

■ 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?

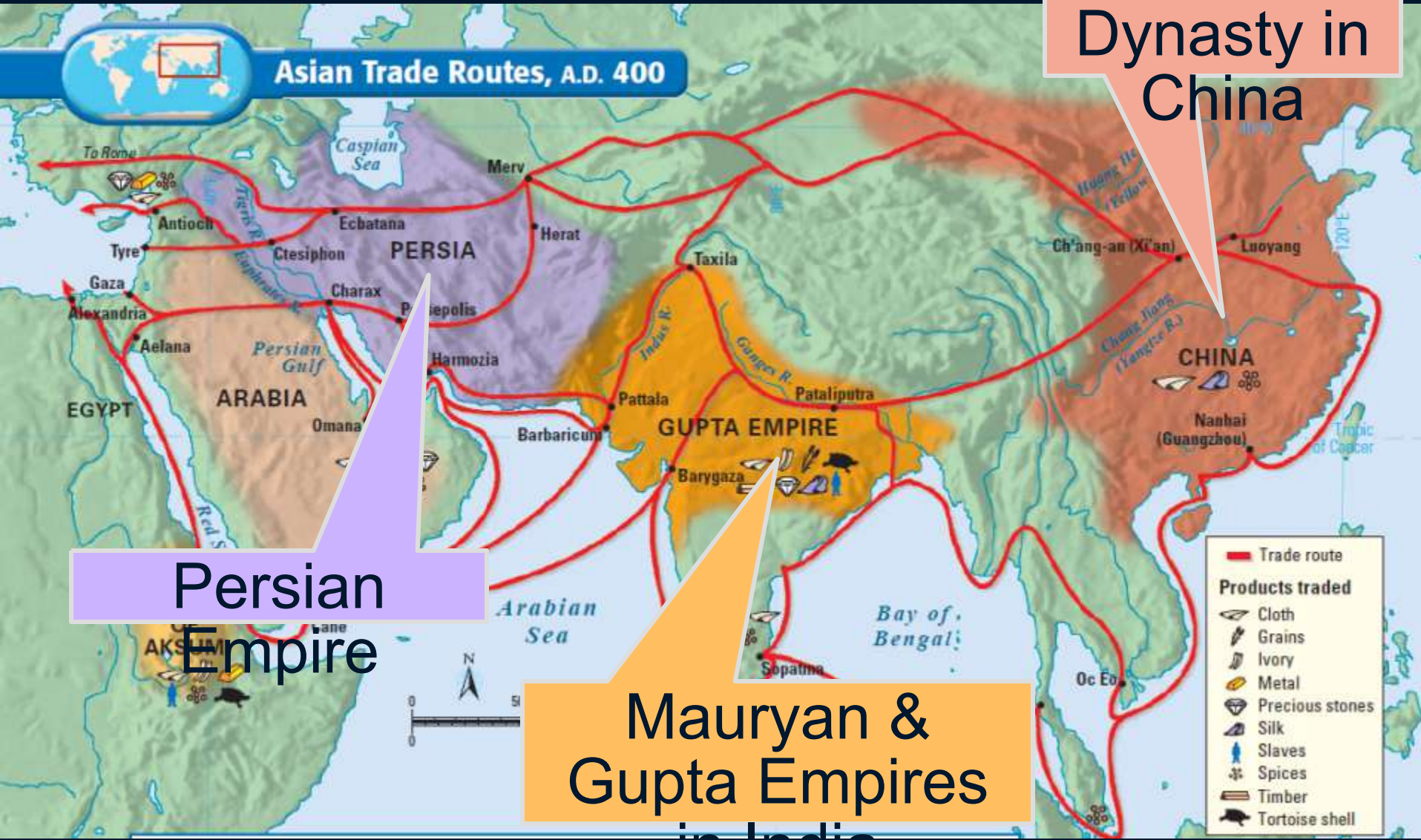
From Civilization to Empire

- 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

Asian Trade Routes, A.D. 400



Persian
Empire

Mauryan &
Gupta Empires

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



most important an

The "10,000 Immortals"



