

The Silk Road is iconic in world history; but what was it, exactly? It conjures up a hazy image of a caravan of camels laden with silk on a dusty desert track, reaching from China to Rome. The reality was different--and far more interesting. In *The Silk Road: A New History with Documents*, Valerie Hansen describes the remarkable archeological finds that revolutionized our understanding of these trade routes. Hansen explores eight sites along the road, from Xian to Samarkand, where merchants, envoys, pilgrims, and travelers mixed in cosmopolitan communities, tolerant of religions from Buddhism to Zoroastrianism. Designed for use in the classroom and based on the award-winning trade edition (OUP, 2012), *The Silk Road: A New History with Documents* offers a selection of excerpted primary sources in each chapter. The wide-ranging sources include memoirs of medieval Chinese monks and modern explorers, letters written by women, descriptions of towns, legal contracts, religious hymns, and many others. A new final chapter provides coverage of the Silk Road during the period of Mongol rule.

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The Silk Road is iconic in world history; but what was it, exactly? It conjures up a hazy image of a caravan of camels laden with silk on a dusty desert track, reaching from China to Rome. In *The Silk Road: A New History with Documents*, Valerie Hansen describes the remarkable.

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Review of *THE SILK ROAD: A New History* by Valerie Hansen by Laura reconstructing the original documents, archaeologists have learned. Image of *The Silk Road: A New History*

such as most fascinatingly by reading a court record â€œwritten on discarded government documents.

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