



# **Han Contacts with Cultures**

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# Farming and Manufacturing

- During the Han dynasty, many farming advances led to bigger harvests.
- Manufacturing methods improved.
- Master ironworkers developed the iron plow and the wheelbarrow, two devices that made farming vastly more efficient.

# Silkroads

The Silk Road: This map shows Europe at the northern tip and Africa at the Southern tip. It has a picture of a man on the left side wearing a type of dress worn by the Romans and sandals. There is a picture of amber, gold and a twine of wool. Roman merchants like this man grew rich from Silk Road trade. Merchants in the west traded goods like those you see here—wool, amber, and gold. An arrow points from Europe into Asia. Another arrow points from Asia to Europe. The Silk Road was actually a network of road

**Goods from the East** Chinese merchants also got rich from Silk Road trade. Valuable Asian goods included silk cloth, jade objects, and spices like cinnamon, nutmeg, and ginger that didn't grow in Europe.

**Goods from the West** Roman merchants like this man grew rich from Silk Road trade. Merchants in the west traded goods like those you see here—wool, amber, and gold.



- Silk Road
  - Other trade routes
  - Han Empire
  - Roman Empire
- Scale varies on this map.

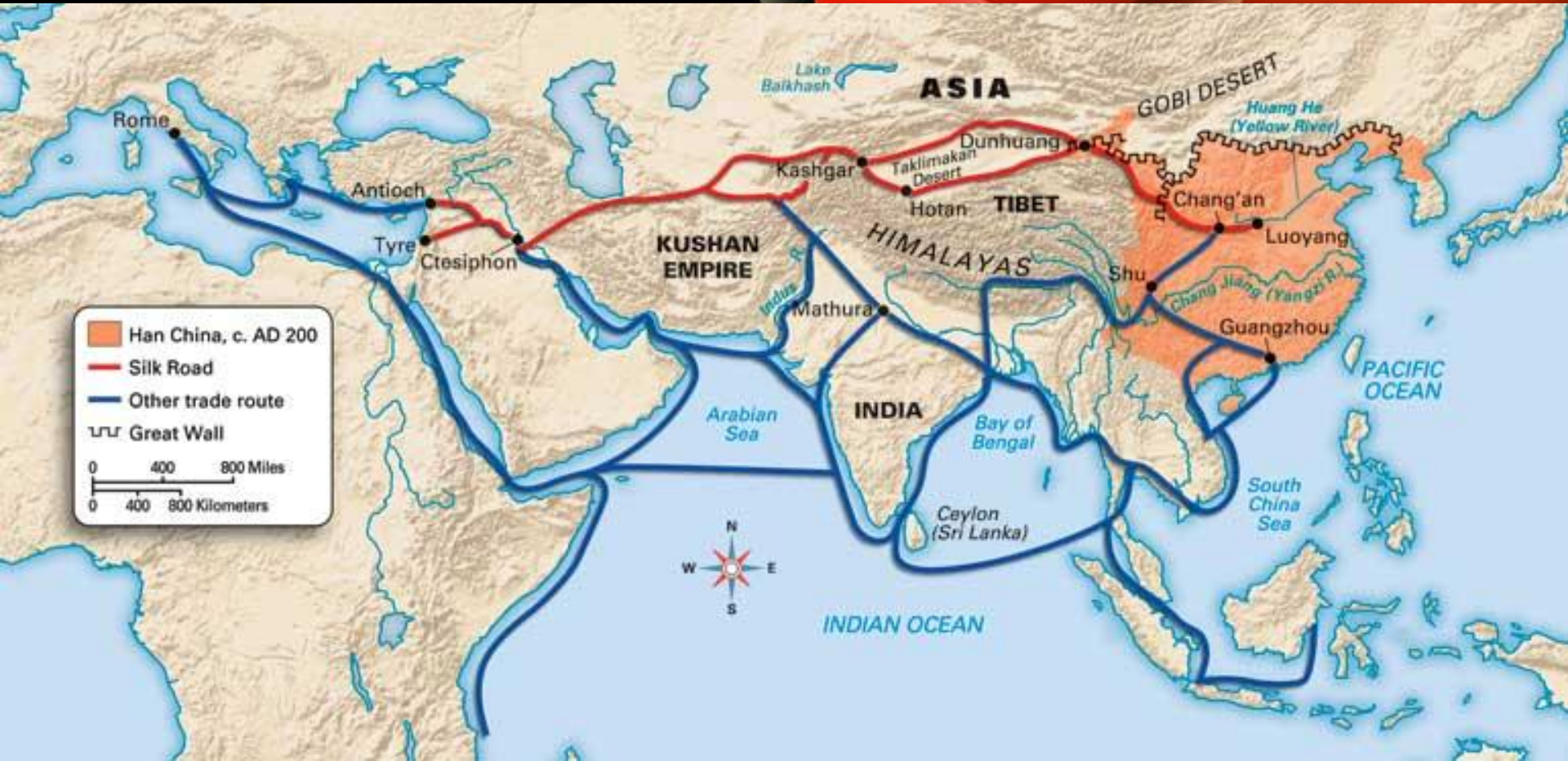
# Silk

- The centuries-old process of producing **silk** increased.
- Weavers used foot-powered looms to weave silk threads into beautiful fabric.
- Garments made from silk were very expensive. The Chinese were determined to keep their **procedure** for making silk a secret. Revealing this secret was punishable by death.

# Trade Routes

- When Han armies conquered lands deep in Central Asia, they learned that people even farther west wanted silk.
- Han leaders saw that they could make a profit by bringing silk to Central Asia and trading the cloth for strong, sturdy Central Asian horses.

# Silkroads



This map shows the outline of the Silkroad and other trade routes.

# Silk Road

- The Central Asian people would take the silk to the west and trade it for products they wanted.