The Persians grew into a powerful empire under Kings ***Cyrus & Darius***



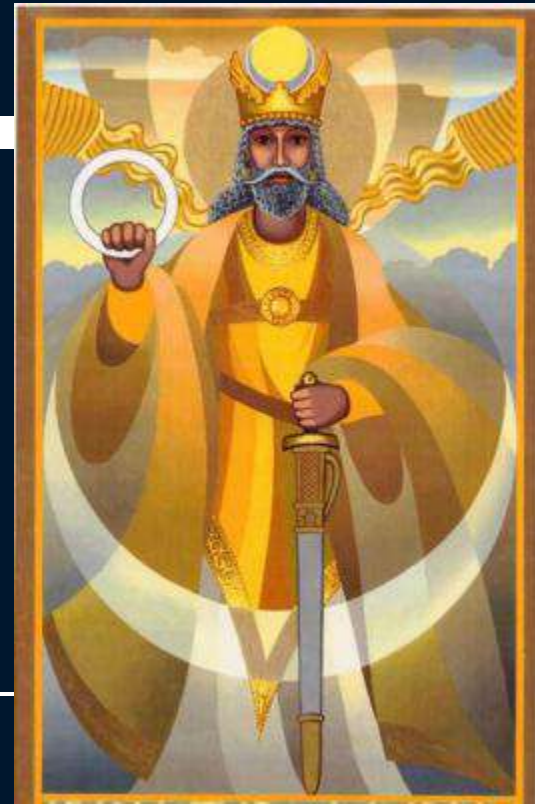
With a powerful ***army***, the Persians conquered Mesopotamia, ***Egypt***, & India

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

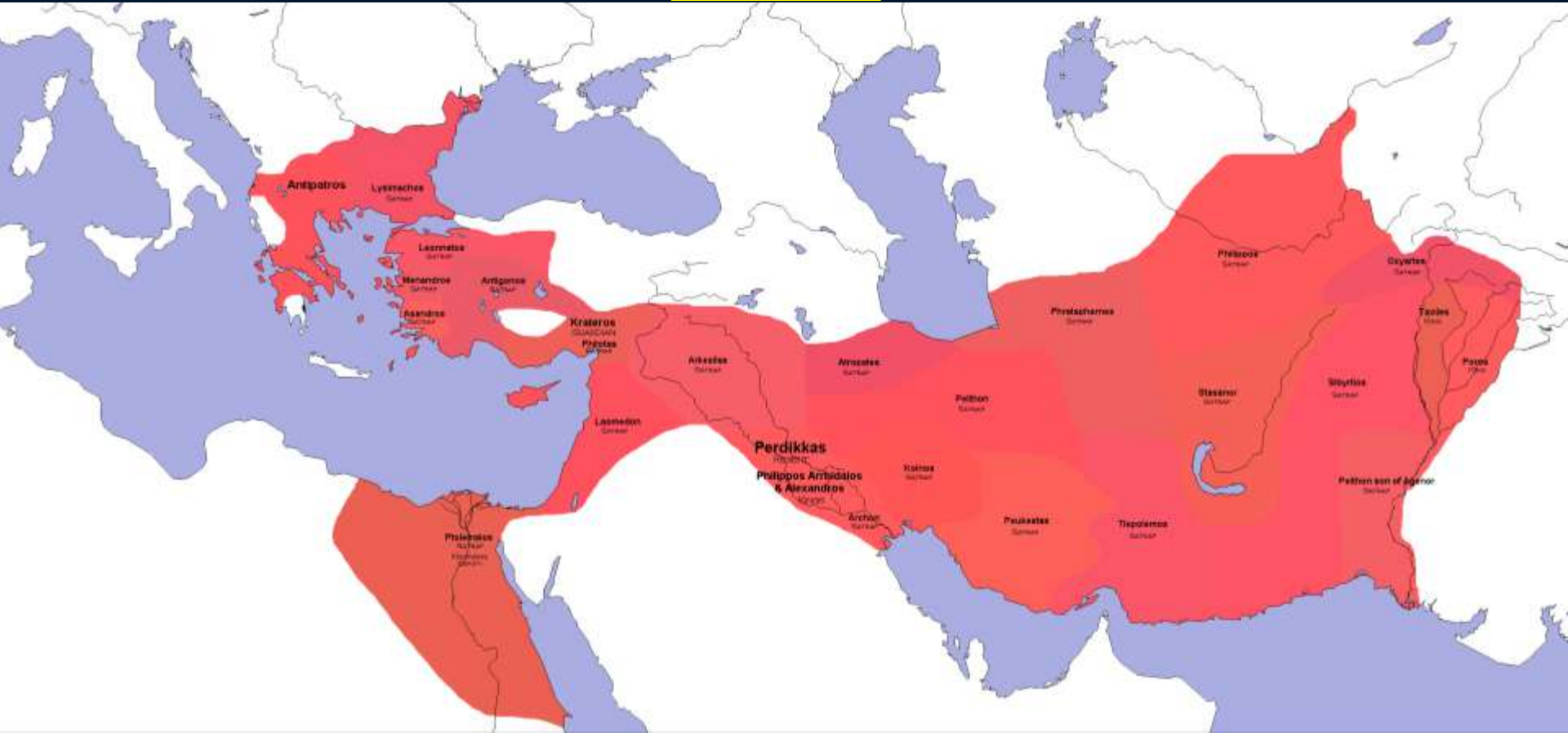
■ Persians controlled their empire in a variety of ways:

- 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

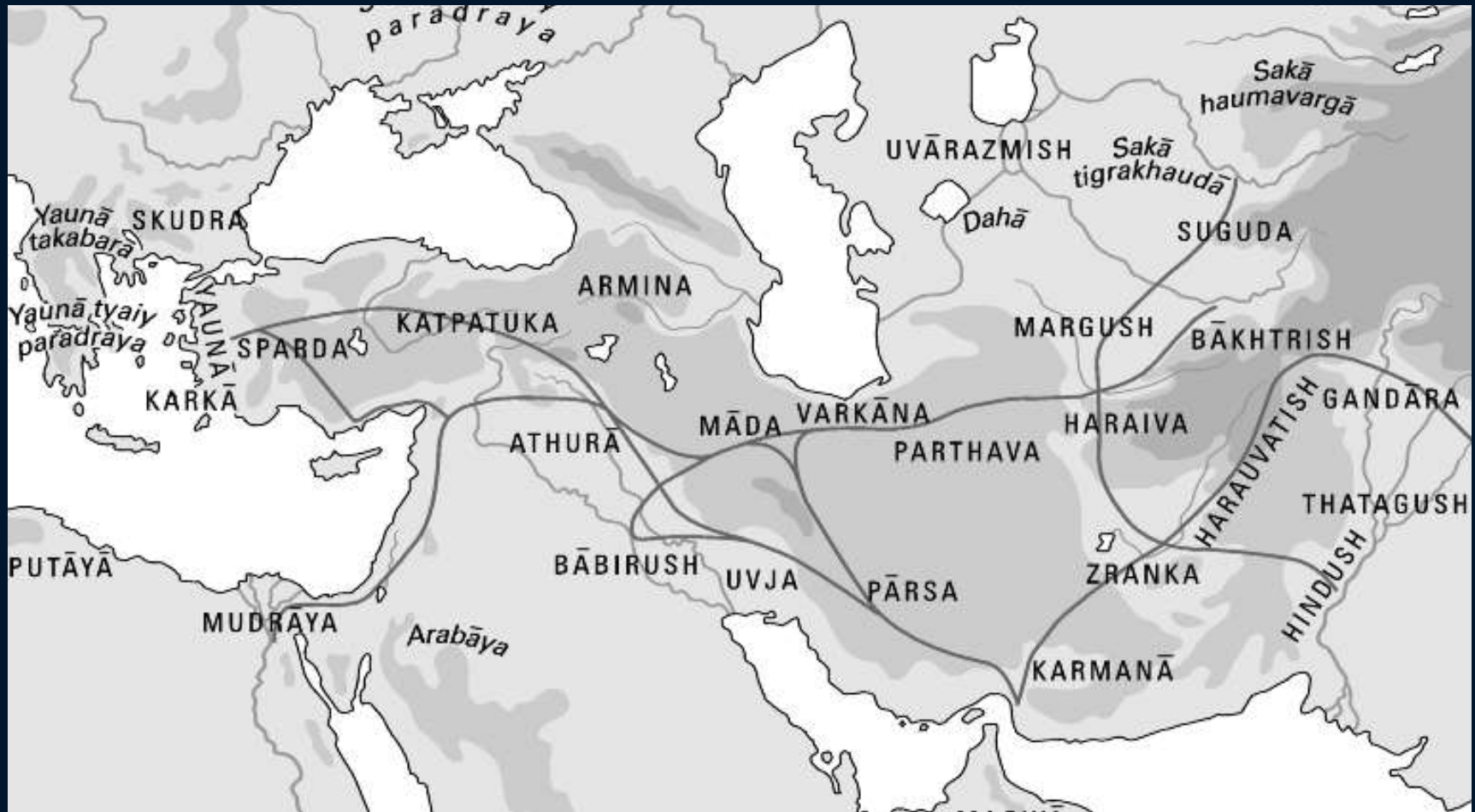
King Darius divided the empire into 20 provinces each ruled by a satrap (local governor)



