landscape and climate the people they met friendships and tensions camaraderie and adventures

the phrase silk road evokes vivid scenes of merchants leading camel caravans across vast stretches to trade exotic goods in glittering oriental bazaars of pilgrims braving bandits and frozen mountain passes to spread their faith across asia looking at the reality behind these images this very short introduction illuminates the historical background against which the silk road flourished shedding light on the importance of old world cultural exchange to eurasian and world history on the one hand historian james a millward treats the silk road broadly to stand in for the cross cultural communication between peoples across the eurasian continent since at least the neolithic era on the other he highlights specific examples of goods and ideas exchanged between the mediterranean persia india and china along with the significance of these exchanges while including silks spices and travelers tales of colorful locales the book explains the dynamics of central eurasian history

that promoted silk road interactions especially the role of nomad empires highlighting the importance of the biological technological artistic intellectual and religious interchanges across the continent millward shows that these exchanges had a profound effect on the old world that was akin to if not on the scale of modern globalization he also disputes the idea that the silk road declined after the collapse of the mongol empire or the opening of direct sea routes from europe to asia showing how silk road phenomena continued through the early modern and modern expansion of the russian and chinese states across central asia millward concludes that the idea of the silk road has remained powerful not only as a popular name for boutiques and restaurants but also in modern politics and diplomacy such as u s secretary of state hilary clinton s silk road initiative for india pakistan and afghanistan

this first and only english translation of rong xinjiang s the silk road and cultural exchanges between east and west is a collection of 28 papers on the history of the silk road and the interactions among the peoples and cultures of east and central asia including the so called western regions in modern day xinjiang each paper is a masterly study that combines information obtained from historical records with excavated materials such as manuscripts inscriptions and artefacts the new materials primarily come from north western china including sites in the regions of dunhuang turfan kucha and khotan the book contains a wealth of original insights into nearly every aspect of the complex history of this region

in the first 1000 years after christ merchants missionaries monks mendicants and military men travelled on the vast network of central asian tracks that became known as the silk road linking europe india and the far east the route passed through many countries and settlements from the splendid city of samarkand to the tiny desert hamlets this volume recounts the lives of some of the people who used the silk road and some of those who lived in the central asian towns along it during the 8th to the 10th centuries

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