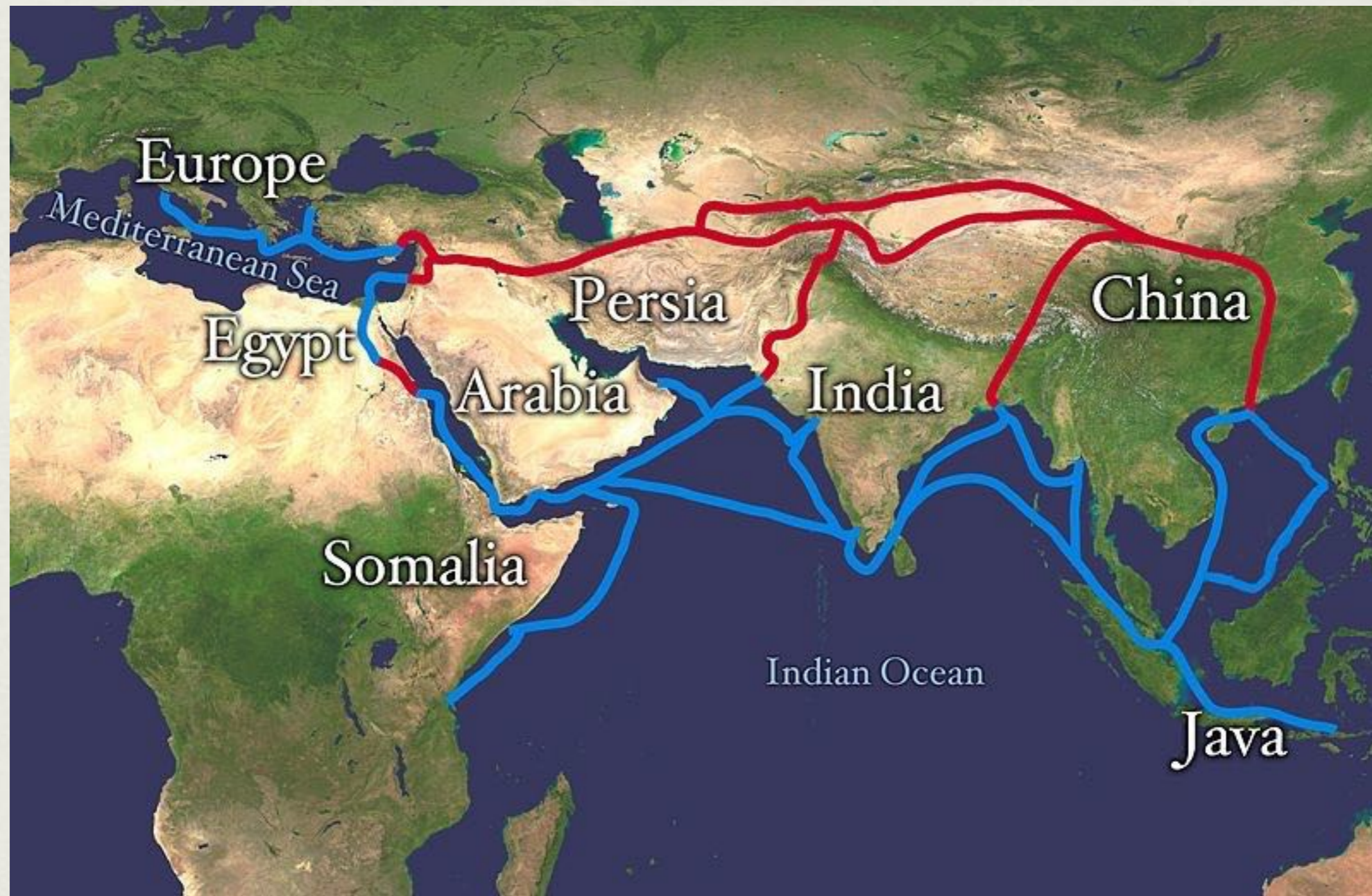


POLITICAL GEOGRAPHY
(COLONIAL & AFTER)

SG 6

I. THE IMPACT OF COLONIALISM

- A. Trade between the Mediterranean empires and later Europe was mainly through a system of trade routes called The Silk Road.



