



WHY DOES  
TRADE  
HAPPEN??





# **Development of Communication and Trade Networks**

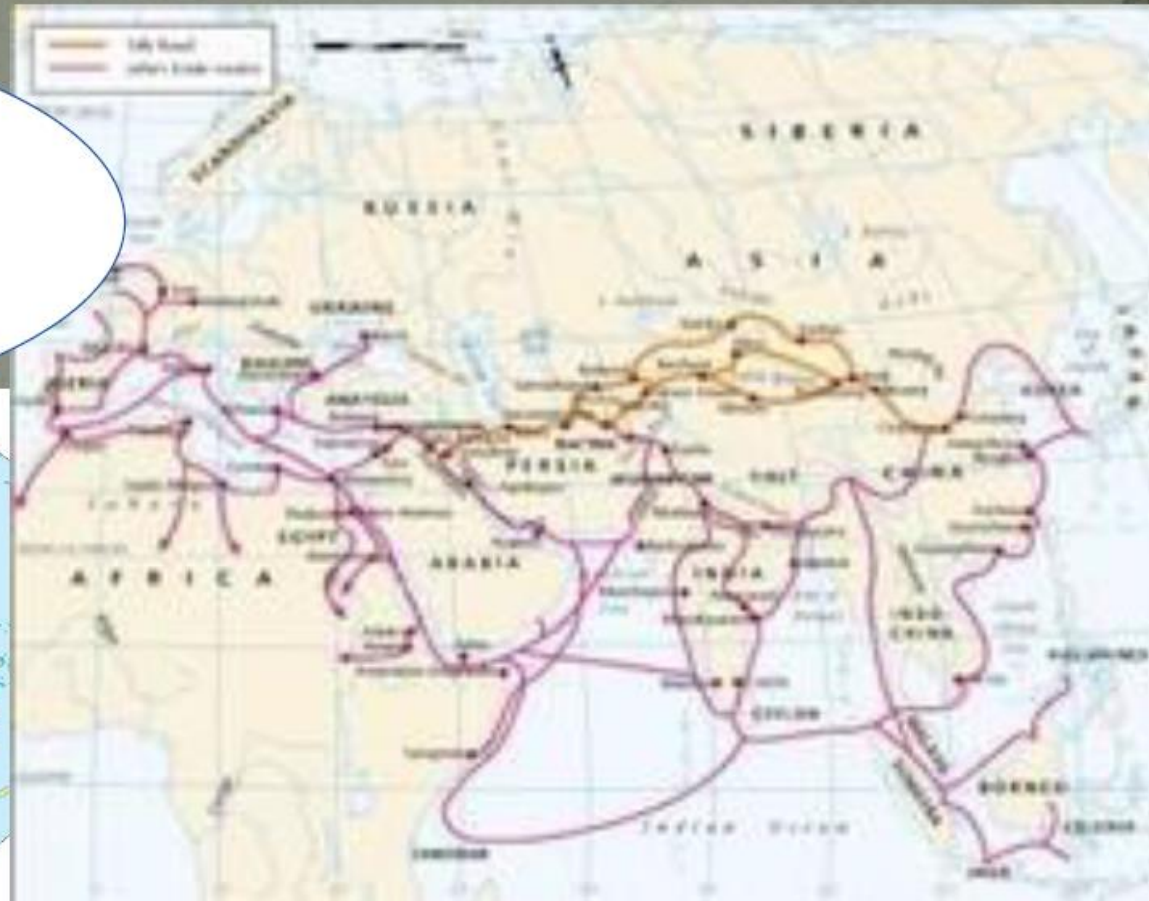


# Introduction

- Growth of classical empires led to increased connections between people
- Connections occurred because of trade
- Some involved transfer of religions and technologies
  - Technology and faith accompanied the goods carried over the trade routes
  - Most included spread of deadly diseases

I. Land & Water routes became the basis for trans-regional trade, communication & exchange networks in the **Eastern Hemisphere**, while somewhat later separate networks connected the peoples/societies of the Americas

Why are the Americas less connected at this time? How did Jared Diamond answer this question?





