

# BRIDGING WORLD HISTORY

EPISODE #9

## Connections Across Land

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AUDIO	TIME CODE
<b>ANNENBERG LOGO</b>	01.00.00.00
<b>OPB LOGO</b>	01.00.15.00
<b>WEB TAG</b>	01.00.23.00
<b>NARRATOR:</b> <b>SOMETIME IN THE 9TH CENTURY CE A PRINCESS LEFT HER HOME ON AN IMPORTANT DIPLOMATIC MISSION: SHE WAS TO BE MARRIED TO THE LEADER OF A FOREIGN LAND.</b>	01.00.27.00
JERRY BENTLEY: Princess Taihe and her entourage probably had very little idea the extent to which they reflected the emergence of a multi-cultural world that was driven by large volumes of cross-cultural trade.	01.00.38.00
<b>NARRATOR VOICE:</b> <b>SHE WAS CHINESE, HER INTENDED A TURKIC UIGHUR, HER CAMEL WAS BACTRIAN AND HER GUARDS RODE HORSES THAT TRACED THEIR ORIGINS TO CENTRAL ASIA. SHE WORE CHINESE SILKS, INDIAN PERFUME, JADE FROM KHOTAN AND BUDDHIST ROSARY BEADS FROM THE BALTIC.</b>  <b>AS SHE FOLLOWED A TIME-WORN PATH OUT INTO THE WORLD, PRINCESS TAIHE CARRIED MUCH OF THE WORLD WITH HER AS WELL.</b>	01.00.52.00
<b>HOST:</b> <b>NO MATTER HOW FAR INTO THE HUMAN PAST HISTORIANS LOOK, THEY FIND EVIDENCE THAT OUR ANCESTORS SHOWED KEEN INTEREST IN DISTANT LANDS, THEIR PEOPLE AND SOCIETIES. WAS THIS URGE TOWARD DISCOVERY A PURELY PRACTICAL DESIRE FOR USEFUL OBJECTS AND PRACTICES? WAS IT SIMPLE CURIOSITY OR MAYBE JUST THE LUSTING FOR EXOTIC ORNAMENTS FROM AFAR? CURRENT SCHOLARSHIP DOESN'T REALLY PROVIDE AN ANSWER. BUT HISTORIANS DO KNOW THAT BY THE 3RD MILLENNIUM BCE, NOMADIC AND SEDENTARY PEOPLES WERE CERTAINLY TRADING WITH EACH OTHER.</b>  <b>AND AS SOON AS COMMODITIES BEGAN TO CHANGE HANDS, SO DID LESS TANGIBLE BUT MORE LASTING ITEMS OF EXCHANGE. RELIGIONS, LANGUAGES, LITERATURE, PHILOSOPHIES, ARTISTIC DESIGNS, MUSIC AND POLITICAL IDEAS WERE ALL CONVEYED, ALONG WITH SILK, GOLD AND SPICES.</b>	01.01.44.00

<p><b>BOTH LAND AND SEA ROUTES FLOURISHED AS CONDUITS OF CULTURE AND COMMERCE AT LEAST AS EARLY AS THE THIRD MILLENNIUM BCE.</b></p> <p><b>FEW, IF ANY, TRAVELERS OR MERCHANTS MADE THE ENTIRE END-TO-END JOURNEY ON THESE ROADS AND WATERWAYS. GOODS TYPICALLY CHANGED HANDS NUMEROUS TIMES ALONG THE WAY.</b></p>	
<p>JERRY BENTLEY: These trade routes were not single roads. They were more like a series of paths and individual roads that in combination formed extensive networks that linked far-flung lands.</p>	01.02.59.00
<p><b>HOST:</b> <b>NOT ALL RESULTS OF THE CONTACTS ALONG THESE PATHS WERE INTENTIONAL OR EVEN BENEFICIAL; BANDITS, INVADING ARMIES AND DISEASE ALSO MOVED FREELY ALONG THESE ROUTES. BUT THE RICHNESS AND COMPLEXITY OF THESE CROSS-REGIONAL CONNECTIONS SET THE PATTERN FOR THE GLOBE-SPANNING INTERCONNECTIONS WE KNOW TODAY AS GLOBALIZATION.</b></p> <p><b>MOST PEOPLE ASSOCIATE LAND-BASED TRADE ROUTES WITH THE SPECIFIC COMMODITIES THAT GAVE THEM THEIR NAMES: THE SILK ROADS ACROSS EURASIA, THE GOLD ROADS IN WEST AFRICA AND THE TURQUOISE ROADS IN THE AMERICAS.</b></p> <p><b>BUT BY EXAMINING THESE THREE NETWORKS THROUGH THE RICHLY VARIED EXCHANGES THAT TOOK PLACE ALONG THEM, THEIR SIGNIFICANCE AS MUCH MORE THAN MERE COMMERCIAL HIGHWAYS BEGINS TO EMERGE.</b></p>	01.03.15.00
