

THE SILK ROAD: A HISTORY OF CULTURAL AND MATERIAL EXCHANGES

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SPRING 2017

TF2 11:30-12:50 @ MU 112

Instructor: Professor Jessey J.C. Choo (j.choo@rutgers.edu)

COURSE DESCRIPTION

This course introduces the history of the Silk Road—a complex network of trade routes that connected China with the rest of the Eurasian continent over land and sea—and its role in fostering cultural and material exchanges between the peoples it connected. The course covers the period between 500 BCE and 1500 CE, during which the Silk Road contributed to the forming and transforming the cultural, ethnic, and religious identities of different peoples, such as Chinese, Greeks, Persians, Romans, Arabs, Turks, and Mongolians, and their perceptions of one another. The course moreover explores topics, including conspicuous consumption, cultural diversity, religious pluralism, and nomadic migration, as well as the financial, judicial, religious, and social institutions that were the fruits of these exchanges. The course begins and ends with an analysis of conceptualizations of the “Silk Road” against the backdrop of the “Great Game” that played out in the late 19th and early 20th centuries among various colonial powers and its legacy to this day. It also examines the recent push by the Chinese government to establish the so-called “Silk Road Economic Belt” by tapping into its rich legacy.

COURSE REQUIREMENTS

Undergraduate

Class Participation	20%
Map Quiz	10%
Weekly Analysis of Primary Sources (WAPS)	40%
Term Paper	30%

Graduate

Class Participation	20%
Weekly Analysis of Primary Sources (WAPS)	20%
Chapter précis (10 %) & Book Review (20%)	30%
Research Paper (abstract & outline 5%)	30%

CLASS PARTICIPATION

Students are required to attend all classes. Should you miss a class, please use the Absence Self-Reporting system (<https://sims.rutgers.edu/ssra/>) to indicate the date and reason for your absence. Class participation does not just mean attendance. It encompasses: 1. Attending the lectures; 2. observing of classroom decorum (no chatting, texting, eating, gaming, or surfing the internet); 3. timely completion of reading assignments; 4. active participation in group discussions. Students must bring a copy of the texts to class.

ADDITIONAL TUTORIALS AND TUTORIAL PRESENTATIONS (FOR GRADUATE STUDENTS ONLY)

Starting in the second week of the semester, the graduate students will meet with me every other week for one hour to discuss the additional readings. The time and place are to be decided upon consultation. Students are to present their assigned chapter and circulate a précis 24 hours before the meeting. Everyone is required to come prepared for discussion whether or not s/he is presenting.

MAP QUIZZES:

Students are expected to develop a firm knowledge of the general geography of Eurasia. There will be several map quizzes throughout the semester. The best way to prepare for them is to pay close attention to the maps included in assigned readings and lectures. I will also distribute a worksheet for practicing before each quiz.

WRITING ASSIGNMENTS

All written assignments will be evaluated based on the presentation of the material, the level of critical interpretation/reflection, and clear and logical development of the argument and thesis.

A. WEEKLY ANALYSIS OF PRIMARY SOURCE (WAPS)

Each WAPS should consist of the close reading of **ONE** assigned primary source. It should be between 275-300 words in length. Every undergraduate student is advised although not required to submit **ONE** analytical reflection every week. The **TEN** highest grades will be used to calculate the course grade. Every graduate student is required to submit **ONE** per week. **All WAPS are due on Tuesday in class starting on January 24, 2017.** (See attachments for details)

B. TERM PAPER (FOR UNDERGRADUATE STUDENTS ONLY)

Every undergraduate student is to complete a term paper for this course. The paper will be an analytical essay centering on a question drawn from course materials. Students must engage the primary sources directly and use them to support arguments. The paper should be between 1000-1250 words in length. (See attachments for more details).

C. CHAPTER PRÉCIS & BOOK REVIEW (FOR GRADUATE STUDENTS ONLY)

Every graduate student is to prepare a 250-300 words précis for the article or chapter s/he is assigned and circulate it 24 hours before the tutorial. Every student also has to complete **ONE** book reviews. (More instruction to come).

