

# The Silk Road

1. Describe the kind of evidence on which Hansen's re-interpretation of the Silk Road relies.
2. Do you agree or disagree with Hansen's statement: "Nothing is more valuable than information extracted from trash, because no one has edited it in any way." (page 5). Defend your position.
3. How does Hansen describe the communities along the Silk Road? Please be descriptive (details) and analytical (significance).
4. What were the primary cultural elements and practices that "traveled" along the Silk Road? What are examples of these cultural elements and practices.
5. Describe the Sogdian civilization. What are the connections between the Sogdians and the Silk Road?
6. In what ways does Hansen challenge the conventional story of or "received wisdom" about the Silk Road? In other words, how is her interpretation different from the common narrative about this time and place? DESCRIBE AT LEAST FOUR (4) WAYS HANSEN DEBUNKS THE STANDARD SILK ROAD NARRATIVE.
7. Describe at least three (3) significant findings concerning Xinjiang made by Aurel Stein and other archaeologists/researchers in the early twentieth century.
8. Describe how the European-based historical evidence differs in form and substance from the Asiatic historical evidence about the Silk Road?

