

# Primary Sources:

## *Han Expansion in Central Asia*



## Introduction

Below is a series of the excerpts from the Han Empire that give us a sense of how and why the government attempted to expand westward into Central Asia.

As you read each source, consider the following questions:

- What does the source tell us about why the Han government wanted to expand its political influence to the north?
- What does the source tell us about challenges that Han emperors faced in that expansion?
- What evidence is there that explains the strategies of imperial expansion that the Han government used to address those challenges?

Compare your answers across the sources. Consider how what you might learn in one reinforces, challenges, or complicates what you learn in another.

## PRIMARY SOURCES

### INTRODUCTION

REPORT BY A HAN EMISSARY FROM THE WEST

AN ADVISOR AND THE EMPEROR DISCUSS WESTWARD EXPANSION

DIPLOMATIC RELATIONS WITH THE WEST

SIMA QIAN REPORTS ON HAN-DAYUAN RELATIONS

A REPORT FROM THE WESTERN STATE OF KANGIU

# Primary Source 1: *Report by a Han Emissary from the West*

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The first excerpts in this collection come from *The Records of the Grand Historian*, a monumental work of history completed around 100 BCE by Sima Qian (c. 146 BCE–c. 86 BCE), the senior archivist at the Han central court. It was intended by its author to serve as a history of the known world from earliest times down through the time of Emperor Wu (141–87 BCE), who reigned during Sima Qian's time. Sima Qian was himself a witness to the Han empire's period of most rapid expansion. As court archivist, he had access to all kinds of government documents to assist him in his compiling efforts.



**Chinese explorer Zhang Qian**

This passage is a report given by Zhang Qian, the special Han emissary to the Western Regions, after returning from his first mission. This text constitutes the earliest first-hand geographical information about Central Asia encountered by the Han central court. It is followed by Sima Qian's narrative of the emperor's response. The report and the response give some idea about what kinds of information the Han court sought about the regions to the west.

Source: Sima Qian, *Records of the Grand Historian*, volume II, trans. Burton Watson (New York: Columbia, 1993), 233–36. In a few instances, spellings, including of some place names, have been changed for consistency and clarity.

“Dayuan\* lies southwest of the territory of the Xiongnu, some 10,000 li\*\* directly west of China. The people are settled on the land, plowing the fields and growing rice and wheat. They also make wine out of grapes. The region has many fine horses which sweat blood; their forebears are supposed to have been foaled from heavenly horses. The people live in houses in fortified cities, there being some seventy or more cities of various sizes in the region. The population numbers several hundred thousand. The people fight with bows and spears and can shoot from horseback.

Dayuan is bordered on the north by Kangju, on the west by the kingdom of the Great Yuezhi, on the southwest by Bactria, on the northeast by the land of the Wusun, and on the east by Yumi and Yutian.\*\*\*



**Zhang Qian departing for Central Asia**

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\* The Chinese name for a kingdom in Central Asia with historical ties that go back to ancient Greece and the Hellenistic states.

\*\* A unit of distance, about 1/2 of a mile (or roughly 1/2 a kilometer).

\*\*\* Kangju, Great Yuezhi, Yumi and Yutian were all Chinese names for kingdoms or peoples in Central Asia that spoke Greek or Iranian languages. Bactria, also called the Greco-Bactrian Kingdom, was also a Hellenistic state in Central Asia that Han officials referred to as Daxia.





**Satellite image of, the Tarim Basin, the oval shaped desert in Central Asia**

West of Yutian, all the rivers flow west and empty into the Western Sea, but east of there they flow eastward into the Salt Swamp.<sup>†</sup> The waters of the Salt Swamp flow underground and on the south form the source from which the Yellow River rises. There are many precious stones in the region and the rivers flow into China. The Loulan and Gushi peoples live in fortified cities along the Salt Swamp. The Salt Swamp is some 5,000 *li* from Chang'an.<sup>‡</sup> The western branch of the Xiongnu occupies the region from the Salt Swamp east to a point south of the Great Wall at Longxi, where its territory adjoins that of the Qiang barbarians, thus cutting off the road from China to the west.