D. RESEARCH PAPER (FOR GRADUATE STUDENTS ONLY)

Every graduate student has to write a paper of original research on one aspect of the Silk Road. **An abstract and outline of the paper are due on April 7, 2017.** The paper must have a cogent and clearly stated thesis as well as consults and evaluates both primary and secondary sources. The paper should be between 3500-4000 words in length, typed, double-spaced, with each page numbered and encloses a word count at the end. S/he should provide proper citations using footnote and attach a full bibliography following the *Chicago Manual of Style*. Please make sure that paper is free from grammatical and spelling errors. The paper will be evaluated based on the following criteria: 1) the originality; 2) strength of argumentation; 3) structure and organization; 4) evaluation and use of sources; and 5) language and grammar. (More instructions to come)

ACADEMIC INTEGRITY

Students are expected to uphold the highest standards of academic integrity at all times. Violations include cheating, fabrication, plagiarism, denying others access to information or material, and

facilitating violations of academic integrity. If you ever have questions about academic integrity in the course, please talk to me or send me an email immediately with your concerns. See full statement of current Academic Integrity Policy at:

<http://academicintegrity.rutgers.edu/academic-integrity-policy/>

STUDENTS WITH DISABILITIES

It is the policy of Rutgers to make reasonable academic accommodations for qualified individuals with disabilities. If you have a disability and wish to request accommodations to complete your course requirements, please contact the Office of Disability Services and ask to speak with a Coordinator (848-445-6800 or dsoffice@echo.rutgers.edu) about accommodations.

COURSE MATERIALS REQUIRED FOR ALL STUDENTS

Students must bring to the class a copy of the assigned reading.

All course materials are available for download except this one:

- **Hansen, Valerie. *The Silk Road: A New History with Documents*. 2017. (New History)**
Please acquire it.

Please download these books from Google Drive:

<https://drive.google.com/drive/folders/0B0czZIJzjLqxazAwY0ZjRFVneTA?usp=sharing>

- Barry W. Cunliffe. *By Steppe, Desert, and Ocean: The Birth of Eurasia*. 2015. (**Steppe**)
- Richard C. Foltz. *Religions of the Silk Road: Premodern Patterns of Globalization*. Palgrave Macmillan, 2010. (**Religions**)
- Xinru Liu. *The Silk Roads: A Brief History with Documents*. Bedford/St. Martin's, 2012. (**Documents**)

All other assigned scholarly articles, book chapters, and primary sources are on Sakai

ADDITIONAL COURSE MATERIALS REQUIRED FOR GRADUATE STUDENTS ONLY

Please download these books from Google Drive:

<https://drive.google.com/drive/folders/0B0czZIJzjLqxVnV1aGgyZC1xcnM?usp=sharing>

- Elverskog. *Buddhism and Islam on the Silk Road*. U Penn Press, 2010. (e-book on Sakai)
- Zürcher. *Buddhist Conquest of China: The Spread and Adaptation of Buddhism in Early Medieval China*. Boston: BRILL, 2014. (e-book on Sakai)
- Kieschnick. *The Impact of Buddhism on Chinese Material Culture*. Princeton University Press, 2003.

OFFICE HOURS

Tuesday by appointment

ADDITIONAL TUTORIAL SECTIONS (FOR GRADUATE STUDENTS ONLY)

Starting in the second week of the semester, the graduate students will meet with me every other week for one hour to discuss your additional readings. The time and place are to be decided upon consultation.

COURSE SCHEDULE:

* = the item is on Sakai **and** required for all students

‡ = the item is required **only** for graduate students

✓ = primary sources

(Reading must be completed by the date indicated)

WEEK 1

01/17 Tue **COURSE INTRODUCTION**

01/20 Fri **THE GREAT GAME**

Steppe, Ch. 1

✓ *Stein, "By the Desert Edge of Khotan" and "The Shrine of Khadalik

✓ *Hedin, "I approach the Desert," "Sand Sea," and "I discovered 2000-Year Old Cities in the Desert"

WEEK 2

01/24 TUE **SILK**

*Boulnois, Ch. 1: "Serica" and Ch. 2: "The Land of Silk," 33-58

✓ New History, 6: Greek Description of the Lands East of India, 34-35

✓ New History, 7: Pliny the Elder on the Country of Seres and the Silkworm, 36-37

✓ *Pliny: *Natural History* (On India)

‡ Bueno, "Roman Views of the Chinese in Antiquity," *Sino-Platonic Papers* 261

01/27 Fri:

HORSES & XIONG'NU

Steppe, Ch. 7: 266-280

*Boulnois, Ch. 3: "Adventures of a Diplomat-Explorer" and Ch. 4: "The Power of a Kingdom Rests with its Horses," 59-85

