

Civilization 2: Ancient Humanities

Dr. Robert Perrins

Greek, Roman, And Ancient European Trade With Asia

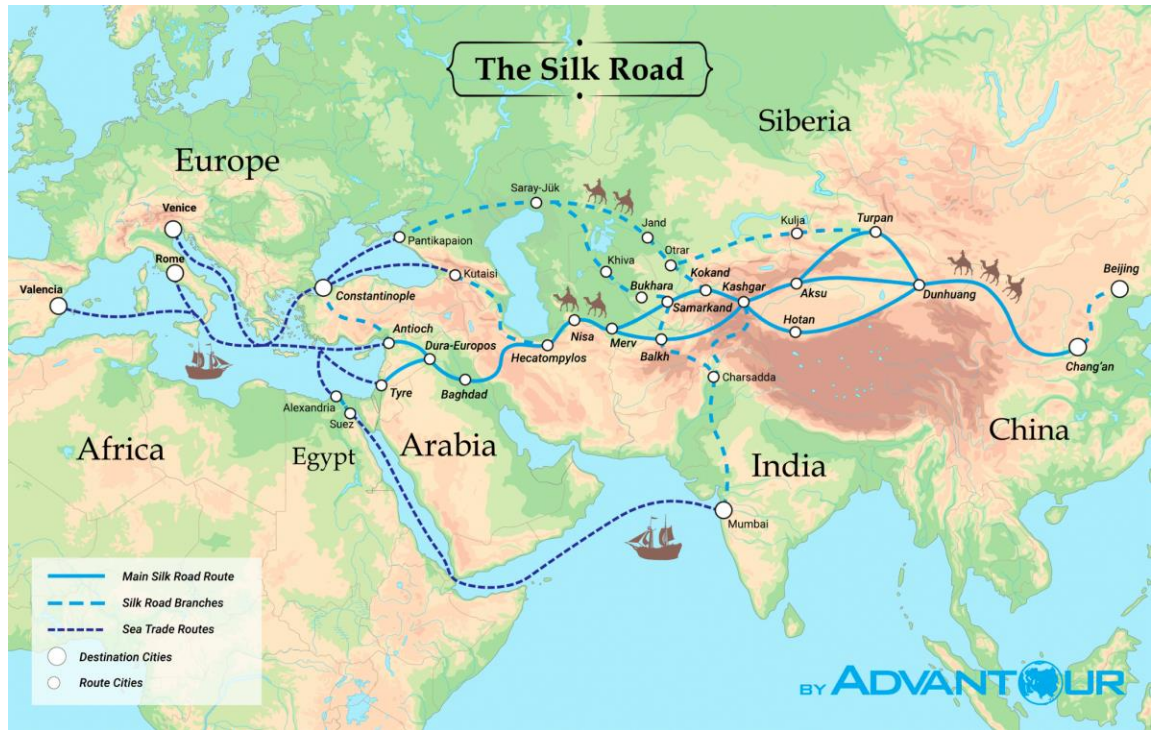
Khorshid Almasy 24088

Sahand Jamal 24083

Moumen Sheik Awad 24023

1) Introduction:

- Ancient European trade with Asia and how it developed and changed over time.
- Shows how global economy and trade occurred and evolved between different societies and cultures, how it affected societies, the challenges faced, and the evolution of global finance over time.
- 200 BC - 1350 AD. It gave a lot of power to middle men kingdoms and gave a huge rise of power to empires like the kushans and the parthians. Significant cause middle men kingdoms gained a lot of power and money from being along the 'Silk Road'. Generated 90 million Sissstersis for the roman empire, enough to fund its entire rhine front. Led to a huge trade deficit in Rome and a huge influx of money to China from all exports. Figures show China was making 2.5 billion Sissstersies annually.
- The purpose is to show how trade and connection evolved over time, how different routes came to be over time and a comparison between them. analyze what those effects were on global powers, and how some used it to gain tremendous power over time.



