



■ Essential Question:

–What is the difference between a “river valley civilization” & an “empire”?

■ Warm-Up Questions:

–What is an “empire”?

–How are “empires” different from “river valley civilizations”?

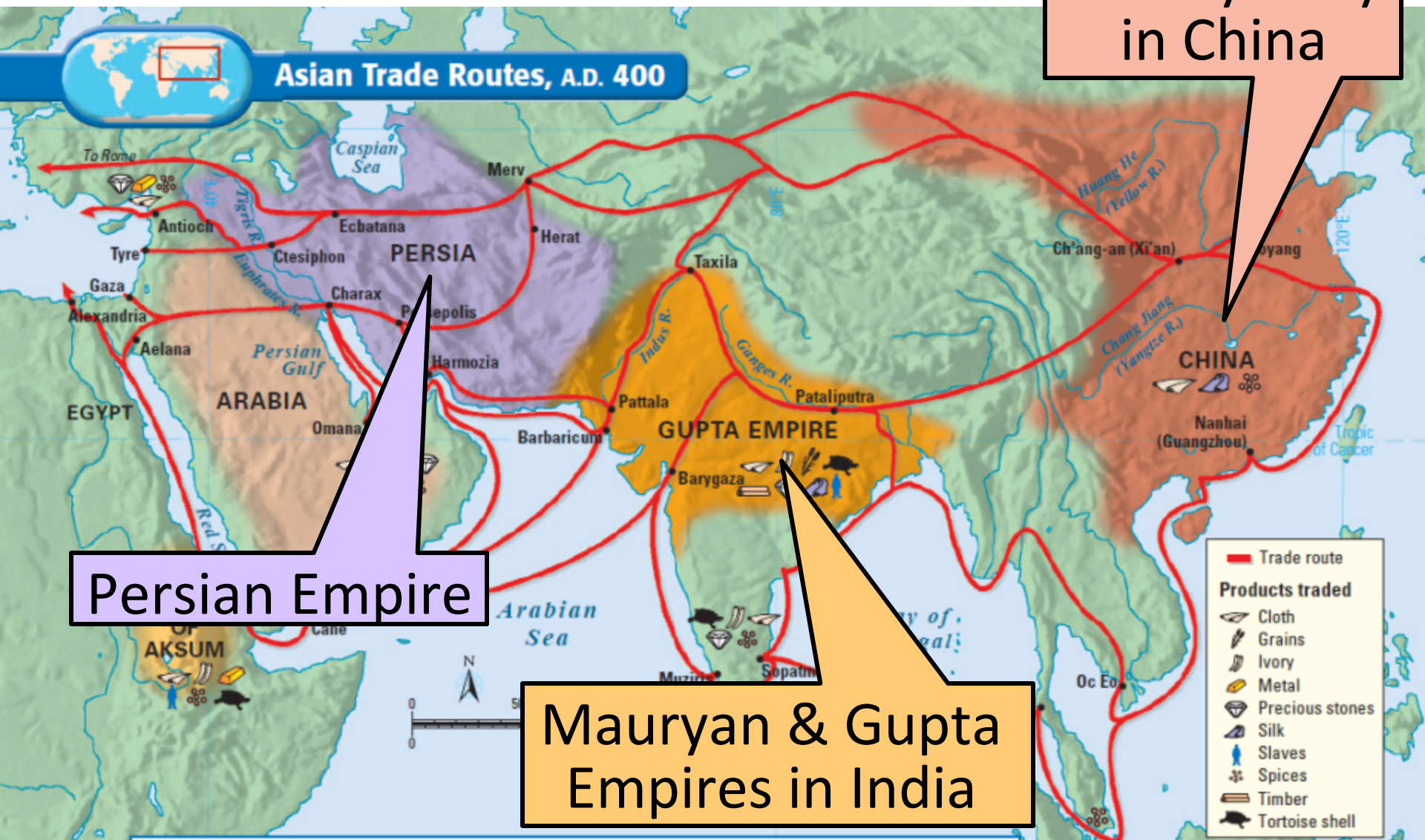
–What are the advantages of having an empire?