**Yuezhi Prince from Khalchayan, 1st century BCE**

The Wusun live some 2,000 *li* northeast of Dayuan, moving from place to place in the region with their herds of animals. Their customs are much like those of the Xiongnu. They have 20,000 or 30,000 skilled archers and are very daring in battle. They were originally subjects of the Xiongnu, but later, becoming more powerful, they refused any longer to attend the gatherings of the Xiongnu court, though still acknowledging themselves part of the Xiongnu nation....

The Great Yuezhi live some 2,000 or 3,000 *li* west of Dayuan, north of the Gui River.<sup>§</sup> They are bordered on the south by Bactria, on the west by the Parthian Empire, and on the north by Kangju. They are a nation of nomads, moving from place to place with their herds, and their customs are like those of the Xiongnu. They have some 100,000 or 200,000 archer warriors. Formerly they were very powerful and despised the Xiongnu, but later, when Modun became leader of the Xiongnu nation, he attacked and defeated the Yuezhi. Some time afterwards his son, the Old *Chanyu*, killed the king of the Yuezhi and made his skull into a drinking cup.

<sup>†</sup> This is Lob Nur, a former salt lake that is now dried up in the Tarim Basin of Central Asia.

<sup>‡</sup> Today called Xi'an, this city was on the western edge of the Han Empire at the time.

<sup>§</sup> Historically, known as the Oxus River, the Han called what is today known as the Amu Darya River, which flows from the Himalaya Mountains to the Aral Sea the Gui River.





**Yuezhi armored horseman,  
depicted on embroidered carpet**

The Yuezhi originally lived in the area between the Qilian or Heavenly Mountains and Dunhuang, but after they were defeated by the Xiongnu they moved far away to the west, beyond Dayuan, where they attacked and conquered the people of Bactria and set up the court of their king on the northern bank of the Gui River. A small number of their people who were unable to make the journey west sought refuge among the Qiang barbarians in the Southern Mountains, where they are known as the Lesser Yuezhi....

Bactria is situated over 2,000 southwest of Dayuan, south of the Gui River. Its people cultivate the land and have cities and houses. Their customs are like those of Dayuan. It has no great ruler but only a number of petty chiefs ruling the various cities. The people are poor in the use of arms and afraid of battle, but they are clever at commerce. After the Great Yuezhi moved west and attacked and conquered Bactria, the entire country came under their sway. The population of the country is large, numbering 1,000,000 or more persons. The capital is called the city of Bactra and has a market where all sorts of goods are bought and sold.

Southeast of Bactria is the kingdom of Shendu.¶ 'When I was in Bactria,' Zhang Qian reported, 'I saw bamboo canes from Qiong and cloth made in the province of Shu.¶ When I asked the people how they had gotten such articles, they replied, 'Our merchants go to buy them in the markets of Shendu.' Shendu, they told me, lies several thousand *li* southeast of Bactria. The people cultivate the land and live much like the people of Bactria. The region is said to be hot and damp. The inhabitants ride elephants when they go into battle. The kingdom is situated on a great river.



**4<sup>th</sup>-1<sup>st</sup> century BCE bronze horse from the Bactrian kingdom (above); 1<sup>st</sup> century CE belt buckles found in Central Asia, possibly from the Kangjiu (right)**



¶ Shendu, which has several other common spellings, was the Chinese name for India.

¶ Qiong and Shu were both provinces of the Han Empire.



**Depiction of an envoy of Dengzhi, a Qiang ethnic group, 6<sup>th</sup> century**

We know that Bactria is located 12,000 *li* southwest of China. Now if the kingdom of Shendu is situated several thousand *li* southeast of Bactria and obtains goods which are produced in Shu, it seems to me that it must not be very far away from Shu. At present, if we try to send envoys to Bactria by way of the mountain trails that lead through the territory of the Qiang people, they will be molested by the Qiang, while if we send them a little farther north, they will be captured by the Xiongnu. It would seem that the most direct route, as well as the safest, would be that out of Shu."

Thus the emperor learned of Dayuan, Bactria, Parthia, and the others, all great states rich in unusual products whose people cultivated the land and made their living in much the same way as the Chinese. All these states, he was told, were militarily weak and prized Han goods and wealth. He also learned that to the north of them lived the Yuezhi and Kangju people who were strong in arms but who could be persuaded by gifts and the prospect of gain to acknowledge allegiance to the Han court. If it were only possible to win over these states by peaceful means, the emperor thought, he could then extend his domain 10,000 *li*, attract to his court men of strange customs who would come translating and retranslating their languages,<sup>††</sup> and his might would become known to all the lands within the four seas.