- B. In the 1600s, a trading company was established called the Honorable East India Company (HEIC).
 - 1. It was formed to trade with the “East Indies” (southeast Asia), but mainly traded with India & China.
 - a. They ousted the Dutch & Portuguese, including post of Bombay (now Mumbai).
 - b. They built new ports, such as Madras (now Chennai).
 - 2. This company eventually came to rule large areas of India with its own private army, this included Sri Lanka (Ceylon).
 - a. Company rule began in 1757 & ended in 1858 after a mutiny by Indian “sepoy” troops. This is known in India as the First Independence War (Gunga Din)

- **C. In 1858, the British crown assumed control of India in the form of the British raj.**
- 1. This covered most of the Indian subcontinent.
 - a. However, almost 40 % of the population were governed by 600 “independent” princely families who governed in harmony with the British.

- D. The British saw their role as “civilizing” India through Western education, new technology, public works (infrastructure), and a new law system.
- **1. The British introduced sports like rugby & cricket which are still popular in India today.**
- **2. They also, through their tea/opium trade with China, influenced tea drinking culture in India.**
- 3. India did benefit from the British occupation through export of its raw materials, such as cotton.

- E. British rule had long lasting economic effects on the region.
 - 1. They defined the resources that would be developed based on what was in demand in Europe.
 - 2. They selected areas for development, to build or expand cities, and other growth.
 - 3. British engineers irrigated land on the Indo-Gangetic Plain to produce cotton.
 - 4. They built railroads to move troops & exports
 - 5. Colonists built schools to educate the natives and teach them English (today, India has the second largest population of English speakers in the world).

- F. Throughout the British raj, the people India wanted their independence.
- 1. In 1885 the Indian National Congress (INC) was founded as a forum for emerging nationalist feelings.
- 2. Between 1920 and 1922, Mahatma Gandhi became the face of the nationalist movement when he began his civil disobedience campaign.
- 3. The INC launches the “Quit India” movement.

WHAT IS CIVIL DISOBEDIENCE?

- Mahatma Gandhi was born into the merchant caste in India. He trained as a lawyer and was active in pushing for social changes in India.
- He led nationwide campaigns towards easing poverty, expanding women's rights, building religious & ethnic amity (harmony; friendship), and led campaign to end untouchability.
- Lastly, he pushed for Swaraj, self-rule.

- He was imprisoned for many years but attempted to practice nonviolence and truth in all situations and advocated that others do the same.
- He was inspired to do this after having come in contact with Jainist monks who taught him about:
 - having compassion for all forms of life
 - fostering mutual tolerance among people of different creeds

- He did not invent the idea of nonviolence, but was the first person to apply it in the political field on a large scale.
- The principle of ahimsa, a Sanskrit word meaning nonviolence, was practiced by Gandhi (and later Dr. MLK, Jr.)
- **Examples of nonviolent resistance include acts of protest such as: marches, petitions, boycotts, labor strikes, sit-ins, etc...**

- **G. In 1947, British rule came to an end in India with the partitioning of the Indian subcontinent into mainly Hindu India and Muslim majority Pakistan.**
- 1. The plan led to severe rioting and population movement as Hindus, Muslims, and Sikhs found themselves on the wrong side of the partitioned areas.
- 2. The most fought over area after the partition were the provinces of Kashmir & Jammu.

II. BANGLADESH & PAKISTAN

- H. In the late 1800s, the British sold Kashmir (mostly Muslim) to a Hindu maharaja. In 1947, Kashmir chose to be on the Hindu side of the boundary, even though a later maharaja tried not to be part of either country.
- 1. Pakistani tribesmen began invading and the maharaja looked to India for help. The Indian troops stayed and so did the Pakistanis. Both India and Pakistan occupy portions of the provinces and war and other small skirmishes have occurred periodically over the last 60 years.
- 2. The border around Kashmir and Jammu is disputed, though many consider them to be part of India.