## II. New Technologies facilitated long-distance communication & Exchange.



### Eurasian Silk Roads

Trans-Saharan  
Caravan routes

Wow, the overland routes are so loooooong, and so treacherous!! Deserts, mountains, steppes, gaaah!! How did merchants transport goods across such vast and dangerous tracks?





c. 600 BCE

c. 600 CE

# New Technologies connected OVERLAND routes by... allowing PACK ANIMALS!!



What technologies allowed humans to turn horse, oxen, llamas, and camels into PACK ANIMALS?

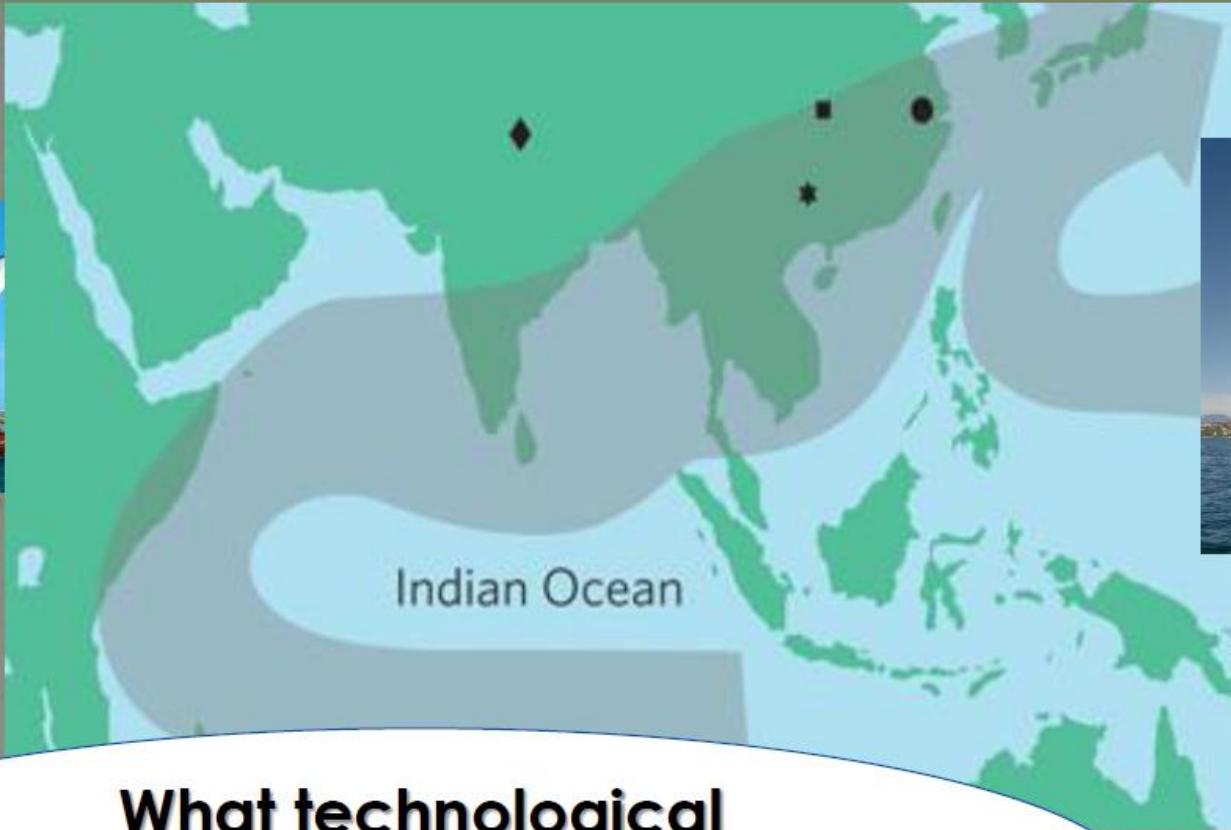




**c. 600 BCE**

**c. 600 CE**

**New maritime technologies connected SEA LANES... from East Africa to East Asia!!**



**What technological innovations turned the SEA LANES into TRADE ROUTES?**



c. 600 BCE

c. 600 CE

# Crops spread... which caused changes in farming/irrigation techniques!!



What new crops spread? So what? (Besides the fact that, ahem, more food, more babies!!)