- Traders used a series of overland routes known as the **Silk Road** to take Chinese goods to distant buyers. Although traveling the Silk Road was difficult and risky, it was worth it.
- Silk was so popular in Rome, for example, that China grew wealthy just from trading with the Romans. Traders returned to China with gold, silver, precious stones, and horses.

# Silk Production



Silk Production: In this painting there are four Chinese women stretching out a roll of silk. Another Chinese woman is in the background looking up at the outstretched silk. Another woman sits fanning the flames of a fire. Another woman sits sewing. Credit: Attributed to: Emperor Huizong, Chinese, 1082-1135. Court Ladies Preparing Newly Woven Silk (detail). Chinese, Northern Song dynasty, early 12th century. Object Place: China. Handscroll; Ink, color and gold on silk. 37 x 145.3 cm (14 9/16 x 57 3/16 in.)

# Silkworms



Workers made silk from the cocoons of silkworms, just as they do today.

# **Buddhism Comes to China**

- Over time, the Han government became less stable.
- Life became violent and uncertain. In this climate, Buddhist missionaries from India began to attract attention.

# Buddha

This giant Buddha statue in China is among the largest in the world. It was carved from a hillside and looks down over the meeting place of three rivers.



# Buddhism

- Buddhism seemed to provide more hope than the traditional Chinese beliefs did.
- At first, Indian Buddhists had trouble explaining their religion to the Chinese.
- Then they used the ideas of Daoism to help describe Buddhist beliefs.
- Before long, Buddhism caught on in China with both the rich and poor.

# Diffusion

- Buddhism's introduction to China is an example of **diffusion**, the spread of ideas from one culture to another.
- Chinese culture adopted Buddhism and changed in response to the new faith.

# Chapter 7 Summary



Chinese civilization began along the Huang He (Yellow River).



During the Zhou dynasty, armies fought for power, and the ideas of Confucius spread.



The Qin dynasty unified China with a strong government.



During the Han dynasty, China made advances in learning, and Buddhism spread.