

SILK ROAD SIGNIFICANCE

FOR 1500 YEARS*, ONLY CONNECTION
BETWEEN CHINA, EUROPE AND INDIA:

COMMERCIAL EXCHANGE

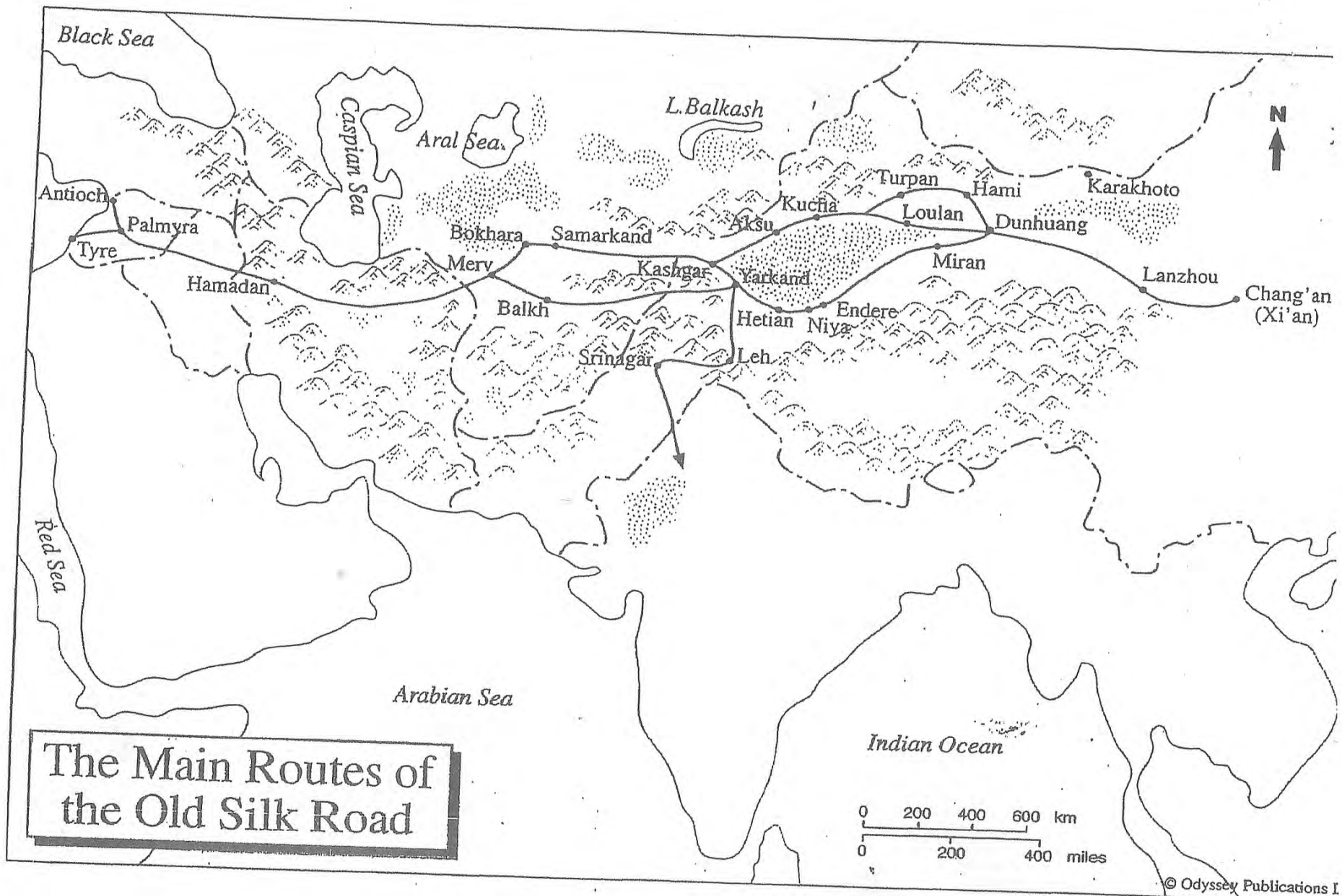
TECHNOLOGY TRANSFER
(INVENTIONS)