✓ *Beginnings of Relations with the Hsiung-nu

✓ *The Mission to the West by Zhang Qian

✓ *A Chinese Memorial Discussing Strategy of the Building and Maintaining of the Great Wall

✓ *Ta-yuan [Ta-wan] (Ferghana)"

‡ Lieu, "Da Qin and Fulin—the Chinese Names for Rome" in *Between Rome and China*

WEEK 3

01/31 Tue **ZOROASTRIANISM**

Religions, Chs. 1-2: "The Silk Road and Its Travelers" and "Religion and Trade in Ancient Eurasia" 1-30 (to the end of the Zoroaster section)

✓ *Zoroastrian Scriptures: "Hymn to Ahura and the Purifying Fire," "Hymn to Ahura Mazda the Creator," "The Choice between Good and Evil", "Judgment of the Soul on Chinvat Bridge," "The Zoroastrian Confession" and "Disposal of the Dead"

‡ Boyce, "On the Zoroastrian Temple Cult of Fire." *Journal of the American Oriental Society* 95 (3): 454-65

‡ Boyce, Mary. 1984. "On the Antiquity of Zoroastrian Apocalyptic." *Bulletin of the School of Oriental and African Studies, University of London* 47 (1): 57-75.

02/03 Fri **No Class**

WEEK 4

02/07 Tue **ALEXANDER THE GREAT & HELLENISTIC EAST**
Steppe, Ch. 6, 203-220
✓ Documents, 4. Strabo and 5. Arrian
✓ *Arrian: Speech of Alexander the Great
**Afghanistan: Hidden Treasure from the National Museum, Kabul* (Website) *
♪ Manning & Renfrew, "At the Limits: Long-Distance Trade in the Time of Alexander The Great And The Hellenistic Kings," In *Reconfiguring The Silk Road*, 5–14
♪ Lerner, Jeffrey D. 1998. "Ptolemy and the Silk Road: From Baktra Basileion to Sera Metropolis." *East and West* 48 (1/2): 9–25.

02/10 Fri **LUXURY TRADES**
Steppe, Ch. 7, 285-293
*Boulnois, Ch. 6: "The Geographer in Antiquity and Women's Extravagance" and Ch. 7: "Dangers in the Erythraean Sea," 99-144
✓ Documents, 6: Pliny the Elder and 7: The Voyage around the Red Sea
♪ Pollard, "Indian Spices and Roman 'Magic' in Imperial and Late Antique Indo-mediterranea." *Journal Of World History* 24.1 (2013): 1–23.
♪ Zürcher, *Buddhist Conquest of China*, Forward & Ch. 1

WEEK 5

02/14 Tue **BUDDHISM (I)**
Religions, Ch. 3: "Buddhism and the Silk Road," 37-58
✓ *Buddhist Scriptures: "The Life of Siddhartha Gotama," and "The Death of Gotama Buddha
✓ * Buddhist Scriptures: "The Sermon on the Four Noble Truths," "The Noble Eightfold Path," and "Skandhas and the Chain of Causation"
♪ Zürcher, *Buddhist Conquest of China*, Ch. 2

02/17 Fri **THE KUSHAN EMPIRE**
*Liu, *Silk Road in World History*, Ch. 3: "The Kushan Empire and Buddhism," pp. 42-61
✓ *Ashoka, King of Behar: The Rock Edicts, c. 257 BCE
✓ *The Questions of King Milinda (r. 165-130BCE)
✓ * Buddhist Scriptures: "Founding of the Monastic Order," "Founding of the Order of Nuns," and "A Mahayana View of the Buddha"
✓ *The Bodhisattva's Infinite Compassion
♪ Sick, "When Socrates Met the Buddha: Greek and Indian Dialectic in Hellenistic Bactria and India." *Journal of the Royal Asiatic Society* 17.3 (2007): 253–78.

