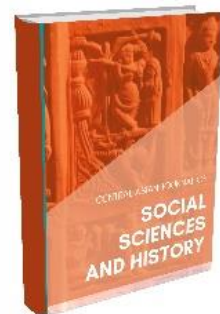




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### The Historical Geography of the Silk Road

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#### Abstract:

This article talks about the history of the Silk Road, its role in the lives of peoples of the world, and its influence on the development of urban development. It is because of this that the world has reached the modern appearance that we are witnessing today. Thanks to the successful operation of the Silk Road, the magnificent cities together with their historical and architectural buildings have become a living legend today as an indelible memory of the past.

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#### INTRODUCTION

The opening of the Silk Road not only connected the East and the West, but also opened the door to wide opportunities for the exchange of cultures between peoples. Before sea and ocean roads were opened, these roads became important. In the simple words of our Eastern people: "If you try, you will achieve your goal".

For centuries, this huge trade route, which started from the ancient Chinese city of Xi'an, passed through the territory of many countries of the world and reached the ancient Rome, has been a means of economic, cultural and educational communication between the peoples of the world.

Undoubtedly, not only rare goods were transported through the Silk Road, but also the exchange of knowledge, culture, technology, and diplomatic relations. The Silk Road had a great impact on the social, economic and cultural life of the peoples of Central Asia.

#### MAIN PART

Until the 16th century, the Silk Road, famous in the ancient world, played an important role in the development of historical, cultural and trade relations between the peoples of the East and the West.

This road has existed since the II century BC and was called the “Great Meridional Road”. It connected China, Central Asia, India and Middle East countries through trade [1]. At the end of the 1st millennium BC, by the beginning of the 1st millennium AD, the culture of a huge geographical area stretching from the Pacific Ocean to the Atlantic Ocean unites into a single system of highly developed civilizations. The borders of the states located in this area were the Khand Sultanate, the Kushan Kingdom, the Kang State, Parthia, and the Roman Empire in China. The centers of these great kingdoms and civilizations were connected by a road known as the Silk Road for the first time in human history. The countries located in the direction of the Silk Road used it for their own interests and thereby sought to strengthen their position [2].

Before the establishment of the Arab caliphate, Iranian and Sogdian traders played a leading role in the part of this road that passed through the territories of Iran and Sogdiana. After the Arab caliphate gained strength and gained many territories, this road was taken over by Arab traders. During the Genghis period, the management of the Silk Road was completely under their control. By the time of Amir Temur, when his powerful kingdom was established, the borders of the Silk Road expanded again and became more developed [3].

From the 2nd century BC, the movement of the caravan route from Kashgar to Dovan began. International transit trade of silk and other products was carried out on this road. Dovan has become important in the trade route. According to the researchers, many fortresses in the Yassa and Karadarya oases were built to protect the trade route [5].

In the 1st century BC, Chinese ambassadors had diplomatic relations with the Parthian kings, and as a result, caravans traveled along the “Silk Road” [6].

The material and spiritual values of Central Asia had widely spread to China. Silk production is highly developed in China [7]. All kinds of textiles, carpets, glass, metal, jewelry, precious stones and medicines, horses and camels from Bakhtiria and Davan were brought to China through the Silk Road. Thanks to this road, China’s trade and foreign relations with the countries of Central Asia and the Middle East greatly expanded in the 1st and 2nd centuries. Every year, large trade caravans with ambassadors were sent from China to Western countries. China could not communicate directly with the western countries, therefore Asians, especially the Sogdians, Bactrians and Iranians acted as mediators in trade and diplomatic relations conducted through the Silk Road [8].

Undoubtedly, the opening of the Silk Road had an impact on urban development. The Silk Road, the oldest and longest trade route between China, Central Asia and the Middle East, consists of 2 branches. In particular, the northern branch separated from Dunhuan was directed to Isfijab through Taroz and Yetisuv valley. The southern road passed through the oasis between Khojand, Yorkent and Pamir mountain ranges and reached Zariasp, the capital of Bactria [8]. At Balkh, the southern road split into two, one headed to India, the other to the west, and connected with the northern road from Marv. The Silk Road went from Marv, the Parthian capital city of Nisa, to Mesopotamia through the Iranian cities of Hekatompylus, Apalia and Ecbatana. There, passing through the cities of Ctesiphon and Baghdad, it headed north along the right bank of the Tigris River. After that, he went to Damascus through the cities of Nisibin and Antiochia. The Silk Road went from Damascus and Tire to Kunduz and Egypt [1]. Old cities such as Akhsikent, Marhamat, Qubo, and Margilan appeared along the branches of the Silk Road that passed through the Fergana Valley. That is why the Chinese sources of the II century BC report that there were 10 big and small cities in Ferghana [9]. Trade on this huge caravan route was particularly flourishing in the 13th-15th centuries. In the 13th and 14th centuries,

the Silk Road played a major role in connecting the remote regions of the Mongol Empire with Mongolia. By the 15th century, as a result of mutual wars in the Mongolian states, the security of the caravan trade was neglected.

## CONCLUSION

We know that the Silk Road did not pass through deserted deserts or areas without urban infrastructure, caravansary and markets. After all, this geographical location played an important role in ensuring the safety not only of material goods, but also of passengers in long-distance caravans. The Silk Road served to ensure not only trade relations between regions, but also information exchange between countries and continents. It played an important role in the spread of new products and agricultural crops, in the development of cultural values, and thus created conditions for communication between civilizations.

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