



TRADE IN THE EARLY WORLD

Ms. Majask
Global History

TRADE ROUTES

A **trade route** is a path along which goods are transported from one area to another

In early times, trade routes brought the luxuries of Asia and the Middle East into Western Europe

TRADE ROUTES

Trade routes increased contacts between peoples

- They resulted in an exchange of ideas and ways of doing things
- For example, trade with Muslims of the Middle East brought new goods and new knowledge to Europe during the Middle Ages

TRADE ROUTES

- The famous travels of the Italian trader Marco Polo revealed knowledge of China and the Mongol Empire
- He met Kublai Khan and returned from China with many things including: jade, jewels, porcelain, and silk



TRADE ROUTES

- This made Europeans more aware of China, a land they saw as far away and exotic
- His trip impacted the world and made people more interested in other cultures

THE SILK ROAD

One important trade route is the Silk Road which connected China and Europe

It existed from about 100 BC to 1500s AD

The route stretched across about 5,000 miles

- It crossed mountains and deserts in central Asia and in the Middle East between eastern China and the Mediterranean Sea

SILK ROAD



600  km
mi

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



THE SILK ROAD

The Silk Road got its name from the large amount of Chinese silk carried along it

- China was the only major supplier of silk until the A.D. 500s
- The following items were traded along the Silk Road:
 - Porcelain, silk, ivory, gold, spices, musical instruments, grain, fruit, cloth, herds of horses, and many other things

THE SILK ROAD

By A.D. 800, traffic along the Silk Road began to decrease as traders started to travel by safer sea routes

The last period of major use of the Silk Road was during the 1200s and 1300s, when the Mongols ruled central Asia and China

THE SLAVE TRADE

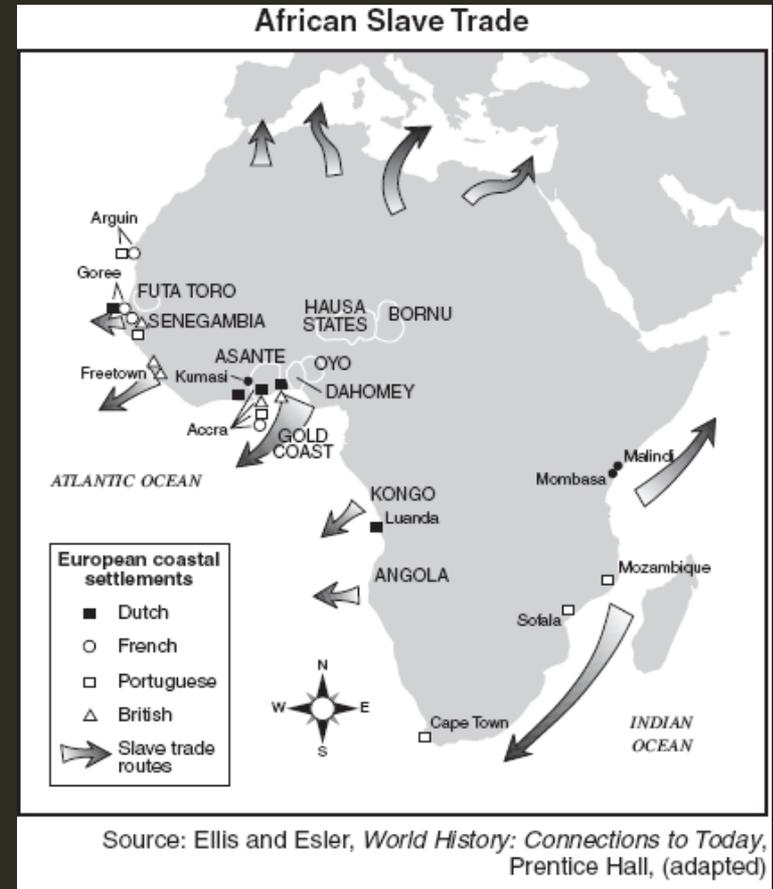
The Atlantic slave trade was part of the trade network called the triangular trade

