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The Role *of the* Great Silk Road

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The Culture Of Trade

On The Great Silk Road





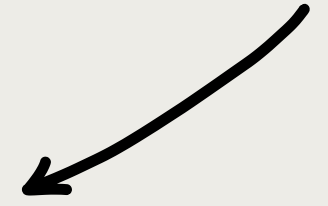
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risks

Caravan trade along the routes of the Great Silk Road was associated not only with high profits, but also with great risk. That is why merchants sought to engage in commerce not alone, but in whole groups, large caravans consisting of hundreds and thousands of armed men.

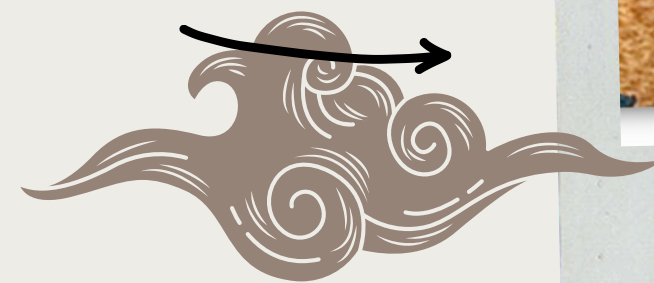
But nothing could protect the merchants from the arbitrariness of the rulers and the attacks of nomadic tribes. Therefore, fearing for their lives, merchants rarely passed the Great Silk Road from end to end. More often they changed their goods in one of the intermediate trading cities.

However, both the states and the nomads were objectively interested in preserving trade communications. The rulers of the lands received income from customs duties levied in cities along the caravan routes. In order not to lose these incomes, the rulers of Asian countries adopted strict laws that protected merchants



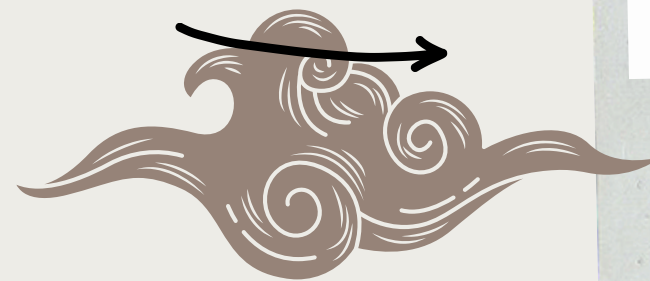


In Trade was mostly barter, money served only as a unit of account. Merchants valued their goods at a certain amount and exchanged it for another product with an equivalent price.



complex maintenance

Therefore, caravanserais were built in towns and villages along the entire stretch of the road. They had hujras for merchants and service personnel, rooms for horses and camels, mules and donkeys, necessary fodder and provisions. Sometimes in caravanserais it was possible to sell or buy goods in bulk, find out commercial news and prices.



transportation

There were special merchants or even companies that took over the transportation of goods, that is, the organization of transport.



Nomadic pastoralists played a significant role in the development of trade. They undertook to accompany caravans, provided cattle for food and as a means of transport, and entire dynasties specialized in caravan trade. The caravan trade would not have been able to develop without their participation.



