

## **The Great Silk Road: Formation, Stages of Development and Present Time**

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**Abstract:** In this article, the territory of Uzbekistan is located in the center of the system of ancient civilizations and mutual relations. Due to this geographical location, the interaction of cultures has increased here. Large-scale trade processes took place along the Great Silk Road, diplomatic agreements and various alliances were concluded. The Great Silk Road was not only a trade-caravan route, but left an indelible mark on the history of the civilization of Eurasian peoples.

**Keywords:** "Royal Road", UNESCO, satrapy, "Royal Road", Huanghe, "Golden Road", "Silver Road", Lojuvard

Trade and transit routes were extremely important in the various development of ancient peoples. By the 3rd millennium, most of the territories of Central Asia were occupied by the ancient inhabitants. The nomadic herding population in the desert and steppe regions developed interactions with the settled population in the oases by the Bronze Age. According to the sources, long before the creation of the Great Silk Road, there were mutual goods exchange and trade caravan routes in the regions of the ancient East and Central Asia. One such road in the Bronze Age (III-II millennia BC) was called "Lojuvard (La'l) road", a branch of which connected the regions of Badakhshan, Bactria and Margyona with Khorezm, Sogd, Central Kazakhstan and the Urals. Another branch connected Bactria and Margia with Mesopotamia. This road started from the Pamir Mountains and passed through Iran, Ancient Asia, and Egypt. The discovery of Badakhshan lapis lazuli in the Indus Valley, Mesopotamia and Egypt indicates that this precious stone was extremely valued in the ancient East. Another ancient road is the road of the Akhmenids of Iran, a branch of which is mil. avv. In the 6th and 4th centuries, it connected the small cities of Asia and the cities of Ephesus and Sardi on the shores of the Mediterranean Sea with Susa, one of the centers of Iran. In historical literature, this road is called the "royal road". Mil. In 138 BC, the Chinese emperor U-Di sent the ambassador Zhang Qian to the lands of Central Asia. Ambassador Zhang Qian (138-126 BC) was looking for an ally for China's fight against the Huns. Mil. avv. By the 2nd-1st centuries, a caravan route connecting China with Central and Western Asia appeared on the roads traveled by Zhang Qian. This road was called the Great Silk Road and had a total length of 12,000 km. By the early Middle Ages, it is possible to observe the further development of the Silk Road. The first branch of this road, which was extremely important in its time, started from the city of Xi'an in China and extended through Eastern Turkestan, Central Asia, Iran, Mesopotamia to the Mediterranean Sea. Coming to the Chinese city of Anosi, the Silk Road split into several branches. In particular, one network passed through Anosi-Khamikoshgar to Kokan,

