

WORLD HISTORY: INTERSECTIONS PAST AND PRESENT

MINI RESEARCH PROJECT

POPULATION

WILL CHINA'S ATTEMPT TO REVIVE THE SILK ROADS (ONE BELT, ONE ROAD) {OBOT} SUCCEED?

HOW WILL THE PEOPLE "IN THE MIDDLE" (CENTRAL ASIA) BE AFFECTED BY THIS REVIVAL?



The purpose of this course is to connect history to the present. We have just finished studying the classic, so-called "Silk Roads." We learned how the "Silk Roads" enhanced the transfer of goods, ideas, religions, and diseases, among other things. We discussed how sedentary farmers interacted with city dwellers and how the nomadic people "in the middle" were trendsetters in a new international commercial chain.ⁱ

i. The Silk Road: A Very Short Introduction, James Milward. Oxford p.16-17 2013

Your project will focus on one of the groups of people in "greater Central Asia:" Mongolia, Xinjiang (China), Kazakhstan, Turkmenistan, Uzbekistan, Kyrgyzstan, Tajikistan or Pakistan.

THESIS QUESTION: How will China's OBOR policy affect the people of "greater Central Asia?"

Questions to consider:

1. What kinds of goods and ideas are flowing or might be exchanged along the “new Silk Roads?”
2. Does this “new Silk Roads policy” have the potential to energize the rising tide of East Asian economic power or possibly create changes in world trade? Or is it likely to be overrated?
3. Are there any potential negative effects that may arise for the people in “greater Central Asia as a result of this new policy?
4. Much of the dynamism of the classic Silk Roads took place in the “greater Central Asian” region. This region is quite different today. What is the likely effect of the “new Silk Roads” on varied groups within the nation states in the region as they are today?

REQUIREMENTS FOR YOUR PAPER

- 5 paragraphs 2.5 – 3 pages/double-spaced/Times New Roman 12pt font/1” margin
- Endnotes for ALL cited information (direct quotes, paraphrase, statistics)
- Title page- your name, my name, course name, date, image and title
- 5 evenly developed paragraphs: introduction + 3 body paragraphs + conclusion
- Use a minimum of six of the assigned sources (outside sources allowed only with my permission)

GRADING CRITERIA

FORMAT – adherence to the required parameters and style guidelines set forth here

SOURCES- information from a wide range of sources that is integrated into your essay in a proper and diverse manner and cited accurately in your end notes and bibliography

COGENCY- clear, convincing, smooth and well-supported case for your thesis position



Economist.com

STEP ONE: Read these background readings

1. <http://www.economist.com/news/china/21701505-chinas-foreign-policy-could-reshape-good-part-world-economy-our-bulldozers-our-rules>

-an article from The Economist magazine which explains what the OROB is

2. <http://www.economist.com/news/asia/21701522-five-former-soviet-republics-struggle-survive-new-great-game-stans-undelivered>

-an article from The Economist magazine which gives a good, quick overview of Central Asia

3. read The Quest Yergin pg. 43-62 (on Crannet)

-this excerpt describes activity in Central Asia following the collapse of the Soviet Union

4. <http://www.nytimes.com/newsgraphics/2013/07/21/silk-road/>

-images from the New York Times about the "New Silk Road"

5. <http://origins.osu.edu/article/building-new-silk-road-central-asia-new-world-order>

-excellent article on the geopolitics of the "New Silk Road"

6. <https://www.staff.ncl.ac.uk/nick.megoran/iFrame/MEGORANCAS2005.pdf>

-skim this: it is a clever, "tongue-in-cheek" article that should make you think about how you view Central Asia

STEP TWO: Pick the people you want to write about

1. <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=RI8zQw1m7zc>

-watch the section of this older, but still relevant BBC mini-series : Meet the Stans

2. <http://english.gov.cn/beltAndRoad/>

-this is the official Chinese government site on the OROB program

-make sure you watch these two videos:

http://english.gov.cn/news/video/2015/09/21/content_281475194891127.htm

-a nice video introducing the program

http://english.gov.cn/news/video/2016/07/28/content_281475403445981.htm

-a video about the New Silk Road in Europe

3. <http://beltandroad.hktdc.com/en/index.aspx>

-the project from Hong Kong's perspective

This site includes country profiles, news articles and analysis, as well as official joint statements and video links.

Due to Hong Kong's role in "One Belt, One Road" initiative, information on this site tends to focus on the Maritime Silk Road part of the initiative, as well as the positive impact the initiative would bring to Hong Kong's economy.

4. <http://www.xinhuanet.com/silkroad/english/index.htm>

Xinhua (a news organization supported by the People's Republic of China

-portal for "Silk Road Economic Belt" information

5. http://news.xinhuanet.com/english/2016-06/24/c_135464233.htm

Background information- Chronology of China's Belt and Road Initiative

6.

<http://www.merics.org/en/merics-analysis/infographicchina-mapping/china-mapping.html>

-excellent map of the OBOR project

STEP THREE: Write your paper!

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