

# **SILK ROAD AND KOREA**

**Was Korea part of Silk Road?**

# Korea and its frontier



# Korea was an active participant in the Silk Road

In the map of the Eastern Trade routes of the

Silk Road, **Korea is often ignored** even

thought it was an active participant in the

**exchange of trade and culture.**

# Silk road map

## Land route





# Eastern Route of Silk Road through land



# Eastern Route of Silk Road through land





# Eastern Route of Silk Road through sea



# Arab merchants to Korea

- **Three Kingdoms period** (57 BC-668 AD) : trading and cultural exchange (last destiny for the Arab merchants in the Asian Continent).
- **During the 7th century**, Muslim traders had travelled from the Caliphate to Tang China and established contact with Silla, one of the Three Kingdoms of Korea.

# Muslim settlement in Korea

- A number of Muslim traders from the **Near East and Central Asia** settled down in Korea and established families there.
- One of those **Central Asian immigrants** came to Korea as an aide to a **Mongol princess** who had been sent to marry **King Chungnyeol of Goryeo**. His original name was **Samga** but, after he decided to make Korea his permanent home, the king bestowed on him the Korean name of **Jang Sunnyong**.
- Jang married a Korean and became the founding ancestor of the **Deoksu Jang clan**. Twenty-five generations later, around 30,000 Koreans look back to Jang Sunnyong as the grandfather of their clan.

- There are descendants of another Central Asian who settled down in Korea.
- A Central Asian named **Seol Son** fled to Korea when the Red Turban Rebellion erupted near the end of the **Mongol's Yuan dynasty**.
  - He, too, married a Korean, originating a lineage called the **Gyeongju Seol** that claims at least 2,000 members in Korea.

- A poem was written during the period of Goryeo, the *Sanghwajeom* which means the "Colored-eye people bakery".
- The song tells the tale of a Korean woman who goes to a Muslim bakery to buy some dumplings.

# Silla Tumbs

Exotic objects made in Central Asia and further west to the Mediterranean have been found in several **Silla tombs**, testimony to the vibrant international exchanges of the time.

# Artifacts and influence of Silk road in Korea









# Artifacts from the tumbs of Silla



Jade inlaid gold dagger  
from King Mich'u  
Tumulus, Kyongju, 5th–  
6th century

- Dagger and sheath. Black Sea area–Central Asia, **5th century (Huns)**. Excavated from Gyerim-ro Tomb no. 14. Gold inlaid with garnet and glass; L. 14 1/4 in. (36 cm). Gyeongju National Museum, Korea, Treasure 635 (에르미타주박물관이 소장한 카자흐스탄의 보로보에서 출토(훈족 아틸라 왕 시대에 유행))

- [https://www.google.es/search?q=%EC%8B%A0%EB%9D%BC%EC%8B%9C%EB%8C%80+%ED%8E%98%EB%A5%B4%EC%8B%9C%EC%95%84%EC%9D%98+%EC%9C%A0%EB%AC%BC&biw=1366&bih=622&tbm=isch&tbo=u&source=univ&sa=X&sqi=2&ved=0ahUKEwj8jOzase3MAhUBXhoKHeRiAUyQsAQIGw#tbm=isch&tbs=rimg%3ACQZH4RMnixyKljgOLA-0Y4QBMNX-LGukqeM4jD76-9cj8KGMJOMW9cP7q47fCBAhS7ZT490UvdINqXWk1-sSuLo5iqCoSCQ4sD7RjhAEwEbv7w2\\_1Uf-MIKhIJ1f4sa6Sp4zgRcxgWha2p6AYqEgmMPvr71yPwoRGa6xCBg6LBxSoSCYk4xb1w\\_1urjEYjELZRTaCG-KhIJt8IECFLtIPgRJ8qfZS5ZSBcqEgn3RS90g2pdaRFthwvm179ehioSCTX6xK4ujmKoEZN5G\\_1POYtN9&q=%EC%8B%A0%EB%9D%BC%EC%8B%9C%EB%8C%80%20%ED%8E%98%EB%A5%B4%EC%8B%9C%EC%95%84%EC%9D%98%20%EC%9C%A0%EB%AC%BC&imgcr=PHumCWeLP8rDMM%3A](https://www.google.es/search?q=%EC%8B%A0%EB%9D%BC%EC%8B%9C%EB%8C%80+%ED%8E%98%EB%A5%B4%EC%8B%9C%EC%95%84%EC%9D%98+%EC%9C%A0%EB%AC%BC&biw=1366&bih=622&tbm=isch&tbo=u&source=univ&sa=X&sqi=2&ved=0ahUKEwj8jOzase3MAhUBXhoKHeRiAUyQsAQIGw#tbm=isch&tbs=rimg%3ACQZH4RMnixyKljgOLA-0Y4QBMNX-LGukqeM4jD76-9cj8KGMJOMW9cP7q47fCBAhS7ZT490UvdINqXWk1-sSuLo5iqCoSCQ4sD7RjhAEwEbv7w2_1Uf-MIKhIJ1f4sa6Sp4zgRcxgWha2p6AYqEgmMPvr71yPwoRGa6xCBg6LBxSoSCYk4xb1w_1urjEYjELZRTaCG-KhIJt8IECFLtIPgRJ8qfZS5ZSBcqEgn3RS90g2pdaRFthwvm179ehioSCTX6xK4ujmKoEZN5G_1POYtN9&q=%EC%8B%A0%EB%9D%BC%EC%8B%9C%EB%8C%80%20%ED%8E%98%EB%A5%B4%EC%8B%9C%EC%95%84%EC%9D%98%20%EC%9C%A0%EB%AC%BC&imgcr=PHumCWeLP8rDMM%3A)

