

# Afro-Eurasian Exchange Networks: Post-Classical Trade SIMULATION

Circle One: Buyer Seller Accountant

## Pre-Activity Questions

- Your Exchange Region (subsystem) \_\_\_\_\_
- Who might you be? What empire or civilization is most dominant in your exchange region?
  
- What religion/s or cultural tradition/s are practiced in your exchange region?
  
- Look at each region on the map on the information sheet. List which other regions they overlap with. (These will be the regions they can trade with, highlight your own region)
  - I. Western Europe \_\_\_\_\_
  - II. Mediterranean \_\_\_\_\_
  - III. Silk Roads \_\_\_\_\_
  - IV. Persian Gulf \_\_\_\_\_
  - V. Red Sea \_\_\_\_\_
  - VI. Arabian Sea \_\_\_\_\_
  - VII. Bay of Bengal / Strait of Malacca \_\_\_\_\_
  - VIII. South China Sea \_\_\_\_\_
  
- Picking from the list on the information sheet, rank the top 3 most desired commodities for your exchange region. List the steps that it would take to get each item. Remember you can only speak with those areas you overlap.
  1. (choice) \_\_\_\_\_ (explanation)
  
  2. (choice) \_\_\_\_\_ (explanation)
  
  3. (choice) \_\_\_\_\_ (explanation)

## RULES

- Each trading period will last 90 seconds, with a 60 second break between each round to record transactions.
- **BUYERS:** You may travel to trading posts (SELLER's desks) of those regions with which you overall only to buy **COMMODITIES** with your **WEALTH**.
  - **COMMODITIES** may be traded for **WEALTH** only (no trading commodities for commodities)
  - **PRICES** can be haggled over, but all trades must be completed within the 90 second trading period.
- **SELLERS:** You will make deals with the **BUYERS**. You are responsible for setting your own price.
  - You may sell any **COMMODITIES** you have in your inventory, however if you are selling someone else's **COMMODITY**, you must sell it for more than you bought it.
- After each round, **BUYERS** will go back to their region and the **ACCOUNTANT** will update the **TRADE LEDGER** with all trades.

## GOALS

- Get Silk
- Get as much gold (buy low/sell high)
- Get as many different commodities as you can
- Make as many trades as you can

## Post-Activity Questions

- Did you get the commodities you wanted? Why or why not? What made you successful or unsuccessful?
  
- What wins at trade in this system? Who loses at trade in this system?
  
- What happens to commodities as they move across Afro-Eurasia
  
- What are your overall impressions of trade at this time?

### TRADE LEDGER

Round	Commodity	Amount	Wealth (+ or -)	Wealth Total	
(ex) 1	Pepper	- 1	+3	18	
					<b>SCORING</b>
					<b>END OF GAME TOTALS</b>
					Total Wealth _____ x 2
					TW= _____ points
					Total # of Trades _____ x 3
					TT = _____ points

