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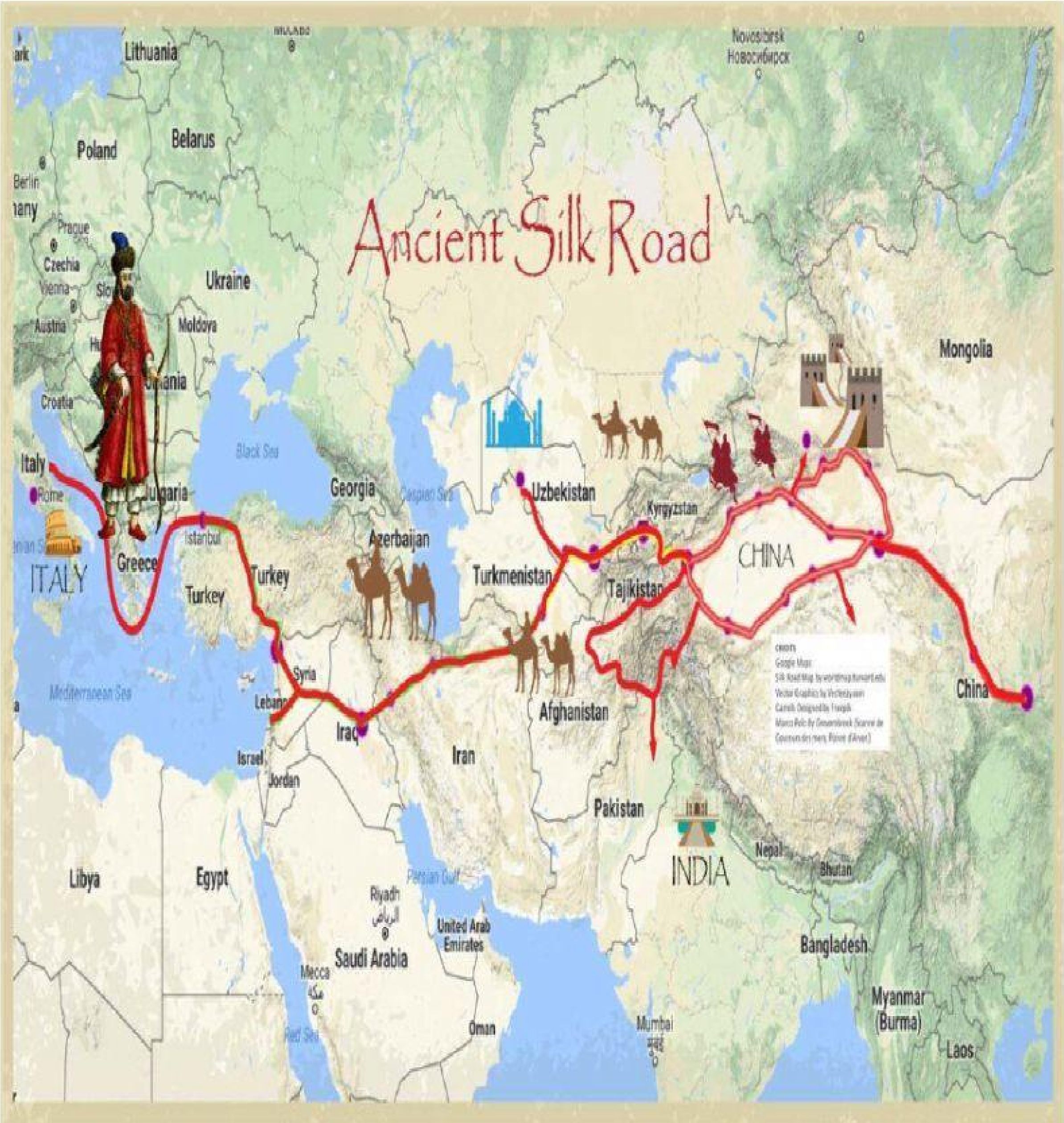
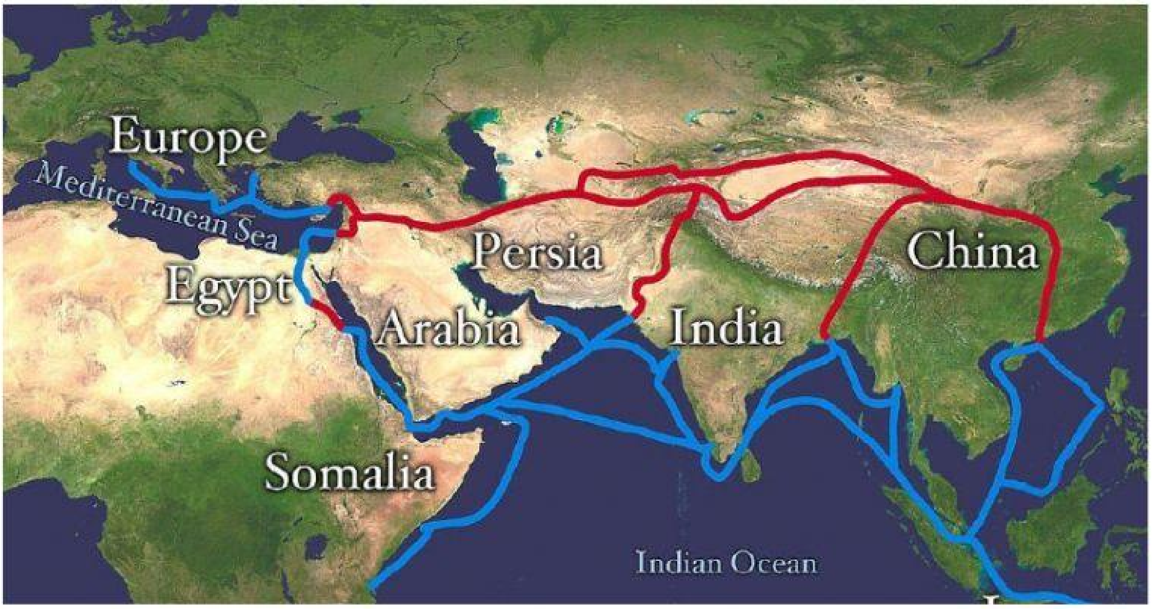