# Similarity between Persian and Korean artifacts (persian)





경주 황남대총에서 출토된 봉수형 유리병(위)과 이란에서 출토된 사산조 페르시아 시대 은병.



A horn made of glass unearthed in Afghanistan. **A horn made of glass unearthed in Afghanistan.**

미추왕릉 지구에서는 뿔잔(Horn glass)이 나왔습니다 (지중해 · 서아시아 · 북중국). 뿔잔을 사용하는 풍습은 주로 스키타이 · 흉노 등 말을 타고 이동하는 유목민들에서 보여지는 것입니다.



- The Silla elite's desire for gold ornaments originally arose from contacts with various kingdoms of China and with the nomadic cultures of the northeast.



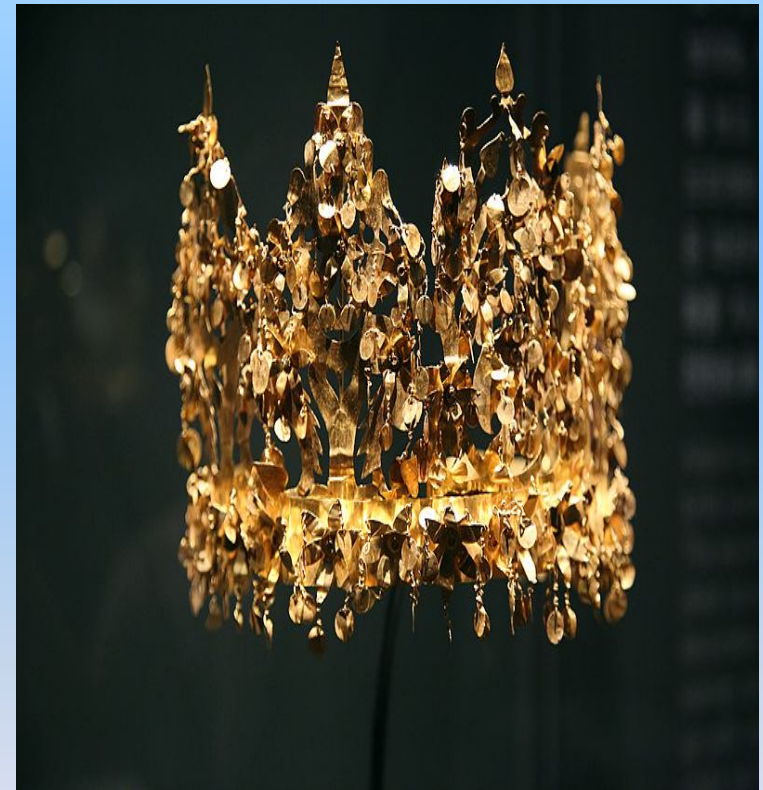
Golden earrings from Pubu Tumulus, Kyongju, 6th century CE



Golden girdle with pendants from  
Kumgwan Tumulus, Kyongju



Golden crown from Hwangnam Tumulus,  
Kyongju, 5th century



틸리아 테페,  
아프가니스탄에서 발견된 금관





Anihita, Iran, 6–7th century.



