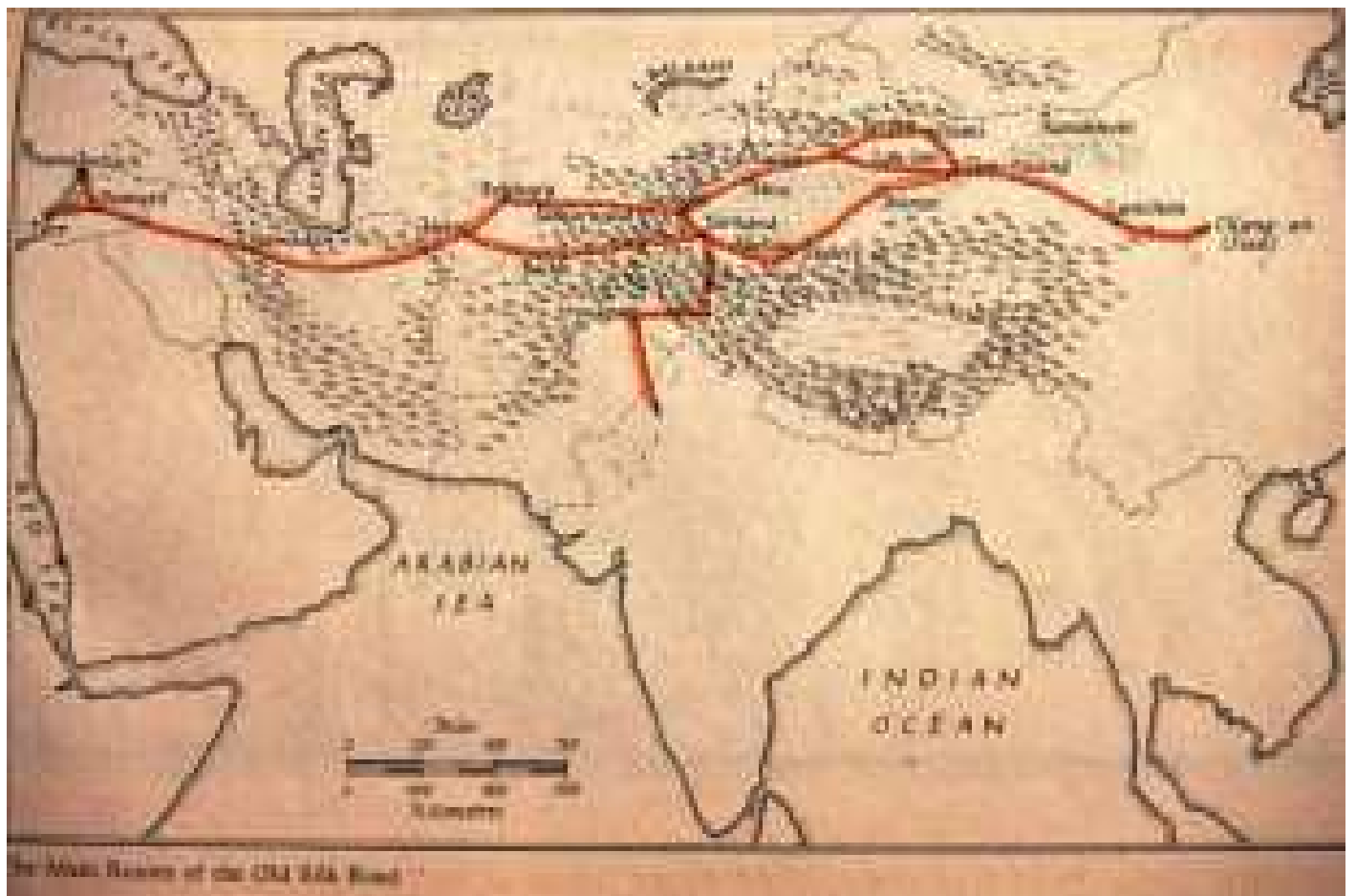


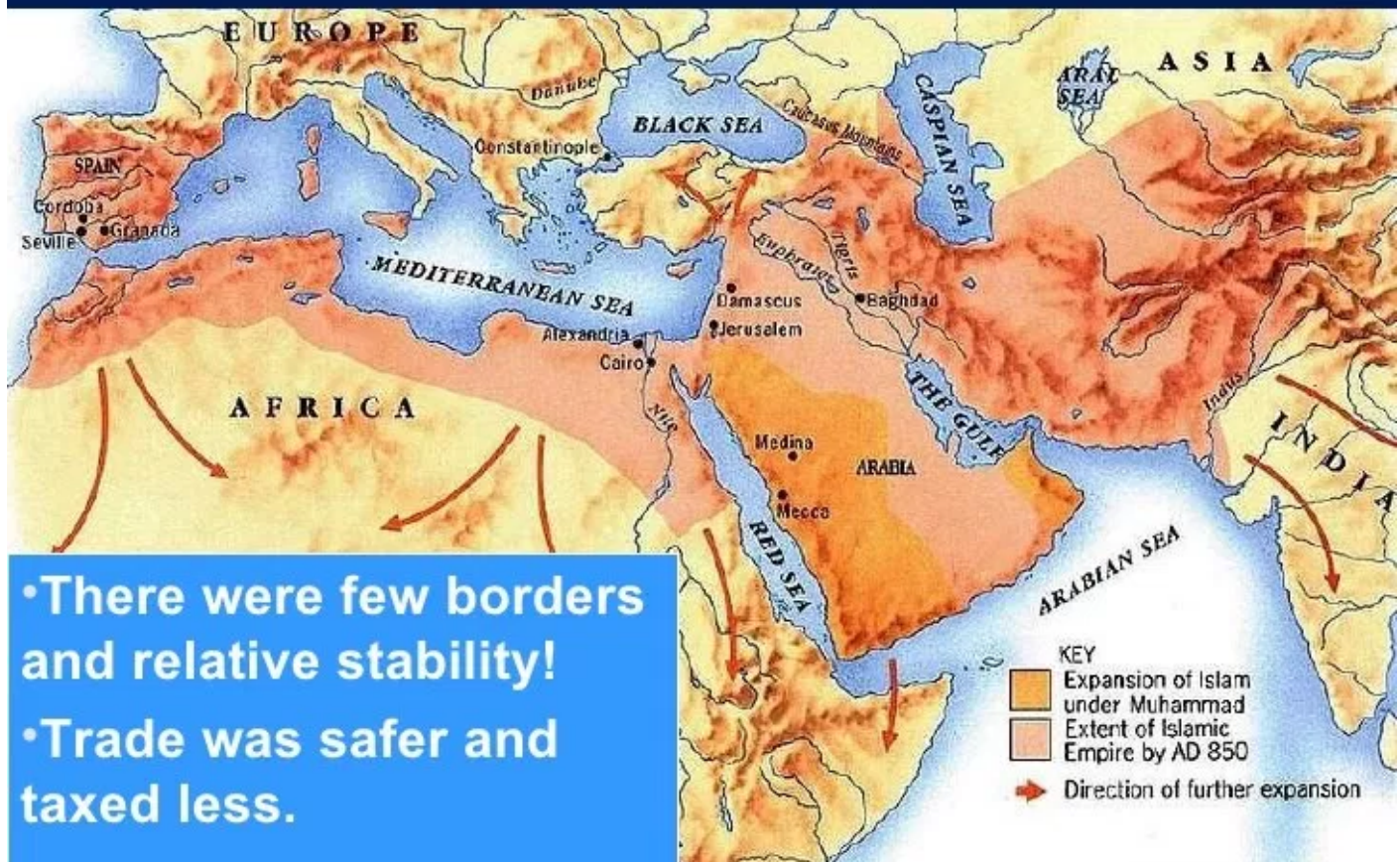
# Free Trade



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# The size & strength of the Islamic Empire fostered trade!



For at least one thousand years, Islam set astride the world's great trade route known to historians as the "Golden Web." This Golden Web route spread throughout the Middle East and was deemed one of the most lucrative. This route allowed gigantic trains of over sixty thousand people and as many animals to arrive on a regular basis from the great cities of China and central Asia to Eastern Europe. The route covers several major cities such as Samarkand and Bukhara and the Abbasid capital of Baghdad. The capital population then was about two million.

## Islamic Trade Routes- Middle East

From Baghdad, the same goods would then be shipped on to other destinations like Constantinople in Eastern Europe and south to Busra and Yemen. Yemen was a great source for spice and perfume. From Busra, the sea route to India and from there to the Indies. Finally, there was the trade route to Europe.

The influence of the Muslims was felt on the Southern fringes of Europe along the Mediterranean Sea. In Southern France, for example, in the town of Langouste Begeeni, there were Muslim settlements known to historians as Frahcnatum, not far from present day Nice. Also on the Italian coast there were a number of small Muslim settlements along the coast. Anaglyph was best known among these cities because of the trading that was developed under the Muslim rule of Sicily.

