

Diffusion of Cultures

TRADE, BELIEFS, AND GOODS
(+ DISEASE)

Diffusion of Cultures

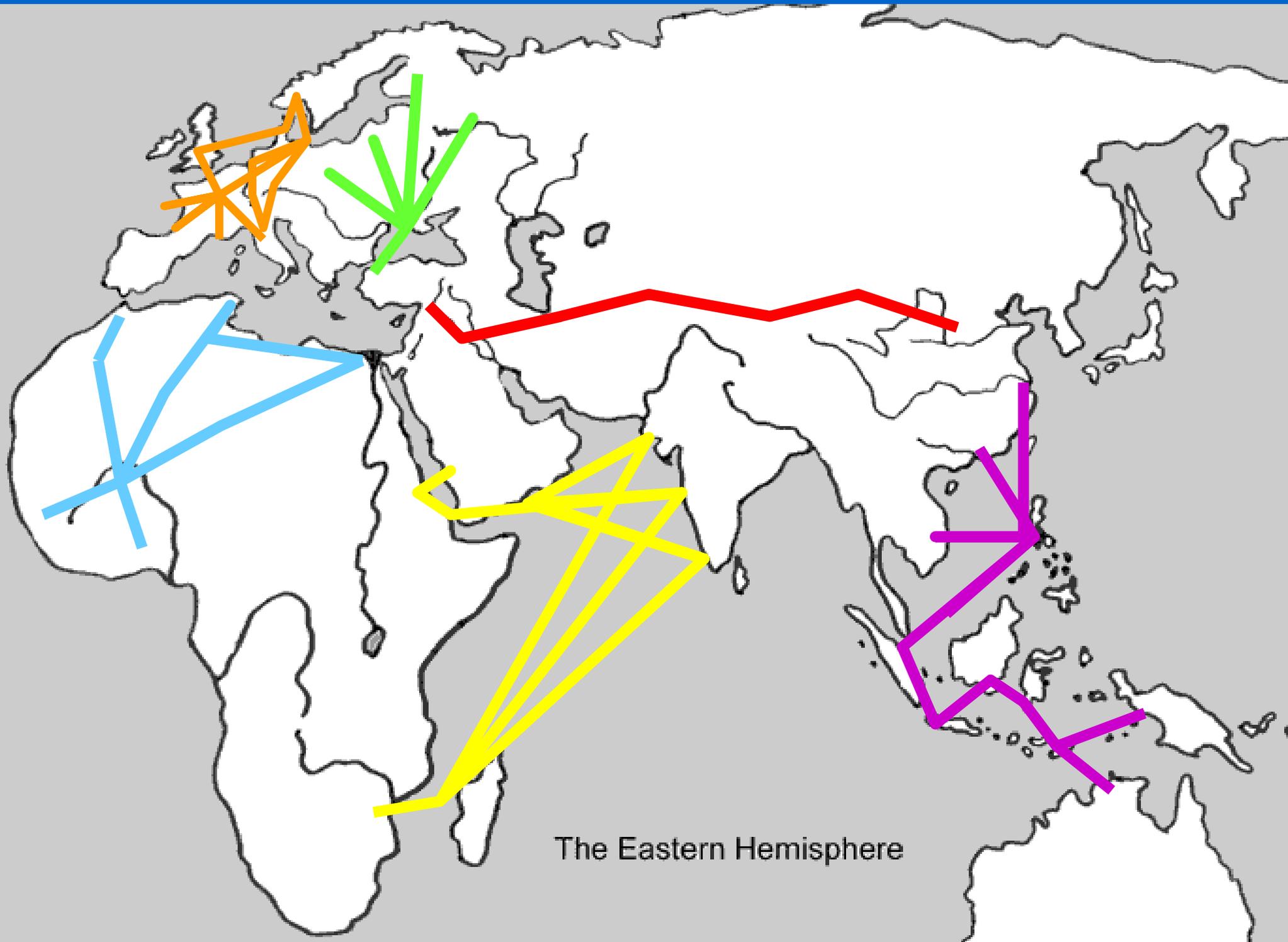
- SPREAD OF IDEAS FROM CENTRAL POINTS
- ADAPTATION OF IDEAS TO LOCAL NEEDS
- CREATIVE ADDITIONS
- INNOVATION, DIFFUSION, ACCULTURATION

