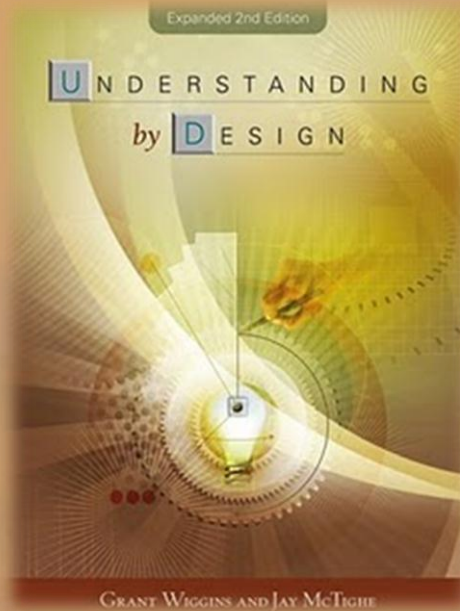




How has the quest for resources affected human history?

The Silk Road: Yesterday & Today

By Ted Mitchell



Students understanding timeless trends or themes

UNDERSTANDING BY DESIGN: WORKING BACKWARDS



ASFMS Social Studies Department: Thematic Essential Questions

Overarching Question: How does understanding the past help us to understand the present?

- Why do people live and move where they do?
- Why do people live the way they do?
- How and why do humans organize their societies the way they do?
- How does technology affect people's lives?





Thematic Essential Questions Continued...

- How has conflict and cooperation shaped human history?
- How has the quest for resources affected human history?
- How do we know what we know about human history?
- Why do civilizations rise and decline?