# From Civilization to Empire

- After thousands of years of civilization in river valleys, the first empires appeared
  - River valley civilizations were complex societies with advanced technologies, cities, workers, writing, & institutions
  - Empires were advanced societies with well-organized, centralized gov'ts that conquered & ruled a variety of formerly independent people

# Major Empires

Han Dynasty  
in China



Persian Empire

Mauryan & Gupta  
Empires in India

# The fertile soil & lack of natural boundaries in Mesopotamia led to frequent invasions & conquests



most important an



The Persians grew into a

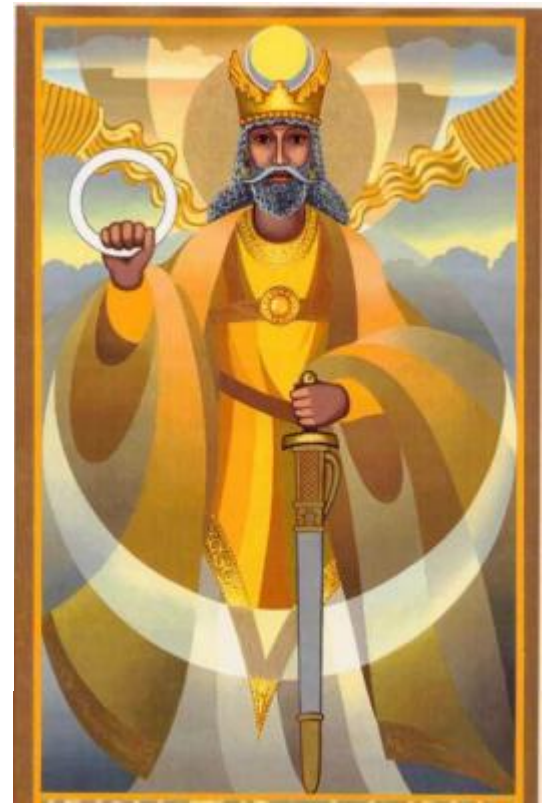
powerful empire. With a powerful army, the Persians conquered Mesopotamia, Egypt, & India

# Persian Culture

- Persian religion was Zoroastrianism, which viewed life as a struggle between good & evil
  - Persians believed in heaven & hell as consequences for how they lived their lives



Zoroastrianism influenced the views of the afterlife in Judaism, Christianity, & Islam



## Quick Brainstorming Activity:

How did the Persians control such a massive empire?



# The Persian Empire

■ Persians controlled their empire in a variety of ways:

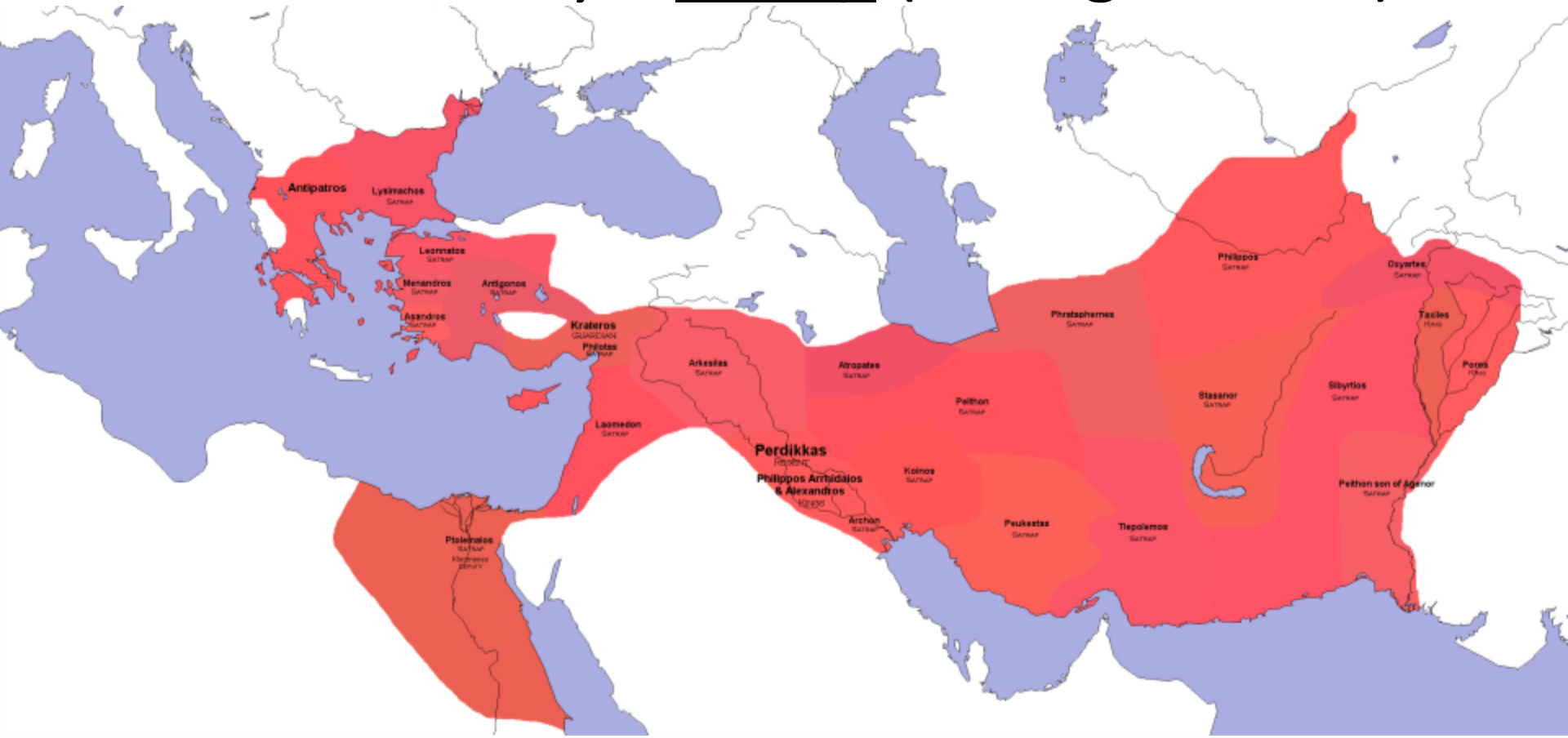
- Persian kings were tolerant & allowed conquered people to keep their languages & religions
- Rather than destroying or looting conquered cities, King Cyrus would show respect for local customs





