**Networks of Communication and Exchange: Chapter 8**

1. **Origins and Operations**
2. Parthian Rule
3. The Parthians named after their homeland east of the Caspian Sea had become a major force by 247 B.C.E.
4. Few written sources and recurring wars between Parthians and the Seleucids and later a war between the Romans prevented travelers from gaining knowledge of the Parthian Kingdom.
5. General Zhang
6. Zhang led eighteen expeditions as the originator of overland trade with the western lands.
7. He is credited with introducing a whole garden of new plants and trees to China
8. Brought alfalfa and wine grapes
9. Chinese farmers adopted
10. Pistachios
11. Walnuts
12. Pomegranates
13. Sesame
14. Spinach
15. Long-distance travel was more familiar to the Central Asians than to the Chinese
16. Trading demands that brought the Silk Road into being where Chinese eagerness for western products
17. horses
18. nomads provided pack animals and controlled transit across their lands
19. caravan cities that supported the trade were also an important factor
20. carried new fruits: peaches and apricots
21. cinnamon and ginger
22. manufactured goods: silk, pottery, and paper
23. Route was fully functioning around 100 B.C.E.

**Nomadism in Central and Inner Asia**

1. Nomads known as Scythians
2. Appear in history of the Greek writer Herodotus in the sixth century
3. Portrayed as superb riders, herdsmen, and hunters living in Central Asia
4. Familiar with agriculture and used products grown by farmers
5. Also provided their own food for themselves: meat and milk
6. Women oversaw the breeding and birthing of livestock and preparation of furs
7. The silk road could not have functioned without pastoral nomads
8. Provide animals
9. Animal handlers
10. Provide protection
11. Nomads were dependent on settled regions for bronze and iron
12. Used: bridles, stirrups, cart fittings, and weapons
13. Steppe nomads settled near settled areas and they traded wool, leather, and horses for wood, silk, vegetables, and grain

**The Impact of the Silk Road**

1. Trade became an important part of Central Asian life
2. Iranian-speaking peoples settled in trading cities
3. Prosperity that trade created affected not only the ethnic mix of region but also its cultural values
4. Religion (briefly, more in further outline)
5. Avid interest in Buddhism, which competed with Christianity, Manichaeism, Zoroastrianism, and eventually Islam
6. Religion exemplifies the impact of foreign customs and beliefs on the Central Asian peoples
7. Central Asian military techniques had a profound impact on both the East and West
8. **The Indian Ocean Maritime System**
9. A multilingual, multiethnic society of seafarers established the Indian Ocean Maritime System, a trade network across the Indian Ocean and the South China Sea
10. Forged increasingly strong economic and social ties between the coastal lands of East Africa, southern Arabia, the Persian Gulf, India, Southeast Asia, and southern China
11. Trade took place in three distinct regions:
12. South China Sea, Chinese and Malays dominated trade
13. From the east coast of India to the islands of Southeast Asia, Indians and Malays were the main traders
14. From the west coast of India to the Persian Gulf and the east coast of Africa, merchants and sailors were predominately Persians and Arabs
15. Voyages
16. Mediterranean sailors of the time of Alexander used square sails and long banks of oars to maneuver among the sea
17. Indian Ocean vessels relied on roughly triangular lateen sails and normally did without oars in running before the wind on long ocean stretches
18. These technological differences prove that the world of the Indian Ocean developed differently from the world of the Mediterranean Sea, where Phoenicians and Greeks established colonies that maintained contact with their home cities

**The Impact of Indian Ocean Trade**

1. By 2000 B.C.E. Sumerian records indicate regular trade between Mesopotamia, Oman, and the Indus Valley
2. The of only extensive written account of trade in the Indian ocean before the rise of Islam in the seventh century C.E. is an anonymous work by a Greco-Egyptian of the first century C.E.
3. Describes ports of call along the Red Sea and down the East African coast to somewhere south of the island of Zanzibar
4. Describes ports of southern Arabia and the Persian Gulf before continuing eastward to India, mentioning ports all the way around the subcontinent to the mouth of the Ganges
5. The demand for products form the coastal lands inspired mariners to persist in their long ocean voyages
6. Africa: produced exotic animals, wood and ivory
7. Northern Somalia and southern Arabia grew the scrubby trees whose aromatic resins were valued as frankincense and myrrh
8. Oman in southeastern Asia: evidence of ancient copper mines
9. India: spices and manufactured goods
10. The Indian Ocean trading region had a great variety of highly valued products
11. Women played a crucial though not well documented role as mediators between cultures