<sup>††</sup> This was a common phrase at the time. It meant that the people lived so far away that they are unfamiliar with Chinese, and thus their writings have to be translated into an intermediary language and then translated into Chinese.



**Map of Zhang Qian's travels with the places he visited highlighted in blue**



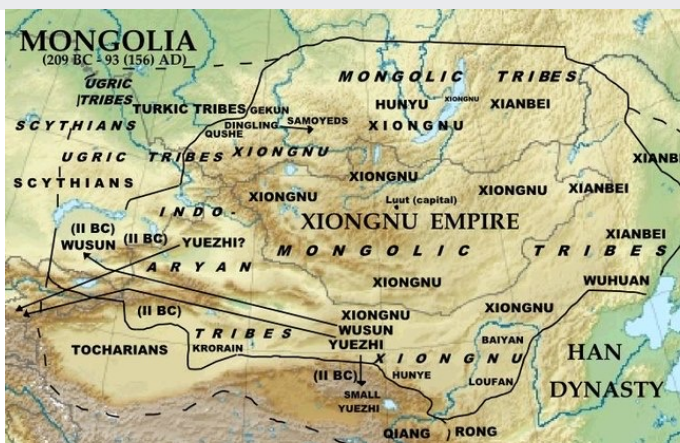
## Primary Source 2: *An Advisor and the Emperor Discuss Westward Expansion*



**Sima Qian**

This source also comes from Sima Qian's *The Records of the Grand Historian*. It records a dialogue between Emperor Wu and an imperial official named Zhang Qian around 120 BCE. At that time, the Han had embarked on several costly, but successful, military campaigns against the Xiongnu. At the same time, one of the nomadic peoples formerly under Xiongnu power—the Wusun—had migrated far to the west, and declared independence from the Xiongnu. Here Zhang Qian provides an argument for the extension of Han influence far into Central Asia. Following this, Sima Qian provides an account of his subsequent mission to the Wusun people.

Source: Sima Qian, *Records of the Grand Historian*, volume II, trans. Burton Watson (New York: Columbia, 1993), 238–39. In a few instances, spellings, including of some place names, have been changed for consistency and clarity.



**Han, Xiongnu, and Wusun movement, 1st c BCE**

"Now the *chanyu* is suffering from the recent blow delivered by our armies, and the region formerly occupied by the Hunyeh king\* and his people is deserted. The barbarians are well known to be greedy for Han wealth and goods. If we could make use of this opportunity to send rich gifts and bribes to the Wusun people and persuade them to move farther east and occupy the region which formerly belonged to the Hunyeh king, then the Han could conclude an alliance of brotherhood with them and, under the circumstances, they would surely do as we say..."

If we could get them to obey us, it would be like cutting off the right arm of the Xiongnu! Then, once we had established an alliance with the Wusun, Bactria and the other countries to the west could all be persuaded to come to court and acknowledge themselves our foreign vassals."

The emperor approved of this suggestion and, appointing Zhang Qian as a general of palace attendants, put him in charge of a party of 300 men, each of which was provided with two horses. In addition the party took along tens of thousands of cattle and sheep and carried gold and silk goods worth 100,000,000 cash. Many of the men in the party were given the imperial credentials making them assistant envoys so that they could be sent to neighboring states along the way.

\* The Hunyeh were a group of Xiongnu who had recently surrendered to Han armies.



**Map of Central Asia, showing Wusun and influence of Xiongnu, c. 150 BCE. The Wusun were forced to migrate west earlier in the century, resettling in the Ili Valley in 133-132 BCE**

When Zhang Qian reached the kingdom of the Wusun, the king of the Wusun, Kunmo, tried to treat the Han envoys in the same way that the *chanyu* treated them. Zhang Qian was greatly outraged and, knowing that the barbarians were greedy, said, "The Son of Heaven has sent me with these gifts, but if you do not prostrate yourself to receive them, I shall have to take them back!"

With this Kunmo jumped up from his seat and prostrated himself to receive the gifts. The other details of the envoys' reception Zhang Qian allowed to remain as before. Zhang Qian then delivered his message, saying, "If the Wusun will consent to move east and occupy the region of the Hunyeh king, then the Han will send you a princess of the imperial family to be your wife."