and from there to Tashkent. The road from here to Bukhara through Jizzakh and Samarkand passed through Urganch to Gurev, from there through Dunhuan to Khotan, and from there to Lahore. Coming to Bukhara, this network split into two. The southern route passed through Bukhara-Kaziri-Termiz to Nishapur and went to India via Herat. One of the networks in Nishapur extends along the route Tehran-Qizvin-Hamadon-Baghdad-Palmyra to the city of Tire on the Mediterranean Sea. In general, the southern branch of the Silk Road passed through Uzgan to Osh, through Kuva-Margilan-Kokan to Khojand, Samarkand, Bukhara. The northern route went to Kievan Rus and European countries through the Khazar Khanate and the Bulgarian state, this network began to develop from the 6th century. In addition to the main caravan routes, the Silk Road also had internal trade routes. The past development processes in the regions of Central Asia are directly and integrally connected with the Great Silk Road. In particular, mil. avv. Trade and cultural relations with the historical and cultural regions of China and Central Asia have been developing since the 2nd century. Fergana, Sogd and Bactria were introduced to silk production. As the caravan route developed, so did trade and cultural ties. By the time of the Kushans and the Hephthalites (1st-6th centuries), the local Sogdian population took control of the Silk Road networks passing through Central Asia. Since the neighboring countries were also interested in the Silk Road, in the early Middle Ages, the rulers of Iran and Byzantium fought bloody battles with the Sogdians. At the beginning of Christ, the advanced states of the ancient world were mainly divided into four: Rome, Parthia, China and Kushan states. These huge kingdoms, stretching from the British Isles in the west to the Pacific coast in the east, were connected by the road known as the "Great Silk Road" for the first time in human history. With the development of the Silk Road, it became a tradition for kings to send embassies to each other and give each other gifts. Trade is growing at an unprecedented rate. The influence of Eastern and Western cultures on each other increases. Many cities, caravanserais were built along the Great Silk Road. Merchants who traveled this route often did not make it to the end of the road. Since the regions of Central Asia are located in the middle of this road, merchants used to sell their goods and buy local products in Khorezm, Samarkand, Termiz and other regions. In the Middle Ages, there were many imported products in the markets of Central Asia, as evidenced by the findings of archaeological excavations in ancient cities and settlements along the Silk Road. Mil. avv. The Great Silk Road, which appeared in the 2nd century and operated until the 16th century AD, became of great importance in the history of large-scale cultural and economic relations between the peoples of the East and the West during this period. It served as a basis for the mutual cooperation, exchange and enrichment of cultures, peace and development of the ancient peoples who communicated through this road. The territories of Uzbekistan are located at the crossroads of this road, where merchants, artisans, scientists and architects from different countries visited. The development of the "Great Silk Road" program by UNESCO became the direction for the scientific and cultural activities of more than 30 leading countries in Eurasia until 2000. Scientific expeditions were also organized in the territories of our republic. As a result, many historical and cultural monuments were studied, ancient roads and directions were identified, and our national and spiritual wealth and traditions were studied. The main task of the "Great Silk Road-Communication Road" program, in which many researchers are participating, is to turn this road, which has established and developed economic and cultural relations between the peoples of the East and the West, into a path of brotherhood, mutual cooperation and sincere communication between peoples. Humanity has not lived in isolation since its appearance on earth. As a result of the formation of seed communities, tribes, peoples and peoples, the need for trade relations and historical-cultural relations was felt between them. The trade-economic, political, social and cultural relations between these nations

and peoples were of great importance in the emergence of human civilization. The trade-caravan route, which occupies an important place in the lives of the peoples of the East and the West, was called the Great Silk Road. Why is this road called the Great Silk Road? Since when was it called the Great Silk Road? Where did it start, where did it go? Let's first look at the ancient trade-caravan routes. One of the oldest roads was called "La'l road" (Lazurite road). It was created in 3-2 thousand years BC. It started from the Pamir mountains, passed through Iran and Old Asia, Egypt and reached Badakhshan. Because the emerald stone mined from Badakhshan was highly valued by the ancient jewelers of the East. This precious stone decorated royal palaces, temples, and was used to make various women's ornaments. Objects used in Badakhshan sapphire were also found in the tombs of Egyptian pharaohs. There was also a road called "King's Road". This road existed in VI-IV centuries BC. King Darius I of Iran divided the country into 20 satrapies (provinces). He built stone roads to improve communication between regions. He built many stations on the roads. Caravans and caravans were working. The Iranian state had extensive trade and economic relations with the peoples of Mesopotamia, Asia Minor, Greece, the Caucasus, Arabia, Turan and India. The roads were busy and were controlled by royal servants - guards. In science, the homeland of silk is recognized as China. But Indian scientists do not agree with this idea. There is information that silkworms were raised in Central Asia since ancient times. According to Greek historians, Chinese silk was known in the Northern Black Sea regions and Middle Eastern countries from the 5th century BC. According to the research conducted in Sopollitepa, in Central Asia, silk production has existed since the middle of the 2nd millennium BC. The question of whether the silk fabrics found in Sopollitepa were brought from China or made in this place has not yet been answered. In any case, based on historical facts, the first widespread place of sericulture was in the lower basin of the Huanghe (Yellow) River in China. is located in Xi'an (Shensi Province). Xi'an is the starting point of the Silk Road. The length of the Great Silk Road was more than 12,000 miles, and it reached the shores of the Mediterranean Sea in the west. It starts from the city of Xi'an and comes to Dunhuang and divides into two branches: through the southwestern Taklamakan desert to Khan, from there to Yorkent, through the Pamir Mountains to Vahon, and then to Balkh. In Balkh, this road is divided into three branches: the western branch goes to Marv, the southern branch goes to India, the northern branch goes to Darband, Nautak, Samarkand through Termiz. The north-western branch of the Silk Road goes through Eastern Turkestan to Uzgan, Osh, Kuva, Ahsikent, Pop, and then through Asht to Khojand, Zomin, Jizzakh, and then connects with the Nautak road in Samarkand. This road goes west from Samarkand to Dabusia, through the Malik desert to Bukhara and Romiton, from there through Varakhsha to Poykent and Farob to the city of Amul and joins the road in the southwest direction at Marv. In ancient times, the city of Marv was the largest city on the Silk Road due to the geographical convenience of connecting caravan routes from different directions, therefore, in addition to the local Zoroastrian temples, there were also Indian Buddhist and Byzantine Christian temples in Marv. From Marv to the west, the "Silk Road" went through the cities of Tabriz and Nisa to the cities of Hekotompil, Apalia and Ecbatana (Hamadon) in Iran, and then to the cities of Mesopotamia, Ctesiphon, and Baghdad: from there, it went north along the right bank of the Tigris, through Antioch, to Damascus. and the northern road from Marv, passing through the cities of Tire and Jerusalem to Egypt, went through Amul to Urganch, from there along the northern Caspian, to the North Caucasus, then to the north of the Black Sea to Constantinople, and through the Bosphorus and Dardanelles to the Mediterranean Sea to the cities of Byzantium. In addition to the main caravan routes, there were also internal trade routes. One of them passed from Akhsu through Koson to the oasis of Chust. Another, Pop, went to the miners' settlements and pastures through Zarkent. Due