The Silk Road changed the world when it was first instituted. Even after all these centuries, the legacy of its achievements continues to affect the way countries approach long-distance trade. Take a look below for 18 interesting and crazy facts about the Silk Road.

**1.** They call it the Silk Road but it was more of a route than a road; it encompassed paths that crossed both land and sea. Rather than one definitive route, the Silk Road would change depending on factors like weather and conflict.

**2.** The main Silk Road had a southern branch (cutting through the Karakorum Mountains), a northern branch (cutting through Russia to the West), the Tea Horse Road (cutting through Tibet and India), and the Maritime Silk Road (reaching the Middle East and Europe by crossing seas).

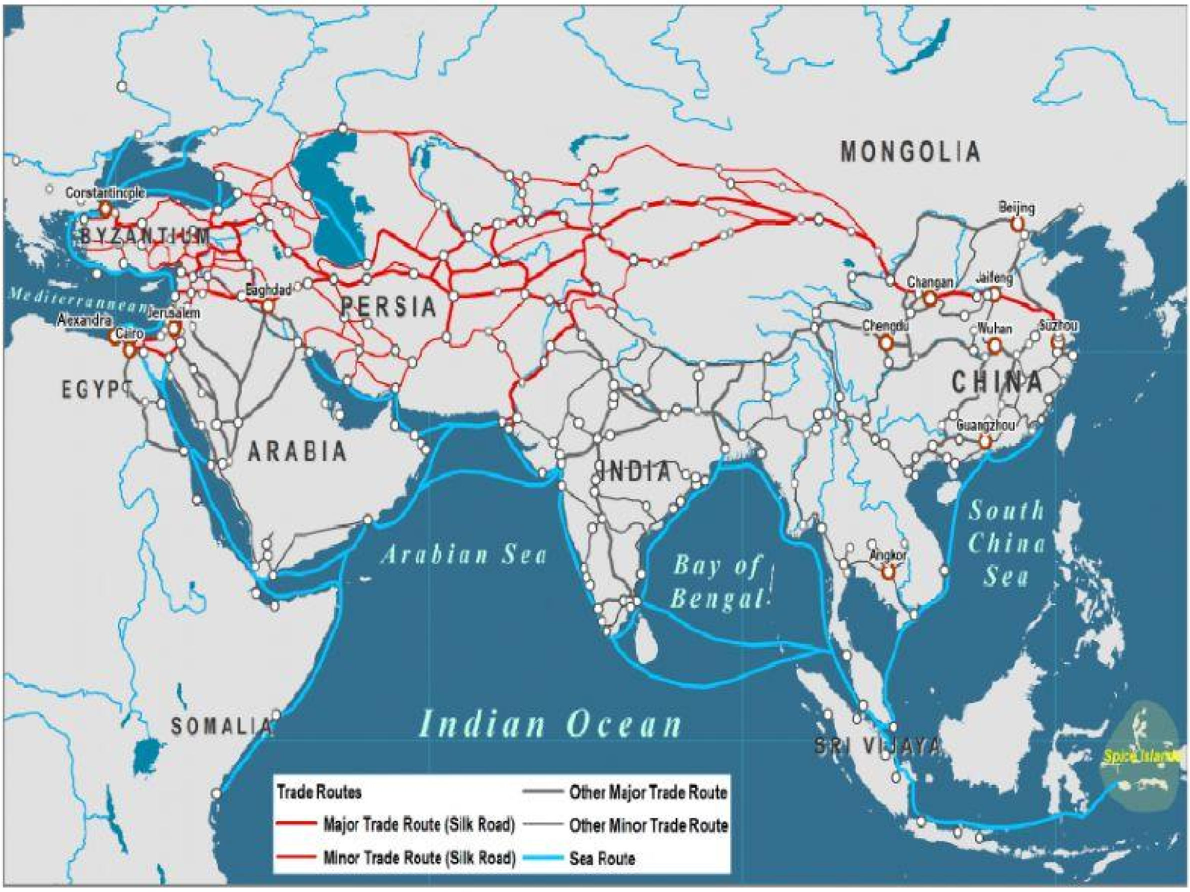
**3.** The Silk Road came to an end in 1368 when the Yuan Empire fell and Mongol Trade Routes were disconnected. By the 1500s, sailing had gained momentum and all interest in the Silk Road faded.