# The Persian Empire

King Darius divided the empire into 20 provinces each ruled by a satrap (local governor)



Satrapas were the “eyes & ears of the king,” collected taxes, & informed the king of uprisings

# The Persian Empire

The Persians built a network of roads in order to collect taxes & improve communication & trade throughout the empire



# The Persian Empire

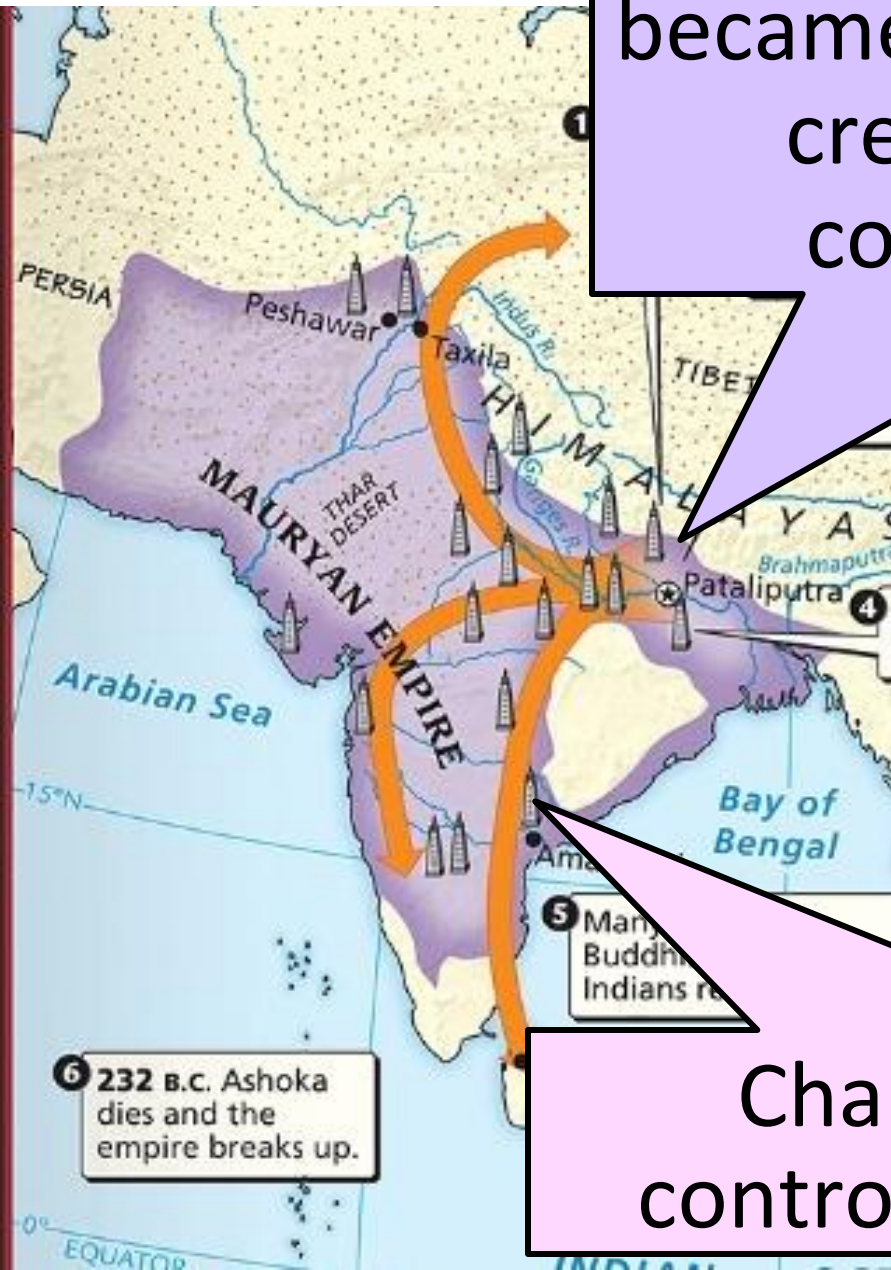
The Persians used metal coins with standardized values to help promote trade