receipts

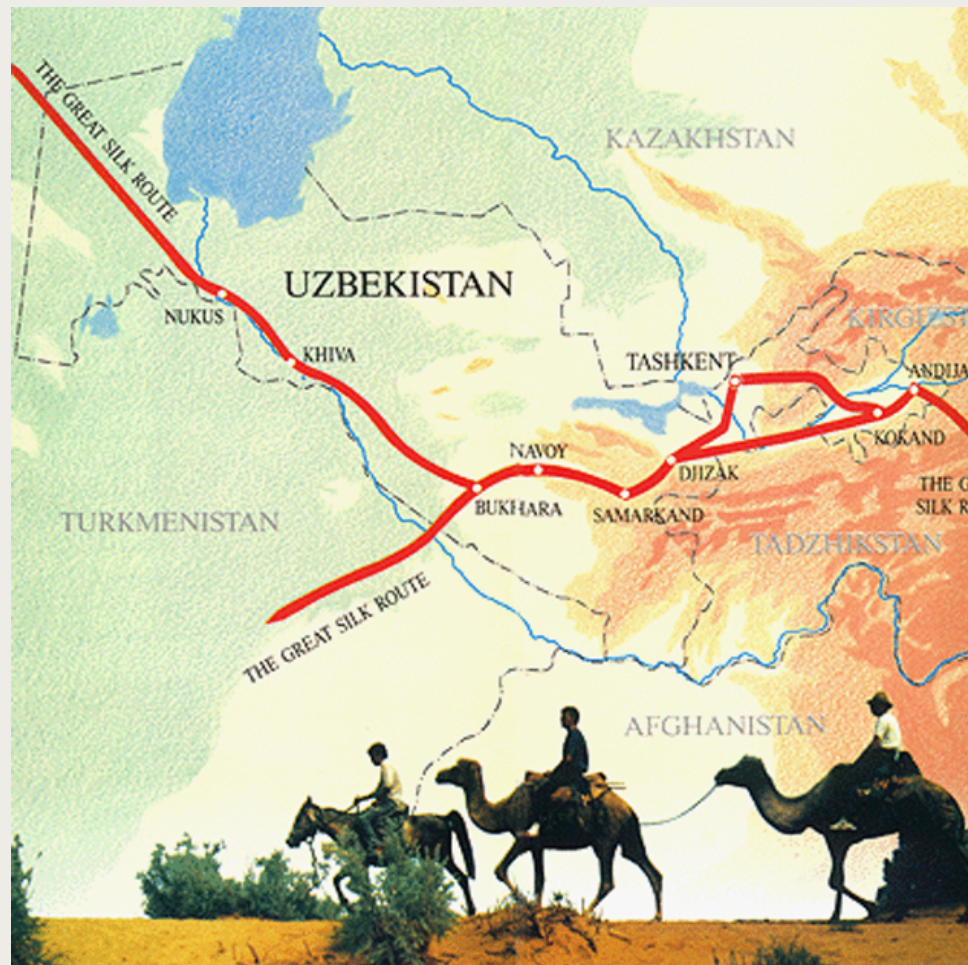
The merchant could present this receipt in those cities of the Silk Road where the trusted people of this money-changer-banker worked, and receive cash again minus the fee for services. The system of bearer checks could work only if money changers from remote cities of the Silk Road personally trusted each other as members of the same religious community. Therefore, checks began to be used only from about the 10th century, when trade along the entire Silk Road began to be controlled by Muslims and Jews.

Since it was dangerous to transport large amounts of cash over a long distance, the merchants of the Silk Road began using checks ("check" in Persian means "document, receipt"). Going to the East, the merchant handed over his cash to one of the reputable money changers in exchange for a receipt.

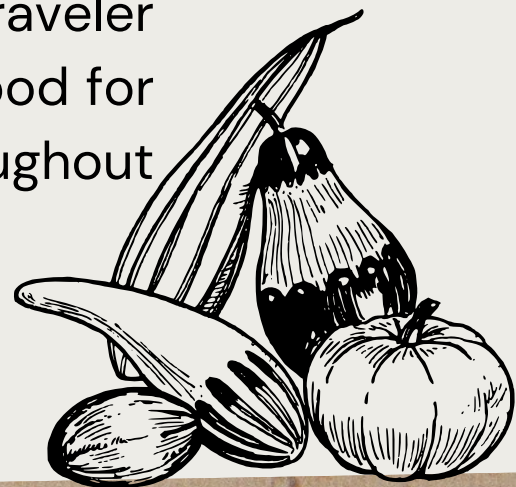




china and central asia




Information about the exchange between China and Central Asia is contained mainly in Chinese chronicles from the 1st century BC to the VII- VIII centuries AD. Early evidence tells of donations that were sent from the countries of the Central Asian region to the imperial palace. Gifts were also sent from here if China wanted to attract any of the local rulers to its side. Of the Central Asian gifts, the famous Davani horses, fleet-footed steeds, which the Chinese called "heavenly", "winged", were especially appreciated. And they were valued because there was a legend in China: in order to assert his divinity and achieve immortality, the emperor had to ascend to heaven with the help of a team of unearthly horses. It was Zhang Qian who brought the "heavenly" horses to China. This enterprising traveler brought not only horses from Central Asia, but also food for them – alfalfa seeds. Soon alfalfa crops spread throughout China





trade relations



Gradually, trade relations between Central Asia and China are strengthening. Every year, the imperial court sent at least five missions to the west, accompanied by several hundred guards. They carried silk and metal products with them, which they exchanged for horses, jade, coral and other goods from Central Asia.