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

The Persian Empire

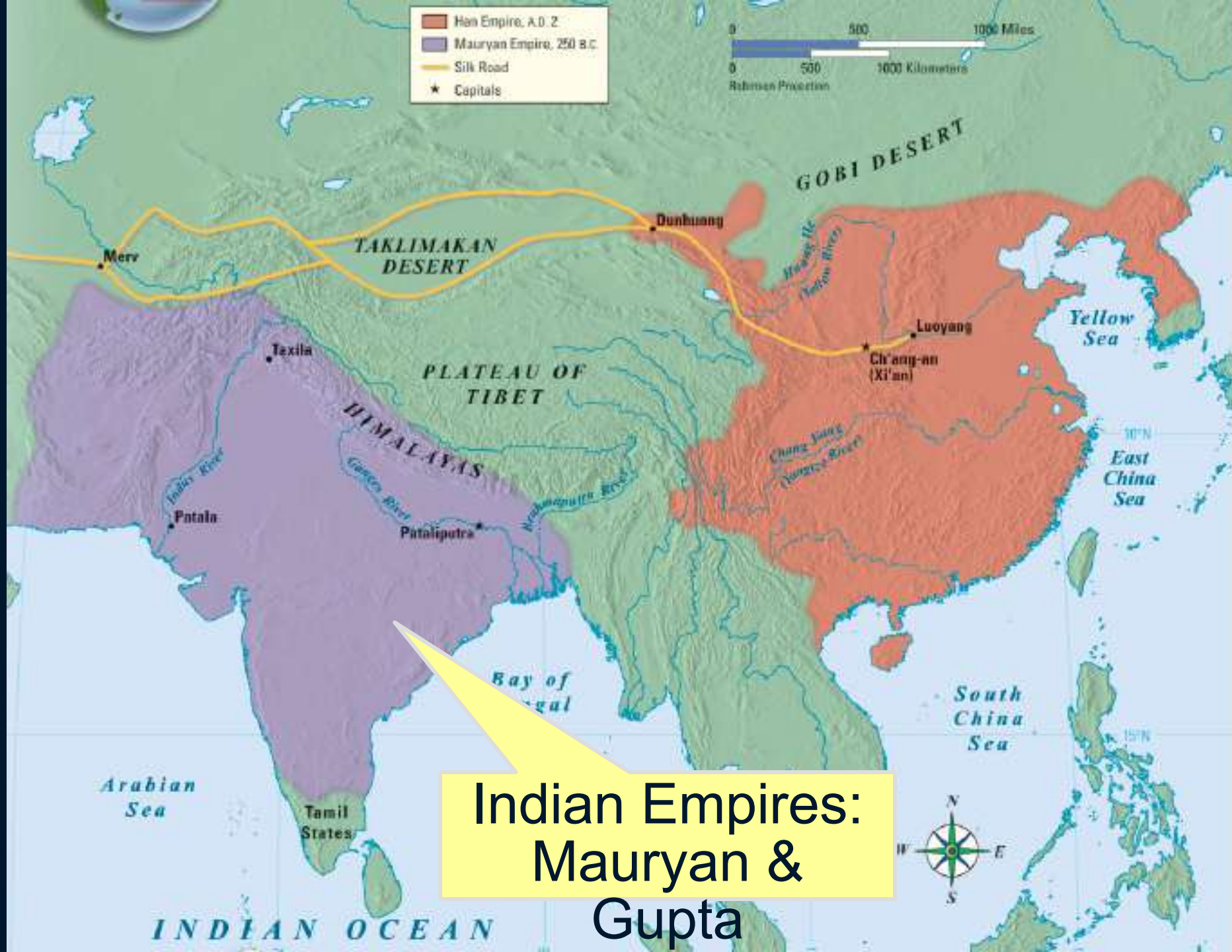
The Persians built a network of **roads** in order to collect **taxes** & improve communication & trade throughout the empire



