

HISTORICAL GLOBALIZATION AND IMPERIALISM

Social Studies 10: Chapter 7

Part 1 – Early International Trade

Bell Work

Vocab Study

Eurocentric

Getting Goods

- Make a list of all the items you've used/eaten since yesterday morning
- Put an X beside all of the items that originated in Canada
- How many items come from all around the world?
- **INTERNATIONAL TRADE!**



- Have you eaten an orange lately? This fruit does not grow well in Canada's climate, so we ship them in from places such as Brazil and California. At one time, northern Europeans thought of oranges as a very special treat, to only be enjoyed on rare occasions. Why were they so valued? Because they were hard to get!



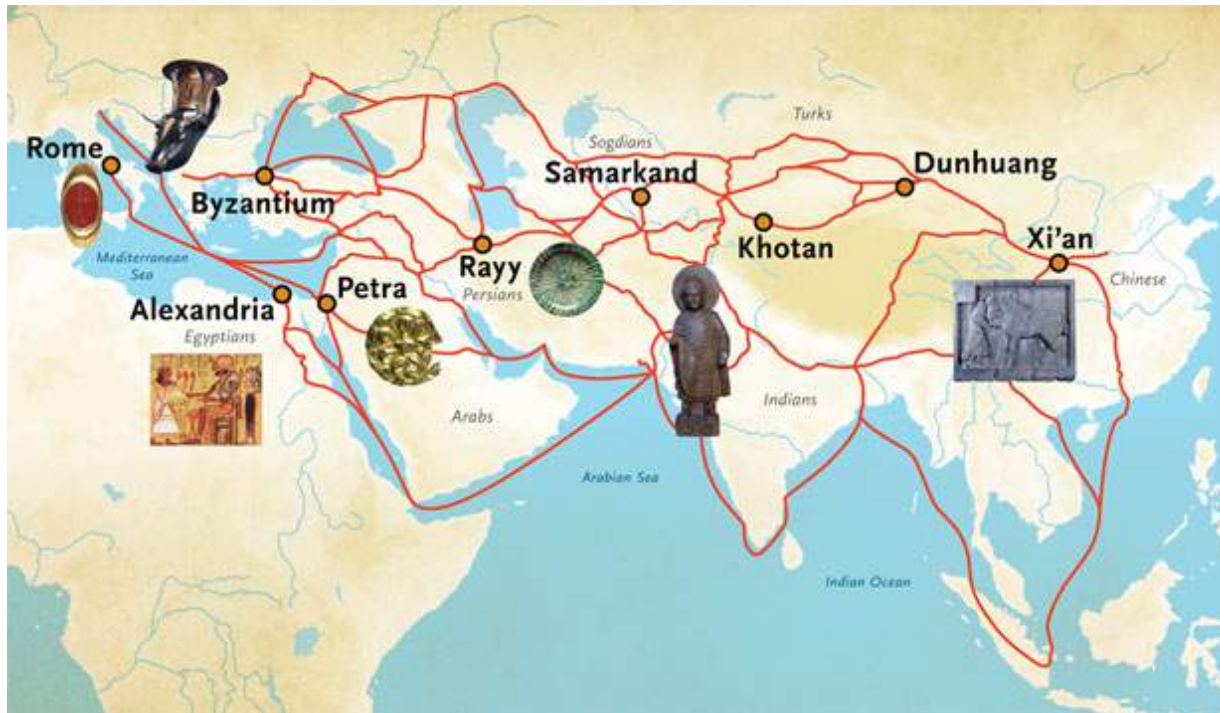
International Trade

The **exchange** of raw materials, goods, and services among **distant** groups of people



Until a few centuries ago, transportation technologies consisted of boats powered by the wind or human effort, or beats of burden such as horses, burrows, and camels. It took a lot of time and effort to get even a small bag oranges from southern Europe to northern Europe. People's desires for goods spurred international trade.