# The Maurya

Chandragupta Maurya became king of India in 321 BC, created a vast army, & conquered new lands



Chandragupta's empire controlled most of the Indian

# India: The Mauryan Empire

- Chandragupta used tactics to control his empire:
  - Like the Persians, Chandragupta divided his empire into provinces each ruled by a local prince



# The Mauryan Empire

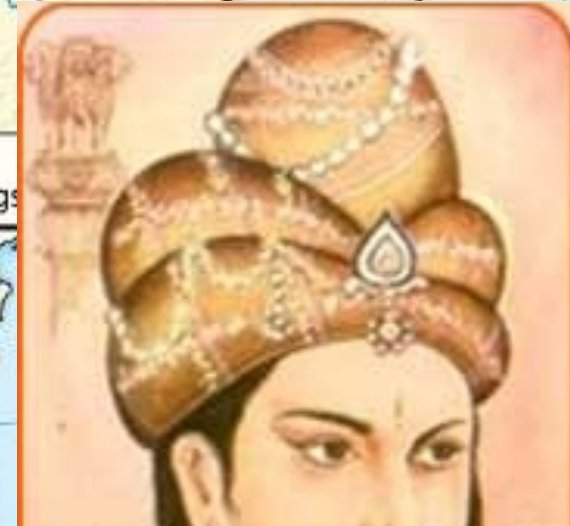
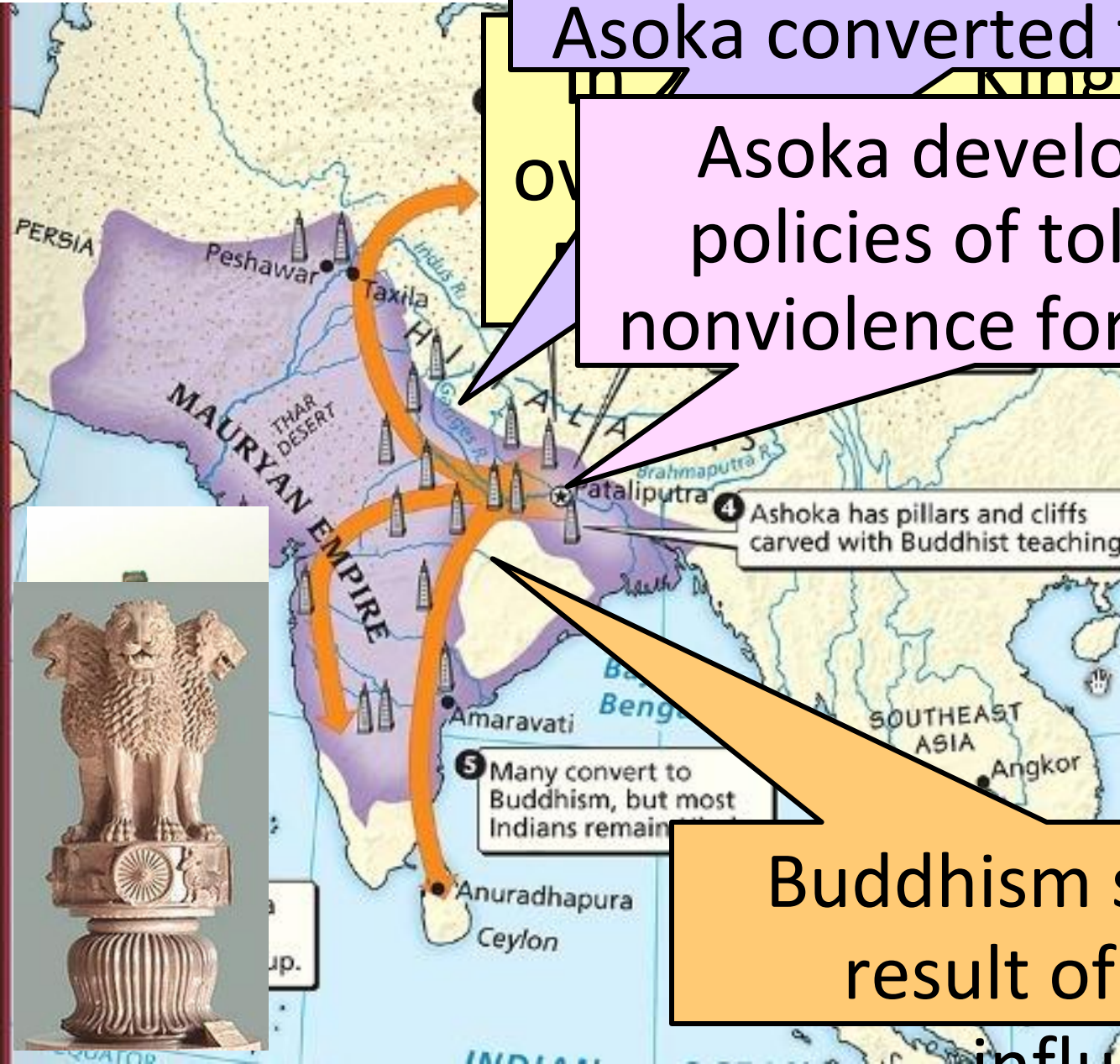
During his wars of expansion, Asoka converted to Buddhism