- The trade route that linked Europe, Africa, and the Americas

THE SLAVE TRADE

This is how the triangular trade worked:

- On the first leg of the trade, merchant ships brought European goods to Africa (goods such as guns, cloth, etc)
- In Africa, merchants traded these goods for slaves



THE SLAVE TRADE

On the second leg of the trade, called the **middle passage**, slaves were transported to the Americas

- Enslaved Africans were exchanged for goods such as sugar and molasses

THE SLAVE TRADE

The middle passage was a horrible journey for slaves

- Slaves were packed into ships for transport for as little as three weeks or as long as three months
- Ships that transported the slaves were referred to as “floating coffins” since so many slaves died while aboard

THE SLAVE TRADE

On the final leg of the trade the sugar, molasses, cotton, etc. were traded for colonial goods

- These colonial goods were then shipped to Europe



Triangular Trade



Sugar, tobacco, and
cotton to Europe

Slaves to the
Americas

Textiles, rum and
manufactured
goods to Africa

THE SLAVE TRADE

Merchants and traders benefited from the slave trade because slaves served as a cheap form of labor

- For Africans, the slave trade destroyed their families and tore apart African society and traditions

THE SLAVE TRADE

The triangular trade also helped colonial economies to thrive and led to the development of port cities

Overall, it is estimated that over 11 million enslaved Africans were brought to the Americas as a result of the slave trade

TRADE EXPANDS

The search for new routes led to an age of exploration

During the 1400s, European nations searched for new routes to eastern Asia

They wanted to avoid the expensive tolls and the many hazards of the long journey from Asia

TRADE EXPANDS

At this time Italian city-states had a trade monopoly

This resulted in high prices and low profits to northern European merchants

The voyages of European explorers also opened up new parts of the world

- Many new all-water trade routes were established

TRADE EXPANDS

- Countries also set-up trading companies to govern and control trade
- The Portuguese first developed trade between India and the East Indies and Europe
- The Spanish, Dutch, French, and English quickly followed
 - This led to the development of colonial/overseas empires

THE COLUMBIAN EXCHANGE

European exploration brought many new things to its people

The Columbian Exchange began when Columbus returned to Spain in 1493 with a collection of American animals and plants

THE COLUMBIAN EXCHANGE

The Columbian exchange is defined as the exchange of plants, animals, and people between Europe and the Americas

In the Americas, Europeans found a variety of foods that were new to them

- Tomatoes, pumpkins, and peppers
- They also took corn and potatoes back to Europe

The Columbian Exchange

NORTH AMERICA

EUROPE

AFRICA



THE COLUMBIAN EXCHANGE

Europeans brought wheat and grapes to the Americas

- They also brought bananas and sugar cane from Africa and Asia to the Americas
- Cattle, pigs, goats and chickens were all brought by the Europeans

THE COLUMBIAN EXCHANGE

The Columbian Exchange also sparked the migration of people

- It spread new European diseases to Native American populations

MERCANTILISM

Mercantilism emerged out of the Commercial Revolution

Expanded trade, an increase in the money supply, and the push for overseas empires sparked a desire for profit

- This led to the development of joint stock companies who would seek overseas lands

MERCANTILISM

Mercantilism emerged as European monarchs sought to compete for trade purposes as well as for overseas empires

MERCANTILISM

This is how we define mercantilism:

- Colonies existed for the benefit of the mother country and to increase national wealth
- The colonies provided the mother country with raw materials not available in Europe
- European countries would then manufacture the goods and ship them back to their colonies

MERCANTILISM

- The goal of the mother country was to have a favorable balance of trade and lots of gold and silver in its treasury

Example: Great Britain and the 13 colonies



Information courtesy of World Book Online
Encyclopedia and *World History*