The Persian Empire

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

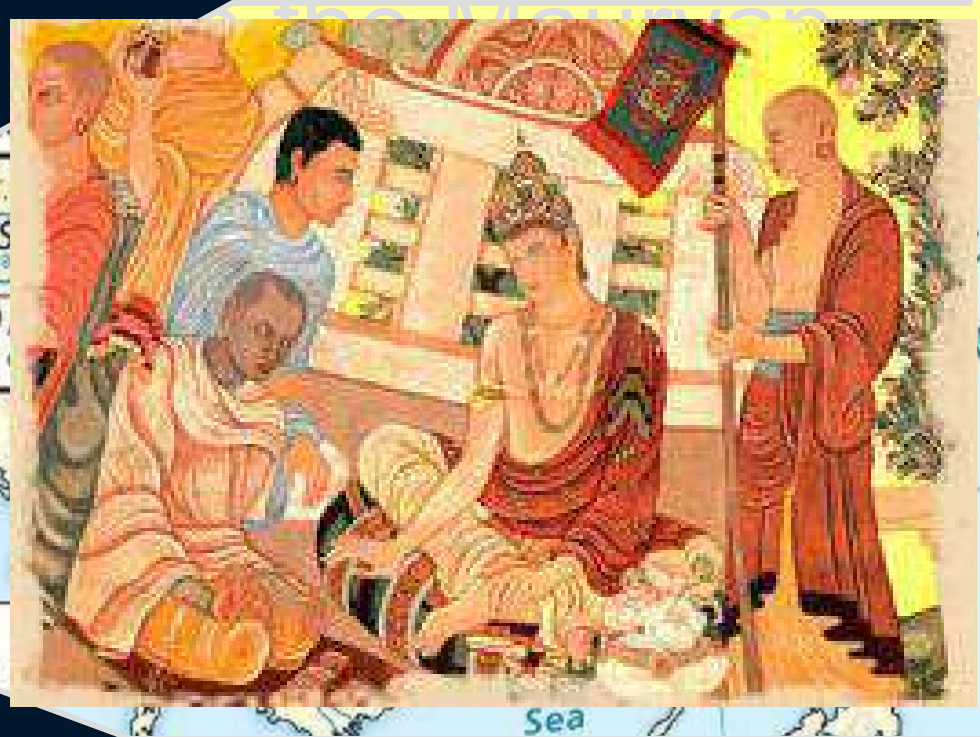




Indian Empires:
Mauryan &
Gupta

The Maurya

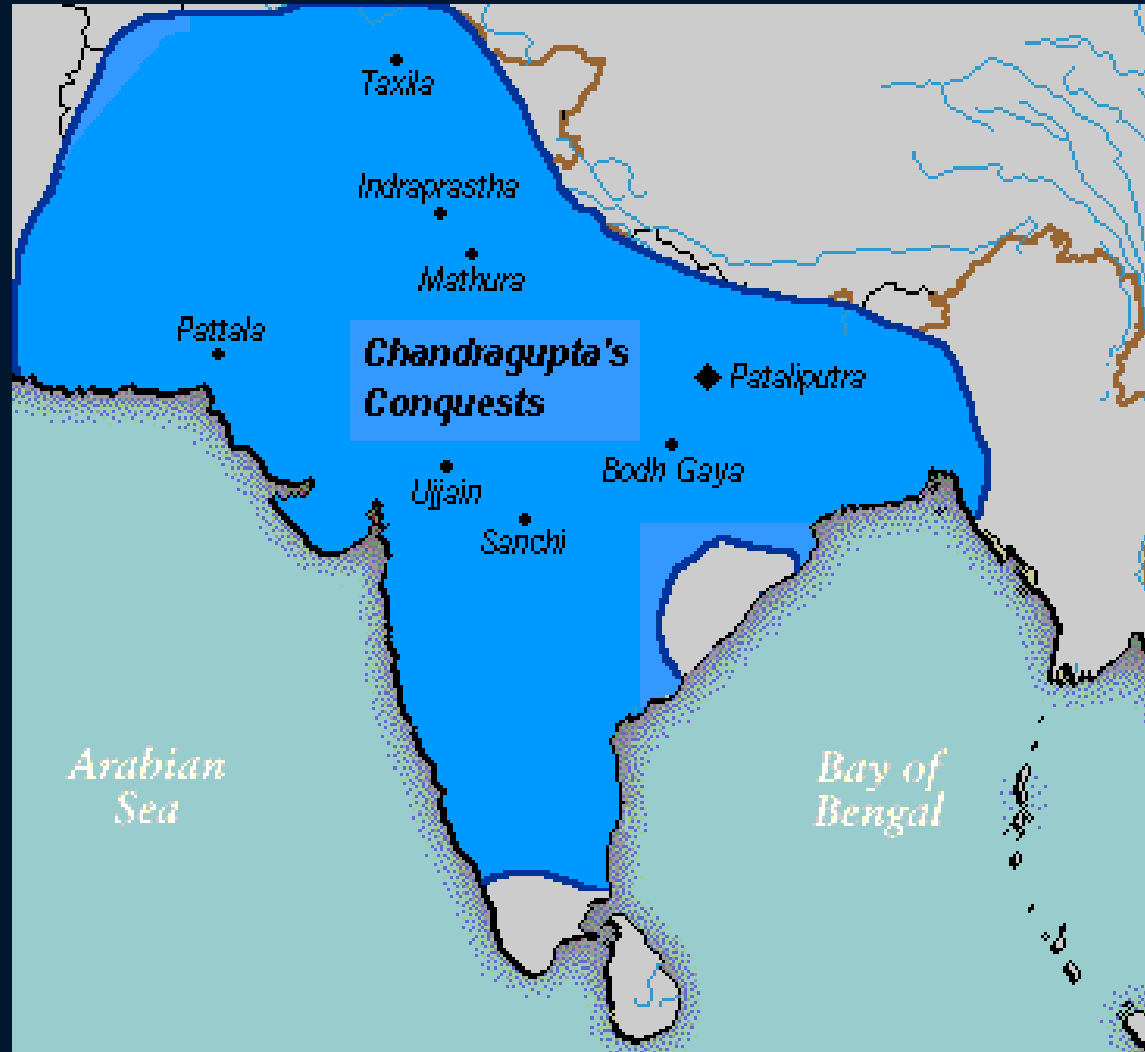
Chandragupta Maurya became king of India in 321 BC, created a vast army, & conquered new lands




Chandragupta's empire controlled most of the Indian subcontinent

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 of India



In 269 B.C., King **Asoka** took over & expanded the Mauryan Empire to its greatest extent