<p><b>HOST:</b> <b>MANY HISTORIANS AGREE THAT THE NETWORK OF ROUTES THAT CARRIED SILK, SUCH AS THIS, BEGAN TO FLOURISH BY THE 1ST CENTURY BCE; THE SAME TIME AS BOTH THE HAN DYNASTY IN CHINA AND THE ROMAN EMPIRE WERE ON THE RISE.</b></p> <p><b>BUT HOW DID THIS COMPLEX NETWORK THAT WOULD EVENTUALLY STRETCH FROM CHINA TO THE MEDITERRANEAN DEVELOP? ACCORDING TO ARCHEOLOGICAL EVIDENCE, THE FIRST EURASIAN CONNECTIONS WERE BETWEEN VARIOUS SETTLED, AGRARIAN SOCIETIES AND NOMADIC PEOPLES AS EARLY AS THE 3RD MILLENNIUM BCE.</b></p> <p><b>THIS EARLY TRADE INVOLVED SUCH IMPORTANT COMMODITIES AS LAPIS LAZULI, FURS, BIRCH-BARK, WOOD, SHEEP AND CATTLE.</b></p> <p><b>THE PRECISE ROUTES EARLY EURASIAN TRADERS USED AND HOW OFTEN THEY TRAVELED THESE PATHS VARIED OVER TIME. AND NOT MANY ANCIENT SOCIETIES HAD THE MIGHT OR THE RESOURCES TO OFFER PROTECTION BEYOND THEIR OWN LIMITED AREA OF CONTROL. SO JOURNEYS ON THE EARLY ROUTES COULD BE HAZARDOUS, AS THE VERY EXISTENCE OF THESE ROUTES DREW THE ATTENTION OF BANDITS AND AMBITIOUS CONQUERING ARMIES, MAKING TRAVELERS AND TRADERS EASY PREY.</b></p> <p><b>IN THE LATE 4TH CENTURY BCE, THE INVASIONS OF ALEXANDER THE GREAT OPENED UP THE WEALTH OF SOUTH ASIA TO THE PEOPLES OF THE EASTERN MEDITERRANEAN. ALTHOUGH ALEXANDER'S GOAL WAS TO BUILD AN EMPIRE, NOT ESTABLISH TRADE ROUTES, HIS INCURSIONS TO THE EAST DID</b></p>	01.04.10.00

<p><b>ENCOURAGE A FLOW OF GOODS AND IDEAS BETWEEN INDIA AND THE MEDITERRANEAN. THIS WAS THE FIRST STEP TOWARD FORMALIZING WHAT IS TODAY CALLED THE SILK ROADS.</b></p>	
<p>JERRY BENTLEY: The establishment of strong imperial states such as the Roman Empire in the Mediterranean Basin and the Han Dynasty in China were very important for the Silk Roads for a couple of reasons. One is they provided the security that made it possible for merchants to travel safely over the Silk Roads. And besides that they were economic powerhouses that were responsible for the production and much of the consumption of the items that traveled over the Silk Roads.</p>	01.05.50.00
<p><b>HOST:</b> <b>AROUND THE SAME TIME AS ALEXANDER'S FORAYS INTO SOUTHERN ASIA, THE SITUATION IN CHINA WAS LEADING TO THE CREATION OF SIMILAR NETWORKS DEVELOPING WESTWARD. THE HAN DYNASTY REUNIFIED CHINA AT THE END OF THE 3RD CENTURY BCE, BUT THE EMPIRE STILL SUFFERED FROM HARASSMENT AND INVASION FROM NOMADIC PEOPLES. THE CHINESE SEARCH FOR ALLIES LED TO CONTACTS WITH THE ANCIENT KINGDOM OF BACTRIA, LOCATED IN PRESENT DAY AFGHANISTAN.</b></p> <p><b>A TASTE FOR BACTRIAN TRADE GOODS – ESPECIALLY HORSES – WAS BORN. HORSES BECAME AN ELITE STATUS SYMBOL TO THE CHINESE, JUST AS SILK BECAME A STATUS SYMBOL TO THEIR TRADING PARTNERS LIKE THE ROMANS.</b></p> <p><b>THE ROMAN HISTORIAN CASSIUS DIO DESCRIBED THE EXTRAVAGANT USE OF SILK BY JULIUS CAESAR AROUND 50 BCE.</b></p>	01.06.20.00