**4.** The date of the Silk Road's demise is important because the route only got its name in 1877. A geographer by the names of Ferdinand Van Richthoten was in China between 1868 and 1872. It was during his attempts at making a silk road map that he called it 'The Silk Route', a term that stuck.

**5.** The Silk Road was a trade route. It was 4000 miles long and it connected China, Europe, India, and Persia.

**6.** Emperor Wudi of the Han Empire was searching for allies in 139 BC when he sent Zhang Qian as an ambassador to Central Asia. Upon his arrival at his destination, Zhang Qian and Emperor Wudi realised that a route for travel and trade connecting the regions would benefit the Han Empire. This laid the foundation for the Silk Road.

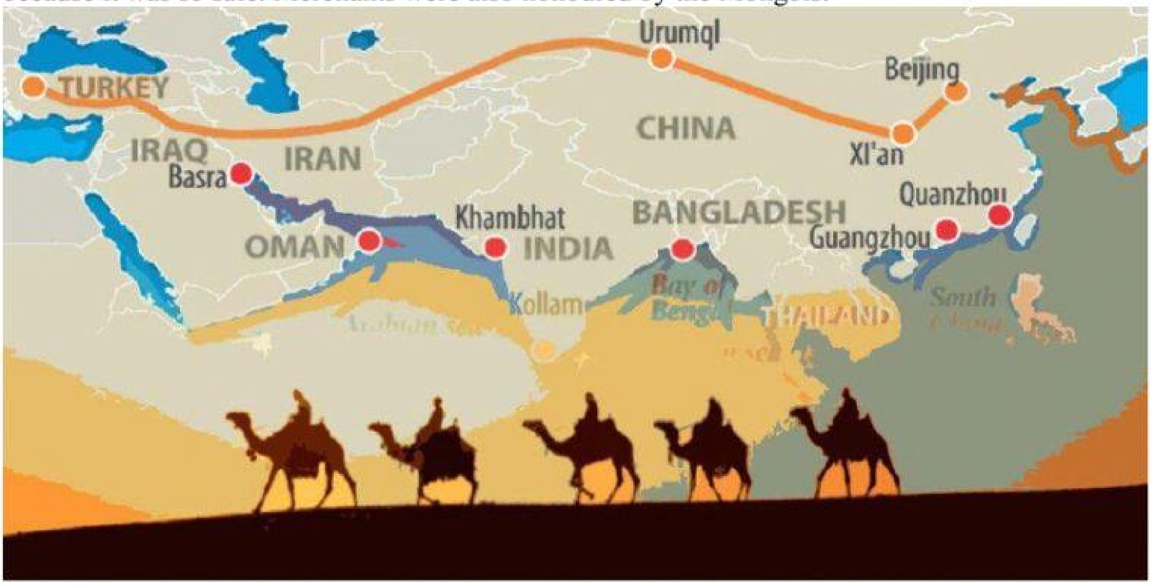



**7.** It got its name because silk was one of the primary products it was used to transport. Silk was so light that carrying it from place to place was easy. It was also as valuable as gold. People in Europe and Asia greatly desired it.