During his wars of expansion, Asoka converted to **Buddhism**



Asoka developed new policies of **tolerance & non-violence** for his empire



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

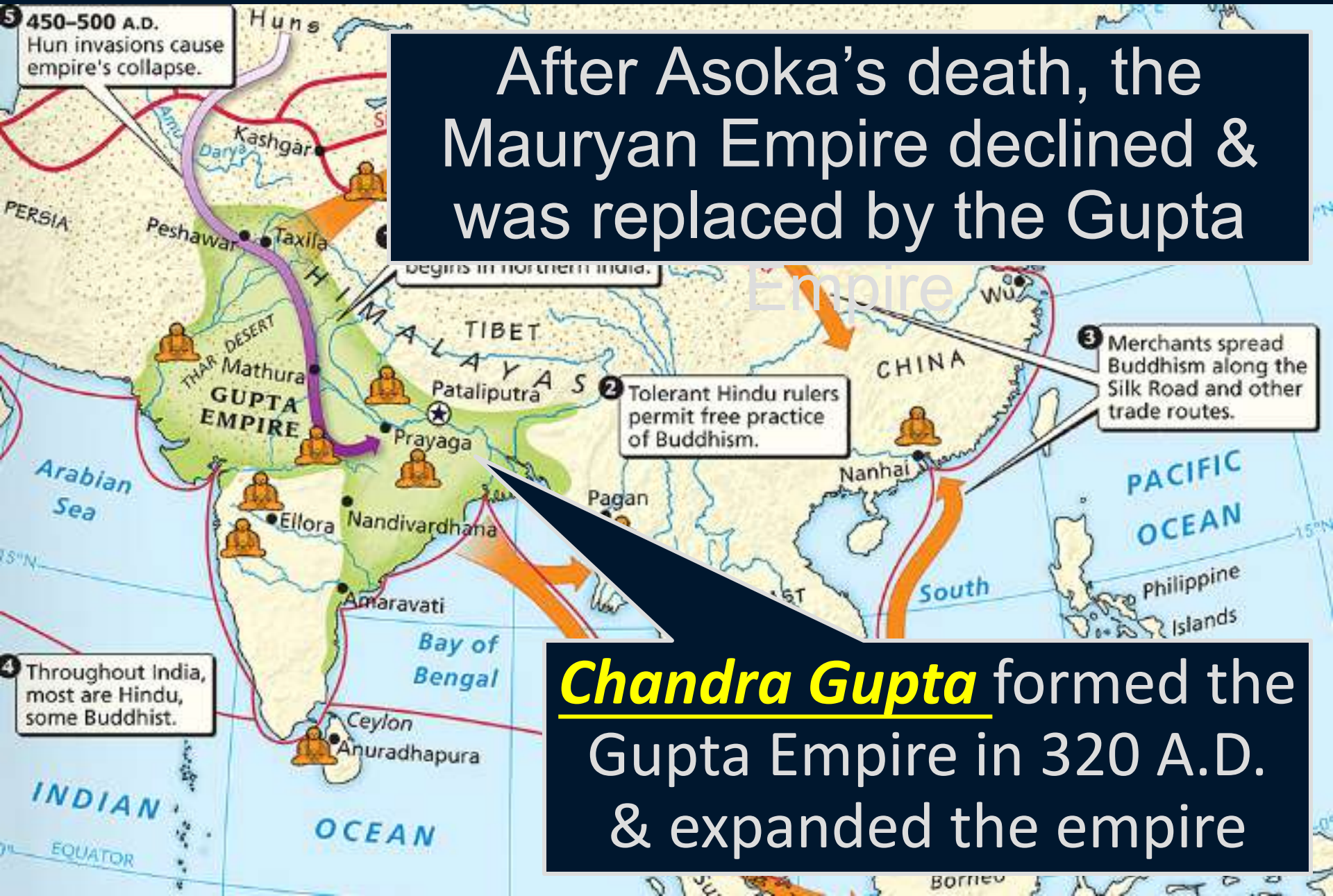
begins in northern India.

