

BETWEEN WEST AND EAST
THE SILK ROAD



ART, ARCHAEOLOGY AND HISTORY OF
CENTRAL ASIA.

INTRODUCTION

1. WHAT IS THE SILK, WHAT IS A ROAD, WHAT IS THE SILK ROAD
2. THE GEOGRAPHIC AND CONTEMPORANEY POLITICAL CONTEXTS
3. THE DISCOVERY OF THE ANCIENT SILK ROAD: SCHOLARS, SPIES, ADVENTUROUS (19TH - 20TH CENTURIES BCE).
4. THE AGE OF THE STEPPE WARRIORS: THE SCYTHIAN (1ST MILLENNIUM BCE)
 5. THE XIONGNU: THE FIRST STEPPE NOMAND EMPIRE
 6. THE PARTHIAN: AN IRANIAN EMPIRE BETWEEN ROME AND CHINA
 7. GREEK IN THE EAST: HELLENISTIC KINGDOMS IN CENTRAL ASIA
 8. THE VALLEY OF INDUS: THE YUEZHI AND THE KUSHAN EMPIRE
 9. EARLY BUDDHISM IN CENTRAL ASIA AND THE GANDHARA SCHOOL
 10. HUNNIC PEOPLES OF CENTRAL ASIA AND THEIR MIGRATIONS
11. THE KINGDOMS OF TARIM BASIN AND THEIR SCHOOL OF BUDDHIST ART
12. BYZANTINE AND SASSANIDS
13. THE TURKIC KHAGANATES IN CENTRAL ASIA AND EASTERN EUROPE
14. THE CONTROL OF TRADE ROUTES: THE SODGIANS IN CENTRAL ASIA
15. CHINA, TIBET AND THE ARABS: THE STRUGGLE FOR SUPREMACY IN CENTRAL ASIA

IN ORDER TO OBTAIN CREDITS OR MARKS IT WILL BE REQUIRED TO PREPARE A POWERPOINT PRESENTATION OR TO TAKE AN ORAL EXAME.

THE STUDENT CAN CHOOSE ONE OF THE FOLLOWING BOOKS:

- The Silk Roads: A New History of the World, by Peter Frankopan.
- Empires of the Silk Road: A History of Central Eurasia from the Bronze Age to the Present, by Christopher Beckwith.
- Silk Road: Monks, Warriors and Merchants, by Luce Boulnois.
- The Silk Road, by Frances Wood.
- Foreign Devils on the Silk Road: The Search for the Lost Treasures of Central Asia, by Peter Hopkirk (optional).