WEEK 6

02/21 Tue **SILK ROAD OASES (I)**
New History, Ch. 1: The Kingdom of Kroraina, 38-76
✓ *Notes on the Western Region: "Shan Shan"
✓ *Stein, "at the Niya Site Ruins"
✓ New History, 11: Local Life in a Silk Road Community, 83-93

- 02/24 Fri **SILK ROAD OASES (II)**
New History, Ch. 2: Kucha and the Kizil Caves, 94-124
✓ New History, 13: How the Germans Removed Paintings from the Kizil Caves
✓ New History, 16: The Invasion of Kucha by General Lü Guang
✓ New History, 17: The Biography of Kumarajiva
📖 Zürcher, *Buddhist Conquest of China*, Ch. 3
- WEEK 7 **BUDDHISM ENTERED CHINA**
Steppe, Ch. 8, 296-299 and 313-326
- 02/28 Tue ✓ *"The Buddha Foretells the Gradual Decline of Religion"
✓ *The Prophecy Concerning Maitreya
✓ *The *Lotus Sutra*, Ch. 2: Expedient Means
✓ *Sources of Chinese Tradition: Mouzi
📖 Zürcher, *Buddhist Conquest of China*, Chs. 4-5
- 03/03 Fri **CHRISTIANITY & NESTORIANISM**
Religions, Ch. 4: "Nestorians and Manichaeans on the Silk Road"
✓ *"The Nicean Creed"
✓ *"Council of Ephesus, 431"
✓ *"On the Truth of Christianity"
✓ New History, 29: The Nestorian Stele of Xi'an
📖 Barat, "Aluoben, A Nestorian Missionary In 7th Century China." *Journal of Asian History* 36.2 (2002): 184–98.
📖 Zürcher, *Buddhist Conquest of China*, Ch. 6
- WEEK 8 **MANICHAISM**
- 03/07 Tue ✓ * Manichaean Texts, 41: Anti-Manichaean legislation issued by Theodosius
✓ * Manichaean Texts, 42: The death penalty for Manichaeans
✓ * Manichaean Texts, 59: Augustine's summary of the teaching
✓ * Manichaean Texts, 69. Augustine on Manichaean Christology
✓ * Manichaean Texts, 71. The great war and the last judgement
📖 Scott, "Manichaeism In Bactria: Political Patterns & East-West Paradigms," *Journal Of Asian History* 41.2 (2007): 107–30.
- 03/10 Fri **THE SOGDIANS**
New History, Ch. 4: Samarkand & Sogdiana
✓ New History, 23: The Sogdian Ancient Letters
✓ New History, 24: The Mount Mugh Marriage Contract and Bride's Script
✓ New History, 25: The Fall of Devashitch's Fortress
✓ New History, 27: The Kingdom of Sogdiana
📖 Kieschnick, *The Impact of Buddhism on Chinese Material Culture*, Introduction & Ch. 1
- WEEK 9 **SPRING BREAK**

WEEK 10

03/21 Tue

BYZANTIUM & PERSIA

Steppe, Ch. 8, 299-313

*Liu, *Silk Road in World History*, Ch. 4: A Golden Age Emerges

✓ Documents, 19: Propocius (History of the War)

✓ Documents, 20: Propocius (Secret History)

✓ Documents, 21: The Book of Eparch

✓ *"The Karnamik-I-Ardashir" (The Records of Ardashir)

♪ Kieschnick, *The Impact of Buddhism on Chinese Material Culture*, Ch. 2

03/24 Fri

SILK ROAD OASES (III)

New History, Ch. 3: Turfan

✓ New History, 20: The Real World Legal System

✓ New History, 21: The Underworld Court System

✓ New History, 22: The Tang Code

♪ Hansen & Rong, "How the Residents of Turfan Used Textiles as Money, 273–796 CE." *Journal of the Royal Asiatic Society (Third Series)* 23.2 (2013): 281–305.

WEEK 11

03/28 Tue

TANG CHINA & THE SILK ROAD

Steppe, Ch. 9, 349-353

New History, Ch. 5: Chang'an

✓ Document, 22: Zhang Chuo

✓ *"The Humane King as the Protector of Buddhism"

✓ *"Memorial on the Bone of the Buddha"

♪ Kieschnick, *The Impact of Buddhism on Chinese Material Culture*, Ch. 3

♪ Young, "For A Compassionate Killing: Chinese Buddhism, Sericulture, And The Silkworm God Aśvaghōṣa," *Journal Of Chinese Religions*, 41.1 (2013), 25–58.

03/31 Fri

SILK ROAD OASES (III)

New History, Ch. 6: Dunhuang

✓ New History, 32: Aurel Stein's Negotiations at Dunhuang

✓ New History, 34: A Manichaeon Hymn

✓ New History, 35: A Christian Hymn

✓ New History, 36: Zhang Yichao Transformation text

✓ New History, 37: Women's life at Dunhuang

♪ Kieschnick, *The Impact of Buddhism on Chinese Material Culture*, Ch. 4 & Conclusion

♪ Rong, "Khotanese Felt and Sogdian Silver: Foreign Gifts to Buddhist Monasteries in Ninth-and Tenth-Century Dunhuang." *Asia Major* 17.1 (2004): 15–34.

