

# The Silk Road

## Historical, Economical, Political, Geographical, Social Perspective

### The Silk Road



International  
Science &  
Technology  
University

### Editors:

Asst. Prof. Dr. Mohammad Ekram Yawar

Prof. Dr. Erdal DURSUN

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## **Foreword,**

The edited book study titled *The Silk Road: Historical, Economical, Political, Geographical, Social Perspective*. The term "Silk Road" originally refers to the ancient network of trade routes that, from around the 2nd century BCE to the 15th century CE, linked China with Europe, the Middle East, and parts of Africa. These routes facilitated the exchange of silk, spices, precious metals, and other goods, but also enabled the flow of ideas, technologies, and cultures. The Silk Road was instrumental in shaping the development of the civilizations involved, laying the groundwork for many aspects of modern global trade. However, over time, political changes, warfare, and the rise of maritime trade led to the decline of overland trade routes, and the Silk Road gradually fell into disuse. Now, centuries later, China is working to reinstate this ancient network in a modernized form.

**The New Silk Road Initiative: Key Goals and Objectives,** Launched in 2013 by Chinese President Xi Jinping, the New Silk Road initiative seeks to achieve a series of interconnected goals aimed at fostering economic growth and geopolitical influence:

**Infrastructure Development:** The primary goal of the New Silk Road is to build and enhance infrastructure, such as highways, railways, ports, and airports, to facilitate smoother trade across countries. This would involve not just China but also partner nations across Asia, Europe, and Africa.

**Connectivity:** The initiative aims to enhance connectivity between countries, ensuring the efficient flow of goods, services, capital, and people. This would be achieved through both land-based routes (the "Silk Road Economic Belt") and maritime routes (the "21st Century Maritime Silk Road").

**Economic Cooperation:** The initiative seeks to promote economic cooperation and trade between China and participating countries by

creating new trade corridors. This is expected to boost the economic development of many developing nations and reduce trade barriers.

**Cultural Exchange:** Like the original Silk Road, the New Silk Road envisions fostering cultural exchanges and people-to-people ties. This includes educational exchanges, tourism, and collaborative cultural projects. **Global Influence:** For China, the New Silk Road is also a strategic way to enhance its global influence and position as a central player in the global economy. It is viewed as a soft power initiative to increase China's geopolitical reach and strengthen its leadership in international institutions.

**Key Components of the New Silk Road,** The New Silk Road consists of two main components: Silk Road Economic Belt (Land Routes):

This is a network of overland routes connecting China with Europe through Central Asia, the Middle East, and parts of Russia. Key infrastructure projects include railways (such as the China-Europe Railway Express), highways, pipelines, and energy corridors. Central Asia plays a central role, acting as a bridge between China and Europe.

**21st Century Maritime Silk Road (Sea Routes):** This route involves the development of sea-based trade routes linking China to Southeast Asia, South Asia, Africa, and Europe. Strategic ports and maritime infrastructure projects, such as the China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC), the Hambantota Port in Sri Lanka, and the Kyaukphyu Port in Myanmar, are key parts of the maritime network.

The goal is to improve access to shipping lanes and promote port development, ensuring smooth transportation of goods by sea. Therefore, the editors are responsible for the design and format of the book. It should be declared that the responsibility of each article belongs to its authors. As editors, we would like to thank all the authors who contributed to the editing of each article. However, the biggest thank you goes to the people of the country who bought and read the book.

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