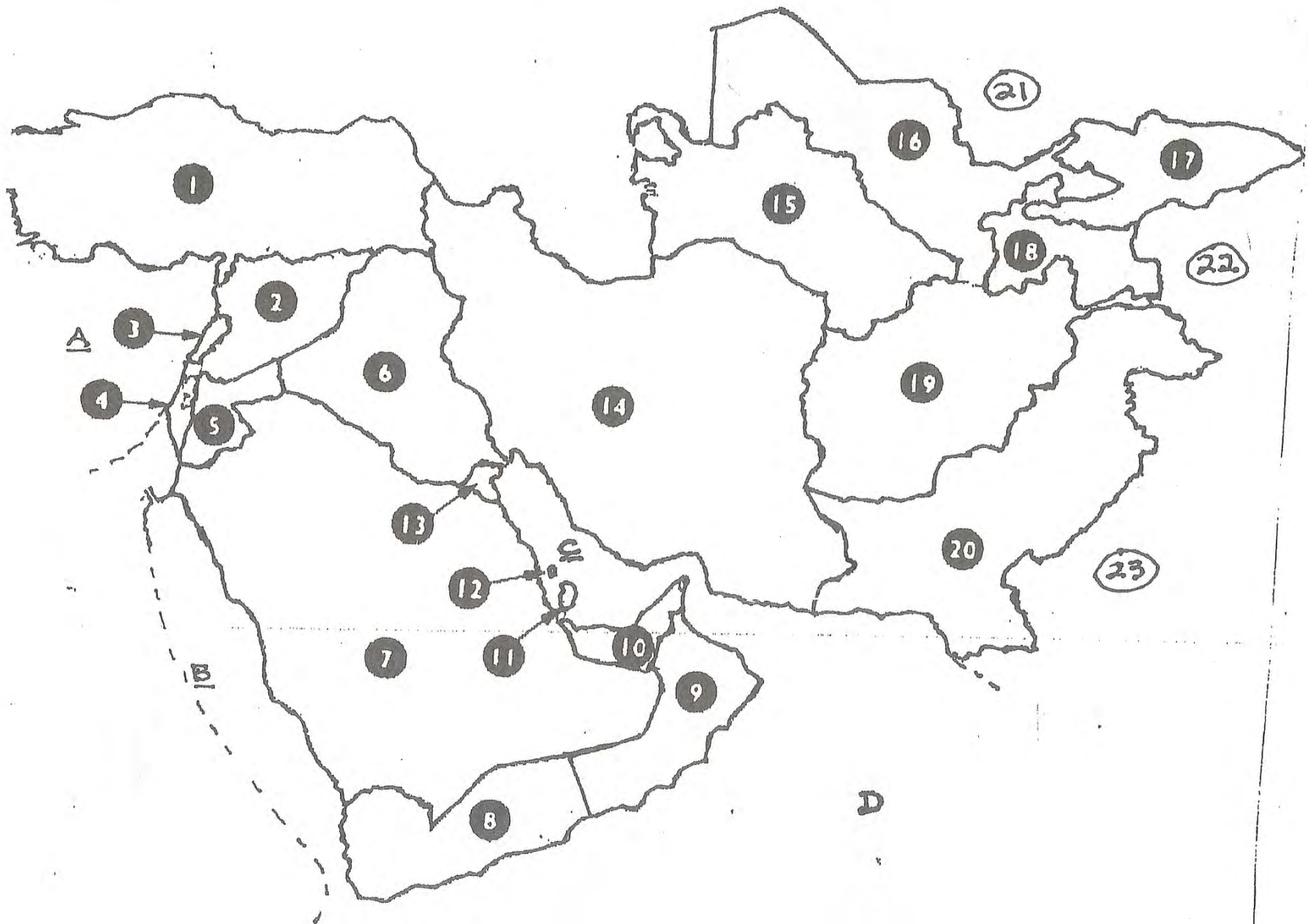
RELIGIOUS DEVELOPMENT &
GROWTH

CONQUEST

MIGRATION

* 207 BC (HAN) TO 1453 AD (FALL OF
CONSTANTNOBLE)





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SILK ROAD TERMS AND NAMES

DIFFERENCE BETWEEN:

TURKESTAN AND TURKMENISTAN

MONGOLS AND MOGULS

TAKLAMAKAN, GOBI, KIZIL KUM, AND KARA KUM DESERTS

SUTRA (BUDDHIST) AND SURA (OR SARAH, SURAT)

AMU DARYA (OXUS), SYR DARYA, AND TARIM RIVERS

HSIUNG NU

UIGHUR (ALSO UYGUR, UIGUR, UIGHUIR, UIGUIR, WEIWUER)

LANZHOU

TIEN SHANS

DUN HUANG

PAMIRS

YUMEN GUAN

KARAKHORAMS

GAOCHANG AND JIAHOA

HINDU KUSH

TURPHAN (ALSO TURPAN)