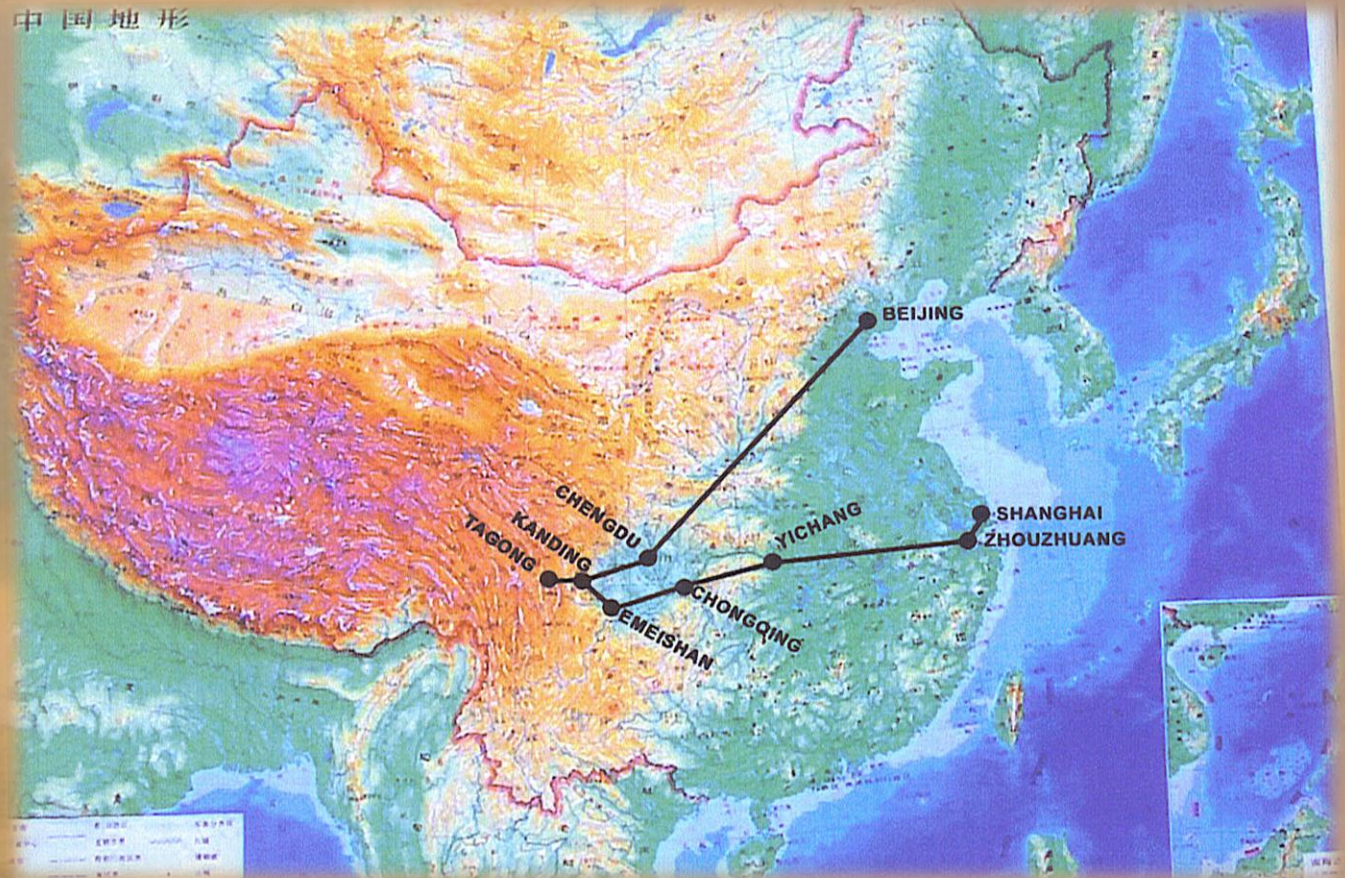




Seminars, grant money, and a study tour

THE CONTENT AND MATERIAL BEHIND THIS PROJECT



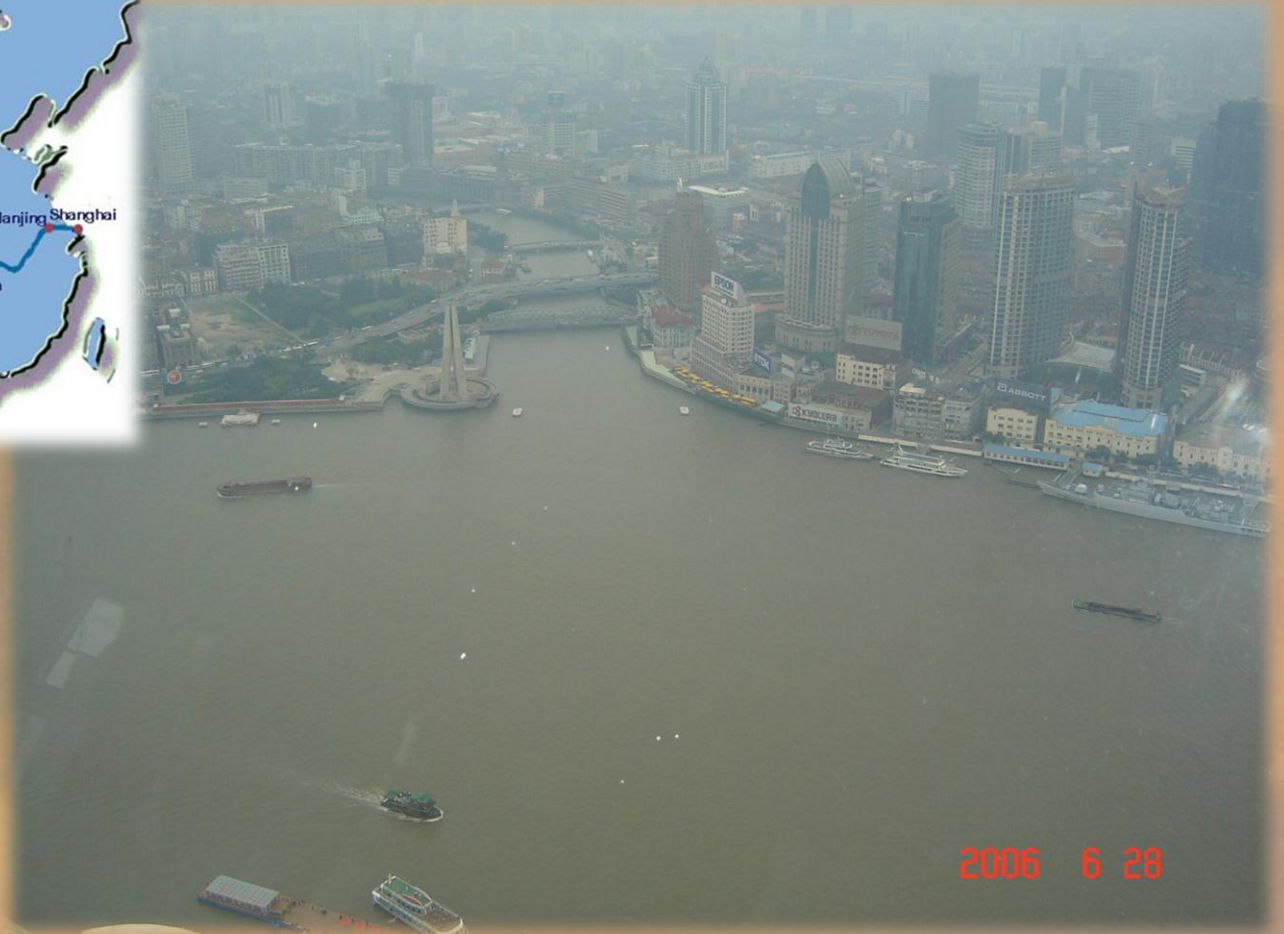


Brief summary of the study tour (As it relates to the project)

Shanghai (Global Trade) – 18 million or more people!



Shanghai – A Mission to Surpass Hong Kong (created by the British)



From the Pearl Tower in Shanghai – Skyscrapers as far as one can see and, more importantly, ships carrying cargo 24/7 out to the East China Sea from Chinese factories.





“[M]ore than 300 of the world's Fortune 500 companies have invested in the city.” ([CNN](#))

In the last two decades, more than 5,000 buildings 15 stories or taller have gone up in the city. For much of the 1990s, by one estimate, three-quarters of all the construction cranes in the world were operating in China, and more than a quarter of the global total was in Shanghai alone.

([LA Times](#))





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Trade in the Past - The Bund: Shanghai's European Concessions – Opium War Trade



Up the Yangtze River - To witness the flow of goods out to the world.



Into the locks of the Three Gorges Dam



Three Gorges Dam (Main Reason = Transportation for Trade)



Inside Lock #1 – A cargo ship (one of many) next to our cruise ship



River Traffic - Coal barge on the Yangtze: Fueling Rising China



Trackers used to pull boats up the rapids.



The Three Gorges Dam has created easy waterway travel.







2006 7 3

Chongqing - Trading city on the Yangtze



A thriving inland port with mass production flowing out the Yangtze and to the world.



Trade = Exchange of Ideas - The quest for resources or trade brought Buddhism to China. The Leshan Giant Buddha (largest in the world):



The Fate of Buddhism – If it wasn't for the Silk Road, would Buddhism exist today?



Emeishan (Sacred Buddhist mountain)

Kanding, China – Tibet: The Land Between China and the Rest of the World



Where the Han Chinese meet the Tibetans...colliding cultures.

Islam comes to China via the Silk Road



Mosque in Kangding, China

Chengdu: Southwest Transportation University



The quest for knowledge to help in the quest for resources.
Now, the Internet helps connects us all.

Beijing: Communism gives way to Capitalism

The Forbidden City:
China closed its
doors in the past...



...and now opening to
the world!
(Beijing Hard Rock
Café)

Now, competing globally...




Globalization – The New Silk Road



The silk of yesterday becomes the available cheap labor for Wal-Mart today. Inevitably, regardless of the era, the quest for resources continues.