<p><i>VOICE OF CASSIUS DIO:</i> <i>...one feature of Caesar's extravagance shall... give an idea of all the rest. In order that the sun might not annoy any of the spectators, he had curtains stretched over them made of silk... this fabric is a device of barbarian luxury... and has come to us to gratify the fastidious taste of fine ladies.</i></p>	01.07.12.00
<p><b>HOST:</b> <b>THESE TRAPPINGS OF PRESTIGE AND POWER EVENTUALLY BECAME ESSENTIAL TO THE POLITICAL STATURE AND SECURITY OF ANY RULER WISHING TO MAINTAIN POWER.</b></p> <p><b>AS THESE NUMEROUS TRADE ROUTES EXPANDED OVER THE NEXT FEW CENTURIES, THE CHINESE ELITE, LIKE THEIR ROMAN COUNTERPARTS, ACQUIRED APPETITES FOR EXOTIC IMPORTS. FURS AND CARPETS FROM CENTRAL ASIA, TEXTILES, PEARLS, FINE CRYSTALS, SPICES AND SCENTS FROM INDIA AND CORAL AND GLASSWARE FROM THE MEDITERRANEAN AREA ALL WERE PRIZED.</b></p>	01.07.32.00
<p>JERRY BENTLEY: Trade goods were by no means the only things that traveled on the silk roads, quite apart from the trade goods there were missionaries and pilgrims who helped to spread Buddhism and Nestorian Christianity and Islam throughout the heart of Eastern Asia.</p>	01.08.07.00
<p><b>HOST:</b> <b>AT THE SAME TIME THAT TRADE WAS EXPANDING BETWEEN THE ROMAN AND HAN EMPIRES, THE MAURYAN EMPIRE, WHICH WAS LOCATED IN PRESENT-DAY NORTHERN INDIA, WAS ALSO PARTICIPATING IN EXTENSIVE EXCHANGES ALONG THE SILK ROADS.</b></p>	01.08.24.00

<p><b>THE MAURYAN RULER ASHOKA WAS RESPONSIBLE IN THE 3RD CENTURY BCE FOR AN ENERGETIC BURST OF PROSPERITY. HE BUILT A NETWORK OF ROADS, INCLUDING A 1000-MILE HIGHWAY, THAT LINKED THE TRADE CENTERS OF INDIA WITH ROUTES THROUGH BACTRIA, PERSIA AND BEYOND. ASHOKA ALSO PROVIDED WELLS, ESTABLISHED INNS AND EVEN PLANTED TREES FOR THE COMFORT OF MERCHANTS AND TRAVELERS.</b></p> <p><b>BUT ASHOKA WAS WITNESS TO THE MOVEMENT OF MORE THAN COMMERCIAL GOODS ALONG THESE ROUTES. BUDDHISM WAS FIRST OF THE RELIGIONS TO TRAVEL WITH CARAVANS ALONG THE SILK ROADS.</b></p> <p><b>ISLAM, ZOROASTRIANISM, NESTORIAN CHRISTIANITY AND MANICHAISM ALL CONTRIBUTED TO THE RICH MOSAIC OF BELIEFS THAT FOUND DISCIPLES AND MISSIONARIES ON THE SILK ROADS IN THE 1ST MILLENNIUM CE.</b></p> <p><b>AND RELIGION WASN'T THE ONLY CULTURAL EXPORT MOVING ALONG THESE ROUTES. TRADITIONS FROM VARIOUS CULTURES TRANSFORMED, INFLUENCED AND INTERACTED WITH EACH OTHER ALONG THE WAY.</b></p>	
<p><b>JERRY BENTLEY:</b> The Tang capitol at Xian became a vibrant, cosmopolitan center in the 7<sup>th</sup> and early 8<sup>th</sup> centuries. Quite apart from the communities of Nestorian Christians and Muslims who lived there, there were numerous peoples from central Asia who brought their traditions of music and dance and sometimes there were even members of the Tang court who appreciated their entertainment.</p>	01.09.42.00
<p><b>HOST:</b> <b>THE ARTISTIC TRADITIONS AND INFLUENCES OF THE VARIOUS TRADERS, TRAVELERS AND PILGRIMS TRAVELING THESE ROUTES WERE REFLECTED IN ARTIFACTS AND LITERATURE THEY CREATED.</b></p> <p><b>TOGETHER, GOODS AND IDEAS TELL THE STORY OF PEOPLES MAKING CONNECTIONS ACROSS VAST REGIONAL AND CULTURAL DISTANCES.</b></p>	01.10.08.00