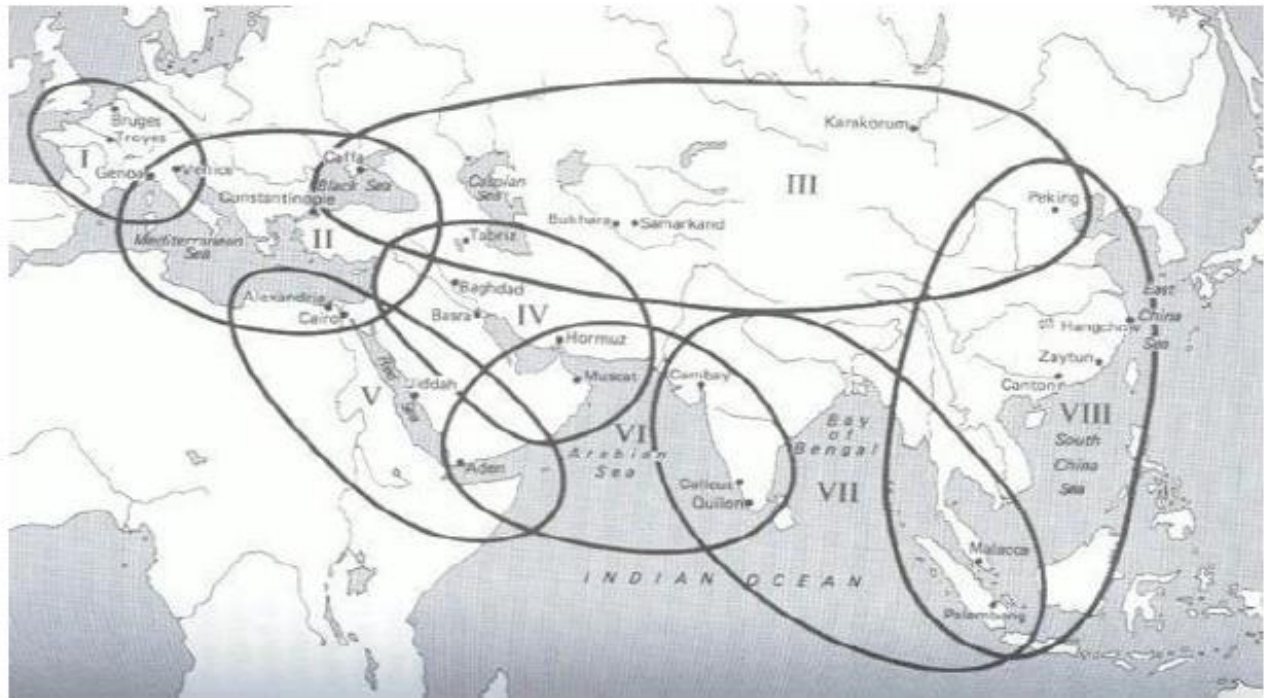
### RUNNING COMMODITY TOTALS

(ex) Pepper	8, 6, 3	
I. Wool		
II. Olive Oil		
III. Pepper		<b>SCORING</b>
IV. Lapis Lazuli		<b>END OF GAME TOTALS</b>
V. Linen		Do you have silk? Yes or No
VI. Cinnamon		If yes, SILK= <u>  10  </u> points
VII. Ivory		Total # of Commodities _____ x5
VIII. Silk		TC = _____ points

**TOTAL SCORE:** TW \_\_\_\_\_ + TT \_\_\_\_\_ + SILK \_\_\_\_\_ + TC \_\_\_\_\_ = \_\_\_\_\_

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## INFORMATION SHEET



Dominant Civilization	Exchange Region	Location	Commodity	# of Commodity	Wealth
<i>European Tribes</i>	<i>Western Europe</i>	<i>Circle I</i>	<i>Wool</i>	<i>7</i>	<i>10</i>
<i>Roman and Byzantine Empire</i>	<i>Mediterranean</i>	<i>Circle II</i>	<i>Olive Oil</i>	<i>10</i>	<i>15</i>
<i>Kushan and Mongol Empire</i>	<i>Silk Roads</i>	<i>Circle III</i>	<i>Pepper</i>	<i>8</i>	<i>15</i>
<i>Islamic Caliphates</i>	<i>Persian Gulf</i>	<i>Circle IV</i>	<i>Lapis Lazuli</i>	<i>3</i>	<i>15</i>
<i>Egyptian Empire and West Africa</i>	<i>Red Sea</i>	<i>Circle V</i>	<i>Linen</i>	<i>9</i>	<i>10</i>
<i>No Dominant Group</i>	<i>Arabian Sea</i>	<i>Circle VI</i>	<i>Cinnamon</i>	<i>8</i>	<i>10</i>
<i>Srivijay (Malay)</i>	<i>Bay of Bengal / Strait of Malacca</i>	<i>Circle VII</i>	<i>Ivory</i>	<i>5</i>	<i>10</i>
<i>Tang and Song Dynasties (China)</i>	<i>South China Sea</i>	<i>Circle VIII</i>	<i>Silk</i>	<i>10</i>	<i>15</i>

The map breaks down two of the major exchanges systems during the Post-Classical Period, the Silk Road and Indian Ocean trade routes (the Sub-Saharan is left out). It divides them into eight exchange regions and gives a general idea of how they interacted (where the circles overlapped).

So how did this network of trade circles work? How did people in Western Europe get the silk they wanted from China? How did the Chinese get their olives from the Mediterranean?