Waiters on a Yangtze cruise ship



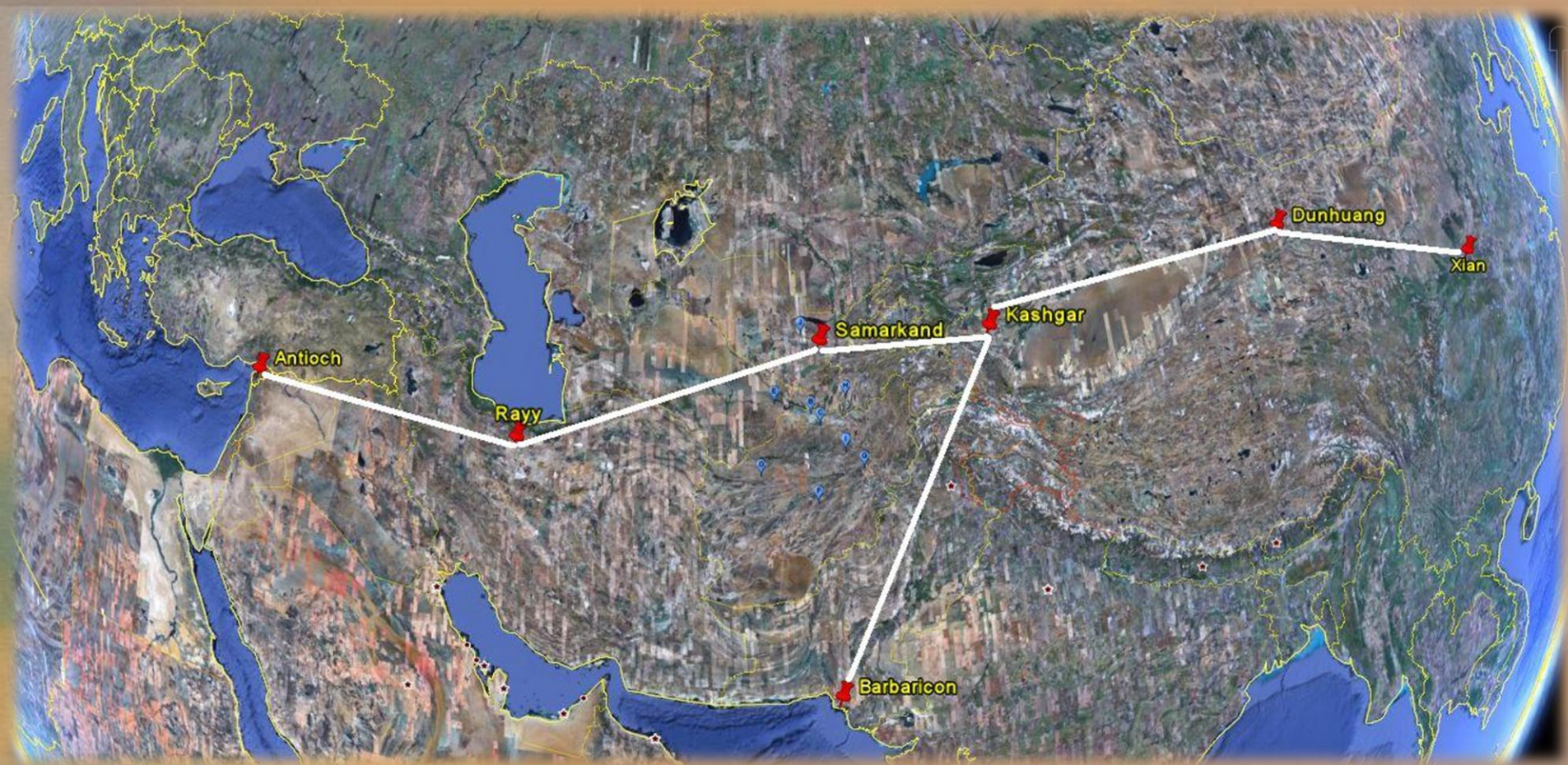
The Silk Road and China – Background to this Project

THE QUEST FOR RESOURCES IN THE PAST

Trading along the Silk Road – Many stops and exchanges of goods and ideas

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Virtual Tour Silk Road Stops

Xian, China
Dunhuang, China
Kashgar, China
Barbaricon, India
Samarkand, Central Asia
Rayy, Islamic Empire
Antioch, Byzantium



The quest for resources led to trade between empires and cultures. Foreigners wanted silk...



Silk factory (above) in Shanghai.



Trade = Cultures Colliding



Zhang Qian caravan to
Central Asia



Central Asian Buddhist
Monk in Dunhuang Mural

(Left) Muslim family in
Kashgar, China

Three Golden Eras of the Silk Road

Han Dynasty (2nd Century B.C.E. – 2nd Century C.E.)
-Journey's of Zhang Qian

Tang Dynasty (7th – 10th Century C.E.)
Xuan Zhuang sent for Buddhist scriptures in India. Xian becomes largest most cosmopolitan city (over 2 million inhabitants)