WEEK 12

04/04 Tue

ISLAM

Religions, Ch. 5: "The Islamization of the Silk Road," pp. 89-109

✓ *Van Voorst, *World Scriptures*, Ch. 12: "The Call of Muhammad," "The Mission of Muhammad," Opposition to Muhammad,

"The Night Journey" and "The Death of Muhammad"

✓ *Van Voorst, *World Scriptures*, Ch. 12: "God's Absolute Oneness," "Adam, Eve, and the

Fall," "On Unbelievers, Jews, and Christians," "Resurrection and Judgment,"
✓ *Van Voorst, *World Scriptures*, Ch. 12: The Holy Qur'an, The Conduct of Believers,"
"Women," "The Different Dimensions of Struggle (Jihad)," and "Confession of Faith"
‡ Elverskog, *Buddhism and Islam on the Silk Road*, Introduction & Ch. 1

04/07 Fri

THE ARAB CONQUESTS OF THE SILK ROAD

*Golden, *Central Asia in World History*, Chs. 4-5: "The Cities of the Silk Road and the
Coming of Islam" and "Crescent Over Steep," 50-75
✓ **Islamic Central Asia: Historical Sources*, Part 1.A: Central Asia and Arab Conquests,
Sect #1
‡ Elverskog, *Buddhism and Islam on the Silk Road*, Ch. 2

WEEK 13

04/11 Tue

SILK ROAD OASES (IV)

New History, Ch. 7: Khotan
✓ New History, 38: Xuanzang's Description of Khotan
✓ New History, 39: Faxian's Description of Khotan
✓ New History, 40: The Book of Zambasta
✓ New History, 41: A Khotanese Contracts
‡ Elverskog, *Buddhism and Islam on the Silk Road*, Ch. 3

04/14 Fri

OCEANIC SILK ROAD

Steppe, Ch. 9, 360-369; Ch. 10: 388-393
*Boulnois, *Silk Road*, Ch. 14: "The World Marketplace of Sinbad the Sailor," pp. 279-310
✓ *Documents*, pp. 26-28; Pieces #25, 26, 28, 30 and 31
✓ Anthropological Theory- Ibn Battuta
‡ Daryaei, "The Persian Gulf Trade in Late Antiquity," *Journal of World History* 14.1
(2003): 1-16.
‡ Tansen, "The Formation of Chinese Maritime Networks to Southern Asia, 1200-1450."
Journal of the Economic and Social History of the Orient 49.4 (2006): 421-53.

WEEK 14

04/18 Tue

THE RISE OF THE MONGOL EMPIRE

*Biran, *Chinggis Khan*, Ch. 1: "Asia, The Steppe and the Islamic World on the Eve of the
Mongols," pp. 6-26
Steppe, Ch. 11, 417-435
✓ **Islamic Central Asia: Historical Sources*, Part 3.A: Temujin and the Rise of Mongol
Empire, Sect# 19, 20, 23 only
‡ Elverskog, *Buddhism and Islam on the Silk Road*, Ch. 4

04/21 Fri

THE MONGOLS AND THE SILK ROAD

Religions, Ch. 6: "Ecumenical Mischief," pp. 111-134
*Boulnois, *Silk Road*, Ch. 15: "Oriente Poliano," pp. 311-352
Steppe, Ch. 11, 442-448
‡ Elverskog, *Buddhism and Islam on the Silk Road*, Ch. 5 & Conclusion

WEEK 15

- 04/25 Tue **THE TRAVELERS ALONG THE SILK ROAD**
New History, Ch. 8: Beijing
✓ New History, 47: John of Plano
✓ Anthropological Theory-Marco Polo
¶Rong, "Reality or Tale? Marco Polo's Description of Khotan." *Journal of Asian History* 49.
1-2 (2015): 161-74.
- 04/28 Fri **The Silk Road in Twilight/Graduate Book Review Due/Term Paper Due**
*Rassabi, "The 'Decline' of the Central Asian Caravan Trade" in *The Rise of Merchant Empires*, pp. 351-370

WEEKLY ANALYSIS OF PRIMARY SOURCE (WAPS)

