

PRIMARY SOURCE EVALUATION

MARCO POLO FROM TRAVELS: THE DESCRIPTION OF THE WORLD

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This source is a 13th-century travelogue written down by Rustichello da Pisa and Marco Polo. It was published in the Republic of Venice in 1300. The source is written in Old French and based on describing Polo's travels through Asia between 1271 and 1295, and his experiences at the court of Kublai Khan.

This Travel literature describes Marco Polo, an Italian merchant and his encounters on his journey along the renowned Silk Road. During the antiquated time, traders like Marco cooperated with various traders on the Silk Road. Regardless, Marco Polo records that crossing the Silk Road had problems with what will happen. The excursion was long and took several months on the road, with the absurd weather conditions for the traders. What's more, crossing the Great Desert was an attempt to learn because it was difficult to find food to eat and water to drink¹.

Marco Polo, while traders walked along the Silk Road, focuses on his progress and the experience of the entire scenario. He intends to obtain the ideas of the reader through his portrayal. Although he tries to create a section of the instances concerning to reach the Silk Road, he exaggerates the reality and the general understanding of what happens in the Silk Road to some extent. For example, he makes sure that the enemies cannot take after the traders' impressions, and therefore, try to trap them as a result of the stormy deserts. If the Mongols attacked the traders, it would not have been difficult for them to sit firmly along a section of the irrigation facilities, in view of the way the merchants depended on the irrigation facilities to increase their accessible stock.

In the same way, Marco Polo proclaims that without food and water they could go for a prolonged stretch of time. It is not feasible for an individual, who needs vitality to explore the

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.

Great Desert, to continue with innovation without food or water. In any case, it's hard to see if anything he claims was true². Additionally, at that time, when Polo wrote this book, the main war of Scottish liberation had begun. Moreover, The Mongol intrusion of Java, Kublai Khan, of the Chinese Yuan administration, sent a corrective assault on Kertanegara of Singhasari³.

“A more twisted truth in the document is about Mohomet (clearly inscribed as Muhammad PBUH) being worshiped by the general public in the Khotan region. It is established that Western Europe does not understand the norms of Islam and probably presumes that Mohomet was the inventor of Islam.” Similarly, Marco Polo understands that individuals in the lands of Pem also adored Mohomet. He perceives that both Pem and Khotan are controlled by the Great Khan. He provides a record of the social associations in the Asian territories, which have all the assigns to be strange. For example, the wife is allowed to have another husband when the men leave their homes and stay away for more than twenty days. Also, if a spouse leaves for an excursion that probably takes several days, he has the right to get another woman⁴.

In essence, I suppose that some of the portions that appear in the document are inadequate, I believe emphatically that the reader can have an idea of how the excursion looked upon arriving at the Silk Road. To illustrate, the part leads the reader to understand the problems and lifestyles of the people Marco Polo encountered on his Silk Road excursion. For this situation, I have understood the attachments, the social and financial events, the plans of adoration and another viewpoint that encapsulates some historic times.

² Ibid., 257

³ Weatherford, Jack (2004). Genghis khan and the making of the modern world. New York: Random House. p. 239

⁴ Ibid., 257

Bibliography

Polo, Marco. "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.