Silver bowl from Hwangnam Tumulus, Kyongju, early 5<sup>th</sup> C.

# Maritime figure of Silla (Jang Bogo)

- **Jang Bogo** (787-841): Late United Silla period. He controlled the West Sea (Yellow Sea) and Korean coast between southwestern Korea and China's Shandong peninsula during several decades.
- He was granted as **Maritime Commissioner of the Cheongjaejin Garrison** (on Wando).

- By the 9th century thousands of Silla subjects were living in Tang, centered mostly merchant activities in coastal Shandong and Jiangsu provinces (established their own Silla communities).
- Wealthy benefactors even established Silla Buddhist temples in the region.







# Origin of the name Korea

- The modern English name Korea is derived from the Koryo Dynasty period (935-1392).
- It was given by the Arab merchants who arrived to Koryo Dynasty through the Silk Road.

# Chosun Period: Confucianism

- **Decree against the Arab community**
- In the year **1427 Sejong** ordered a decree against the Huihui (Korean Muslim) community that had special status. **The Huihui were forced to abandon their customs, and to close down Mosque.**
- No further mention of Muslims exist during the era of the Chosun.
- **Islam was practically non-existent in Korea by the 16th century and was re-introduced in the 20th century.**

# New Silk Road and Korea

- In the modern time there are significant economic and cultural ties and that link Korea to the New Silk Road.
- With the end of the Cold War, combined with Korea's growing economic development, enabled Korea's new inter-Asian connections to grow.

- Korea's policy toward Central Asia has been primarily driven by energy needs and political security.
- The Central Asian republics welcomed the opportunity to diversify their foreign relations, the sources of foreign investment and export routes.

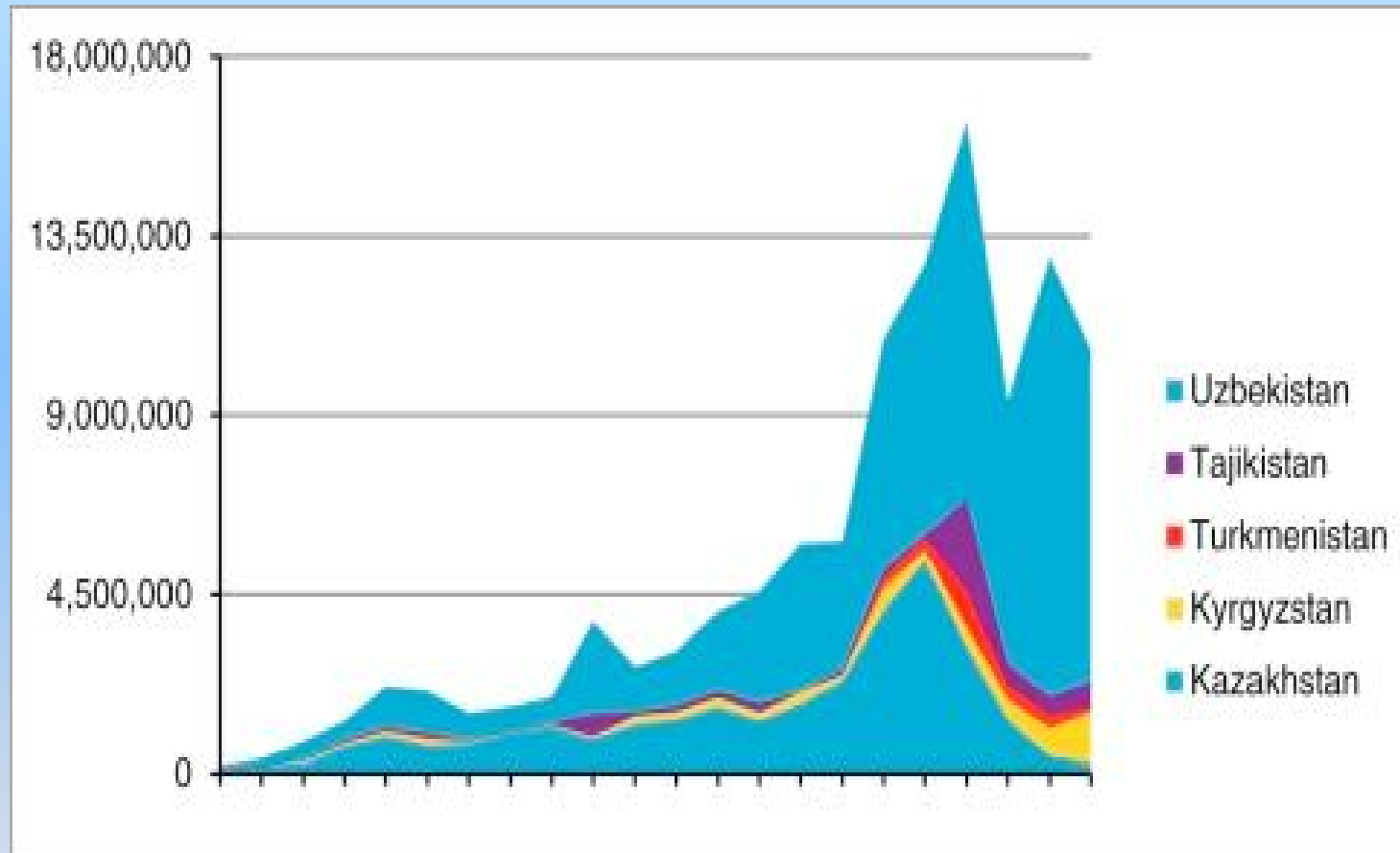
# Korean ODA(Official Development Assistance (ODA) to Central Asia (1992–2013).

