



**Untangling the Knots in the New
Silk Route**

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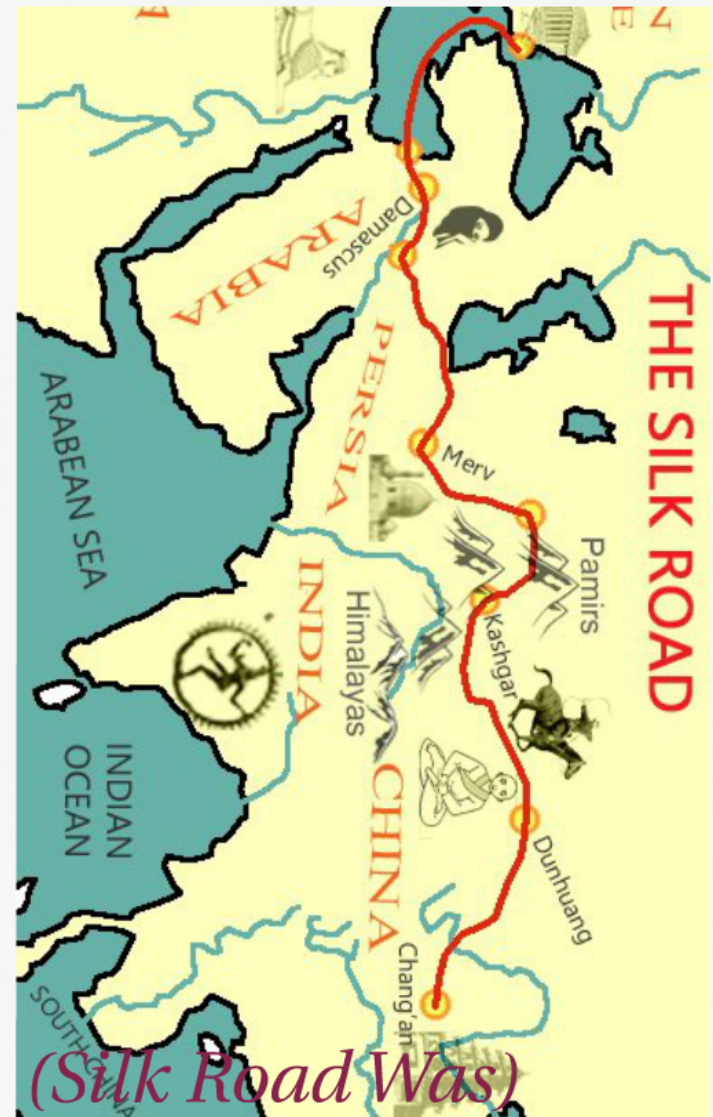
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How the Silk Road is like the Internet?

After watching this Prezi Presentation you will be able to know the connection between the Silk Road and the Internet. You will learn how the silk road lead to globalization. You will also learn about major geographic landforms and different cities, religions, products, arts, architecture, foods, languages, technologies in the Silk Road. You will also get to know some new vocabulary words and how to use them in a sentence.



Silk Road

The Silk Road was a network of trade routes, established during the Han Dynasty of China. It linked the commerce of the ancient world together. It had spread varieties of goods, knowledge, technologies around the world and helped developed the whole world. The Silk Road was coined by the German geographer and traveler, Ferdinand von Richthofen, in 1877 CE. The network was used regularly from 130 BCE, when the Han opened trade with the west, to 1453 BE, when Ottoman Empire rejected trade and closed the routes. *(Joshua J.)*



Chang'an



(Ancient Capital City)

The ancient city Chang'an (present day Xi'an in Shaanxi Province) was the the capital city of choice for the most numbers of dynasties in Chinese history. As many as 13 dynasties built their capitals at here. Also, it was also the world's longest serving country with a history if 1100 years. It also had an unique architecture style in a symmetrical format. This kind of unique design had also influenced the design of neighboring countries' capital cities. *(Ancient Capital City)*

The Religion in Chang'an

Buddhism (introduced into China through the Silk Road) was the main religion in the ancient city Chang'an during the Silk Road period. Buddhism is way of finding peace within oneself. The purpose of the religion is help us find the happiness we seek. Buddhists develop their kindness and wisdom through their daily lives; and then they share their experiences to others and bring the world real benefits. They do not harm others and are consistently working to help all humans gain the pure and lasting happiness. *(Buddhism)*



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How did Buddhism Get into China?

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Buddhism was originated in northeastern India, the birthplace of Buddha and from there it spread to different countries through the silk road. Since India is in the middle of Afghanistan, China, Burma, and Tibet, it's very easy for India to spread Buddhism around by trading with those countries.

(The Spread of) *(The Spread of)*

The record described that a Chinese merchant named Chang Ch'ien that went trading in India had heard about their teaching of Buddhism around 2nd century B.C. It was probably the first time Chinese had heard about Buddhism. However, the person that had introduced Buddhism into China was Han emperor Mingdi, who saw Buddha in his dream and therefore sent his officials to learn more about Buddhism in India in 68 A.D. His officials brought back knowledge and pictures about Buddhism. Since then, Buddhism started to flourish in China.

(Buddhism Introduced to)

The Product Produced in Chang'an

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(Legend of Silk)

Silk was the one of the most well-known product of ancient China, including Chang'an. It is a kind of thin but strong fiber that were made of the cocoons of silkworms. Silk had played a very important role in ancient China's culture and economy for thousands of years.

The idea of using cocoons to make clothes was first proposed by the wife of the Yellow Emperor , Leizu, around 2690s BC. Later on the Chinese started to breed special moths for silk-making.

Silk had played a very important role in Silk Road (you already knew how important it is from the name) trading process since many other countries desired silk and were willing to buy it at a high price. *(Legend of Silk)*

Architecture in Chang'an

The most significant characteristic in ancient China's architecture style is the use of timber framework. Paintings and carving were added to the buildings to make them more attractive and beautiful. The walls were not designed to bear the weight but only to separate the rooms. Symmetrical layouts are also unique in China. The main structure is located in the center with four lines of symmetrical buildings around it, forming a rectangle. *(Ancient Chinese Architecture)*

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This type of building are called Quadrangle in China.



Symmetrical Layouts of Courtyards