Khorezm, Sogdiana and Ferghana have become successful shopping centers. The Silk Road stimulated the need for Central Asian goods, such as horses and fodder crops, as well as grapes and cotton. In the cities, artisans have mastered new types of crafts: the production of metal products, adopted from the East, and glass products – from the West.



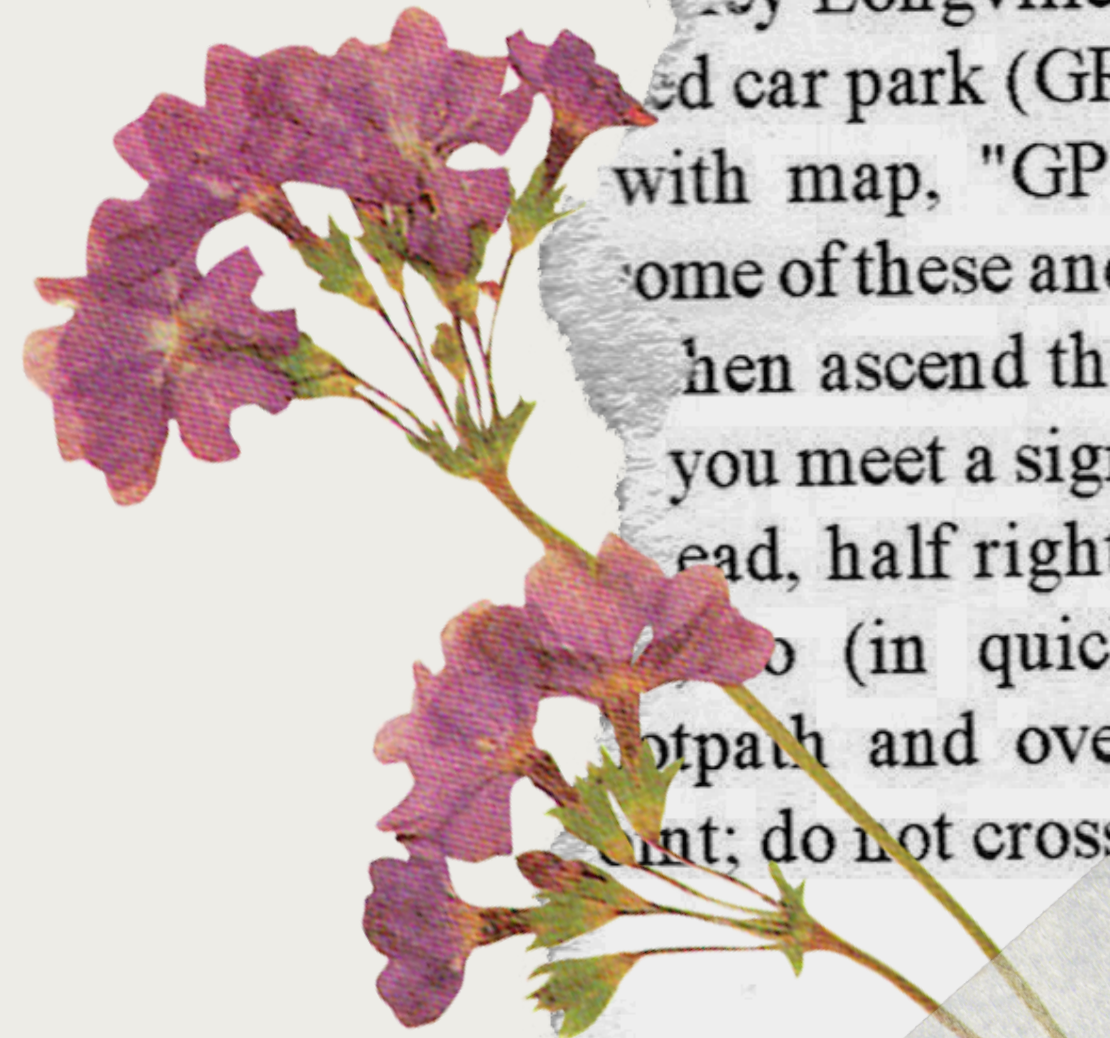


1

At first, the GSW was used to export Chinese silk to Western countries. Goods produced in these countries traveled to the East from Rome, Byzantium, India, Iran, the Arab Caliphate, and later Europe and Russia.

2

The list of these outlandish exotic goods is inexhaustible. These are myrrh and frankincense, jasmine water and amber, cardamom and nutmeg, ginseng and python bile, carpets and canvases, dyes and mineral raw materials, ivory, silver and gold ingots, furs and coins, bows and arrows, swords and spears and much more.



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Cultivated plants, such as grapes, peaches and melons, spices and sugar, vegetables, fruits, and herbs, were distributed along the GSW

