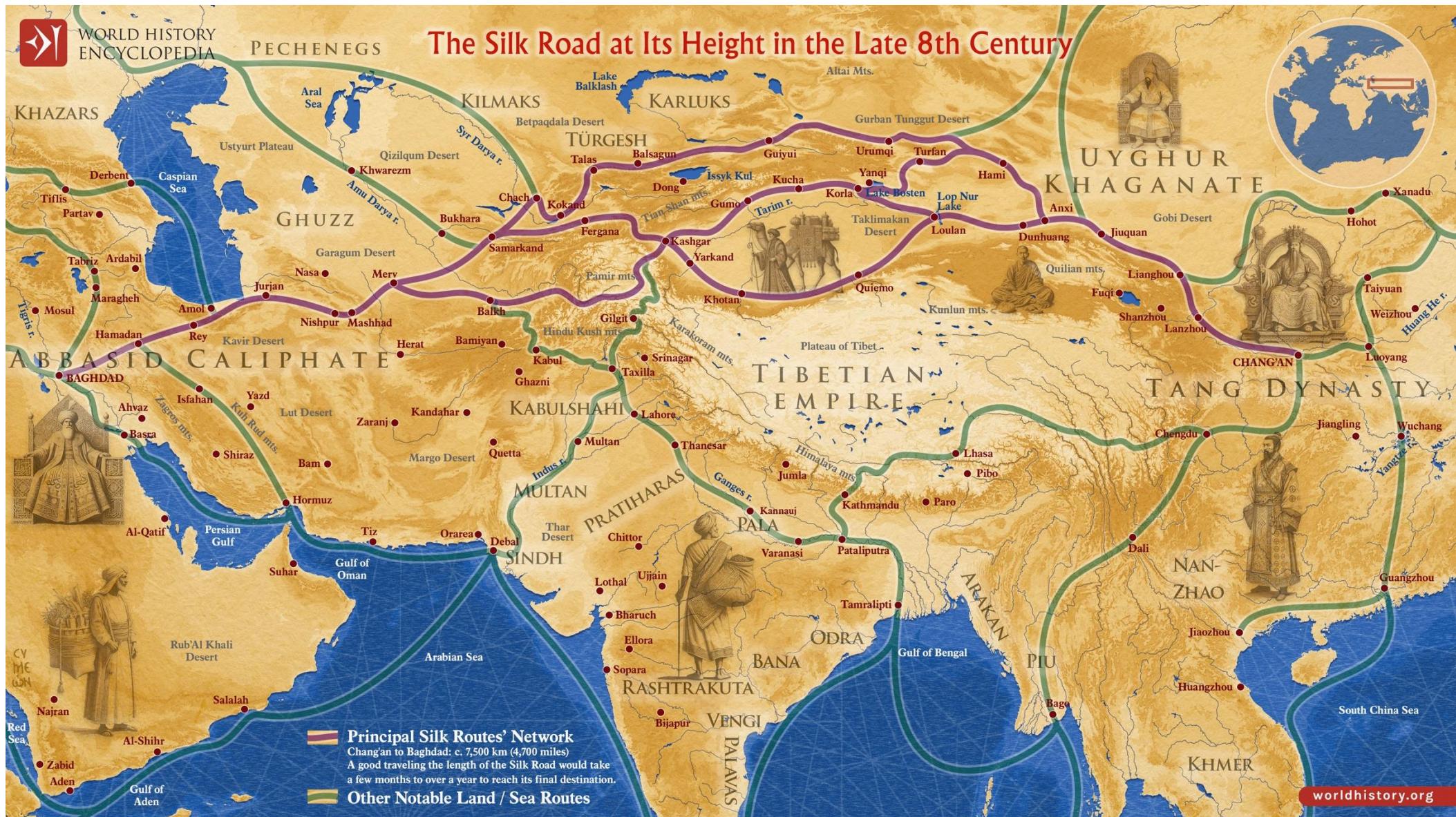


The Tang Dynasty and Abbasid Empire: Contact and Comparison, 8th-10th Century

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Credit: www.worldhistory.org



Credit: W.W. Norton & Co.

