

PRIMARY SOURCE EVALUATION:
MARCO POLO FROM TRAVELS: THE DESCRIPTION OF THE WORLD

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This source is a thirteenth-century travel journal and was co-written by Rustichello da Pisa, an Italian author who happened to meet Polo while the two were in prison in Genoa, Italy. It was released in the Republic of Venice in 1300. The source is written in Old French and is based on the description of Polo's voyage through Asia between 1271 and 1295 and his experiences at the Kublai Khan court.

This travelogue labels Marco Polo, an Italian traveler of the thirteenth century, and merchant, apparently the most traveled adventurer in the world. In addition, this source labels his voyage along the Silk Road through Asia. He incorporates numerous examples of risks and dangers that other explorers might come across with when crossing the Silk Road. This is because his trip to the Silk Road was a long one and took several months on the road with the extravagant weather conditions for dealers. Also, it was an effort to learn to cross the Great Desert because it was hard to find food and water to drink there¹.

I think Marco Polo exaggerated his experience of the Silk Road journey to a certain level. In addition, many people did not think that this source was a work based on facts with descriptions of folks, locations and stuff that were too sensationalistic to be real; This discussion about the authenticity of Polo's explorations continues to this day. To illustrate, it guarantees that the enemies can't take after the impressions of the dealers, and in this way, try to catch them because of the windy deserts. In the event that the Mongols assault the dealers, it would not have been problematic for them to sit down decisively throughout an area of the water facilities, in perspective of how dealers relied on water facilities to build their stock availability.

Marco Polo describes Yarkand as a place where local people are incredibly inclined to diseases that he thought was produced by drinking water there. Polo indicates extraordinary

¹ Marco, Polo. From *Travels: The Description of the World*. In Walter D. Ward and Dennis Gainty, *Sources of World Societies*, vol. I, 23-28. (Boston: Bedford/St. Martins, 2011), p. 256.

respect for their exchange of spices and the extensive cultures that these countries have established, regardless of the uniqueness of Western culture. In his document, Marco Polo constantly represents the supernatural and the mysterious. He represents the "spiritual voices" that travelers can hear as they travel through the vast Lop Desert and the horrific animals that, to be reasonable, no other European had observed previously. The book's occasions happen in the thirteenth century, when the Mongol groups wandered and occupied Eurasia far and wide, building the largest land kingdom in the world. In addition, at that time, it is accepted that Islam was built in the Aceh region.

The source follows a fundamental geographical framework, allowing the reader to trace Polo's progress on a map. Other Europeans would have known some place names; in fact, some of them corresponded precisely to those of the current maps. Moreover, Marco Polo portrays that they could spend a long period of time without food and water. Continuing the novelty without food or water is not possible for a person who requires vitality to explore the Great Desert. In any case, it is tough to see if something of what he says is true².

Polo also writes about a Jasper and chalcedony wealthy province called Pem; a translucent type of Jasper. In Pem, "when a woman's spouse leaves her to go on a trip of more than 20 days when he is gone, she takes another spouse and has every right to do so. What's more, the men, any place they go, take spouses similarly." Conversely, he additionally comprehends that the people in Pem's domain worshiped Mohomet³. Polo sometimes shows the alterations between European culture and other cultures with which he comes into touch, even passing moral judgment on individuals.

² Ibid., 257

³ Western Europeans mistakenly believed that Muslims worshipped a god named Mahomet (clearly written as Muhammad PBUH), who is the prophet of GOD and founder of Islam.

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