Horses for sale in Ferghana, Arabian horses, camels, elephants, rhinos, peacocks, lions, cheetahs, gazelles, hawks, falcons, parrots, ostriches were transported along the GSW

But silk remained the main trade item. Silk, along with gold, turned into an international currency, kings and ambassadors were gifted with it, salaries were paid to hired troops and state debts were paid.



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silk



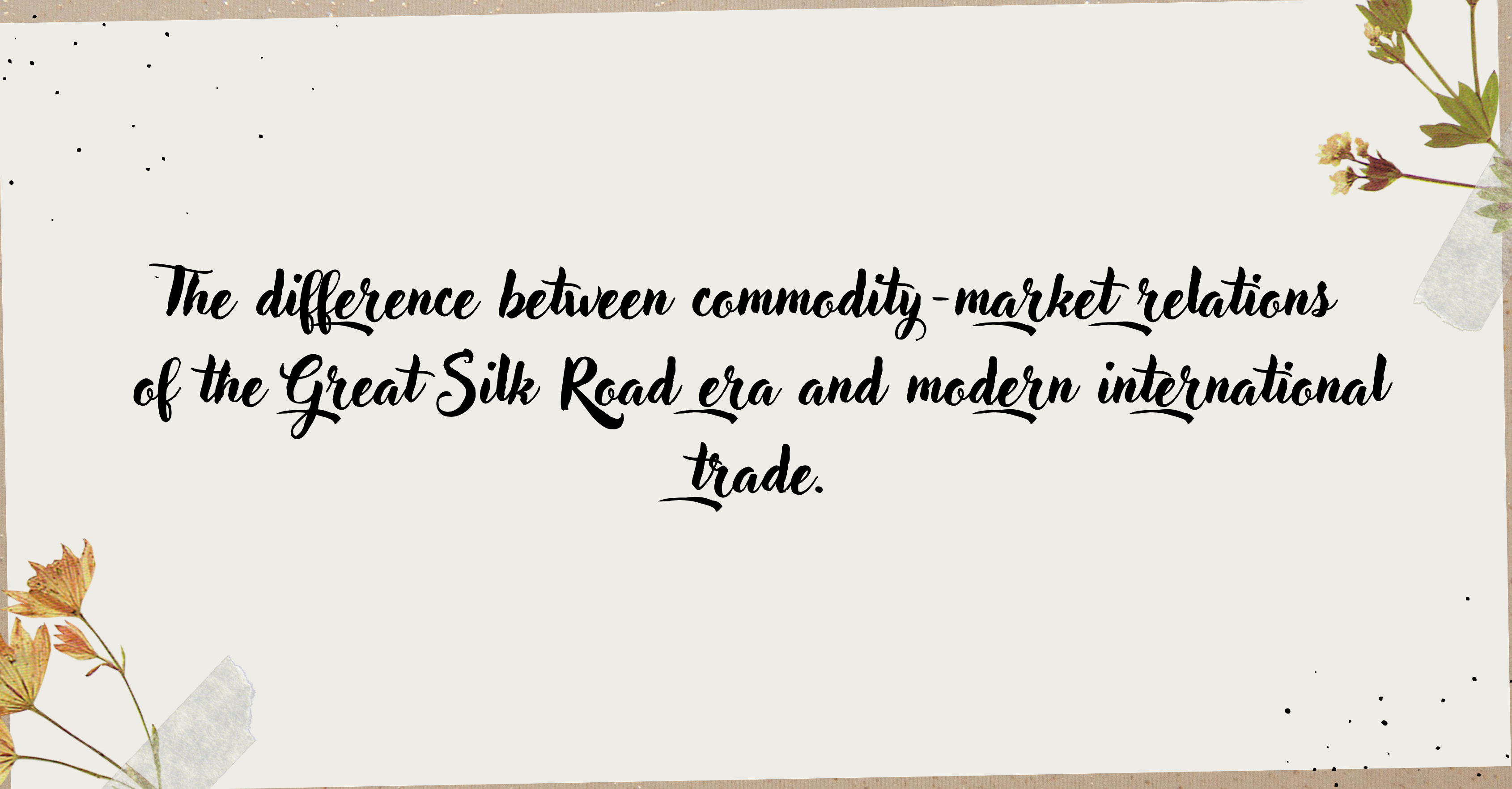
Silk and part of the goods transported by the HSV settled in the cities that stood on its Kazakhstan section. During the excavations of the Mardan burial ground in the Otrar oasis, seven Chinese Wushu coins dating back to the I-IV centuries A.D. were found in one of the burials. The coins came here with trade caravans that went West, including to the Syr Darya, where the center of the Kangyu state was located. Among the precious utensils going to the West, silver jugs from Semirechye, made in imitation of the Byzantine ones, were used as goods.