to the mineral wealth of Kurama and Aloy mountains and the wealth of Zarafshan river, this road network was called "Golden road". There was also a "Silver Road" that went to the countries that were interested in Central Asian silver. This road went to Kievan Rus and European countries through the Khazar Khanate and the Bulgarian state. It is the northern branch of the Great Silk Road and has been operating since the 6th century. The trade caravan routes passing through Central Asia from China to the west were always under the control of the Sogdians. The Sogdian script and the Sogdian language became the language and writing of traders. In order to maintain their dominance on these routes, Sogdian merchants established their caravanserais and villages in Eastern Turkestan, Ettisuv, in the regions from Altai to the banks of the Yenisei, in Shanxi region of North China, and in a number of cities such as Dunhuang. In the Chinese city of Dunhuang, Sogdian villages consisting of a thousand farms rose up in the III-IX centuries. The Sogds also used the Kyrgyz road, which was formed in the VI-V centuries and went from Turfan to Northern Mongolia, which was formed in the VI-VIII centuries and went from Eastern Turkestan to Khakassia through Jungaria. By II-I centuries BC, the Great Silk Road reached the peak of development. The discovery of Kushan coins from Ethiopia, Italy and Scandinavia shows that Kushan merchants had contact with distant lands. The treasure of Roman coins from Termez, the discovery of Roman ceramics, candlesticks, Egyptian seals from Afrosiyab, and the discovery of Kushan coins in the Mediterranean region are proof of our opinion. The statues of ambassadors of the Kushan kingdom and merchants from Kushan were carved on the front of the Trojan column in Rome, which shows the prestige and influence of merchants among the people in ancient times. Because merchants are not only buyers and sellers of goods, but also spreaders of knowledge, culture, news, and advanced economic inventions from one or another region to new places. there were also state spies who were very alert in their deep knowledge of the system. The fact that silk and silk fabrics took the main place in the trade of the Silk Road. German historian Ferdinand Paul Wilhelm Richthofen was the first to use the phrase "Silk Road" in 1877, and it was recognized by researchers all over the world. Until then, this road was called the Western Meridional Road. Through the Great Silk Road, merchants brought purple horses, Shosh bows, weapons and various handicrafts to China. All kinds of fabrics, silk, dried fruit, Shosh bows, clothing and other things were transported to India. Precious stones, gold and silver articles, ivory articles and spices were brought from there. Silk and silk fabrics, medicines, and jewelry are imported from China. There was a great need for the "heavenly horses" of the Parkana state in trade with China. Turanian camels and horses were very important in the Great Silk Road. Most importantly, caravans were led by people from Shush, Sogd, and Ferghana.

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