But the Wusun people were split into several groups and the king was old. Living far away from China, he had no idea how large the Han empire was. Moreover, his people had for a long time in the past been subjects of the Xiongnu and still lived nearer to them than to China. The high ministers of the king were therefore all afraid of the Xiongnu and did not wish to move back east. The king alone could not force his will upon his subjects, and Zhang Qian was therefore unable to persuade him to listen to his proposal.



**The Ili River, near the region where Zhang Qian met with the Wusun during his travels**



# Primary Source 3: *Diplomatic Relations with the West*

This source also comes from Sima Qian's *The Records of the Grand Historian*. Unlike the previous two, it is written entirely in Sima Qian's voice. In this, the historian described the general conduct of diplomatic relations between the Han and the states of Central Asia. It begins following the event described in the previous excerpts, in which Zhang Qian advised Emperor Wu on westward expansion.

Source: Sima Qian, *Records of the Grand Historian*, volume II, trans. Burton Watson (New York: Columbia, 1993), 241-42. In one instance, spelling has been changed for consistency.



**Sima Qian**

After Zhang Qian achieved honor and position by opening up communications with the lands of the west, all the officials and soldiers who had accompanied him vied with one another in submitting reports to the emperor telling of the wonders and profits to be gained in foreign lands and requesting to become envoys. The emperor considered that, since the lands of the west were so far away, no man would choose to make the journey simply for his own pleasure, and so when he had listened to their stories he immediately presented them with the credentials of an envoy. In addition he called for volunteers from among the people and fitted out with attendants and dispatched anyone who came forward, without inquiring into his background, in an effort to broaden the area that had been opened to communication.



**Map of Han expansion into Central Asia by 121 BCE. Travelers to the "western regions" left China through the Yumenguan "Jade Gate" frontier post, just northwest of Dunhuang.**





***Silver belt plaque from North China made for members of Central Asian Xiongnu patron states, possibly Yuezhi***

When the envoys returned from a mission, it invariably happened that they had plundered or stolen goods on their way or their reports failed to meet with the approval of the emperor. The emperor, who was very practiced at handling such matters, would then have them summarily investigated and accused of some major offense so that they would be spurred to anger and would volunteer to undertake another mission in order to redeem themselves. Thus there was never any lack of men to act as envoys, and they came to regard it as a trifling matter to break the law.

The officials and soldiers who had accompanied them on a mission would in turn start at once enthusiastically describing the wealth to be found in the foreign nations; those who told the most impressive tales were granted the seals of an envoy, while those who spoke more modestly were made assistants. As a result all sorts of worthless men hurried forward with wild tales to imitate their example.

The envoys were all sons of poor families who handled the government gifts and goods that were entrusted to them as though they were private property and looked for opportunities to buy goods at a cheap price in the foreign countries and make a profit on their return to China. The men of the foreign lands soon became disgusted when they found that each of the Han envoys told some different story and, considering that the Han armies were too far away to worry about, refused to supply the envoys with food and provisions, making things very difficult for them. The Han envoys were soon reduced to a state of destitution and distress and, their tempers mounting, fell to quarreling and even attacking each other.



***Painted ceramic Han cavalrymen***



***Ruins of a Han watchtower outside of Dunhuang.***



## Primary Source 4: *Sima Qian Reports on Han-Dayuan Relations*



**Saka horseman, one of the peoples of the region and possible ruling class in the 2<sup>nd</sup> century BCE**

This source also comes from Sima Qian's *The Records of the Grand Historian*. In it, Sima Qian offered an account of the deterioration of relations between the Han and the far western state of Dayuan around 104 BCE. In response to these events, Emperor Wu initiated the first major military expeditions into Central Asia. The first of these efforts failed dramatically, as troops were unable to obtain enough provisions. The second succeeded in forcing the capitulation of Dayuan. These events mark the beginning of major Han military expansion into Central Asia.

Source: Sima Qian, *Records of the Grand Historian*, volume II, trans. Burton Watson (New York: Columbia, 1993), 245-46. In a few instances, spellings of place names have been changed for consistency and clarity.