Asoka developed new policies of tolerance & nonviolence for his empire

4 Ashoka has pillars and cliffs carved with Buddhist teachings

5 Many convert to Buddhism, but most Indians remain

Buddhism spread as a result of Asoka's influence



# The Gupta Empire

5 450-500 A.D.  
Hun invasions cause  
empire's collapse.

After Asoka's death, the  
Mauryan Empire declined & was  
replaced by the Gupta Empire

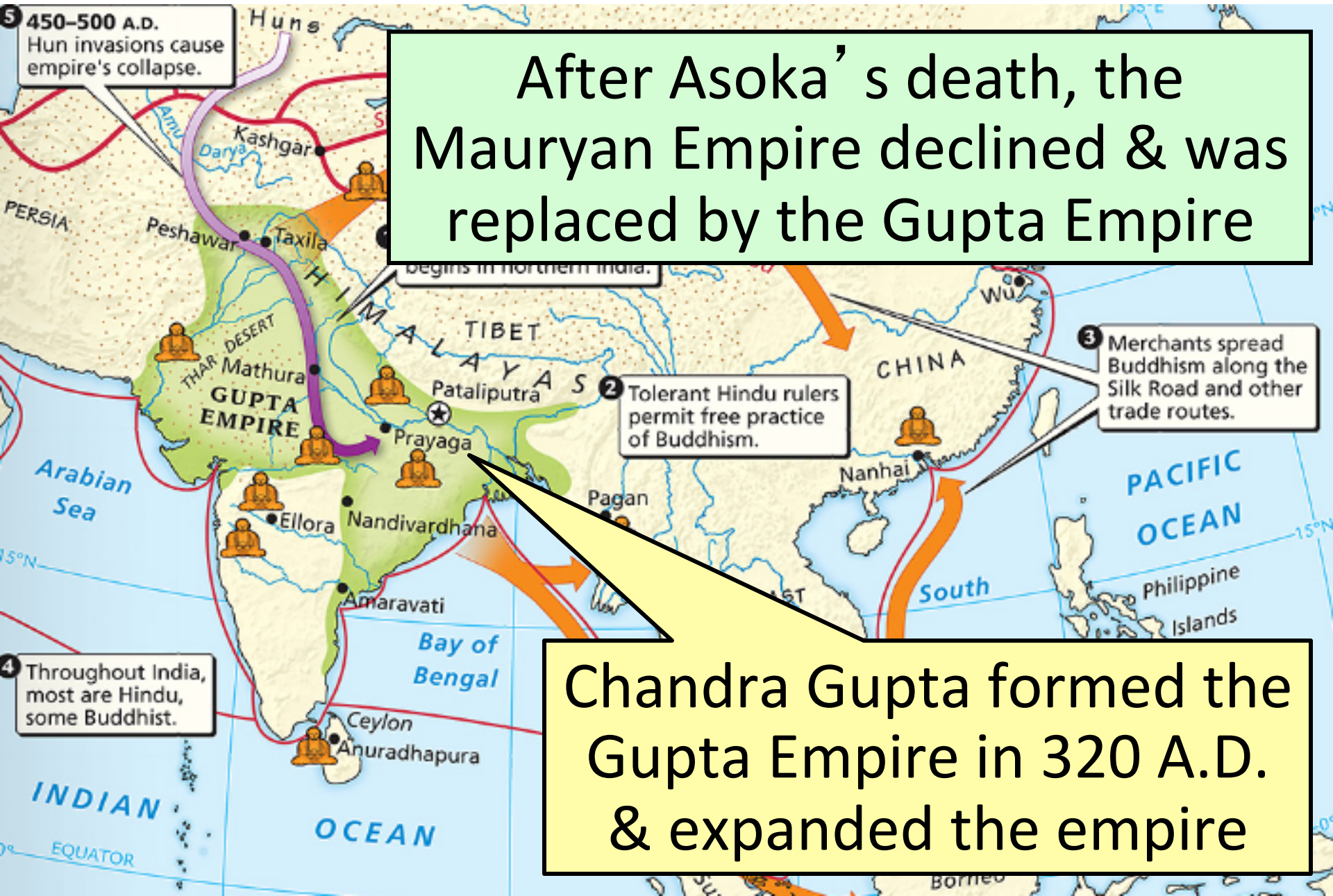
begins in northern India.

