

Crash Course World History: #9 The Silk Road



I also highly recommend this video:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=vn3e37VWc0k>

John Green argues quite strongly that Indian Ocean trade networks were more advanced than Silk Road networks. He also makes the case for trading merchants having more power over historical events than political leaders.

Green describes the “Monsoon Marketplace,” or Indian Ocean Trade Network, as a diverse, larger, and more lucrative than the Silk Roads. Yet it is helpful to remember that each of these Eurasian networks, both land and sea, were often interconnected. Merchants moved goods across Asian roads to ports, as well as attempted to take them by land. Also the trading networks were often a dense web of many connections and multiple trades. However, the ocean trade could move goods and materials over vast distances in a much larger vessel which could return great profits for single trading persons, partners, families, or companies.

Indian Ocean trade is a rather diverse topic that covers multiple time periods and key concepts in AP World History. The development of Islam, where merchants were accepted and trade encouraged, played a large role in Indian Ocean trading. This is especially true after the fall of the empires of the classical era (Rome/Han China) where Islamic scholars made great breakthroughs in technology and science. This enabled ocean trade to become safer, more predictable, and incredibly profitable.

Directions:

1. Preview the video viewing questions.
2. Watch “Crash Course in World History: #9 The Silk Road and Ancient Trade. Pause the video as needed so that you can answer the questions. **ALL RESPONSES MUST BE IN COMPLETE SENTENCES!**
3. The video can be found at: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=vfe-eNq-Qyg>

Crash Course in World History #9: The Silk Road and Ancient Trade

Questions:

1. What is the point of the t-shirt ramble? Why would John Green spend so much time describing a t-shirt? What clue does that give you about the point of this video?

2. John Green says that the changes merchants made:

3. If the Silk Road was not a road, what was it and why was it called the Silk Road?

4. How is it possible that the goods on the Silk Road traveled more than the people who traded on them?

5. Explain how that could lead to much higher prices at the final destination of the goods.

6. What was silk used for in China?

7. What was it used for elsewhere and why? Why wouldn't they use it for some of the things the Chinese did?

8. What were some of the other major goods traded along the Silk Road and where were they from?

Geographic area	Major exports
Mediterranean	
China	
India	
East Africa	
Arabia	

9. Why would Nomadic people become more important to World History?

10. What empire became a huge hub for Silk Road trade and why?

11. Why did new cities developed by nomads become important, which example does John Green give and why does he say it is important?

12. John Green uses Rome's failed attempt to ban silk to demonstrate how wealth shaped governments. Explain how the development of the merchant class opened up doors for people to become wealthy and how it shaped the relationship between wealth and politics.

13. John Green gives three reasons why the Silk Road affected "the rest of us." Fill in and explain the reasons and outcomes.

a. - How was labor force changed?

b. Trading ideas- Explain how Buddhism evolved and spread. Explain how trade benefitted from Buddhism and vice-versa.

c. - Explain the impact of disease.