Major Trades Routes

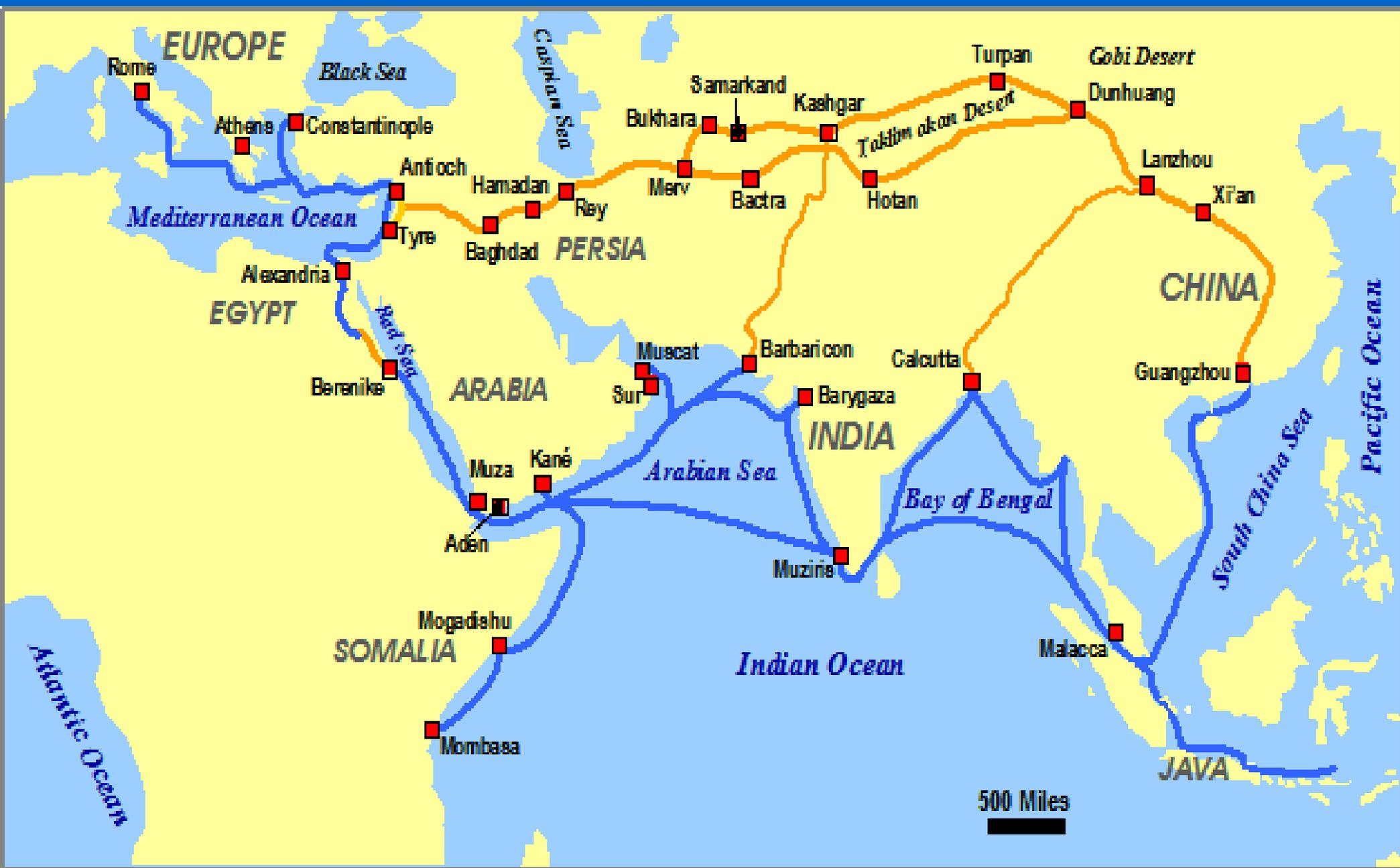
- SIX MAJOR ROUTES ON OR CROSSING THREE CONTINENTS.
 - AFRICA
 - ASIA
 - EUROPE
- TRADE ROUTES CONNECTED MOST MAJOR CIVILIZATIONS.