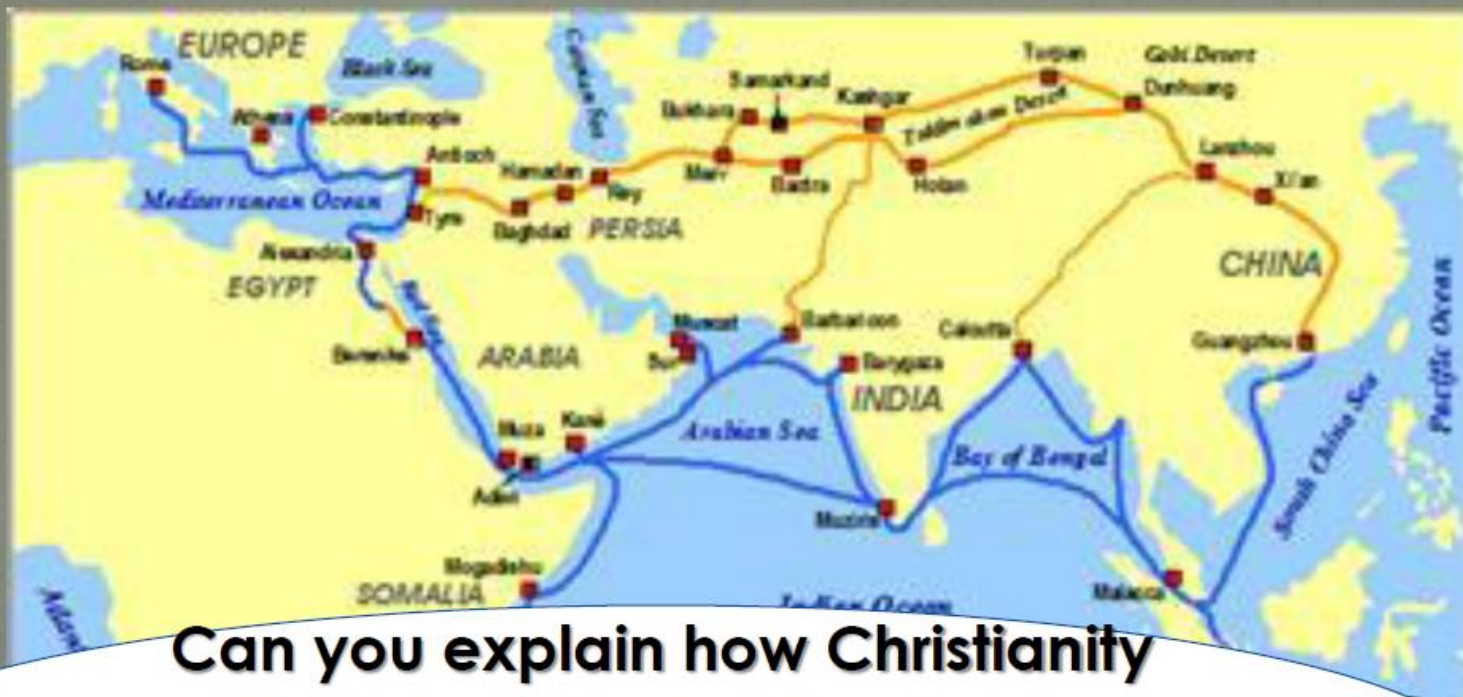




**c. 600 BCE**

**c. 600 CE**

**Religious/Cultural traditions went through changes as they spread... including Roman & Chinese cultures... and the BS of Christianity, Hinduism, and Buddhism**