ISLAMIC CONQUEST BETWEEN 7th AND 9th CENTURY

This map illustrates the territorial expansion of the Islamic Caliphate, showing the progression from the time of Muhammad (622-632) through the Abbasid Caliphate (c.850). The map highlights the following key features and conquests:

- Timeline of Caliphates:**
 - under Muhammad 622 - 632
 - under Abu Bakr until 634
 - under Ali (Rashidun Caliphate) until 661
 - Umayyad Caliphate until 750
 - Abbasid Caliphate c.850
- Conquests and Battles:**
 - Cyprus run jointly with the Byzantines 688 - 695
 - important place and year of conquest
 - location and year of an important battle
 - Tours 732: Umayyad advance into Europe halted
 - Covadonga 722: victory of the Visigoths
 - Emirate of Cordoba border after 756
 - Wadi Bekka 711: Umayyad Capital 756-1032
 - Tangier 709
 - Tabarka 703
 - Strait of Gibraltar
 - Rome 847
 - Corsica 850
 - Sardinia 827
 - Sicily 831, 878
 - Malta 870
 - Crete 825
 - Cyprus 649
 - Antioch 636
 - Damascus 636: Umayyad Capital 661-750
 - Alexandria 642
 - Heliopolis 640
 - Yarmuk 636
 - Jerusalem 638
 - Al-Qadisiyyah 636
 - Medina 622: Capital 632-656
 - Mecca 630
 - Yamama 633
 - Aden 630
 - Talas 751
 - Samarkand 710
 - Balkh 651
 - Kabul 664
 - Talas 751
- Geographical and Political Context:**
 - FRANKISH KINGDOM, SLAVS, AVAR KHANATE, BULGARS, KHAZARS, TANG CHINA, and KHAZARS are shown as non-Islamic entities.
 - AFRICA, KINGDOM OF AXUM, and NUBIANS are shown as regions under Islamic influence.
 - INDIAN OCEAN, ARABIAN SEA, and MEDITERRANEAN SEA are labeled.
 - The map also shows the borders of the Byzantine Empire (c.600) and the Sassanid Empire (c.600).



Horses were vital to the Silk Roads and were often depicted in art

Tang (618-907); Umayyad Caliphate (661-750); Abbasid Caliphate (750-1258)

Peaceful relationship except battle of Talas River (751)

Abbasids receive techniques of making paper and gunpowder, ceramics; did not implement printing;

Tang receives horses, camels, grapes, medicines, and silversmiths; Exposure to Zoroastrianism, Manicheism, Nestorian Christianity, Judaism (?), and Islam

Great Teacher Resources: **Golden Peaches of Samarkand** by Edward Schafer; **A History of Islamic Societies** by Ira Lapidus

- Empress Wu (Wu Zetian, 624-705)—Only Empress to rule in her own right; supported civil service exams, Buddhism, and trade with foreigners; Useful sources: **The Woman Who Discovered Printing** by T. H. Barrett; **Buddhism in Chinese History** by Arthur Wright
- Yang Guifei 719-756—Greatest beauty in Chinese history



- Li Bo (701-762)—friendship, drinking, Nature
- Du Fu (712-770)—morality, Confucian, failure in exams



- Harun al-Rashid (766-809)—Golden Age of Islam, Mathematics, Astronomy, Medicine: Baghdad as capital, Poetry, Architecture—mosques, palaces.
- Ibn Sina (Avicenna; d. 1037)—Renaissance Man, Medicine, Scientific Method.
- Trade with Russia, East and South Asia, Venice, Genoa, Africa

- Beilitung shipwreck—off coast of Indonesia
- 60,000 items—ceramics, gold objects



Salvaged objects from the Beilitung shipwreck



Changsha ceramic bowls (above left)

Bronze mirror (above right)

Gold dish (bottom left)