SAMARKAND

URIMCHI

BOKHARA

FERGANA VALLEY

MASHHAD

PARTHIANS

SOGDIANA

KASHGAR

KUNJERAB PASS

Examples of Silk Road Poetry

Chinese

Silk Road Poems by Li Bai

Poems by Li Bai (Tang dynasty). During China's long history there have been long periods of turbulence and conflict along her Western and Northern borders due to attacks by Huns, Mongols, Tibetans, Uighers, Manchurians, and others. Soldiers sent to lonely and dangerous posts guarding the border and their loved ones are the subject of these compassionate poems by China's greatest poet:

Moon over Mountain Pass

A bright moon rising above the Tien Shan Mountains,
Lost in a vast ocean of clouds.
The long wind, across thousands upon thousands of miles,
Blows past the Jade Gate Pass.

The army of Han has gone to protect us,
As the barbarian hordes attack us
It is known that from the battlefield
Few of our men will live to return

Men in lonely outposts look on the border scene,
Home thoughts deepen the sorrow on their faces.
In the towered chambers tonight,
Ceaseless are the women's sighs

Tzu-yeh Song

Chang-an -- one slip of moon;
In ten thousand houses, the sound of fulling mallets.

Autumn winds keep on blowing,
all things make me think of the Jade Pass !

When will they destroy the barbarian army
and let my good man come home from his far campaign?

Note: The Jade Gate, near Dun Huang on the Gobi Desert, is often considered a symbol of hardship and tragedy. The Han army is Chinese, Fulling mallets are used to pound fabric traditionally a woman's job.

Identify these Silk Road Women ! Springer

These four interesting and talented women, two English, one Chinese and one of Arab descent, lived and traveled along the ancient Silk Road, some in recent times. They all influenced history and enhanced our understanding of the area. Who are they ???

1. This Englishwoman was an Intrepid and resourceful explorer, author, teacher, and medical missionary who won fame in 1920's by her travels along the Silk Road in Western China and Central Asia during a very turbulent and dangerous period. A prolific author of more than thirty books on this area, still one of the best sources of information on the period.

2. This woman was the wife of the king of Palmyra, a major Silk Road crossroad city. She became ruler at the death of her husband in 267AD. By strong and aggressive leadership, she expanded her empire, conquering Persia and Egypt. She then defeated the Romans and expelled them from the area.

Finally defeated by the Romans in 274AD, she was taken to Rome as a prisoner, where she died. She has been featured in four operas, including one by Rossini, two plays, and many books including Chaucer's Canteberry Tales (The Monk's Tale).

3. This woman, famous in Chinese history as one of the "Four Beauties of Ancient China," became consort of a Chinese Emperor in Silk Road city of Xian, during the Tang Dynasty. Although considered a decent and kind woman, her influence over the emperor, who loved her to distraction, earned her powerful enemies, and they eventually had her killed. Even today she is a popular and tragic figure in Chinese literature, and is the subject of many plays, books, poems, movies, and even a TV series.

4. In 1898 this young woman gave up the pleasant comforts of middle class English home to marry a British diplomat, who was consul-general in Kashgar. Kashgar was then said to be the world's most remote city. It took her several months to get there, traveling by ship, rail, horse, camel and ox cart over vast deserts and some of the world's highest mountains.

She gained renown by establishing, under the most primitive conditions, an oasis of Western civilization which became a center for archeological studies and a refuge for famous explorers, including Sven Hyden, Sir Aurel Stein, and Sir Charles Younghusband. She describes her adventures in a fascinating autobiography, which is still available.



F305 GOLDEN JOURNEY: THE SILK ROAD

20 OCT: SILK ROAD IMPACT ON CHINA, CENTRAL ASIA AND EUROPE. HOW AND WHY IT BEGAN, FLOURISHED, ENDED. AUDIO-VISUAL: THE SOUTHERN SILK ROAD.

27 OCT: SYRIA, LEBANON, JORDAN, PAST AND PRESENT, SOME BACKGROUND OF PRESENT TURBULENCE. ANCIENT ROADS AND CITIES, INCLUDING PETRA.



3 NOV: UNDAUNTED COURAGE: THE STORIES OF REMARKABLE WOMEN ON THE SILK ROAD WHO HAVE CHANGED HISTORY. AUDIO-VISUAL.

10 NOV THE GREAT GAME: RUSSIA AND GREAT BRITAIN- THE CONTEST FOR THE CONTROL OF INDIA AND CENTRAL ASIA. AUDIO-VISUAL.