**Can you explain how Christianity utterly transformed the Roman empire... and how Buddhism impacted Chinese culture?**





**c. 600 BCE**

**c. 600 CE**

**Disease pathogens spread... diminished population and helped decimate Classical empires of Rome and Han China!!**



**So... who travelled on the trade routes? Think MMMM!! That is... Military, Merchants, Missionaries... and hmmph... MRSA?**







# **The Land Networks of Africa, Europe and Asia**



# Geography

- Determined what, where and by whom it was exchanged
- Climate and topography (mountains, plains, deserts, rivers, seas)
  - Determine where valuable minerals are found
  - Types of plants
  - Where seaports, mountain passes & oases exist so that raw materials may be produced



# Basic trade

- Afro-Asian trading network as a web
  - Allowed Romans to buy silk from China
  - Merchants transported silk and other goods for a couple hundred miles and traded to next caravan, got \$ for their part and returned home for more
  - Goods were transmitted from town to town

# The Silk Road



600  km  
mi

— Main Silk Road — Eurasian Steppe Route — Main Connecting Routes





# The Silk Road

- Most extensive land-based trade routes in world at the time
- Named for the highly valued silk that was traded from east to west
  - During this era, Chinese were the only people who knew how to make silk
  - so highly desirable and expensive only elite could afford



# The Silk Road



- Other items traded on the Silk Road

- From East Asia to the west

- Horses, spices, furs, ivory, perfumes, lacquered boxes and furniture, rice, wool, tea, porcelain

- From South Asia to east and west

- Cotton, spices, sandalwood, rice



# The Silk Road

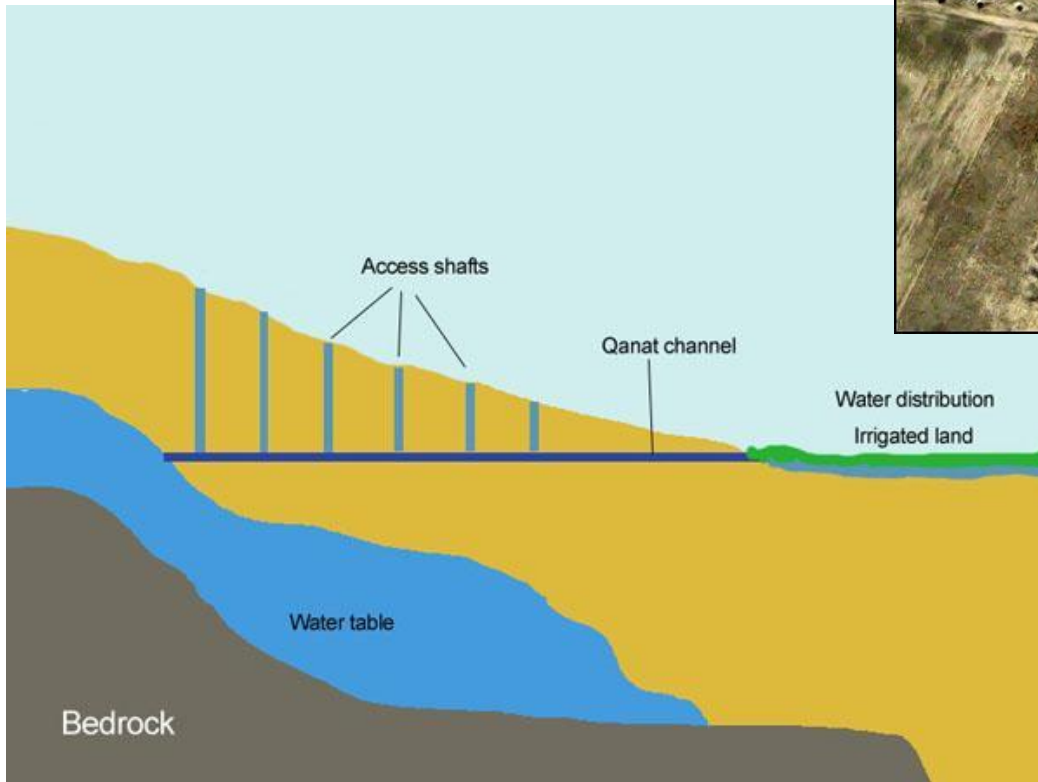
- From Central to east, west and south
  - Dates, almonds, fruit, camels, horses
- From West to east and south
  - Glass, gold, furs, amber, cattle, olive oil, perfumes