Major Trades Routes

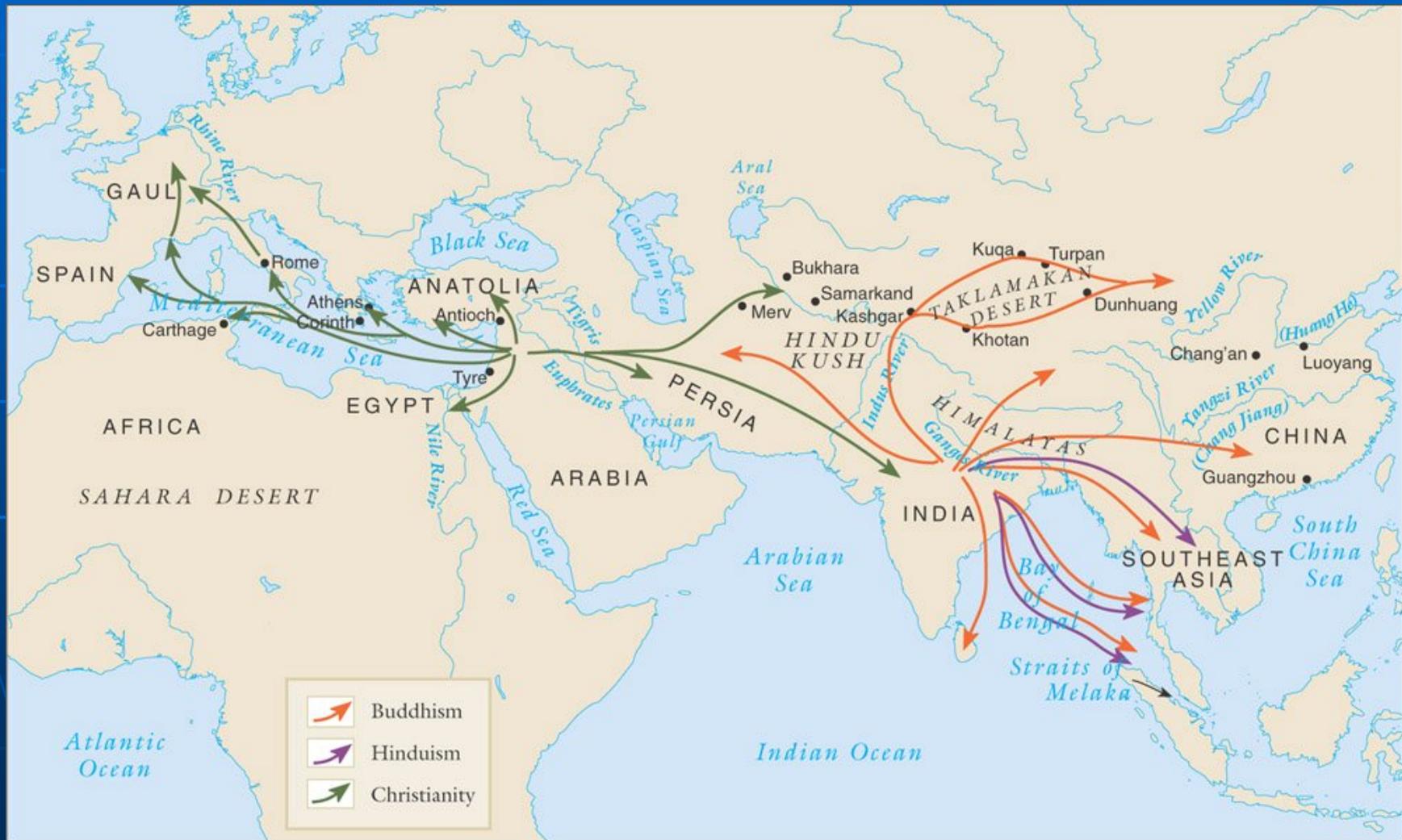
- ALL OF THESE ROUTES WOULD CONNECT WITH OTHERS AT CERTAIN POINTS.
- THIS MEANT THE WORLD WAS CONNECTED BY TRADE, EVEN IF MOST PEOPLE NEVER KNEW IT.
- THESE TRADE ROUTES ARE ONE OF THE BIGGEST REASONS CULTURAL DIFFUSION TOOK PLACE.
- THESE ROUTES HELPED IDEAS, TECHNOLOGIES, ETC SPREAD ACROSS THE ENTIRE WORLD.



The Eastern Hemisphere



The Spread of Hinduism, Buddhism and Christianity, 200 BCE – 400 CE



The Spread of Buddhism

- The spread of ideas in a deliberate and organized fashion such that we can trace it is a phenomenon of the first millennium CE.
- This is particularly the case with the spread of Buddhism, Christianity, and Islam.

- The spread of Buddhism was facilitated both by royal sponsorship and by the travels of ordinary pilgrims and missionaries.
- In India, the Mauryan king Ashoka and King Kanishka of the Kushans actively supported Buddhism.
- Two of the most well-known pilgrims who helped to transmit Buddhism to China were the Chinese monks Faxian and Xuanzang.
- Both have left reliable narrative accounts of their journeys.