**8.** But it wasn't the only product traded. The Silk Road was also used to import and export salt, spices, gold, silver, and wool. You also had ivory, slaves, furs, perfume, and gunpowder, to mention but a few.

**9.** To many traders, spices were vital because the Silk Route was long and they could use the spices to mask the flavour of rotting food. They also traded it.

**10.** The common means of transportation on the road were camels and horses. They also used yaks.
**11.** Merchants travelled the Silk Road in large caravans. They needed the numbers to keep bandits away.
**12.** Trade on the road reached its peak during the rule of Kublai Khan's Yuan Dynasty. Because the Mongols controlled so much of the route, Chinese merchants were encouraged to cross it because it was so safe. Merchants were also honoured by the Mongols.




**13.** The Silk Road allowed kingdoms and countries to exchange goods, traditions, and cultures. But it also allowed the bubonic plague to spread.
**14.** Considering its size, you rarely saw merchants travelling the entire length of the Silk Road. Most of them were content to trade with the communities and cities they encountered along the route.
**15.** the most famous person to travel on the Silk Road was Marco Polo. He used the road to go to China.
**16.** If you have heard the term 'The New Silk Road', it refers to the Eurasian Land-Bridge which runs between Mongolia, China, Russia, and Kazakhstan.
**17.** The Silk Road made it possible for Buddhism to transition from India to China.
**18.** the most impressive city on the route was Samarkand, which housed craftsmen, astronomers, and poets, and also had an aqueduct that served 200,000 people.

**The Belt & Road Initiative (B&R) is without a doubt the most ambitious, strategic interconnected infrastructure initiative devised in recent memory.**

## What?

Launched by Chinese President Xi Jinping in 2013, the initiative aims to connect major Eurasian economies through infrastructure, trade and investment. It will see a RMB1.5 trillion infrastructure investment pipeline[1] stretching over 10,000 km over more than 60 countries with a total population of 4.4 billion[2] and 40% of global GDP[3] across Asia, Europe, the Middle East and Africa, and cover projects across the infrastructure and energy sectors from small scale renewables to large scale integrated mining, power and transport projects. After its announcement in 2015, over 1400 contracts worth over US$37 billion were signed by Chinese companies in the first half of 2015.[4]

Full details of both the project pipeline and the specific requirements for a project to qualify as a B&R project are still not fully certain. What is clear is that the potential opportunities for infrastructure investment are immense.

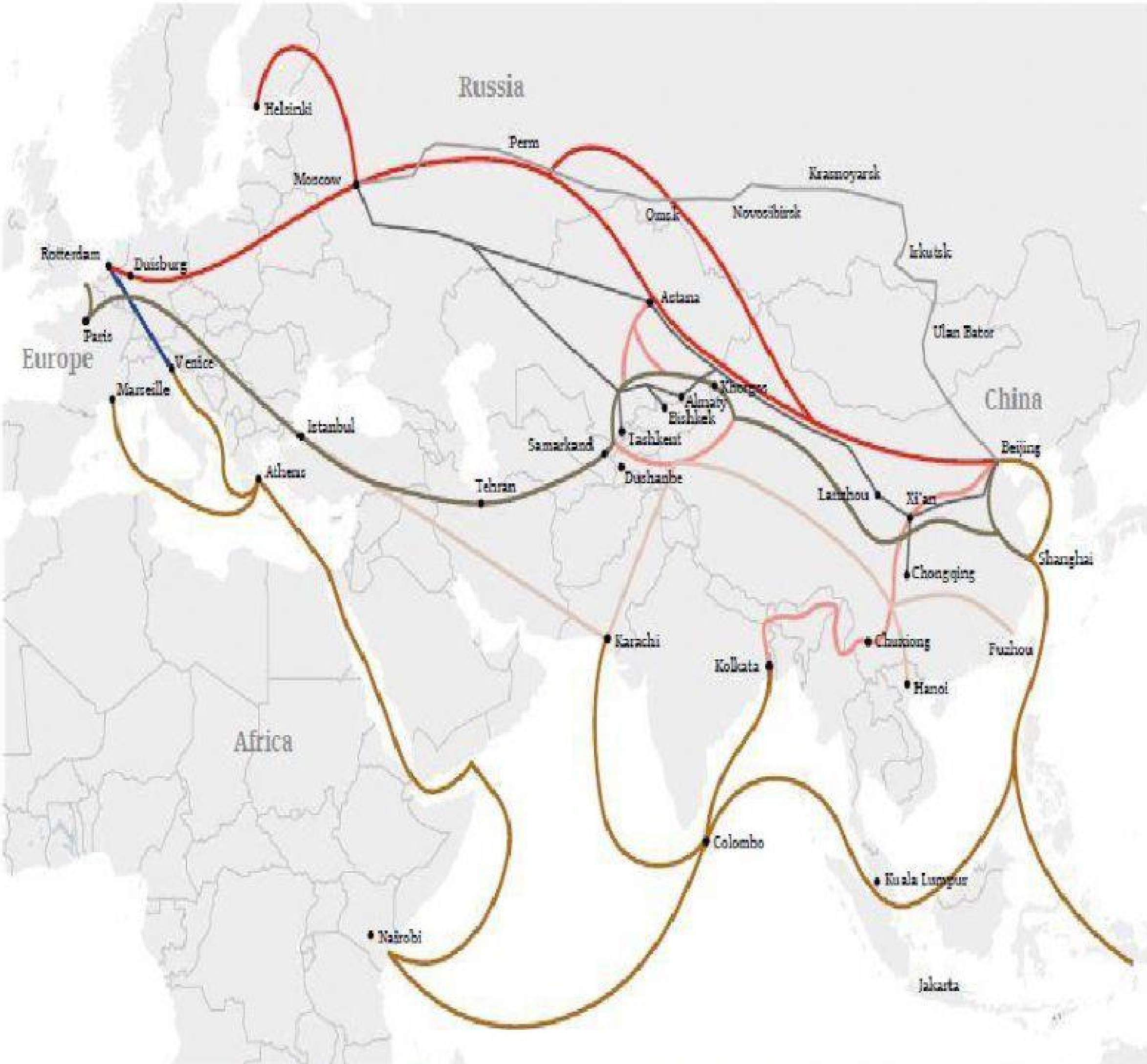
For any host country or investor interested in infrastructure in B&R regions, Chinese capital cannot be ignored. Tapping it can be difficult but a foreign investor who can navigate the issues involved is potentially unlocking the key source of capital and equipment for the B&R regions' major projects over the next fifteen years.