By this time a number of embassies had been sent to the west and even the lesser attendants who went along on the expeditions had become accustomed to appearing before the emperor and relating their experiences. "Dayuan has some fine horses in the city of Ershi,"\* they reported, "but the people keep them hidden and refuse to give any to the Han envoys!"

The emperor had already taken a great liking to the horses of Dayuan, and when he heard this he was filled with excitement and expectation. He dispatched a party of able young men and carriage masters with 1,000 pieces of gold and a golden horse to go to the king of Dayuan and ask him for some of the fine horses of Ershi.



**Ceramic bust of a horse, 1<sup>st</sup> century BCE, Han dynasty**

\* Ershi, also known as Shutrishna, was the capital of the Dayuan Kingdom. Today, it is Khujand, a city in Tajikistan.



But Dayuan by this time was overflowing with Han goods, and the men of the state therefore plotted together, saying, "The Han is far away from us and on several occasions has lost men in the salt-water wastes between our country and China. Yet if the Han parties go farther north, they will be harassed by the Xiongnu, while if they try to go to the south they will suffer from lack of water and fodder. Moreover, there are many places along the route where there are no cities whatsoever and they are apt to run out of provisions. The Han embassies that have come to us are made up of only a few hundred men, and yet they are always short of food and over half the men die on the journey. Under such circumstances how could the Han possibly send a large army against us? What have we to worry about? Furthermore, the horses of Ershi are one of the most valuable treasures of our state!"

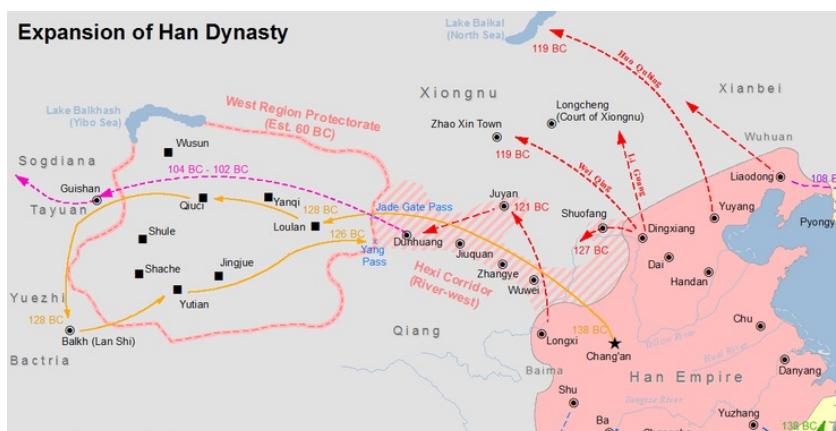


**Ceramic sculptures of Western Han cavalryman and infantrymen**

In the end, therefore, they refused to give the Han envoys any horses. Enraged, the Han envoys cursed the men of Dayuan, smashed the golden horse with a mallet, and departed.

The nobles of Dayuan were furious, complaining that the Han envoys had treated them with the utmost contempt. After the Han party had left, therefore, they sent orders to the people of Yicheng on the eastern border of the kingdom to attack and kill the envoys and seize their goods.

When the emperor received word of the fate of the envoys, he was in a rage. Yao Dinghan and others, who had acted as envoys to Dayuan in the past, assured the emperor that the kingdom was militarily weak and that it would not require a force of more than 3,000 Han soldiers equipped with powerful crossbows to conquer it and take the entire population captive.



**Map of Zhang Qian's journey, and Han campaigns into the Tarim Basin in 104 BCE**



**The famous Han-era bronze "Flying Horse of Gansu" depicts a horse treading on a flying bird, and represents the "celestial" and "blood-sweating" horses introduced to China from Fergana. Though the sculpture was probably made in the 2nd century CE, the breed it depicts was brought back to China following the military expeditions sent by Emperor Wu around 104 BCE.**