Source: KOICA Statistics

([http://stat.koica.go.kr:8077/komis/jsptemp/ps/stat\\_index.jsp](http://stat.koica.go.kr:8077/komis/jsptemp/ps/stat_index.jsp)).



## Trade turnover between Korea and Central Asia (2014).



# New Silk Road and Korea

- Economic relations between the Republic of Korea and the Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC) countries have been focused on two sectors: Energy resources, oil and gas from Middle East and Korean manufacturing, electricity, transport, and related activities.



## New Silk Road Project and Obstacles: Eurasia Rail Road project

- As one of the New Silk Road project, China tries to exports goods by rail transport to Europe.  
("Eurasia initiative,").
- Korea is very much enthusiastic to be a part of that venture — (obstacle: North Korea should cooperate on this initiative).



## One of the Euraia Initiative (China, Russia and the two Koreas)

- Among China, Russia, and the two Koreas, in the Chinese city of **Hanchun**, not far from the borders of China, North Korea, and Russia, Hyundai and Posco, a South Korean steel-making company, have come together to build a massive distribution center.
- This project makes little sense, unless **North Korea grants access to its Rajin port**, near Hanchun, currently closed to foreigners.

# Trans-Siberian Railway

- Rajin port



- Najin is the port city of North Hamgyong Province. On September 22, North Korea's **Najin Station was linked to the Trans-Siberian Railway** (TSR, 9297 km), which connects Russia and the Far East to Moscow and Europe.

Najin is a strategic point where President **Vladimir Putin's long-term policy on the development of the Far East and the crossing policy of China meet**, and that the delicate balance of power between China and Russia is in the process.

- 함경북도의 항구도시 나진시. 지난 9월 22일 북한의 나진역이 러시아 극동에서 모스크바, 유럽 각지로 연결된 시베리아횡단철도(TSR·9297km)와 연결되었다.
- 나진의 다른 한편, 나진항에선 러시아가 북측으로부터 50년간 사용권을 확보한 제3부두 건설이 한창이다.
- 전문가들은 나진이 극동개발에 사활을 건 블라드미르 푸틴 대통령의 종단정책과 중국의 횡단정책이 만나는 전략적 요충지로 중·러와 그 틈바구니에 있는 북한 간 미묘한 힘의 균형이 이뤄지고 있는 곳이라고 분석한다.