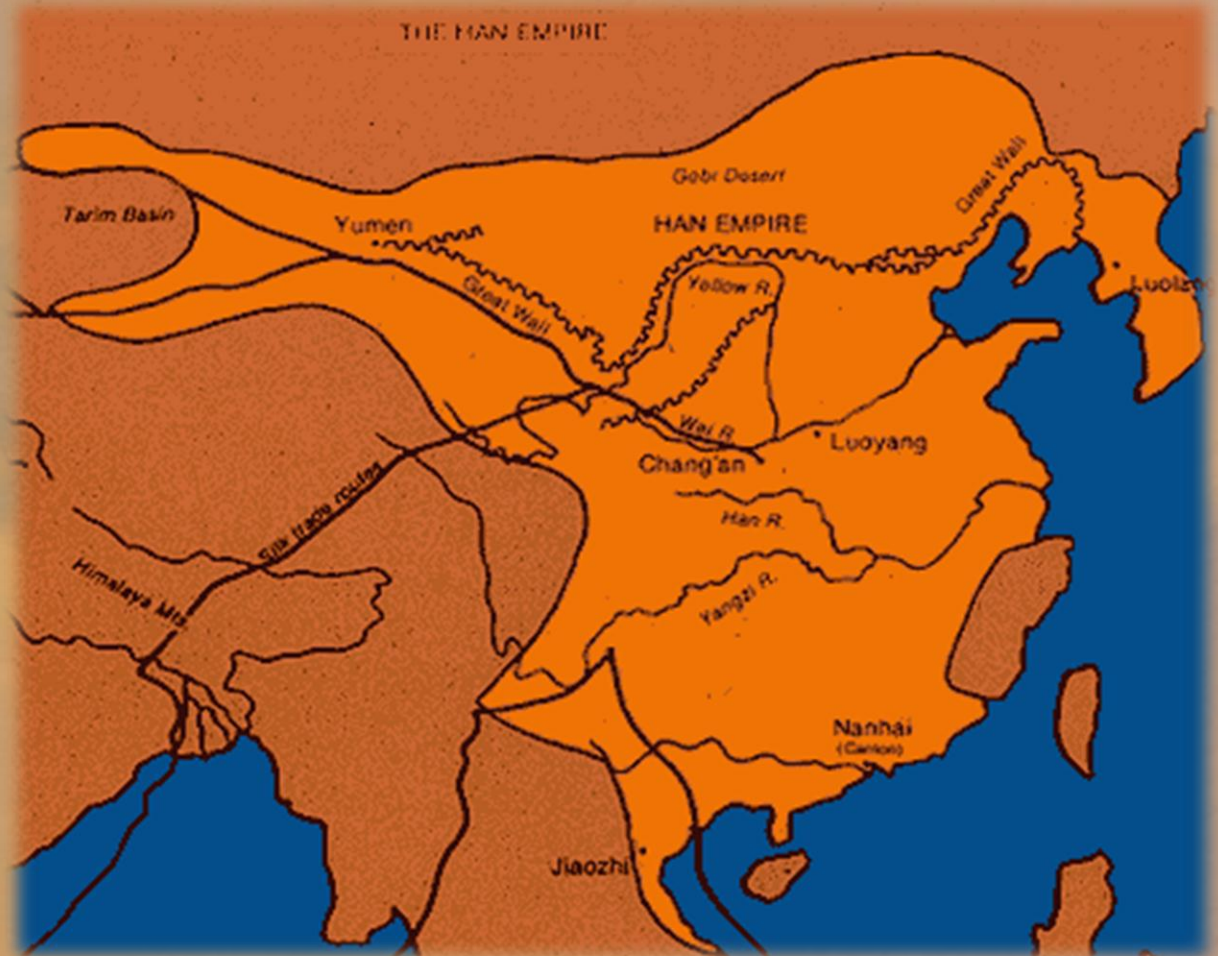
Yuan Dynasty (12th – 14th Century C.E.)
- Marco Polo visits China



Han Empire 206 B.C.E. – 220 C.E.



Statuette of woman wearing silk robe



Tang Dynasty 619 – 907 C.E.



Statue of a foreign merchant during Tang Dynasty.



Yuan Dynasty 1271 – 1368 C.E.



(Left) Even the Arch-Bishop of Armenia wears a silk robe with a Chinese dragon!



Connecting Empires - Many empires ruled along the Silk Road contributing their own goods and ideas...



The Persian Empire and the Silk Road



Achaemenid "Persian" Empire 330 B.C.E



Alexander the Great and the Silk Road



Greek Wind God Boreas, transiting through Central Asia and China to become the Japanese Shinto wind god, Fujin.



Alexander's Empire 332 B.C.E.