1. **Routes Across the Sahara**
2. The Sahara is a desert stretching from the Red Sea to the Atlantic Ocean separated by the Nile River. It isolates sub-Saharan Africa from the Mediterranean world
3. Trade over trans-Saharan caravan routes eventually expanded into a significant stream

**Early Saharan Cultures**

1. Images left by hunters included elephants, giraffes, rhinoceros, crocodiles, and other animals that have long been extinct in the region
2. Domestic cattle may have originated in western Asia or in North Africa
3. Paintings of cattle and scenes of daily life seen in the Saharan rock art depict pastoral societies
4. Artwork also show that horse herders succeeded the cattle herders
5. Horses are frequently shown drawing light chariots
	1. Scholars suggest possible chariot routes that refugees from the collapse of the Mycenaean and Minoan civilizations of Greece and Crete
6. Some historians say that the Romans inaugurated an important trans-Saharan trade
7. Saharan trade relates to the spread of camel domestication
	1. The first mention of camels in North Africa comes in a Latin text of 46 B.C.E.
	2. Camel herding made it easier for people to move away from the Saharan highlands and roam the deep desert

**Trade Across the Sahara**

1. Trading systems in the North and South developed slowly
2. Southern traders concentrated on supplying salt from large deposits in the southern desert to the people of Sub-Saharan Africa
3. Traders from the equatorial forest zone brought forest products: kola nuts and edible palm oil
4. Middlemen who were native to the Sahel (“the coast” in Arabic)played an important role in this trade
5. In the North, Roman colonists supplied Italy with agricultural products: wheat and olives
6. With the decline of Roman empire the trade pattern began to change
7. After the Arabs invaded North Africa, the direction of trade shifted to the Middle East (Arab Rule)
8. Arab conquests were inspired by the new religion of Islam and the Christian lands of Europe were considered enemy territory
9. Arabs felt a cultural kinship with Berber-speakers
10. Berber revolts against Arab rule was from 740 onward led to several small principalities on the northern fringe of the Sahara
11. The Islamic beliefs of their rulers may have interfered with their east-west overland trade and led them to look for new possibilities elsewhere
12. Traders discovered that the already existing trade in the South sometimes involved exchanging gold dust for salt
13. Gold came from deposit along the Niger and other West African Rivers
14. Everyone benefited from the creation of the new trade link. Sijilmasa and Tahert became wealthy cities

**The Kingdom of Ghana**

1. Ghana
2. Ghana was the earliest known sub-Saharan beneficiary of the new exchange system
3. Appeared in Arabic text of the late eighth century as the “land of gold”
4. Was established by the Soninke people and covered parts of Mali, Mauritania, and Senegal
5. King of Ghana controlled trade, collected taxes on the salt and copper coming from the North
6. His large army made Ghana the dominant power in the entire region
7. Although Ghana regained its independence many former provinces had fallen away, and it never recovered its greatness
8. Widespread adoption of the Islamic religion, without consequent impact on the way of life of the Sahel peoples, came under later kingdoms
9. **The spread of Ideas**

**Ideas and Material Evidence**

A. Historians know about some ideas only through the survival of written sources

1. Other ideas are inherited by material objects studied by archeologists and anthropologists
2. Domestication of pig argument
3. Southeast Asia
4. Center of pig domestication
5. Studies tell us that the eating of pork became a high ritual
6. Ancient Egypt
7. Swine was common in Nile swamps
8. Pigs took on sacred role, being associated with the evil god and eating it was prohibited
9. Eastern Iran
10. Small fig figurines were used as symbolic religious offerings

**The Spread of Buddhism**

* + 1. Buddhism along with Christianity and Islam grew to be one of the most popular widespread religions
1. Buddhism ideas spread without dependency on a single ethnic or kinship group
	* 1. King Ashoka, the Mauryan ruler of India, and Kanishka, the greatest king of the Kushams of Northern Afghanistan, promoted Buddhism between the third century B.C.E and the second century C.E.
2. Traders brought Buddha’s teachings to Southeast Asia, China, Korea, and ultimately Japan
	* 1. Buddhism stressed the goal of becoming a *bodhisativa,* a person who attains nirvana but chooses to remain in human company to help and guide others

**The Spread of Christianity**

1. Christianity spread earlier in Asia and Africa before Islam
2. Center of Christianity was Jerusalem in Palestine, Antioch in Syria and Alexandria in Egypt
3. Far south Christians sought to outflank Iran
4. Christian Emperors sent missionaries along the Red Sea trade route to seek converts in Yemen and Ethiopia