<p><b>HOST:</b> <b>IT'S COMMON TO THINK OF THE SILK ROADS AS AN EXCLUSIVELY EURASIAN SYSTEM OF TRADE ROUTES, BUT IN REALITY IT'S MORE APPROPRIATE TO REGARD THEM AS PART OF A VAST NETWORK THAT LINKED ALL OF THE MAJOR REGIONS OF AFRO-EURASIA. AND AT THE EXTREME SOUTHWESTERN END OF THIS TRADE SYSTEM—IN WESTERN AFRICA—ONE OF THE MOST SOUGHT-AFTER COMMODITIES WAS GOLD.</b></p> <p><b>DESPITE EXTREMELY HARSH TERRAIN, WEST AFRICAN TRADE ROUTES WERE IN USE LONG BEFORE THE SILK ROADS WERE FULLY ESTABLISHED. BUT HOW DID THESE ROUTES DEVELOP?</b></p> <p><b>ORAL TRADITIONS, ALONG WITH THE WORK OF ARCHEOLOGISTS HAVE SHOWN THAT WELL BEFORE THE ARRIVAL OF ISLAM IN THE 8<sup>TH</sup> CENTURY, INTREPID MERCHANTS IN THIS REGION CROSSED A VAST 'SEA OF SAND' SPANNING THREE AND A HALF MILLION SQUARE MILES; AN AREA ONLY SLIGHTLY SMALLER THAN MODERN CHINA.</b></p> <p><b>SHIFTING SAND DUNES WERE A HAZARD TO TRAVELERS, AND PRECISE KNOWLEDGE OF THE LOCATION OF SCATTERED OASES WAS CRUCIAL TO SURVIVAL. A CARAVAN CROSSING THE SAHARA TOOK BETWEEN 70 AND 90</b></p>	01.10.34.00

<p><b>DAYS, WITH OASES TYPICALLY SPACED ABOUT TEN DAYS APART. EVEN THE STURDIEST DONKEYS AND HORSES WERE SORELY TAXED BY THESE DISTANCES.</b></p> <p><b>IT WAS WITH THE ARRIVAL OF THE DOMESTICATED CAMEL FROM THE ARABIAN PENINSULA AROUND THE 7TH CENTURY BCE THAT THE CROSSING BECAME SOMEWHAT MORE MANAGEABLE. CAMELS WERE BETTER SUITED TO DESERT SURVIVAL AND COULD CARRY A HEAVIER LOAD.</b></p> <p><b>BY 500 CE CAMELS WERE THE PRIMARY MEANS OF TRANSPORT. TRADE INCREASED, ESPECIALLY ON THE NORTH–SOUTH ROUTES THAT CONNECTED WITH THE SILK ROADS. GOLD WAS MOVING FROM WEST AFRICA INTO EURASIA.</b></p> <p><b>BY THE LATE 8TH CENTURY CE MUSLIM MERCHANTS HAD ESTABLISHED TRADE RELATIONS WITH THE VARIOUS PEOPLES OF WEST AFRICA, INCLUDING THE ANCIENT KINGDOM OF GHANA.</b></p>	
<p>PATRICK MANNING: The result of all these developments were that what had been a trickle of gold trade now became a highly organized and structured commerce. The gold road had begun.</p>	01.12.34.00
<p><b>HOST:</b> <b>TENTH CENTURY MUSLIM GEOGRAPHER AL-BAKRI LEFT A DETAILED DESCRIPTION OF HOW VIBRANT TRADE IN GHANA CONTRIBUTED TO THE ASCENSION OF A REGION ARAB MERCHANTS WOULD COME TO REFER TO AS THE "LAND OF GOLD."</b></p>	01.12.49.00
<p><i>VOICE OF AL-BAKRI:</i> <i>The nuggets found in all the mines of this country are reserved for the king, only this gold dust being left for the people... the nuggets may weigh from an ounce to a pound. It is related that the king owns a nugget as large as a big stone....</i></p>	01.13.03.00
<p><b>HOST:</b> <b>LOCAL MERCHANTS IN ANCIENT GHANA TRADED IN IVORY, SALT, FINE LEATHER AND LATER SLAVES, FOR HORSES, CLOTH AND MANUFACTURED GOODS FROM THE NORTH. AS WAS THE CASE ALONG THE SILK ROADS, RULERS IN WEST AFRICA SOUGHT WAYS TO ENCOURAGE TRAFFIC ALONG THE ROUTES THAT CONNECTED WEST AFRICA'S GOLD FIELDS WITH THE CITIES OF MEDITERRANEAN NORTH AFRICA AND BEYOND.</b></p> <p><b>THEY WERE ALSO FACED WITH THE PROBLEM OF HOW TO PROTECT THEIR PRECIOUS TRADE.</b></p>	01.13.20.00