2 Tolerant Hindu rulers  
permit free practice  
of Buddhism.

3 Merchants spread  
Buddhism along the  
Silk Road and other  
trade routes.

4 Throughout India,  
most are Hindu,  
some Buddhist.

Chandra Gupta formed the  
Gupta Empire in 320 A.D.  
& expanded the empire



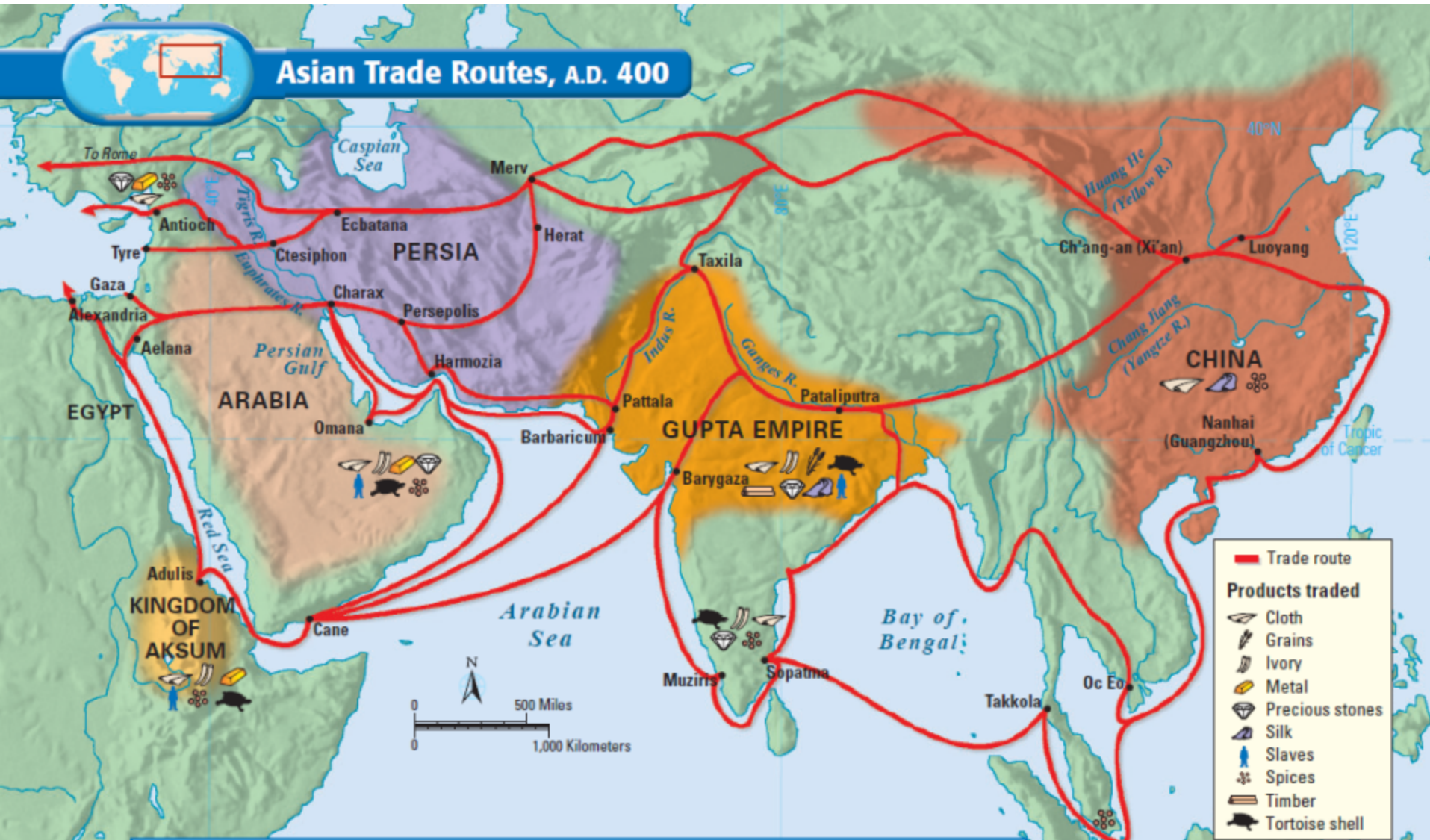


# Classical India

- India experienced a “golden age” during the Gupta Empire & became a “classical empire”
  - Indian astronomers were the first to discover that the earth was round
  - Mathematicians invented modern numerals, zero, pi, & the decimal system

