

SILK ROAD GEOGRAPHIC EXPANSION

Chronological Movement & Trade Integration

Historical Period: 130 BCE - 1453 CE Primary Axis: East-West Trans-Eurasian Trade

EXPANSION PHASE	MAJOR TERRITORIES	GEOGRAPHIC SIGNIFICANCE	PRIMARY EXPORTS
Initial Reach Han Dynasty	East Asia Chang'an, Hexi Corridor	Establishment of secure passage through the Gobi Desert to Central Asia.	<i>Silk, Lacquerware, Paper</i>
Central Integration Kushan/Parthian	Central Asia Samarkand, Bactria	The "Middleman" hub connecting the Himalayas with the Iranian Plateau.	<i>Horses, Jade, Glassware</i>
Maritime Expansion Indian Ocean	South Asia Barbaricum, Arikamedu	Development of the "Spice Routes" connecting coastal ports to overland trails.	<i>Spices, Cotton, Gems</i>
Western Terminal Roman/Byzantine	Mediterranean Antioch, Palmyra, Rome	Final destination for luxury goods entering the European markets.	<i>Gold, Silver, Wine, Wool</i>
Golden Age Tang & Abbasid	Middle East Baghdad, Damascus	Cultural and scientific synthesis at the height of	<i>Tea, Ceramics, Medicine</i>

**EXPANSION
PHASE**

**MAJOR
TERRITORIES**

**GEOGRAPHIC
SIGNIFICANCE**

**PRIMARY
EXPORTS**

Islamic/Chinese
exchange.

Instructional Note: Use this chart to track how geographical barriers (Taklamakan Desert, Pamir Mountains) influenced the specific pathing of trade caravans over 1,500 years.