- Buddhist missionaries from India traveled to a variety of destinations: west to Syria, Egypt, and Mesopotamia, as well as to Sri Lanka, southeast Asia, and Tibet.
- Buddhism was changed and further developed in the lands to which it spread. Theravada Buddhism became dominant in Sri Lanka, Mahayana in Tibet, and Chan (Zen) in East Asia.

Buddhism in China

- Originally, Buddhism restricted to foreign merchant populations
- Gradual spread to larger population beginning 5th century CE
- Monasteries provide it with a base

Popularity of Buddhism and Daoism

- Disintegration of political order casts doubt on Confucian doctrines
- Buddhism, Daoism gain popularity
 - People turn to their inward needs; seek harmony in a time of turmoil
- Religions of salvation enter China as well but aren't as popular as Buddhism.

Buddhism and Hinduism in SE Asia

- Sea lanes in Indian Ocean
- 1st c. CE clear Indian influence in SE Asia
 - Rulers called “rajās”
 - Sanskrit used for written communication
 - Buddhism, Hinduism increasingly popular faiths

Christianity in Mediterranean Basin

- Gregory the Wonderworker, central Anatolia 3rd c. CE
- Christianity spreads through Middle East, North Africa, Europe
- Sizeable communities as far east as India
- Judaism, Zoroastrianism also practiced

The Spread of Christianity

- Armenia was an important entrepot. An ***entrepôt*** (from the French "warehouse") is a trading post where merchandise can be imported and exported without paying import duties, often at a profit. for the Silk Road trade.
- Mediterranean states spread Christianity to Armenia in order to bring that kingdom over to its side and thus deprive Iran of control of this area.

Christianity in SW Asia

- Influence of ascetic practices from India
- Desert-dwelling hermits, monastic societies
- After 5th c. CE, followed Nestorius
 - Emphasized human nature of Jesus
 - Rejected by the churches of the Mediterranean Sea, so followers depart for Mesopotamia and Iran
 - Provide framework for SW Asian Christianity and spread on the Silk Road

- The transmission of Christianity to Ethiopia was similarly linked to a Mediterranean Christian attempt to deprive Iran of trade.

Spread of Manichaeism

- Mani - Zoroastrian prophet
(216-272 CE)
- Influenced by Christianity and Buddhism
- Dualist
 - good vs. evil
 - light vs. dark
 - spirit vs. matter

Manichaeian Society

- Devout: “the Elect”
 - Ascetic lifestyle
 - Celibacy, vegetarianism
 - Life of prayer and fasting
- Laity: “the Hearers”
 - Material supporters of “the Elect”

Decline of Manichaeism

- Spread through silk routes to major cities in Roman Empire
- Zoroastrian opposition provokes Sassanid persecution
 - Mani arrested, dies in captivity
- Romans, fearing Persian influence, also persecute

Sinicization of Nomadic Peoples

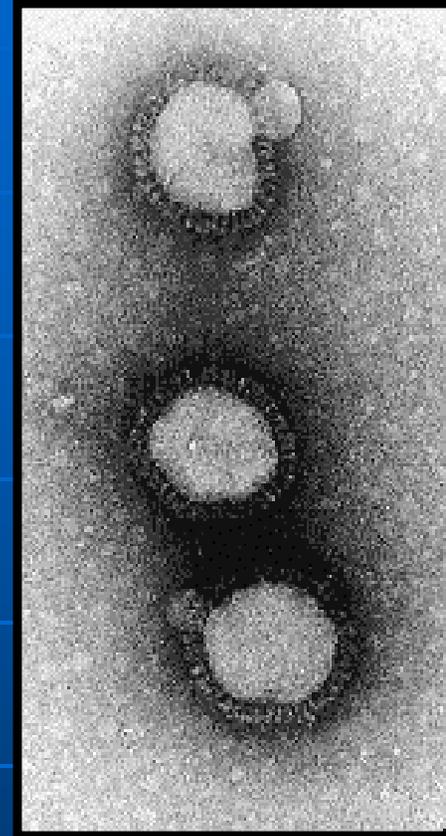
- “China-fication”
- Adoption of sedentary lifestyle
 - Agriculture, urban living
- Adoption of Chinese names, dress, intermarriage, ruling customs

Where does Disease fit in?