<p>PATRICK MANNING: The claim was that the King of Ghana could field an army of 200,000 men. It certainly indicated that to this Mediterranean, born author that this was a populous region and also that there were wars requiring the fielding of large armies and the literal figure of 200,000 is certainly too large, but it indicates clearly the contention that had been brought by the struggle to dominate the gold trade in the western savannah.</p>	01.13.49.00
<p><b>HOST:</b> <b>IN THE LATE 11TH CENTURY, STRUGGLES TO CONTROL THE LUCRATIVE CARAVAN TRADE RESULTED IN THE DISINTEGRATION OF GHANA. IN PLACE OF GHANA, THE TRADING STATES OF MALI IN THE 13TH CENTURY AND SONGHAY IN THE 15TH, FOLLOWED AS HUBS OF COMMERCIAL POWER AND PRESTIGE.</b></p>	01.14.26.00

<p><b>THEY FILLED THE AFRICAN DEMAND FOR SALT, AS WELL AS THE DESIRE OF THE REST OF THE TRADING WORLD FOR GOLD.</b></p> <p><b>WHILE ARCHAEOLOGY PROVIDES A PICTURE OF INDIGENOUS EXPANSION OF TRADE LONG BEFORE ISLAM ARRIVED, IT'S THROUGH ACCOUNTS SUCH AS THESE BY ARAB TRAVELER AL-BAKRI THAT THE SPREAD OF ISLAM ALONG THE TRADE ROUTES CAN BE CLEARLY TRACED.</b></p>	
<p><i>VOICE OF AL-BAKRI:</i>  <i>The king had as his guest a Muslim who used to read the Quran... to this man the king complained of the calamities that assailed him and his people. The man said: 'O King, if you believed in God... and testified that He is One... and if you accepted all the religious laws of Islam, I would pray for your plight. Thus he continued to press the king until the latter accepted Islam and became a sincere Muslim.</i></p>	01.15.08.00
<p><b>HOST:</b>  <b>THE GOLD ROADS PROVIDED A FERTILE NETWORK FOR THE EXPANSION OF ISLAM. FROM ITS VERY BEGINNINGS IN THE MID 7TH CENTURY, ISLAM ENJOYED A CLOSE, MUTUALLY BENEFICIAL RELATIONSHIP WITH COMMERCE. MUHAMMAD HIMSELF HAD BEEN A CARAVAN TRADER, AND HIS WIFE, KHADIJA, HAD RUN A SUCCESSFUL CARAVAN BUSINESS BEFORE THEIR MARRIAGE.</b></p> <p><b>IN THE COMMERCIAL CENTER OF MECCA RELIGIOUS LEADERS AND MISSIONARIES CULTIVATED CLOSE TIES WITH MERCHANTS AND CARAVANS.</b></p> <p><b>MUSLIMS AND THEIR FAITH TRAVELED ALONG MOST OF THE AFRO–EURASIAN ROUTES, JOINING THE TRAIN OF HUMANITY WANDERING AND MARCHING ALONG THE TRADE CONDUITS OF THE WORLD. THE EXISTENCE OF DAR AL-ISLAM, THE ABODE OF ISLAM, ENSURED THAT MUSLIMS WOULD EXPERIENCE A SENSE OF KINSHIP AND COMMUNITY IN THEIR TRAVELS AND IN THEIR COMMERCIAL TIES.</b></p> <p><b>BECAUSE ISLAMIC TRADITION VENERATES LEARNING AND TEACHING, MUSLIM EXPLORERS ALSO USED THE TRADE ROUTES FOR ACCESS TO CENTERS OF LEARNING. THROUGH THEIR TRAVELS, THEY IMPARTED AN IMMENSE BODY OF SCHOLARSHIP, IN SUCH AREAS AS MATHEMATICS, ASTRONOMY AND MEDICINE.</b></p> <p><b>FOR CENTURIES, THE GOLD ROADS WERE CONDUITS FOR RICH MULTI-CULTURAL EXCHANGES ACROSS SAHARAN AFRICA AND BEYOND.</b></p>	01.15.36.00
<p><b>HOST:</b>  <b>NORMALLY, PRE-COLUMBIAN AMERICA ISN'T THOUGHT OF AS HAVING ELABORATE TRADE NETWORKS IN THE SAME MOLD AS THE AFRO–EURASIAN GOLD AND SILK ROADS.</b></p> <p><b>BUT LONG BEFORE THE 15TH CENTURY WHEN EUROPEAN CONQUEST BOUND THE AMERICAS TO THE AFRO-EURASIAN TRADE SYSTEMS, REGIONAL AND INTERCONTINENTAL CONTACTS WERE ESTABLISHED BETWEEN PEOPLES OF THE AMERICAS.</b></p> <p><b>IN STUDYING THE PRE–COLUMBIAN AMERICAS, HISTORIANS RELY ON THE WORK OF ANTHROPOLOGISTS, ARCHEOLOGISTS AND MINERALOGISTS TO HELP RECONSTRUCT WHAT WERE UNDOUBTEDLY VIBRANT COMMERCIAL CONTACT NETWORKS. STRETCHING FROM THE RAIN FORESTS OF CENTRAL</b></p>	01.16.58.00