Overview of Silk Road and its development from 200 bce to 1350 AD showing destination cities as well and major route cities. Source: Advantour

Overview/Background:

- Zhang Qian, a Chinese Envoy, went to Central Asia on a diplomatic mission for emperor Woxxx, upon his return he brought back information that there was a lot of places to trade with and there was a lot of fertile lands, advanced societies, and valuable goods, like horses which the emperor desired. Due to his information there were many more expeditions carried out to see if the things he was saying were true and thus the routes were secured, and then China began trading their silk and steel for horses n shit.\
- Created the first ever intercontinental trade network across the world connecting China, India, Central Asia, North Africa, The Middle East, and Europe.
- Political influences were huge because it generated a huge amount of tariffs, taxes, export revenue, and other indirect revenues for many kingdoms, whether it being a destination city or a route city. Billions of Sissstersies flowed across a vast network connecting a huge part of the world together. Military influence was also considerable as it was one of the only reasons empires like Rome were able to have such large armies; 90 million Sissstersies were generated from tax revenue, enough to fund a large portion of the army of the Roman Empire. Trade between such different cultures also had a huge effect on all nations, it allowed for the spread of religion, language, cultures



An image of people listening to a religious scholar. Source: Asia Harvest

Main Body Section 1:

- Connected Distant Empires, allowed for economic exchange, diplomacy, and cultural exchange. Created a large interconnected world where goods, ideas, and religious beliefs could circulate freely.
- Rulers, Merchant, General Population, Religious Figures all of which were shaped by the trade taking place.
- Strengthened economies, allowed for the spread of religion and technology across continents.
- Permanent link between Europe and Asia. Enabling the possibility for global Religion, transfer of technology like paper, gunpowder, and the development of merchants as a powerful class is the basis to systems like capitalism that we have today.

Main Body Section 2:

- Romans expanding to the Mediterranean to protect and monopolize trade routes, Kushans and Parthians hoarding and blocking any intel from getting to Rome about China and any intel to get to China about Rome. Mongols revived trade

between Europe and Asia as they made the Silk road Safe. Warring states period after the fall of Genghis Khand made the overland Path of the Silk Road way too dangerous.

- 200 BCE- 1400 AD, Connected China, India, Kushans, Parthians, Egyptians, Sogandians, Syria, and Byzantium, To Rome and Greater Europe.
- Empires built roads, ports, Came up with a tariff/Tax system, formed merchant laws, had security mechanisms in place to protect the silk road
- Silk trade in Rome caused a lot of controversy , ex: Seneca Criticized Silk being worn as it went against orthodox Roman Beliefs because it was too sheer.

However later the Empress and Mistresses began wearing Silk to Public events which made people view it as a symbol of power. Also trade with china allowed rome to get much finer steel as their steel couldn't be mass produced because they couldn't get the carbon percentage right which made their swords and armor very brittle compared to usage of chinese steel.



A picture of chinese steel in rome in 500 AD source: Ancient origins

5. Legacy and historical impact

- It is considered as one of the world's most important trade routes which the remnants of are still visible today. It was the first inter-continental trading route and allowed for huge transfer of culture and goods.

- Trade became much easier and caused the world to be more interconnected through the exchange of culture, knowledge, religion, and goods.
- Europe was able to find stability and rise in power as they were able to learn economic concepts from the east such as the hawala system, loans provided by the state, and the mudaraba system.
- The trade of spices and silk changed local European cuisines and dress-wear heavily. The trade routes also allowed for monks and preachers to have a safe way to travel across different empires, which allowed for the spread of different religions and ideologies.

6. Conclusion

- Overall, ancient and medieval trade networks were not only channels for goods but power engines of political, cultural, and technological transformation across Eurasia.
- Trade linked distant empires, spread religions and innovations, strengthened states through wealth and diplomacy, and created multicultural societies enriched by shared knowledge.
- These early trade systems laid the foundations for today's global economy, international communication and cooperation, and concepts of diplomacy and globalization.
- The trade linking Greece, Rome, and medieval Europe with Asia shows that European civilization did not advance in isolation but through constant interaction. These exchanges brought new goods, techniques, religions, and ideas that reshaped European society.

References:

McLaughlin, R. (2020). The Roman Empire and the Silk Routes: The Ancient World Economy & the Empires of Parthia, Central Asia and Han China. Barnsley, UK: Pen &

Sword History.

Abu-Lughod, J. L. (1989). *Before European Hegemony: The World System A.D. 1250–1350*. New York, NY: Oxford University Press.