Greco-Bactrian Kingdom and the Silk Road

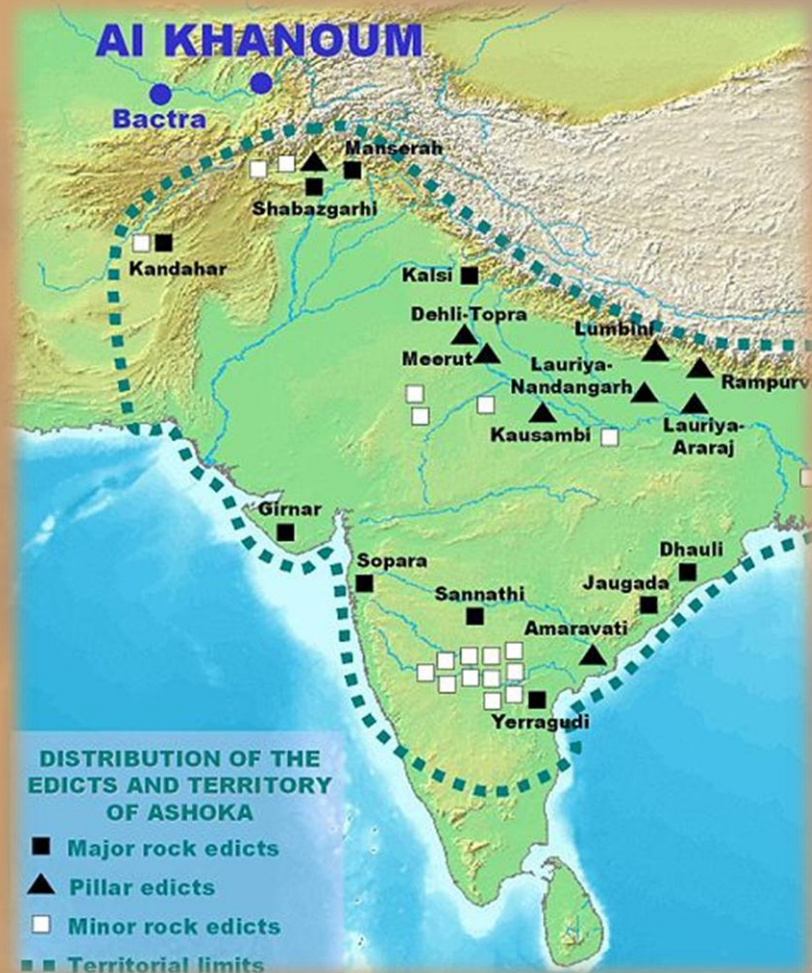


(Left) Greco-Buddhist style statue



Alexander's empire dissolves into separate kingdoms.

