2009 – CCOT Essay

Analyze continuities and changes in patterns of interaction along the Silk Road 200BCE to 1450CE

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| Thesis | | |
| Changes | Continuities | |
| Nations involved in trade  Goods Trades | Flow of people, ideas, technology, religions and disease. | |
| Main Body | | |
| Changes | | Continuities |
| In order to make trade possible The Emperor Wudi began to develop what has been called in modern times, the silk road around 200CE. Following this route merchant traders brought silk from China westward, and glass, linen, and gold from the West back into China.   * Between 200BCE and 600CE exchange of goods, ideas, and disease. Religion – Buddhism into China from India. (It became popular with the lower classes – WHY!!)   **Stability = prosperity** | |  |
| **Fall of Roman Empire**  The Roman Empire split into West and East, after the West fell dominance switched to the Byzantine Empire. | | Many of the same goods continued to be traded along the same routes using the same methods of transport. |
| **Fall of Han Dynasty**  Fall of both Han and Rome meant that the volume of trade decreased. | |  |
| **Rise of Islam**  Spread of religion along the Silk Road, e.g - sufists into India. (Why was Islam popular with lower classes?)  What was being traded changed, technology e.g astrolabe, lanteen sails, with **Tang and Song China. = new dynasties involved.**  Stability = prosperity | | * Disease continues (small pox) * The flow of trade is still predominately from East to West. |
| **Rise of the Mongols**  = lack of stability prosperity goes down.  Dehli Sulatanate and Mongol Khanates join the trading. | | * Pax Mongolia – trade, ideas and cultural * diffusion (Remember Mongolians loved this) continues * Disease continues (Black Death) |
| * 1450 Change in flourishing sea routes meant that the importance of the Silk Road declined | |  |