People's desires for goods spurred international trade... this led to the creation of the... **SILK ROAD!**



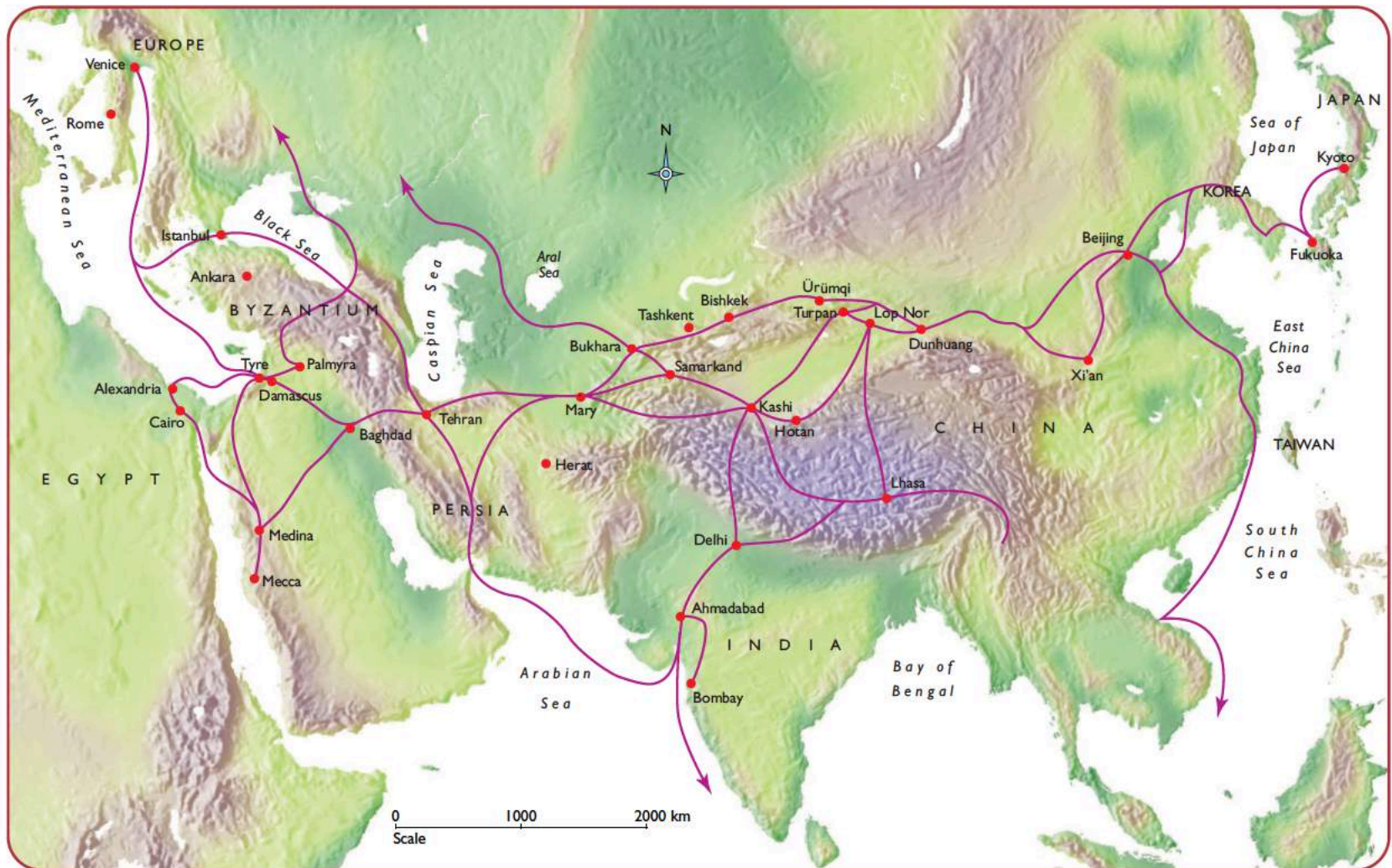
SILK ROAD

The name given to the **network of trading routes** that lay between the Mediterranean and China. These routes ran between mountains ranges, edges of deserts, and up river valleys.

Both European and Asian traders travelled the routes. They passed through bustling market towns, hiked rough trail, and rested at towns inhabited by many, varied peoples.

The Silk Road

- You might want to think of the Silk Road as the **communication highway of the ancient world**. Numerous **contacts** were formed between and among peoples of **diverse** cultures as goods were moved over long distances through **trade**, exchange, gift giving, and the payment of tribute (goods given by one government to another, as a price for peace). People moved from place to place to conduct business. They shared knowledge, inventions, religious beliefs, artistic styles, languages, and social customs as well as goods. Cities along the route became cultural and artistic centers, where peoples of **various ethnic and cultural backgrounds** could meet and intermingle.



Source: The Silk Road Project, <http://www.silkroadproject.org>.