**Ban Gu**

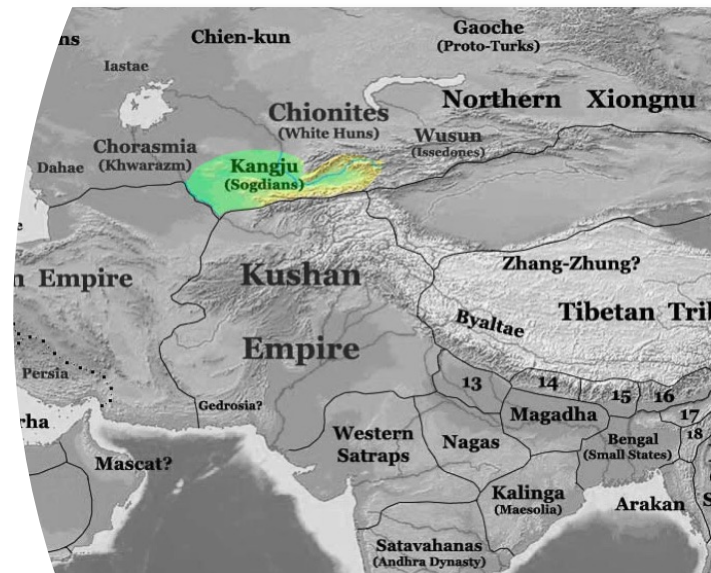
## Primary Source 5: *A Report from the Western State of Kangju*

This passage comes from a work titled *History of the Former Han Dynasty*, completed principally by a historian and official at the imperial court named Ban Gu (32–92 CE). Some parts are likely to have been written by his younger sister Ban Zhao (ca. 48–116 CE). This work was intended as a history of the first two centuries of the Han. Writing in the first century CE, Ban Gu and Ban Zhao covered the period after Sima Qian's death.

The passage below comes from a report submitted by the Protector General of the Western Regions sometime between 33 BCE and 37 BCE. By this time, Han influence in Central Asia had reached its height. Military colonies supplying food to troop garrisons were dotted throughout the northwest of the empire as well as the Tarim Basin. The office of Protector General coordinated the activities of Han envoys and troops in the area. At the same time, some elites were questioning the value of such active engagement in Central Asia. The immediate context of this report concerns the behavior of a prince of the far western state called Kangju. This prince, sent to the Han capital as a "hostage" (that is, to guarantee good faith in relations between the two states), refused to accept subordinate status at court. In this report, the Protector General weighs in on this issue.

Source: Adapted by Andrew Hardy from *China in Central Asia: The Early Stage, 125 B.C.–A.D. 23*. An Annotated Translation of Chapters 61 and 96 of the *History of the Former Han Dynasty*, trans. A. F. P. Hulsewé (Leiden: Brill, 1979), 127–28.

The prosperity which the Xiongnu originally enjoyed was not due to the fact that they had achieved united possession of Wusun and Kangju; and when the time came that they declared themselves our servants,\* this was not because they had lost those two states. Although Han has received hostages from them all, amongst themselves these three states are sending each other presents and communicating as they did previously. Likewise they keep a watch on one another; and if they see a suitable opportunity, they then send out troops against each other. If they unite, they are incapable of enjoying each other's friendship or trust; if they are split apart, they are unable to make subjects of one another. In terms of the present situation, the conclusion of a matrimonial relationship with Wusun has never brought any advantage, but has, on the contrary, involved trouble for China.



**Map showing regions of Xiongnu, Kangju, and Wusun c. 200 CE**

\* This refers to the submission of the Xiongnu *chanyu* to the Han emperor in 51 BCE.





**Rendering of a battle scene found on Central Asian plaques, perhaps between Kangju warriors**

Nevertheless, since Wusun has been so related previously, and now together with the Xiongnu declares its allegiance to Han, it would not be right to refuse its request. However, Kangju is behaving arrogantly, even refusing to treat our envoys with the respect that is their due. When the officials of the protectorate general go to the state, they are seated below the envoys of Wusun and the various other states. The king and noblemen take their food and drink first, and when they have finished they then have the officials of the protectorate general served with theirs; hence they make out that there is nobody to whom they need pay attention and thereby they show off to the neighboring states.

If in view of these considerations we ask why Kangju sends its sons to attend at the Han court, we find that desiring to trade, they use [fine words to deceive us]...It is fitting to send back the son of Kangju who is now attending at court and to sever relations and send no further envoys. Thereby we would demonstrate that the Han dynasty has no dealings with states that lack a sense of proper behavior. Dunhuang and Jiuquan,\*\* which are small commanderies, and the eight states of the Southern Route,\*\*\*, have supplied our envoys in their coming and going with men, horses, asses, camels and food, and have all suffered thereby. The places en route have been emptied and their resources spent, in providing an escort or welcome for envoys of an arrogant state that lies cut off at a great distance. This is no wise policy."