# The Silk Road

- The exchange of grains and fabrics across Eurasia changed farming techniques and allowed crops to grow in new regions
- The *qanat system*, a form of irrigation, transports water from below ground to the surface in arid regions
- Knowledge and use of qanat system spread into other regions, particularly Southwest Asia

# Qanat system



# The Silk Road

- Merchants and missionaries from South Asia introduced Buddhism along these trade routes
  - As Han declined, many people converted to Buddhism
- Tea and horse caravan roads extended from southern China to South Asia
  - Though not as well known as the Silk Roads, they were vital exchange routes



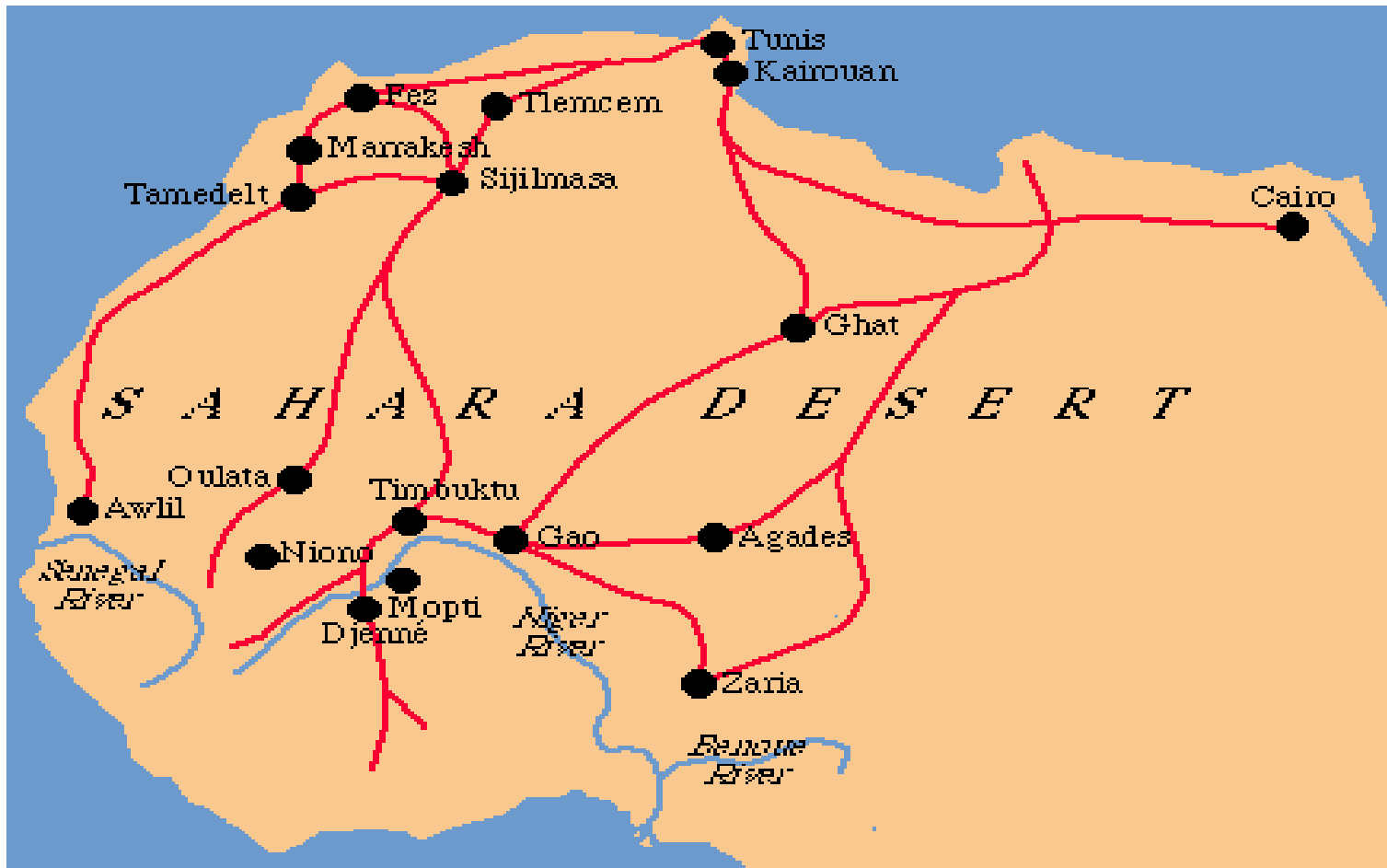
# THE SILK ROAD

- Disease was also transported along the Silk Roads
  - Pandemic diseases such as the bubonic plague frequently crossed Afro-Eurasia along trade routes
  - Devastating effects of disease thought to be one of the reasons for the fall of the Han

# North-South Eurasian Routes

- Directly connected to SRs were more networks of trade that ran north- south
- Commodities along these
  - Cotton, spices, rice from S Asia
  - Spices SE Asia
  - Horses, textiles to and from C Asia
- Constantinople
  - Capital of Byzantine Empire
  - Key center that linked SR and these routes together

# Saharan trade





# Sahara Caravan Routes

- Commerce across North Africa
  - Coastal cities and ports along the Med. Sea coast were rich in vegetation