Hindu		०	१	२	३	४	५	६	७	८	९
Arabic		•	۱	۲	۳	۴	۵	۶	۷	۸	۹
Medieval		0	I	2	3	۲	۹	6	۱	8	9
Modern		0	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9

# Merchants sold exotic spices & silks to people in the Mediterranean world





Han Dynasty in China

# China & the Dynastic Cycle

■ Government in China was based upon the dynastic cycle:

–One ruling family (a “dynasty”) gains the “mandate of heaven” then rules until the

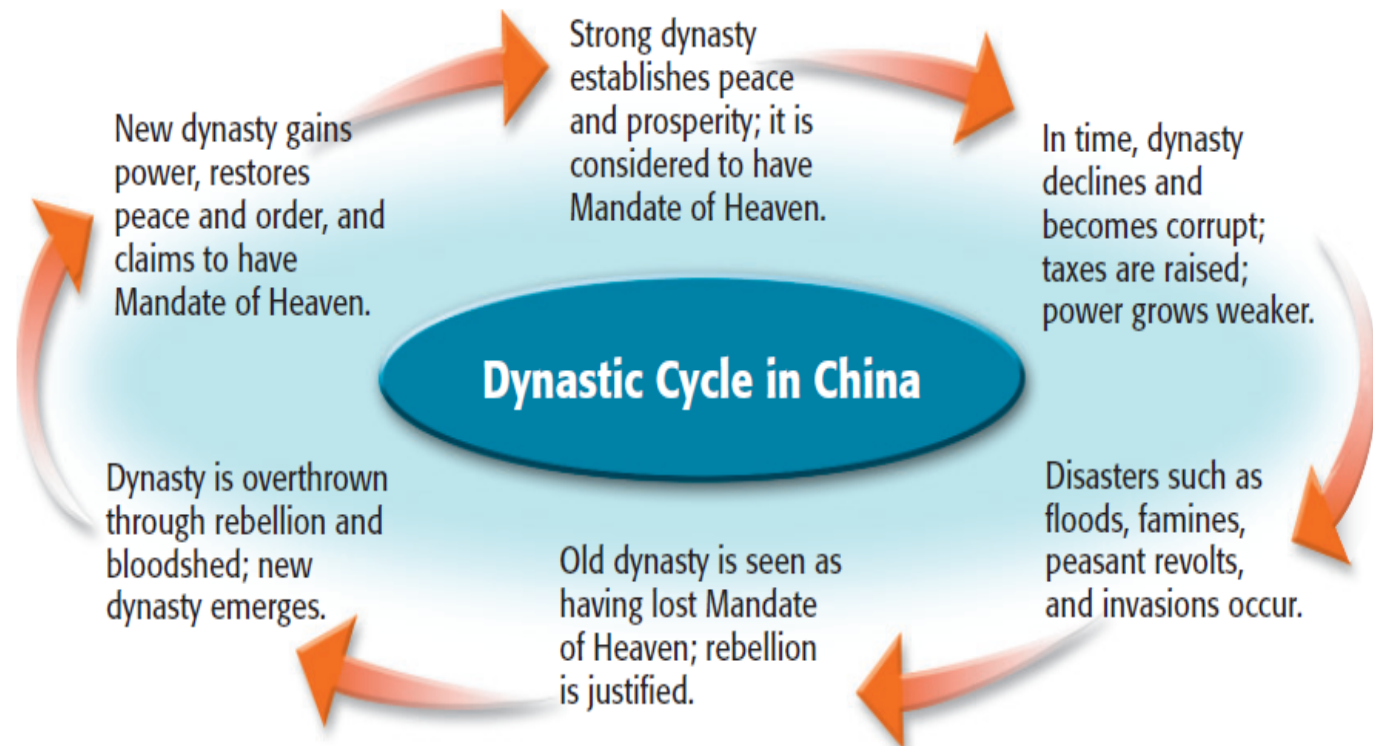
dynasty

grows

weak &

is over-

thrown



Chinese emperors added thousands of gov't workers (called bureaucrats) to collect taxes, enforce laws, & oversee building projects

D

The Han dynasty controlled a larger Chinese empire and opened China to trade with foreigners. Compare the sizes of the Qin and Han territories.