<p><b>AMERICA TO THE DESERTS AND MESAS OF NEW MEXICO, THESE CONNECTIONS SPREAD OUT FROM MESOAMERICA, FACILITATING THE EXCHANGE OF GOODS AND CULTURES AS EARLY AS 700 CE.</b></p> <p><b>WHILE THE DEMAND FOR GOODS LIKE SILK, HORSES, SPICES, GOLD AND SALT DROVE THE AFRO-EURASIAN TRADE ROUTES, IT WAS A FASCINATION WITH A SOFT, PALE BLUE GEMSTONE THAT GAVE THESE ROUTES THEIR EVENTUAL NAME—THE TURQUOISE ROADS.</b></p>	
<p>PETER WINN: Turquoise was important for its beauty and it conferred status on its wear but for the peoples in Mesoamerica it also had another significance. Unlike the trade goods of Eurasian silk road—silk and gold— which are valued largely for their rarity as well as for their beauty, turquoise also had a ritual of sacred significance, as did the feathers and the tropical birds—the parrots and the macaws—which traveled north along the turquoise road to the Anasazi in exchange for their turquoise.</p>	01.18.09.00
<p><b>HOST:</b> <b>TO BE SURE, OTHER GOODS SUCH AS OBSIDIAN, SHELLS AND POTTERY WERE EXCHANGED THROUGHOUT THE AMERICAS. BUT BY TRACKING THE STORY OF THE TURQUOISE TRADE, HISTORIANS CAN TRACE THE CONTINUAL MOVEMENT OF CULTURAL INFLUENCES.</b></p> <p><b>FORTUNATELY, THERE’S A CHARACTERISTIC OF THIS MINERAL THAT HELPS SCIENTISTS FOLLOW THE ROUTE THAT TURQUOISE TRAVELED. USING CHEMICAL ‘FINGER–PRINTING’ TECHNIQUES, IT’S POSSIBLE TO TRACE AN INDIVIDUAL PIECE-- FOUND IN MEXICO FOR EXAMPLE--BACK TO ITS SOURCE MINE, 1000 MILES TO THE NORTH.</b></p> <p><b>THE EARLIEST SURVIVING SAMPLES OF FINISHED TURQUOISE FOUND IN MEXICO APPEAR TO DATE FROM AROUND 600 BCE, BUT LARGE–SCALE USE AS A COMMODITY DIDN’T EMERGE UNTIL THE FIRST MILLENNIUM CE.</b></p> <p><b>THE ANASAZI SETTLEMENT OF CHACO CANYON IN NORTHWESTERN NEW MEXICO BECAME A ‘DISTRIBUTION CENTER’ FOR THE TRADING NETWORKS THAT CONNECTED THE MINES WITH THEIR MESOAMERICAN CUSTOMERS.</b></p> <p><b>AMONG THE FIRST IMPORTERS OF TURQUOISE WERE THE DWELLERS AT ALTA VISTA, IN MODERN DAY NORTHWESTERN MEXICO. THIS AREA WAS CONTROLLED BY TEOTIHUACÁN, THEN THE DOMINANT CITY OF MESOAMERICA. HERE ARTISANS IMPORTED RAW CHUNKS OF THE PRECIOUS MINERAL AND CREATED FINISHED PIECES FOR EXPORT TO THE WEALTHY MARKETS OF CENTRAL MEXICO.</b></p> <p><b>CHACO CANYON’S REIGN AS THE HUB OF THE TURQUOISE TRADE LASTED ABOUT 150 YEARS, AND AT ITS HEIGHT THE DISTRIBUTION NETWORK STRETCHED FROM THE PACIFIC COAST TO THE YUCATAN PENINSULA.</b></p>	01.18.42.00
<p>PETER WINN: The Anasazi, of course, left no written memoirs so our knowledge of the Anasazi is very incomplete. But there are very tantalizing hints of why these agrarian people invested so much energy in mining and trading vast amounts of turquoise to central Mexico. For example, we found at the north end Anasazi of the trade route, pens for holding macaws, tropical birds, suggesting that they were part of the deal. There’s also evidence of the impact of Toltec religious ideas amongst both the Anasazi and their later Hopi and Zuni successors, including worship of Quetzalcoatl, the feathered serpent god, whose worship</p>	01.20.13.00