Mauryan Empire and the Silk Road



322 – 125 B.C.E.
Ashoka Spreads Buddhism

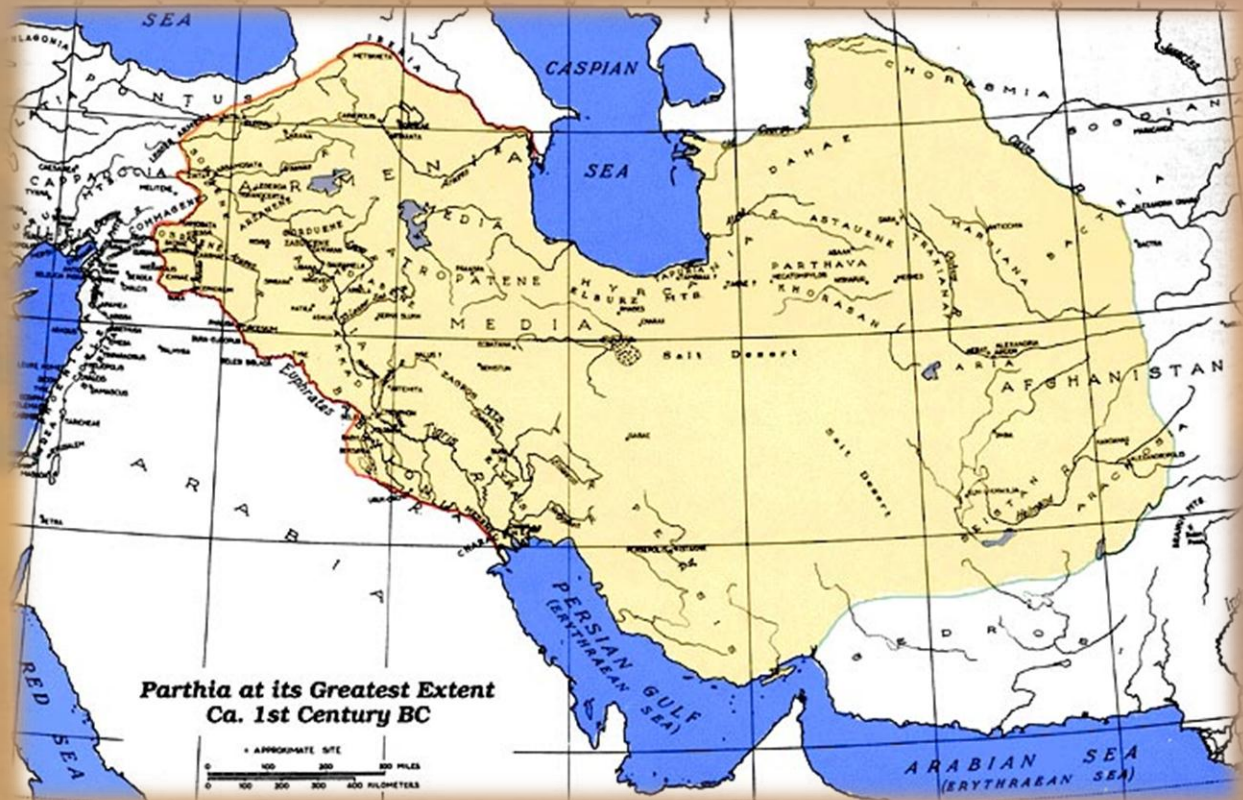
Kushan Empire and the Silk Road



Statue of foreign soldier (Kushan) throwing spear – Han Dynasty



Parthian Empire – Intermediaries between Rome and China



Roman Empire (Later Byzantium) and the Silk Road



Roman gold coins found in China



Byzantine Empire – Silk Robes



Geography of the Silk Road: Even though there were many physical obstacles, trade continued.



Himalayan Mountains



Taklimakan Desert



Pamir Mountains



Kunlun Mountain
Painting

Inventions and Innovation on the Silk Road: The Umbrella



Emperor's umbrella in the Forbidden City

The Umbrella Today



Sun umbrellas are still very popular in China



As technology evolves...?