  - Commodities like dates, cotton, dyes, cloth, leather goods and glass were supplied from these cities and port
  - South of the Med. Coastal area is Sahara Desert
    - Merchants carried the above items into the desert and traded them for gold, salt, ivory, animal hides and slaves
    - Bringing them to the Silk Road

# Sahara caravan routes

- Introduction of the camel around the turn of the millennium
  - Led to a major increase in amount of trade

# Indian Ocean Trade





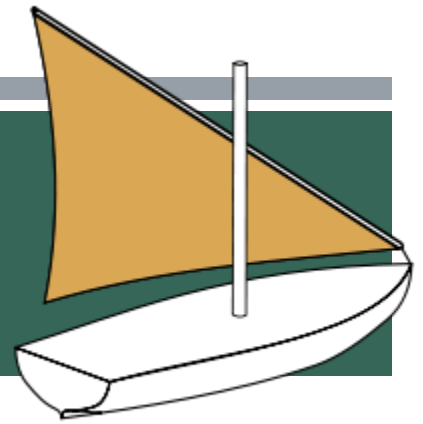
# Indian Ocean Trading Network

- Largest sea trading network in the world until the Trans-Atlantic in 1400s
- Connected SE Asia and China to Africa, the Middle East and S Asia
- Major conveyor of Buddhism from S Asia into E and SE Asia
- Traded items included
  - Silk, cotton, rice, spices, horses, ivory, gold, porcelain and people

# Indian Ocean Trade

- All sea trade depended on ocean currents and wind; this is especially true of Indian Ocean
- Monsoon winds blow along East African coast toward S Asia in the summer & down the E African coast in winter
  - Natural “clock” helped merchants time their trips

# Indian Ocean Trade



- Arab trading ships, dhows, used triangular lateen sails to maneuver these small boats
- Arab ship building and navigation skills spread quickly along these trade routes
- People from all parts of Eurasia participated in this trade route