<p>required a variety of tropical feathers.</p> <p>Other scholars have speculated that perhaps the Anasazi traded turquoise in exchange for food as a hedge against famine and unreliable desert environment. What we do know though is that the commodities that traveled in both directions along the turquoise road were sufficiently compelling to sustain that trade route for several centuries.</p>	
<p><b>HOST:</b>  <b>AT THE HIGH POINT OF TURQUOISE TRAFFIC FROM CHACO CANYON, AROUND THE MID 10TH THROUGH 12TH CENTURIES, THE TOLTEC CULTURE IN CENTRAL MEXICO WAS REACHING ITS ZENITH. TURQUOISE PASSED THROUGH THE TOLTEC CITY OF TULA AND CONTINUED SOUTH ANOTHER 900 MILES TO THE MAYAN COMPLEX OF CHICHÉN ITZÁ.</b></p> <p><b>AROUND 1050 CE THE VASTLY DISPERSED COMMUNITIES ACROSS THE COLORADO PLATEAU SUDDENLY CHANGED INTO A HIGHLY STRUCTURED, DENSELY POPULATED SOCIETY. THEIR ARCHITECTURE BEGAN EXHIBITING FEATURES OF MESOAMERICAN BUILDING STYLES, AND HIGH-STATUS IMPORTS SUCH AS MACAWS, COPPER BELLS AND WORKED OBSIDIAN BEGAN TO APPEAR. AND NOW, FOR THE FIRST TIME, THE ANASAZI THEMSELVES BEGAN TO USE TURQUOISE IN THEIR RITUALS.</b></p> <p><b>EXCAVATIONS HAVE LED ARCHEOLOGISTS TO CONCLUDE THAT THE ANASAZI ABSORBED MANY RELIGIOUS BELIEFS AND RITUAL CUSTOMS FROM THE TOLTEC. WHETHER THE ANASAZI WERE FORMALLY PART OF THE TOLTEC EMPIRE, IT'S CLEAR THAT MESOAMERICAN PRACTICES HAD BEEN ACCEPTED INTO THEIR EXISTING CULTURE.</b></p> <p><b>THE MEXICA—OR AZTECS—WERE THE SUCCESSORS TO THE TOLTEC IN MESOAMERICA, AND THEY ADOPTED BOTH THE TOLTEC GODS AND THE TOLTEC DESIRE FOR TURQUOISE.</b></p>	01.21.25.00
<p>PETER WINN:  The Mexica or Aztecs unlike the Maya had no written language so historians today are dependent upon the recollections of Mexica notables that were written down by Spanish friars and chroniclers in the 16<sup>th</sup> Century. A particularly important and valuable source of this kind are the 12 volumes written down in Nahuatl by the Franciscan Bernadino de Sahagun which we know today is the Florentine Codex. This codex, although mediated by its interviewer is an invaluable source of information about Mexica life and history including the...various conquests that created the Aztec empire which at its height may have ruled over as many as 25 million people.</p>	01.22.43.00
<p><b>HOST:</b>  <b>THIS PASSAGE FROM THE FLORENTINE CODEX, COLLECTED BY SPANISH MONK FRAY BERNADINO DE SAHAGÚN, ILLUSTRATES THE RICHES ACQUIRED BY THE MEXICA IN THE COURSE OF THEIR CONQUESTS.</b></p>	01.23.33.00
<p><i>VOICE OF FRAY BERNADINO DE SAHAGÚN:</i>  <i>And in their time appeared gold lip and ear plugs and rings for the fingers... and necklaces with radiating pendants, and fine turquoise and enormous green stones, and long quetzal feathers; and the skins of wild animals; and long troupial feathers, and blue cotinga and red spoonbill feathers.</i></p>	01.23.47.00
