Silk Roads: Exchange Across Eurasia

• 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

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