Figure 7-3

The main routes of the Silk Road. The Chinese wanted to trade with nomads for camels and horses. They offered silk in return. The nomads then traded the silk with travellers from the West. Chinese rulers of successive dynasties kept secret the mystery of silk production. Compare and contrast this situation with modern transnational corporations taking out patents to protect their right to profit from their research.

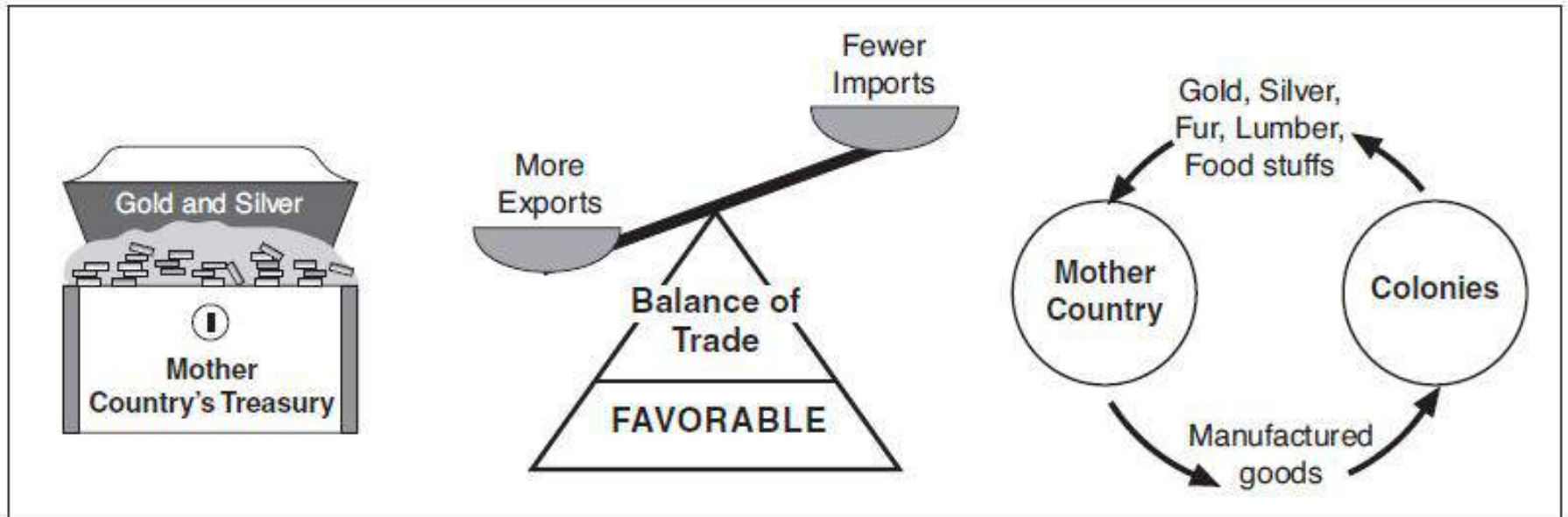
Mercantilism

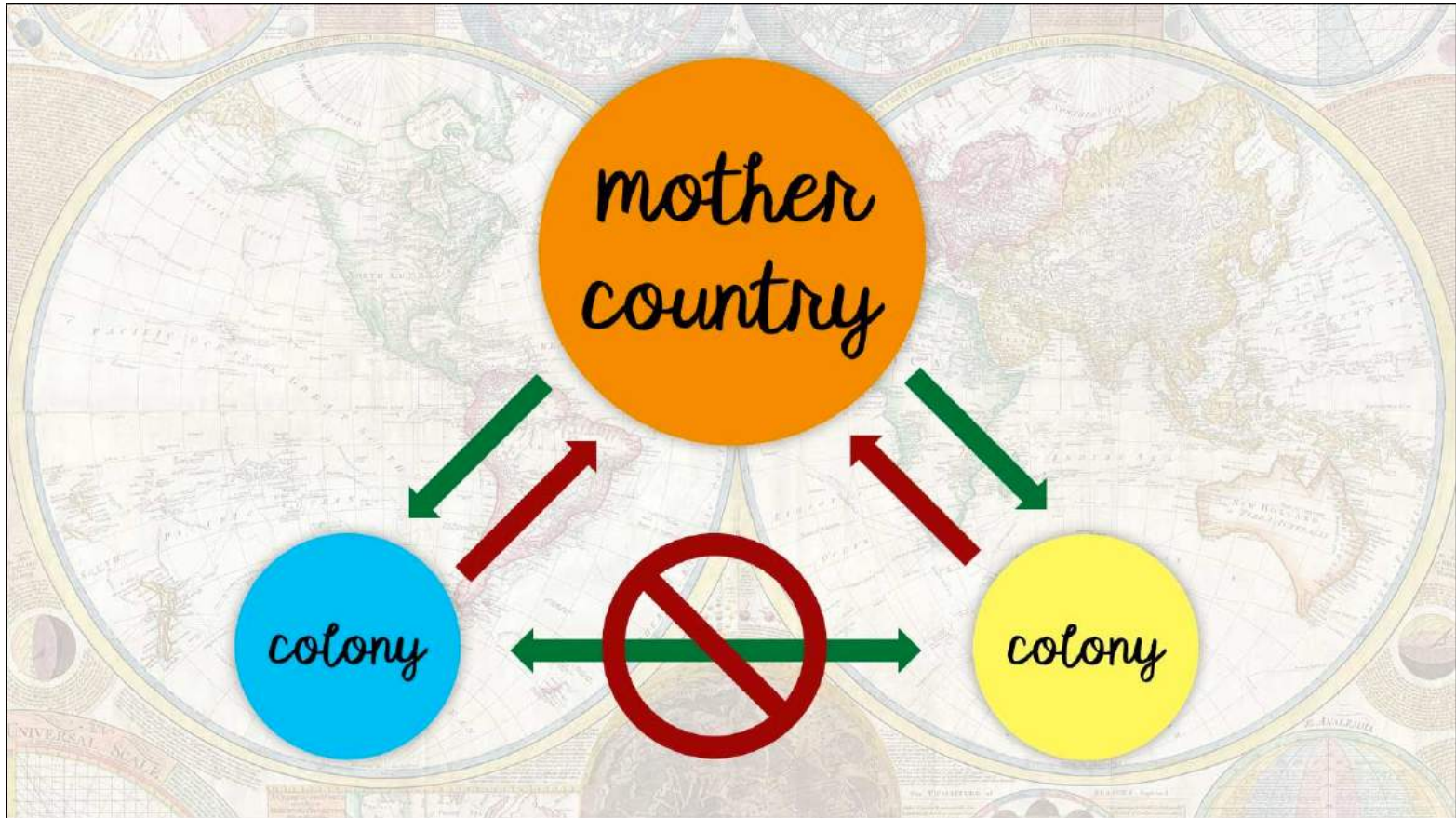
- A shift in international trade began in the seventh century, when Arab governments became actively involved in trading and controlling trade to increase their wealth. The Arab peoples were well placed to make this work, because they lived along the trade routes between three great empires: Egypt, Persia, and Byzantium. Arabic control of trade was therefore international in nature. Europeans saw the value in the Arabic approach in Northern Africa, Spain, the Middle East, and Asia. European governments began regulating international trade to increase their wealth. They developed this into an economic system called **mercantilism**.

Mercantilism

A **Eurocentric** economic policy whereby European monarchs increased their **wealth through international trade**

A European View





What does this illustration show you about who benefitted most from mercantilism? What could be the potential outcomes of this? What role do you think geography played in this?

In search of riches...

- In the 1500s, monarchs in Spain, England, France, and Portugal began searching the globe for attractive business opportunities.
- They sponsored colonies that provided natural resources. World trade came to be dominated not by small bands of traders but by major companies such as the Dutch and British East India companies. These officially sanctioned companies added to their countries' wealth by finding and bringing home natural resources and raw materials.
- The Europeans would use these to produce manufactured goods. For example, the fur trade in New France supplied France with inexpensive fur, which the French made into expensive top hats. These ventures also accomplished their main goal: putting gold and silver into the monarchs' pockets.



Whose interests?

- **It is important to understand that mercantilism was a Eurocentric phenomenon, that is, it placed the benefits to Europe above all else.**
- The powerful European monarchs and their advisers thought their mercantilist system was wonderful because it enabled them to accumulate wealth.



Whose interests?

- The Indigenous peoples in the territories that they plundered did not have the same perspective.
- The Europeans treated Indigenous peoples with respect **when doing so helped the Europeans build up wealth**. That was generally the case in New France, where the First Nations were crucial to the success of the fur trade.
- **What do you think the case was when doing so didn't help the Europeans build up wealth?**



MY SILK ROAD PROJECT