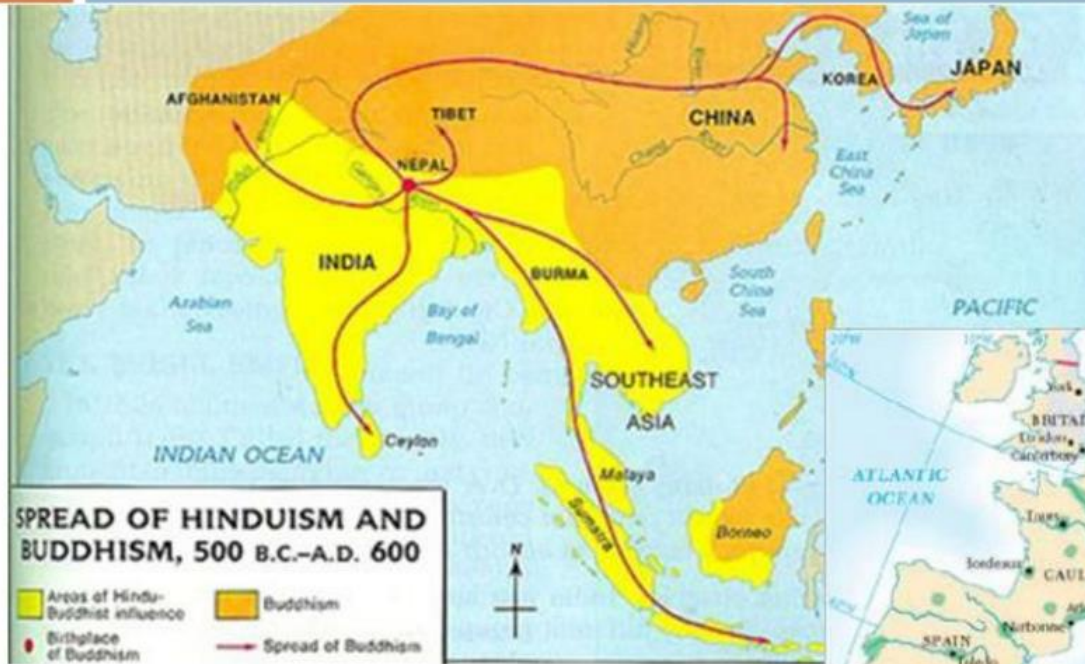
# Mediterranean and Black Sea Trading Networks

- Med. Sea Started with the Egyptians and Phoenicians
- Continued by the Greeks, Romans and Byzantines
- Commodities
  - Olives, pottery, glass, woodwork, leather and wool textiles
  - Gold, ivory, salt, copper, slaves
  - Christianity
- Black Sea also important
  - Byzantium/Constantinople the key port
  - Connected Silk Roads, Med Sea and Russia
  - Brought Black Death in next era

# Religious and Cultural Traditions

Hinduism	Buddhism	Christianity
<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Spread mainly through migrations and word of mouth.</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Enforced religion (Ashoka).</li><li>• Spread north, south, east, and west from origination mainly via trade routes.</li><li>• Military conquests.</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Enforced in Roman Empire.</li><li>• Spread through military conquests and trade routes.</li><li>• Mainly west to east.</li></ul>

# Religious and Cultural Traditions



# DIFFUSION OF DISEASES



## PLAGUE IN ROME

*(The spread of disease pathogens diminished urban populations and contributed to the decline of some empires)*

PLAGUE.....DEATHS

**ANTONINE PLAGUE (180 CE).....5 M**

In 165 CE, troops returning from campaigns in the east of the empire brought back a disease which killed an estimated **five million people**. Known as the Antonine Plague (*after Marcus Aurelius Antoninus*) one of two Roman emperors who died from the disease, it killed a quarter of those who caught it. This was history's first outbreak of **SMALLPOX**. **Emperors killed: ONE (Marcus Aurelius)**

**PLAGUE OF CYPRIAN (251 CE).....???**

Smallpox returned in the 3<sup>rd</sup> Century. Blamed on the Christians, it killed **5,000 per day**. **Emperors killed: ONE (Claudius II)**

**JUSTINIAN PLAGUE (540 CE).....25 M**

From Egypt or Ethiopia, this ravaged the Eastern Empire. It arrived via rats on ships. This was history's first taste of the **BUBONIC PLAGUE**. It killed  $\frac{1}{4}$  of Eastern Europe's population.