**Kangju coin, 3<sup>rd</sup>-6<sup>th</sup> century (above); ruins of Han watchtower (below)**



\*\* These are cities that served as important outposts on the Silk Road trade routes across the Gobi Desert.

\*\*\* The Southern Route of the Silk Road network refers to routes from China, south of the Himalayas toward India and then northward, rather than north of the Himalayas through Central Asia.

## Image Citations:

### Page 1:

Han dynasty, 60 BCE, CC: BY-SA 4.0, Qiushufang, [https://commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/File:Han\\_dynasty\\_\(60\\_BC\).png](https://commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/File:Han_dynasty_(60_BC).png)

### Page 2:

The Chinese Explorer Zhang Qian on a Raft, painting by Maejima Soyu, mid-16<sup>th</sup> century, Metropolitan Museum of Art, Public Domain, [https://commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/File:%E5%BC%B5%E9%A8%AB%E5%9B%B3-The\\_Chinese\\_Explorer\\_Zhang\\_Qian\\_on\\_a\\_Raft\\_MET\\_DT5362.jpg](https://commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/File:%E5%BC%B5%E9%A8%AB%E5%9B%B3-The_Chinese_Explorer_Zhang_Qian_on_a_Raft_MET_DT5362.jpg)  
Zhang Qian leaving emperor Han Wudi for his expedition to Central Asia, Mural in Cave, Mogao Caves, high Tang Dynasty, c. 8<sup>th</sup> century CE, Public Domain, <https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/File:ZhangQianTravels.jpg>

### Page 3:

Satellite image of China, NASA, Public Domain, [https://commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/File:China\\_100.78713E\\_35.63718N.jpg](https://commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/File:China_100.78713E_35.63718N.jpg)  
Kalchayan Prince, side view, CC: BY-SA 2.0, ALFGRN, [https://commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/File:Kalchayan\\_Prince,\\_side\\_view.jpg](https://commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/File:Kalchayan_Prince,_side_view.jpg)

### Page 4:

Noin-Ula Horseman, Public Domain, [https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/File:Noin-Ula\\_horseman.jpg](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/File:Noin-Ula_horseman.jpg)  
Heavenly Horse, ceremonial bronze finial, 4<sup>th</sup>-1<sup>st</sup> century BCE, [https://commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/File:Cult\\_of\\_Heavenly\\_horse\\_bronze\\_horse\\_ancient\\_finial\\_Bucephalus\\_Ancient\\_Akhal\\_Teke.jpg](https://commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/File:Cult_of_Heavenly_horse_bronze_horse_ancient_finial_Bucephalus_Ancient_Akhal_Teke.jpg)  
Orlat Plaques, 1<sup>st</sup> century CE, CC: BY-SA 2.0, ALFGRN, [https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/File:Orlat\\_plaques\\_\(vertical\\_layout\).jpg](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/File:Orlat_plaques_(vertical_layout).jpg)

### Page 5:

Denzhi ambassador to the Southern Liang court, 516-520, Public Domain, [https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/File:Dengzhi\\_ambassador\\_to\\_the\\_Southern\\_Liang\\_court\\_516-520\\_CE.jpg](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/File:Dengzhi_ambassador_to_the_Southern_Liang_court_516-520_CE.jpg)  
Travels of Zhang Qian around 130 BCE, Public Domain, <https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Kangju>

### Page 6:

Portrait of Sima Qian, Public Domain, [https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Sima\\_Qian](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Sima_Qian)  
Map of Xiongnu, 209 BCE - 93 CE, CC: BY-SA 4.0, Khiruge, [https://commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/File:Hunnu\\_Empire.jpg](https://commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/File:Hunnu_Empire.jpg)

### Page 7:

Map of the Xiongnu, c. 150 BCE, Public Domain, [https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/File:Map\\_of\\_the\\_Xiongnu,\\_circa\\_150\\_BCE.png](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/File:Map_of_the_Xiongnu,_circa_150_BCE.png)  
Ili River, Public Domain, <https://commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/File:River-ili-2.jpg>

