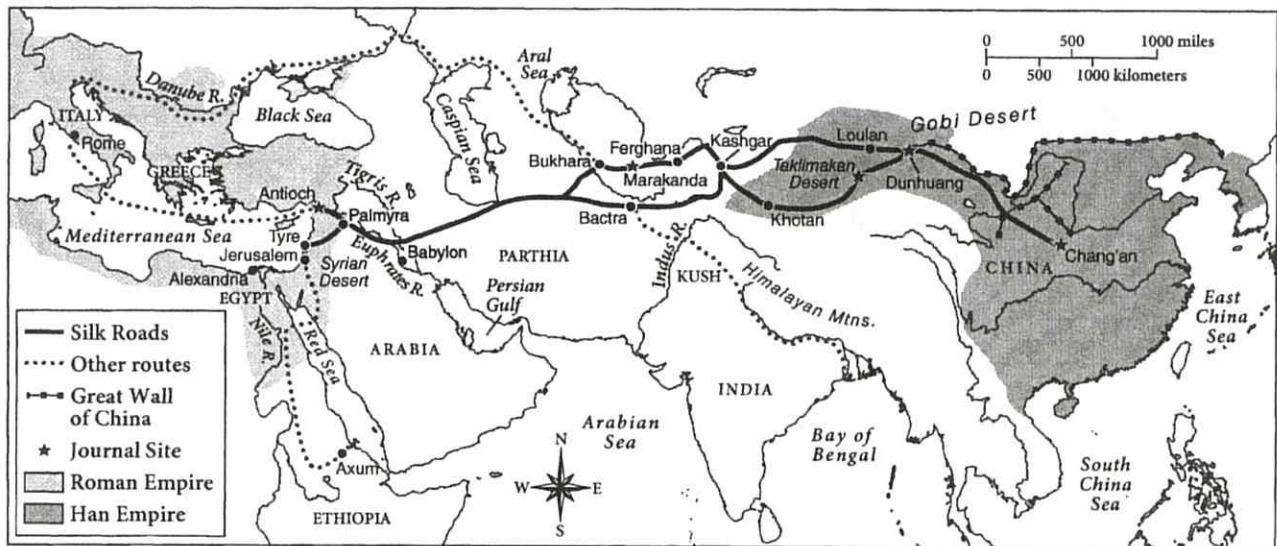


The Silk Roads in Han-Roman Times



Note: Goods and ideas spread across the Silk Road for centuries. This process of sharing is called “cultural diffusion” by historians. Below are a few examples of goods and ideas that moved by way of the Silk Roads.

- From China: silk, iron, bronze, ceramics, orange trees, paper, gunpowder, Confucianism
- From Central Asia: Ferghana horses
- From Africa: ivory, rhinoceros horn
- From India: spices, Buddhism
- From Europe: music, glassware

Document Analysis

1. How far was it along the Silk Road from Chang'an to Dunhuang? To Marakanda? To Antioch? To Rome?
2. The Silk Road crossed many types of terrain. What do you think was the most difficult terrain to travel across? Explain.
3. What goods and ideas came from China? Central Asia? Africa? India?

about 4000 BCE – Silk cultivation begins in China.

about 2000 BCE – Trade between China and the Mediterranean region begins.

206 BCE – The Han begin to rule China.

27 BCE – The Roman Empire begins.

1 CE–100 CE – Buddhism spreads along the Silk Road and reaches China.

220 CE – The Han Dynasty is overthrown.

early 400s CE – The Roman Empire collapses.

1260–1295 – Marco Polo travels along the Silk Road.

1400s – Sea routes develop between Europe and Asia; the Silk Road declines.