## Where?

The Belt & Road Initiative has two main elements: the Silk Road Economic Belt and the 21st Century Maritime Silk Road.

The Silk Road Economic Belt will be an overland network of road, rail and pipelines roughly following the old Silk Road trading route that will connect China's east coast wih Europe via a new Eurasian land bridge. 5 regional corridors will branch off the land bridge, with Mongolia and Russia to the North, South East Asia, India, Pakistan and Bangladesh to the South, and central Asia, West Asia and Europe to the West.

The 21st Century Maritime Silk Road is a planned sea route with integrated port and coastal infrastructure projects running from China's east coast to Europe, India, Africa and the Pacific through the South China Sea and the Indian Ocean.




Source: The Centre for Geopolitics & Security in Realism Studies'(CGSRS), original source: Tim Summers, "Roadmap to a wider market" in The World Today, October – November 2015

# Connecting East and West by road

## The original Silk Road was created in the second century BC. However, due to massive political upheaval in the region, this great connector between the east and west has been out of use for over 500 years.

Two thirds of the world's population live in Asia. Until recently, trade from this region has been conducted mainly via the sea. IRU has been working to reopen the Silk Road to create a modern trade route that unites today's businesses in Asia with the rest of the world.

## Why do we want to reopen the Silk Road?

The various roads along the Silk Road cover over 50,000 km and the countries covered produce over 25% of the world's manufactured goods. Unlocking the Silk Road will offer an alternative trade route between Asia and Europe and help bring progress and prosperity to countries along the way. Businesses using road transport to export and import goods will save time and money if the scheme is implemented correctly.

You are going to investigate the old Silk Road with the new Silk Road and answer the following questions in detail:

1. Witch countries where in the old Silk Road and Witch countries in the new Silk Road

| Old silk Road | New Silk Road |
|---|---|
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| | |

2. What type of products was transit in the Old silk Road and what products is been moving now in the new Silk Road

| Old silk Road | New Silk Road |
|---|---|
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| | |

3. What will be the impact of the new silk Road (the iron silk Road) on the countries that is involved with the silk road and what will the economic impact of this have on the world.

Why is China behind all the new changes in the new world order of global unity.

Will the impact of China been the new America be a better economic input to the world. Explain your answer in a study essay put out.

With reason events with the Covid-19 pandemic and all the reports that China is behind the virus for their own benefit. Do you think that this is true if so state your answer. If no state your answer. Remember with the events that follow after the outbreak of the virus and the settle invasion of China in almost every country with the promises of better life, future, economic, technology.