<p><b>HOST:</b>  <b>THE BRILLIANT RESULTS OF MEXICA TURQUOISE WORK TESTIFIED TO THE SPLENDOR OF THEIR WEALTH, AS WELL AS THE GREAT SPIRITUAL REGARD IN</b></p>	01.24.08.00



<p><b>WHICH THEY HELD THE PRECIOUS GEM. TURQUOISE WAS USED ON MASKS AND SHIELDS.</b></p> <p><b>BUT AS WAS THE CASE WITH THE SILK AND GOLD ROADS, MUCH MORE THAN SIMPLE TRADE GOODS WERE MOVING ALONG THE TURQUOISE ROADS. THESE NETWORKS PROVIDED NATURAL OPPORTUNITIES FOR THE SPREAD OF RELIGION.</b></p> <p><b>THE FEATHERED GOD QUETZALCOATL SEEMS TO HAVE FLOWN ALONG THE TURQUOISE ROAD. THERE IS COMPELLING PHYSICAL AND ARTISTIC EVIDENCE THAT MANY CEREMONIES AND BELIEFS MADE THEIR WAY NORTH, INTO THE RITUALS OF THE HOPI AND ZUNI PEOPLES OF THE MODERN DAY SOUTHWESTERN UNITED STATES.</b></p> <p><b>OF COURSE IT'S LIKELY THAT AS THESE RELIGIOUS IDEAS SPREAD, THEY CHANGED IN RESPONSE TO THE DIFFERENT PHYSICAL, POLITICAL AND CULTURAL LANDSCAPES THEY ENCOUNTERED.</b></p> <p><b>IN A VERY REAL SENSE, THE IDEAS, BELIEFS AND CUSTOMS THAT MIGRATED BETWEEN CONTINENTS CREATED A MORE INDELIBLE IMPACT THAN THE SILK, GOLD AND TURQUOISE THAT GAVE THESE ROADS THEIR NAME.</b></p> <p><b>BUT WAS THE IMPACT OF THESE NETWORKS ENTIRELY POSITIVE?</b></p>	
<p>JERRY BENTLEY: The Silk Roads and the Gold Roads and the Turquoise Roads were all wonderful avenues for the exchange of trade goods and the spread of religious traditions but they also facilitated some less healthy transfers.</p> <p>The Silk Roads, for example, not only enabled Marco Polo to travel from Venice to China and they not only enabled Buddhism to spread throughout most of Asia but they also served as conduits for the transmission of Bubonic plague from China and central Asia all the way over to the Mediterranean Basin and Europe and indeed even to lands throughout most of the Eastern Hemisphere.</p> <p>The resulting epidemics had absolutely devastating consequences for all of the societies that plague managed to reach. Later on small pox traveled other trade routes to infect populations and spark epidemics in the Americas and Oceania.</p> <p>Now this pattern continues even in the present day with viruses like those that cause AIDS and SARS benefiting enormously from modern transportation systems and spreading even faster than their historical predecessors.</p>	01.25.16.00
<p><b>HOST:</b> <b>THE VARIOUS TRADE NETWORKS THAT SPANNED EURASIA, AFRICA AND THE AMERICAS DID MUCH MORE THAN SERVE AS CONDUITS FOR EXOTIC GOODS.</b></p> <p><b>AS PEOPLE MOVED ALONG THESE PATHS, THEY ENCOUNTERED DIFFERENT SOCIETIES, CULTURES AND RELIGIONS. AND AS THESE CONTACTS INCREASED, ECONOMIES BECAME INTEGRATED, STIMULATING THE EXCHANGE OF IDEAS, RELIGIONS, ARTS AND TECHNOLOGIES.</b></p>	01.26.33.00

<b>WEB TAG</b>	01.26.57.00
<b>PROGRAM CREDITS</b>	01.26.58.00
<b>SPECIAL THANKS</b>	01.27.33.00
<b>OPB LOGO</b>	01.27. 48.00
<b>ANNENBERG LOGO</b>	01.27.55.00
<b>1-800 ORDER TAG</b>	01.28.10.00
<b>END</b>	01.28.25.00