coins

The regular conclusion of major trade transactions between merchants of different countries required the use of universally recognized banknotes. Not every country that actively participated in the trans-Eurasian trade could issue gold and silver coins, which were only valued in all the countries of the Old World at that time. Therefore, merchants throughout Eurasia actively used the full-fledged money of a few "strong" countries. So, in the early Middle Ages, along the Great Silk Road, up to and including China, gold Byzantine and silver Sasanian and Arab coins were used for calculations.





The difference between commodity-market relations
of the Great Silk Road era and modern international
trade.



The era of the Great Silk Road gave rise to many institutions similar to the international trade of modern and modern times (international division of labor, check system, extraterritorial protection of property rights). However, it also had many features typical of pre-industrial societies, when market relations remained secondary in comparison with natural and economic ones.

Western Europe received mainly expensive luxury goods along the Silk Road (silk fabrics, spices, carpets, porcelain dishes, etc.), which were used only by the upper classes. The consumption of these goods had little effect on the economic development of the countries of Western Europe themselves, with the exception of the merchant republics of Italy specializing in trade with the East. True, it stimulated a gradual transition from natural feudal rent (corvee and food rent) to monetary, since the nobility needed cash to buy Oriental goods.



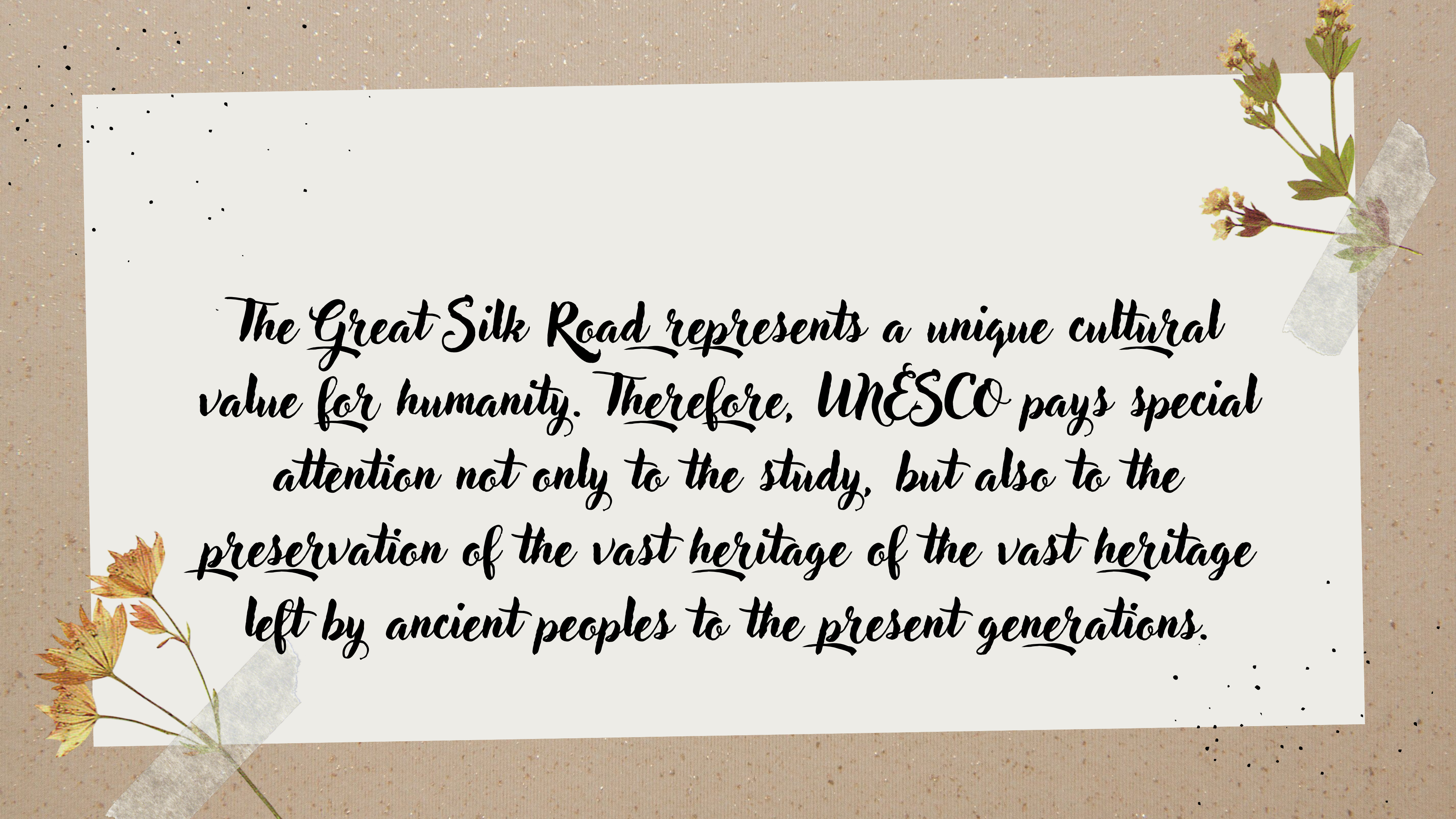
*The Role Of The Great Silk Road In Spreading
Innovation Among The Civilizations Of Eurasia*



The functioning of the Great Silk Road has led to the acquaintance of different peoples with new consumer goods. Western Europe benefited the most from the spread of new goods as a form of cultural contacts. Silk fabrics improved the personal hygiene of Europeans, ridding them of lice. Spices were widely used for the manufacture of medicines and for the preservation of long-term storage products. Paper made according to recipes from China and Central Asia began to displace parchment and papyrus, making it cheaper to replicate handwritten books.

Not only the goods themselves were distributed along the Silk Road, but also information about their production and existence. Initially, silk was produced only in China, but already in the 1-2 centuries A.D. sericulture penetrated into East Turkestan, in the 5th century – into Iran. In the 6th century, the Emperor of Byzantium was able to organize sericulture in Greece, persuading, according to legend, monks-travelers to secretly bring him silkworm eggs in a hollow staff. First buying paper from merchants from the east, Europeans also began to produce it themselves from the 13th century.





The Great Silk Road represents a unique cultural value for humanity. Therefore, UNESCO pays special attention not only to the study, but also to the preservation of the vast heritage of the vast heritage left by ancient peoples to the present generations.



Thank you!



for your precious
attention

