

# Eastern Hemisphere Trade Routes

## Trade Connects Continents

- During the Medieval Period, several major trading routes developed in the Eastern Hemisphere.
- These trade routes connected Europe, Africa, and Asia.

## Major trade patterns of the Eastern Hemisphere from 1000 to 1500 A.D.

- Silk roads across Asia to the Mediterranean basin
- Maritime routes across the Indian Ocean
- Trans-Saharan routes across North Africa
- Northern European links with the Black Sea
- Western European sea and river trade:  
The Danube River connected Western Europe with the Black Sea region.
- South China Sea and lands of Southeast Asia

## Trade Routes

Regional trade networks and long-distance trade routes in the Eastern Hemisphere aided the diffusion and exchange of technology and culture between Europe, Africa, and Asia.

## Goods

- Gold from West Africa
- Spices from lands around the Indian Ocean
- Textiles from India, China, the Middle East, and later Europe
- Porcelain from China and Persia
- Amber (fossil tree resin used to make ornamental objects and jewelry) from the Baltic region

## Technology

- Paper from China through the Muslim world to Byzantium and Western Europe

- Printing and paper money from China
- Waterwheels and windmills from the Middle East
- New crops from India (e.g., for making sugar)
- Navigation—Compass from China
- Lateen sail from Indian Ocean region

#### Spread of religions across the Eastern Hemisphere

- Buddhism from India to China, Korea and Japan
- On a much smaller scale, Hinduism also diffused from India to Southeast Asia
- All of this was possible because of the silk roads.
- Islam into West Africa, Central and Southeast Asia