

## Silk Roads and Trans-Saharan Trade

In response to the need for goods not produced in certain empires, the Trans-Saharan and Silk Roads trade routes resulted in increased trade in the Eastern hemisphere and the spread of culture, religion, luxury goods, and the introduction of new crops. As demand increased, the economies of empires involved in these trade routes flourished, and empires grew economically and politically. A change in the effectiveness of the Silk Roads was an effect of which empires were in control, but a continuity is the fact that the Silk Roads were dependent on a strong empire. The Silk Roads often rose and fell when empires became powerful or collapsed. The Trans-Saharan trade routes were used to exchange luxury goods and new religions were introduced, resulting in new branches/variations of religions in Africa. Overall, these trade routes were caused by the need/want for goods and the effect of these trade routes was increased trade and cooperation between empires. The Trans-Saharan and Silk Roads were later replaced with sea trade routes.

A. Climate, location, the goods traded along the routes, and the ethnicity of people involved affected the features of certain trade routes

- Eurasian Silk Roads (China to Europe)
- Trans-Saharan caravans (Northern Africa)

B. Domesticated pack animals were utilized to transport goods along the trade routes through new technologies

-Stirrups, yokes, saddles(used by the Mongols to make riding horses easier) -Camels (caravans along the Trans-Saharan trade routes)

-Horses and Oxen

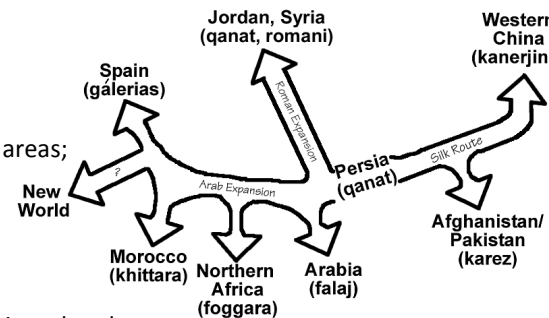
C. Changes in Farming and Irrigation Techniques

- Qanat System: used to get ground water to the surface to use for irrigation in dry areas; began in Persia

D. Spread of Diseases lead to Decline of Empires

- Antonine Plague (165-180 A.D.): spread through Rome, killed most of the population, then because of a depleted population and political problems, Rome fell and was replaced by the Byzantine Empire - Bubonic Plague (China in the 1330s and 1340s and the Byzantine while Justinian ruled): killed most of Byzantine, then because of a loss of population and other issues, the Byzantine fell

E. Diffusion of Religious and Cultural Traditions



### Buddhism

- Spread along Silk Roads via merchants & oasis communities (oasis communities: allowed mosques to be built and welcomed religion; also example of religious communities set up along trade routes)
- Conversion was voluntary & monasteries = rest stops for merchants

### Hinduism

- Spread via merchants
- Stayed primarily in India

### Christianity

- Christians were being persecuted in Rome and wanted religious freedom
- Missionaries spread along Silk Roads

### Islam

- Spread along Trans-Saharan
- Mansa Musa
- Set up diasporic communities (see J)

F. New, powerful cities began appearing along trade routes

-Baghdad: Established on crucial point along Silk Roads between Europe and Asia. Abbasid Caliphate moved capital there. Schools established with paper from China and Greek learning from Europe.

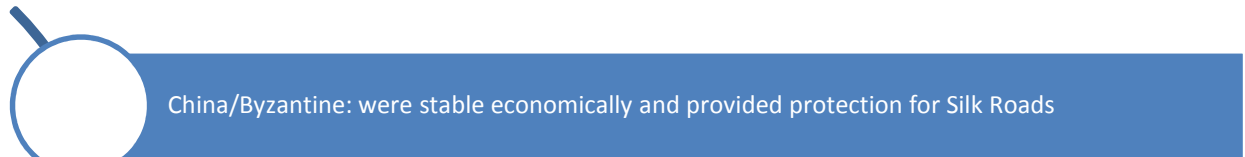
-Timbuktu: Established through Trans-Saharan trade. Led to Mali Empire. Muslim traders brought in luxury goods (ivory, gold, slaves, Islam, ceramic beads) through camel caravans across the Sahara. Mali became largest exporter of gold globally; base for Mansa Musa's Journey

G. Luxury Goods/Caravan Organization/New Forms of Credit and Monetization

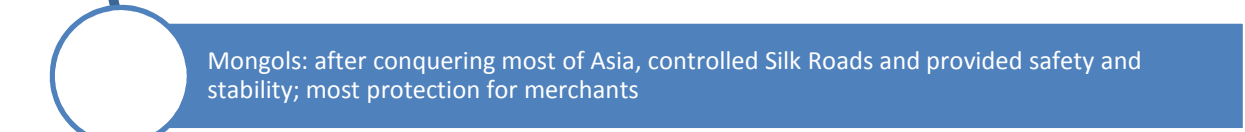
-textiles, silk, beads, gold, ivory (from elephants in India), slaves (from Africa)

-Mali: see F      -Camel Caravans: Mansa Musa used; camels could transport more goods farther

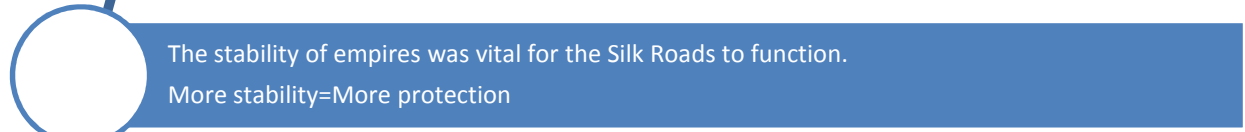
-Forms of Credit: contracts for labor, agencies, missions, etc.; money orders and traveler's checks; Tang/Song China began using paper money



H. Environmental Knowledge & Technological Advancements



-Arabs and Berbers began using camels to transport goods



I. Migration/Diffusion of Languages

-Bantu in Africa spread knowledge of iron metallurgy (and agriculture through use of other metal tech); spread language  
 -Arabic                      -Turkish

J. Diasporic Communities: set up along trade routes; community for merchants of different cultures/spread religion  
 I.e.: Sogdian merchant communities; Sogdian people were pushed out of where they lived and set up communities along the Silk Roads. Here, trade flourished and the religion and culture of the Sogdian people spread

K. Interregional Travelers: -Know Ibn Battuta and Marco Polo (spread and received knowledge along trade routes)  
 Scientific/Technological Advancements:                      -Gunpowder, printing press, & paper

-Greek/Indian math used by Indian scholars                      - return to Greek philosophy

M. New Food:      -new rice varieties in East Asia (Champa rice)                      -cotton, sugar, and citrus to Dar al-Islam

Videos:

Crash Course:

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=vfe-eNq-Qyg&edufilter=TkZEBkhj6lafXjw2-aQZcw>

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=jvnU0v6hcUo&edufilter=TkZEBkhj6lafXjw2-aQZcw>

Trans-Saharan: <http://bovieapedia.pbworks.com/w/page/8081141/Trans-Sahara%20Trade>

Diseases/Overall Change Over Time: <http://bovieapedia.pbworks.com/w/page/8081141/Trans-Sahara%20Trade>

Overall Silk Roads (Religion/Diseases/Culture Exchange/Change in Empires):

<http://highered.mcgraw-hill.com/sites/dl/free/0073534536/374107/benCh09.pdf>