### Page 8:

Historian Sima Qian, from the book Wan Hsiao tang-Chu chuang -Hua chuan, 1921, Public Domain, [https://commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/File:Sima\\_Qian\\_2.jpg](https://commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/File:Sima_Qian_2.jpg)  
Han Civilization, 2<sup>nd</sup> Century BCE, CC: BY-SA 3.0, Yue Ninje, [https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/File:Han\\_Civilization.png](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/File:Han_Civilization.png)

### Page 9:

Silver Belt Plaque in the Shape of a Crouching Horse, probably made in North China for member of the Yuezhi or other Central Asian confederacy, 3<sup>rd</sup>-1<sup>st</sup> century BCE, Metropolitan Museum of Art, Public Domain, <https://www.metmuseum.org/art/collection/search/44787>  
Painted ceramic statues of Chinese cavalrymen from the Western Han Dynasty, Hainan Provincial Museum, CC: BY-SA 2.0, drs2biz, [https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/File:Western\\_Han\\_soldiers.jpg](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/File:Western_Han_soldiers.jpg)  
Dunhuang watchtower from the Han Dynasty, Dunhuang, Gansu province, CC: BY-SA 2.0, The Real Bear, [https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/File:Summer\\_Vacation\\_2007,\\_263,\\_Watchtower\\_In\\_The\\_Morning\\_Light,\\_Dunhuang,\\_Gansu\\_Province.jpg](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/File:Summer_Vacation_2007,_263,_Watchtower_In_The_Morning_Light,_Dunhuang,_Gansu_Province.jpg)



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Carpet detail of Saka horseman, c. 300 BCE, State Hermitage Museum, St. Petersburg, Public Domain,

<https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/File:PazyrikHorseman.JPG>

Bust of a horse, 1<sup>st</sup> century BCE, Han dynasty, San Diego Museum of Art, Public Domain,

[https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/File:Head\\_of\\_a\\_Horse,\\_1st\\_century\\_BC,\\_China,\\_ceramic\\_with\\_pigments\\_-\\_San\\_Diego\\_Museum\\_of\\_Art\\_-\\_DSC06471.JPG](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/File:Head_of_a_Horse,_1st_century_BC,_China,_ceramic_with_pigments_-_San_Diego_Museum_of_Art_-_DSC06471.JPG)

**Page 11:**

Painted ceramic statues of cavalry and infantrymen, Western Han Dynasty, Hainan Provincial Museum, CC: BY-SA 2.0, drs2biz,

[https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/File:Western\\_Han\\_soldiers\\_3.jpg](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/File:Western_Han_soldiers_3.jpg)

Map showing the expansion of the Han dynasty in 2<sup>nd</sup> century BCE, CC: BY-SA 4.0, SY,

[https://commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/File:Han\\_Expansion.png](https://commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/File:Han_Expansion.png)

Flying Horse of Gansu, Eastern Han dynasty, c. 200 CE, CC: BY-SA 4.0 G41rn8,

[https://commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/File:Gansu\\_Museum\\_2007\\_257.jpg](https://commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/File:Gansu_Museum_2007_257.jpg)

**Page 12:**

Ba Gu, depicted in the 1921 book Wa Hsiang-tang-Chu chuang -Hua chaun, Public Domain,

[https://commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/File:Ban\\_Gu.jpg](https://commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/File:Ban_Gu.jpg)

Territory of the Kangju in 200 CE, CC: BY-SA 3.0, Thomas Lessman,

[https://commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/File:Territory\\_of\\_the\\_Kangju\\_in\\_200\\_CE.jpg](https://commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/File:Territory_of_the_Kangju_in_200_CE.jpg)

**Page 13:**

Battle scene between "Kangju" Saka warriors, from the Orlat plaques, 1<sup>st</sup> century CE, CC: BY-SA 2.5, ALFGRN,

[https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/File:Orlat\\_plaque\\_encounter.jpg](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/File:Orlat_plaque_encounter.jpg)

Kangju coin, 3<sup>rd</sup>-6<sup>th</sup> centuries, CC: BY-SA, Classical Numismatic group,

<https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/File:Yangguan.jpg>

Ruins of a tower on a hill at Yangguan, southwest of Dunhuang, CC: BY-SA 3.0,

<https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/File:Yangguan.jpg>