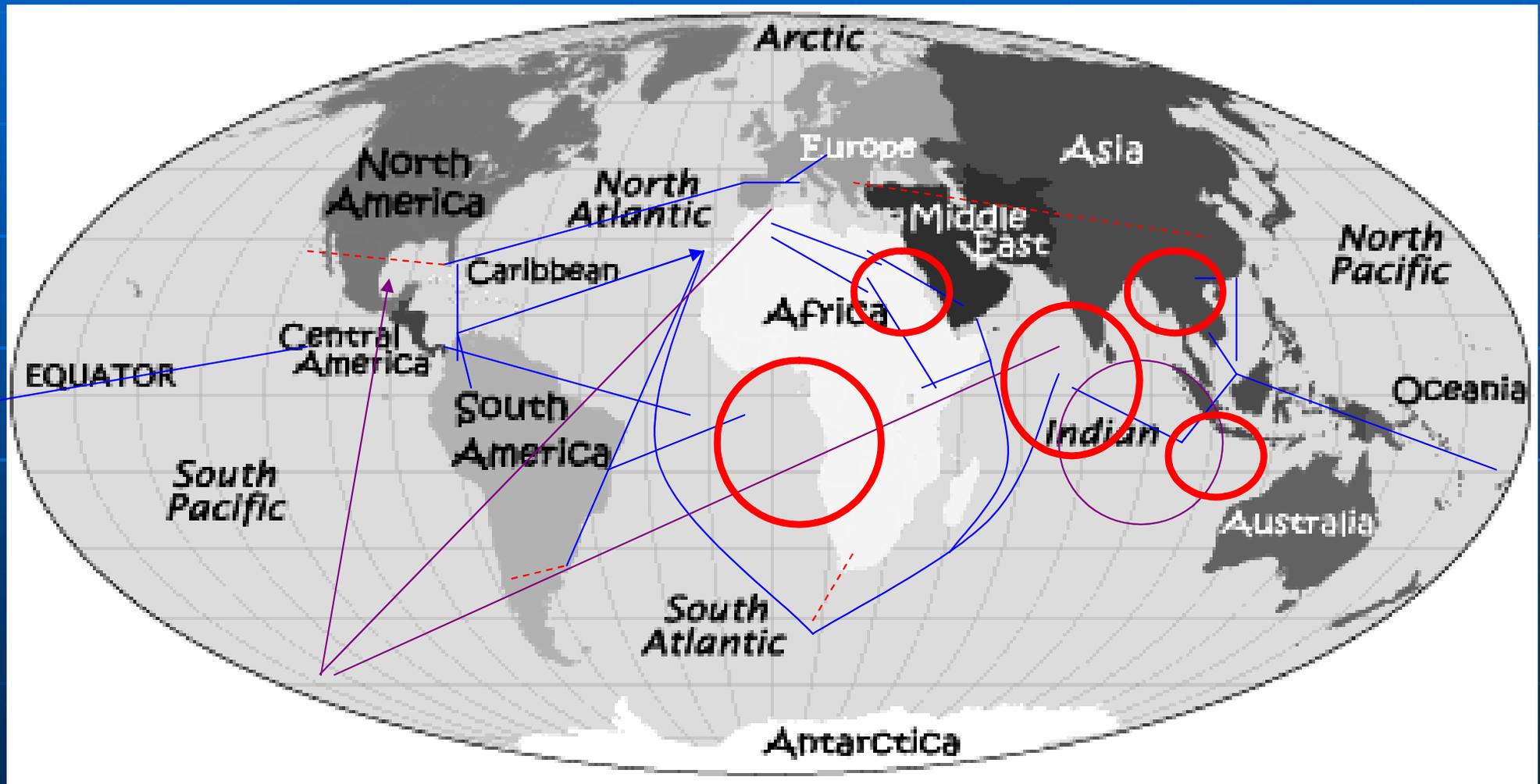
Malaria, bubonic plague, small pox, influenza, tuberculosis, cholera, etc.

**Where did they originate? →
Concentrated Population,
Domesticated Animals,
Warm, Wet Climates**

“Civilization may have been grand and glorious, but it also waded in manure.”



Foundations Period – The Emergence of Disease Pools



Trade, Transportation and Disease

Over thousands of years diseases became endemic in different societies

When they came into contact with “virgin” populations, disease often spread like wild fire

Disease helped the spread of civilization

- **Greco-Roman civilization in the Mediterranean**

Disease also tended to hold populations in check

Trade, Transportation and Pandemics

Pandemics have led to dramatic departures in world history

Both the transitions from the Classical to Postclassical Period (c. 600) and from the Postclassical to the Early Modern Period (c. 1500) were largely shaped by Pandemics