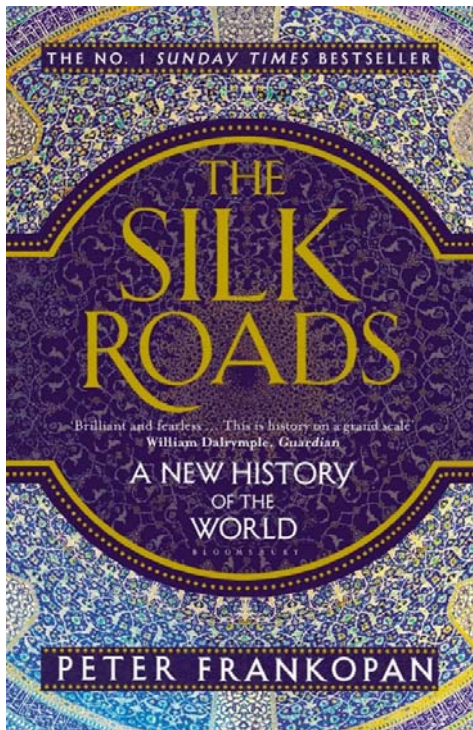


# The Literacy Lowdown: The Silk Road



A level geography students, remember, you should:

- undertake wider reading
- use factual texts, discursive / creative material

## Summary

The Silk Roads is a historical piece of work that attempts to reorientate the reader's world centre described as "a powerful corrective to parochialism" due to its wide-ranging geography.

This is a review of Chapters 1 to 9. The book quickly starts by explaining that the first towns and cities were in the alluvial rich lowlands of the 'Fertile Crescent' in Mesopotamia.

Described as the prototype for globalisation this network of roads was the real "cradle of civilisation", rather than the Mediterranean.

© Peter Frankopan

## Specification links

Changing Places AQA 3.2.2.1. How the characteristics of places are shaped by shifting flows.  
Edexcel 3.1 Globalisation is a long-standing process which has accelerated over time.  
OCR 2.1 Changing Spaces, Making Places.  
Eduqas 2.2.1 Globalisation, migration, and a shrinking world.

## Key quotes

"Constantinople was situated in a commanding position for other sensitive routes, not least maritime traffic in and out of the Black Sea, and also as a listening point for developments to the east and also the north – in the Balkans and towards the plains of Pannonia, where trouble was brewing." (p25)

"One tribe now established themselves as masters on the steppes, crushing all before them. They were the Xiongnu – better known in the west as the Huns." (p46)

"Famous for their caravans, financial acumen, and close family ties...the Sogdians were the glue that connected towns, oases, and regions." (p57)

"The Muslims' conquest had brought a vast web of trade and communication routes under their control...most striking of all, however, was the construction of an enormous new city. It was to become the richest and most populous in the world and remained so for centuries...we know it as Baghdad." (p93)

"The fleets of the city-states (Genoa, Pisa, and Venice) put them in a powerful negotiating position when it came to dealing with the new masters of the Holy Land." (p141)