- WEIGHT:** 40 points/submission for undergraduate students
10 points/submission for graduate students
- GRADE:** Only the 10 best grades will be count toward the course grade (Undergraduate Only)
- DUE DATE:** Every Tuesday in class starting January 24, 2017 (no late submission)

DESCRIPTION

A week analysis of primary source is a very short essay focus on one assigned document. A primary source could be a text or an object. It is a relic of time produced by people who are now long dead. You should treat each primary source as a time capsule that preserves a piece of history. All scholars in the humanities work with primary sources of various kinds. Their scholarship is built on their skills in reading, analyzing, and reflecting upon primary sources pertaining to their subject of research. The weekly analyses you are doing for this course will help you become a better reader and writer..

Like other types of formal essay, each weekly analysis should have introduction, body, and conclusion. While you do need to provide a very brief summary of the document you choose, it should not upstage your analysis. While you should share your thoughts on the issues raised in the document, your WAPS cannot be a stream of consciousness. A good WAPS should achieve the following:

- Provide A brief summary of the content and context
- Identify the authorial intent and the targeted audience
- Identify author’s argument and evaluate its effectiveness
- Deduce the cultural/political/religious/social bias and value of the author and the intended audience
- Theorize what the community that produced it was like?
- Relate this document to the other documents you have read in this course

The best week analysis of primary source evaluates the aforementioned aspects in a balanced, well-informed and thoughtful manner, AND always stays within the word limit.

FORMAT

- The title of the essay should be the title of the primary source you analyze
- Each WAPS must be between 275-300 words
- You must include a word count at the end of each WAPS
- Times New Roman, size 12, single spaced

WAPS RUBRIC

Accurately summarize the content and context of the document				
Excellent	Good	Average	Poor	Unacceptable
3	2	1.5	1	0
Identify the authorial intent and the targeted audience				
Excellent	Good	Average	Poor	Unacceptable
1	0.75	0.5	0.25	0
Identify the argument and evaluate its effectiveness				
Excellent	Good	Average	Poor	Unacceptable
1	0.75	0.5	0.25	0
Identify the cultural/ political biases and values of the author and the intended audience				
Excellent	Good	Average	Poor	Unacceptable
1	0.75	0.5	0.25	0
Theorize about the society that produced it				
Excellent	Good	Average	Poor	Unacceptable
1	0.75	0.5	0.25	0
Relate this document to the other course readings				
Excellent	Good	Average	Poor	Unacceptable
1	0.75	0.5	0.25	0
Display correct spelling, good grammar and writing style				
Excellent	Good	Average	Poor	Unacceptable
1	0.75	0.5	0.25	0
Respect the word limit				
Excellent	Good	Average	Poor	Unacceptable
1	0.75	0.5	0.25	0

WEEKLY ANALYSIS OF PRIMARY SOURCE (WAPS): AN EXAMPLE

The Book of the Wonders of India
Captain Buzurg Ibn Shahriyar

Ishaq b. Yahuda, a Jewish merchant who lived in Oman for only 3 years, was bullied for being extraordinarily great. His business trades were consistently material in amount, seemingly casual when selling “40,000 dinars worth of material, and then did a 20,000 dinar deal with another man.” The entire country knew of him as he well acquainted himself with Ahmad, the ruler of Oman through 500,000 dinars worth of business. A jealous man made it his mission to ruin Ishaq, attempting to taint his reputation by telling the Caliph and vizier a made up history. By Caliph’s orders, Ishaq was arrested but little did anyone know that this act would symbolize the corruption and snowball into the lack of faith other merchants had in Oman.

The tone that the author employed shows that he encountered the story of Ishaq in awe. Personally heard from friends, Ishaq carried goods so magnificent their prices are unimaginable. He stays up to date on the latest news of merchants and seafarers since it is all the talk when seamen gather in inns. As a seaman, he probably encounters many foreigners and thus is less ignorant in the sense. He points out the unreasonable hatred that forms against Ishaq, since he also believes that the instigator was evil. His disgust with the cruelty against Ishaq mirrors that of the merchant community—there was no other guarantee of any merchants’ security, beginner or great, now that the faith has been broken. There is clearly a bias against the government and its corruption, also shown by Ishaq’s ability to avoid taxes by partnering with Ahmad. Unlike *Travels of Ibn Jubayr* where the Christians and Muslims come to agreement on taxes for each other and trade in peace, there is total prejudice against Jewish Ishaq.

Word Count: 297