- 1. Abbasids—Caliph secular-religious leader; Tang Emperor—mostly secular; both use religion for political purposes
- 2. Abbasids—government supports trade and merchants; Tang—merchants accorded low social status
- 3. Abbasids—expansionism successful; much larger domain—Spain to Central Asia; Tang—expansion merely in few oases and towns
- 4. China—sophisticated bureaucratic system; Abbasids—less based on officials, no civil service exams
- 5. Both multi-ethnic and multi-religious
- 6. Both adopted legal systems and concerned about law, but different attitudes toward law
- 7. Status of women—bound feet in China; 3 Obedient; No public presence in Abbasid domain
- 8. Technology—China—paper, printing, gunpowder, paper money, ceramics; Abbasids—medical and astronomy

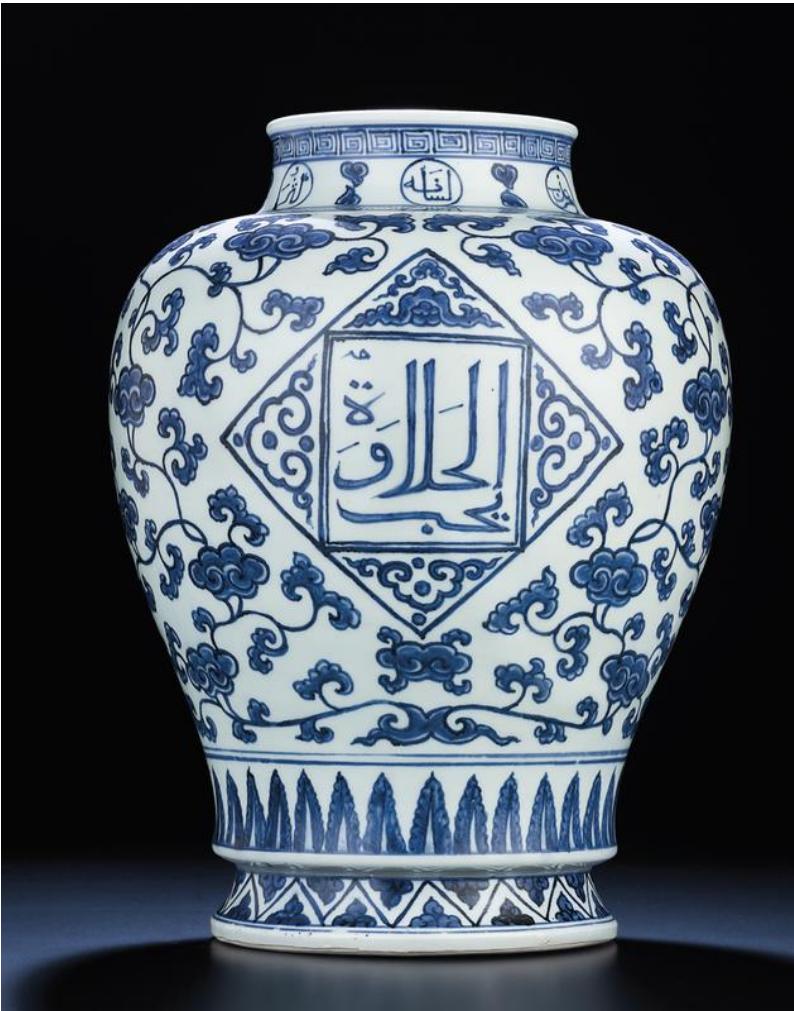
- Decline:
- 1. Tang: failure of equal field system, evasion of taxes, corruption, An Lushan rebellion, anti-Buddhist and anti-foreign policies
- 2. Abbasids—succession disputes, corruption, trade paramount, agriculture ignored, local governors powerful and civil wars, loss of areas, 1055—Persian conquest of Baghdad

Tombs from the Lingshan Islamic Cemetery located in Quanzhou, Fujian province



Tomb of the “Two Worthies,” 7th century Islamic missionaries to China- wide view (right upper) and close up (right lower)
Tomb of Zheng He, Islamic-Chinese diplomat and mariner (above left)

Porcelain with Arabic inscription



Ming Emperor Zhengde era, 1505-1521