The Silk Road and Beyond: From China to Korea to Japan



The Spread of Buddhism to Korea & Japan

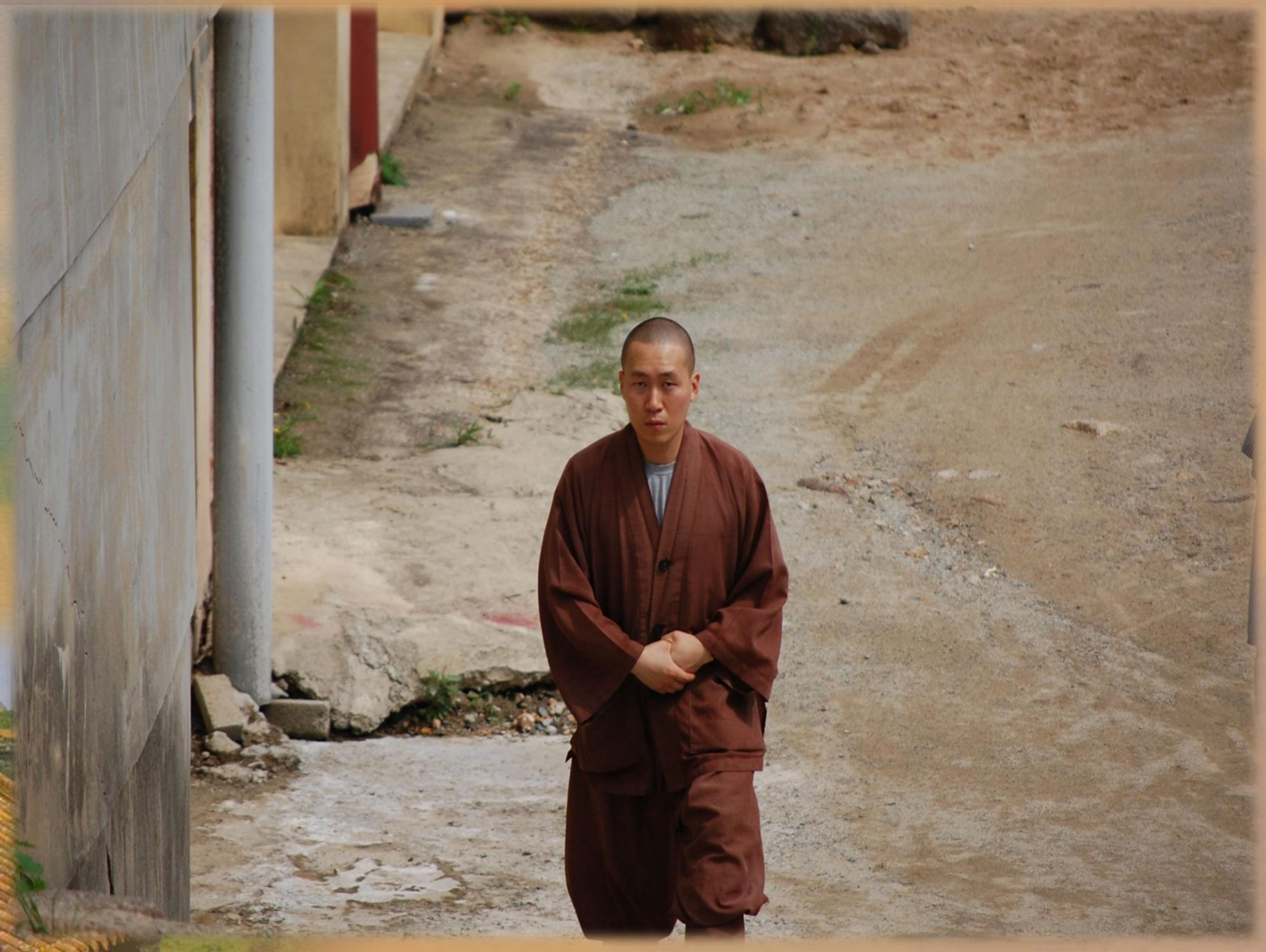


Buddhism in Korea









Pagoda at Punhwang (Bunhwangsa) Temple



“[S]tone buildings were rarely constructed in Korea. The stonemasons of the time, lacking the long tradition of their contemporaries in China, were forced to borrow techniques from Tang China and improvise with their experience in wood.” (Asia Historical Architecture)

Buddhism in Japan



Kofuku-ji Temple in
Nara, Japan



Todai-ji Temple in Nara, Japan



Korean influence on Japanese Temples



Descendants of Koreans (Immigrants to Japan) were involved in the construction of this temple (Construction completed in 751 C.E.)









金壹千圓
初堂
為

金拾萬圓
初堂

金壹千圓
金五百圓
初堂

金壹千圓
初堂

金壹千圓
初堂

金貳拾萬圓
山口

金壹千圓
川上清

金五百圓
初堂

金壹千圓
明平少

金壹千圓
知徳善

金壹千圓
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The Spread of Confucianism to Korea





明室



Confucianism Lives On: Many South Korean students begin their school day at 7 A.M. and then go to after-school academies until late at night.





THE SILK ROAD: YESTERDAY & TODAY

An online unit and virtual tour



The Silk Road Online

http://www.mitchellteachers.org/ChinaTour/SilkRoadProject/silk_road-main.html

The Silk Road: Yesterday & Today

THE SILK ROAD: YESTERDAY & TODAY
By Ted Mitchell - Alan Shawn Feinstein Middle School of Coventry

★ Project Home

★ Map Assignment

★ Virtual Tour

★ Handouts

★ Videos

THE SILK ROAD: YESTERDAY & TODAY PROJECT - WELCOME

Introduction: How has our quest for resources throughout human history affected China and the world? This is the question this project attempts to answer.

Trade has played a major role in the past and present in China. Historically, the Middle Kingdom (*Zhōngguó* (中國)) and other civilization's quest for goods and technology led to the creation of roads or links to different places. These locations had resources to trade, like silk or camels. Eventually, this timeless quest led Chinese goods all the way to Rome and Roman gold back to China. Today, nations around the world still trade for resources and technology like they did on the Silk Road. But, trade or globalization of the present covers the entire world and China is still a major player. Join this virtual journey to discover the Silk Road of Yesterday and Today.

Travel the Known World of Yesterday & Today

[Click here for large screen version](#)

The Silk Road Yesterday