# 러시아 대북 철도연결 및 송전망 연결 사업계획

청진~블라디보스토크 간 송전망 연결

중국

러시아

블라디보스토크

하산

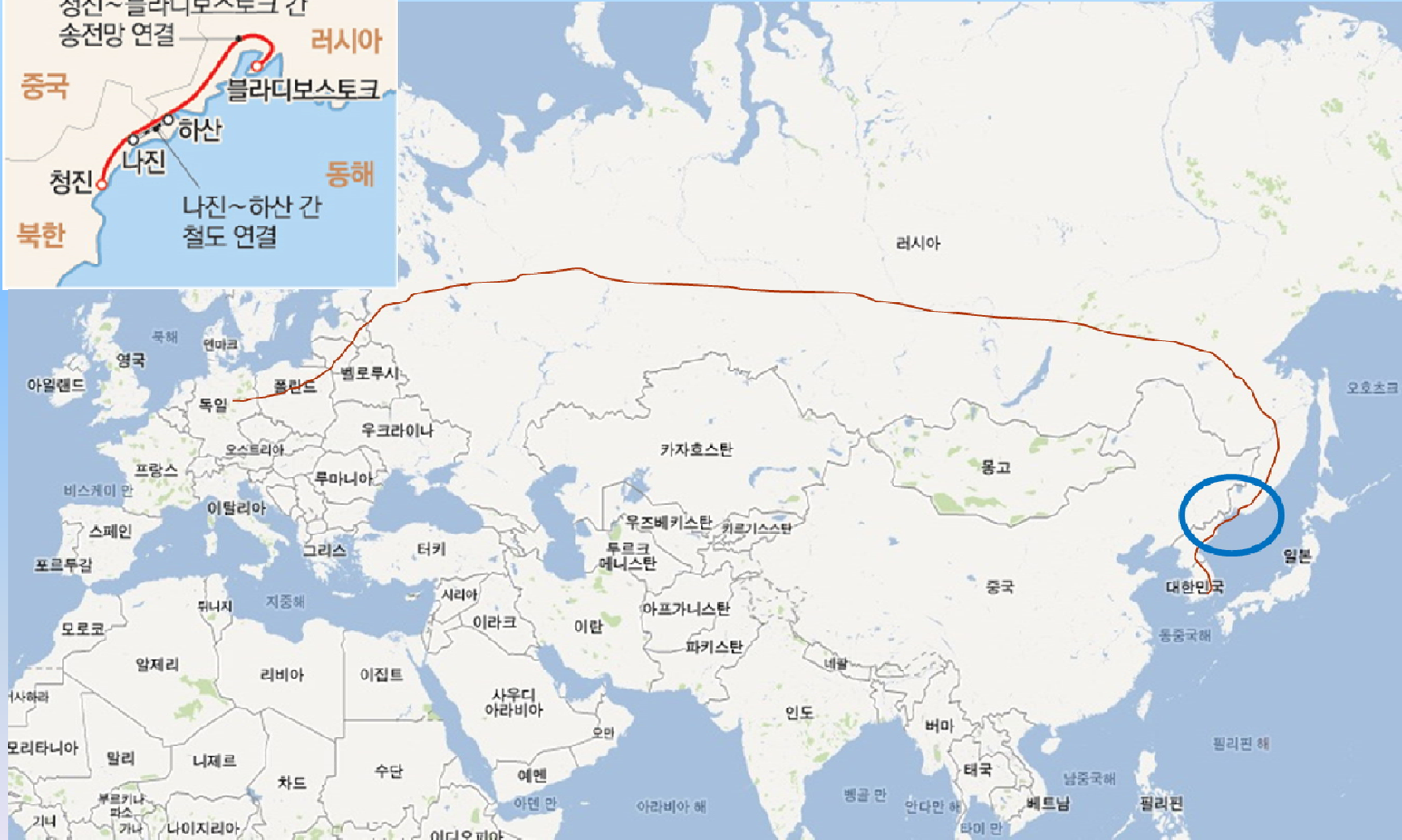
나진

동해

청진

나진~하산 간 철도 연결

북한



## The Korean Wave (New cultural ties)

- Since the 1990s, South Korea has emerged as a major exporter of popular culture and tourism (the Korean Wave —literally meaning 'flow of Korea').
- The growing popularity of Korean modern culture in many parts of the world, including those countries of Silk road has enhanced the government to support its creative industries.







- **The Korean Cultural Festival in Silk Road**, in **Uzbekistan**'s capital of Tashkent from Apr. 20 to 22; Astana and Almaty, the two largest cities in **Kazakhstan**, from Apr. 24 to 26 and Apr. 27 to 30, respectively; and **Turkmenistan**'s capital Ashgabat on May 1.

Uzbekistan and Kazakhstan were already particularly familiar with **Korean brand names**, thanks to imports of high tech goods and multimedia content from Korea.

- **One world through the Silkroad**