### Han Dynasty

206 B.C.–220 A.D.

- Ruled by Han dynasty
- Capital
- Trade route
- Great Wall
- Desert
- China's boundary today



In order to gain one of the 130,000 gov' t jobs, citizens had to pass a civil service exam

Exams were based on Confucian teachings



## Confucianism

- Social order, harmony, and good government should be based on family relationships.
- Respect for parents and elders is important to a well-ordered society.
- Education is important both to the welfare of the individual and to society.

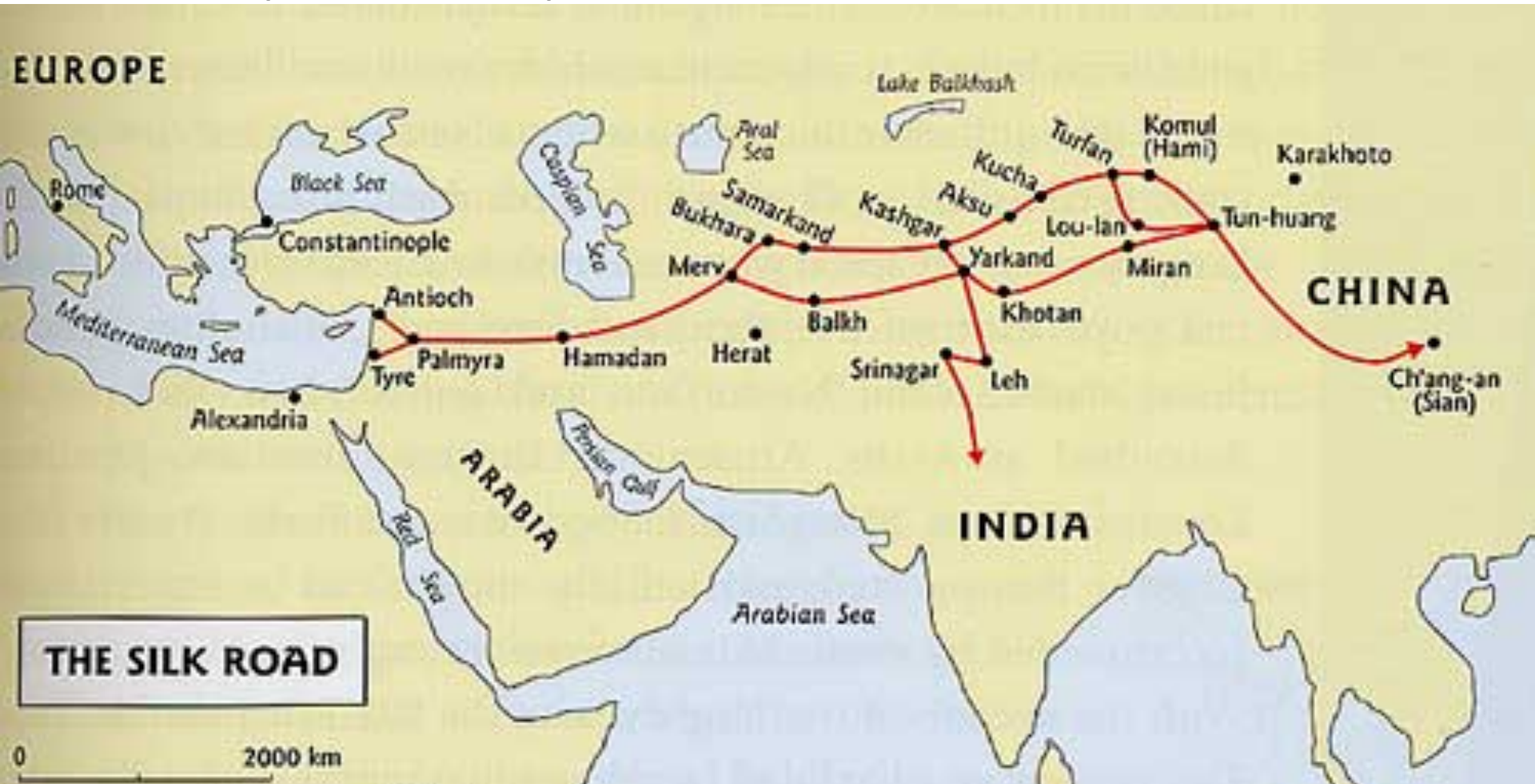
# Han China

Chinese technologies became advanced, especially silk & paper making. Paper made books cheaper & increased literacy in China



# Han China

The desire for Chinese luxury goods led to the Silk Road which connected China with Indian, Persian, & Mediterranean societies





# Closure Activity:

Identify **3 similarities** & **3 differences** among the Persian, Indian, & Chinese empires