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

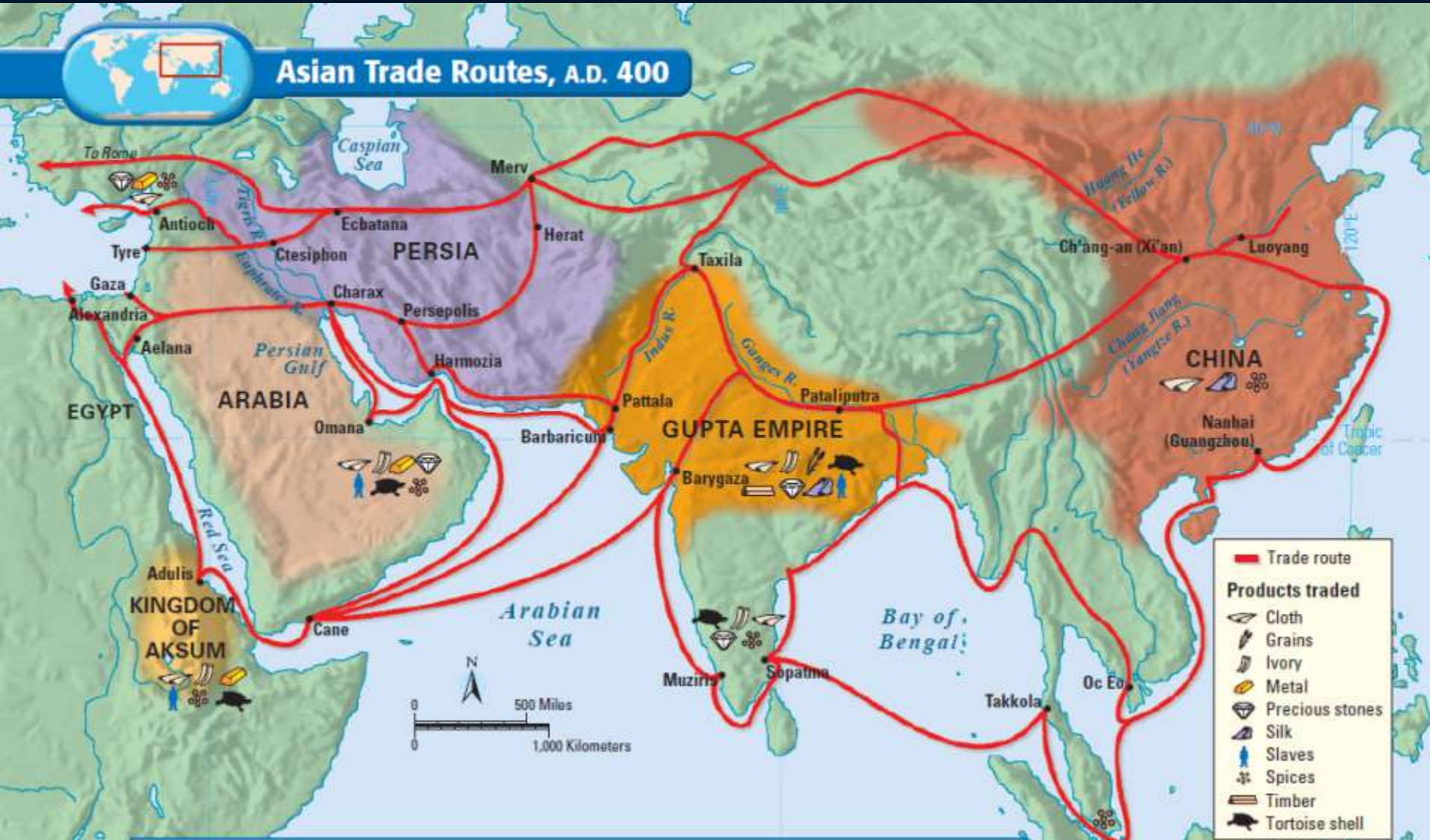


Classical India

- 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		•	١	٢	٣	٤	٥	٦	٧	٨	٩
Medieval		0	I	2	3	℞	ç	6	٨	8	9
Modern		0	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9

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





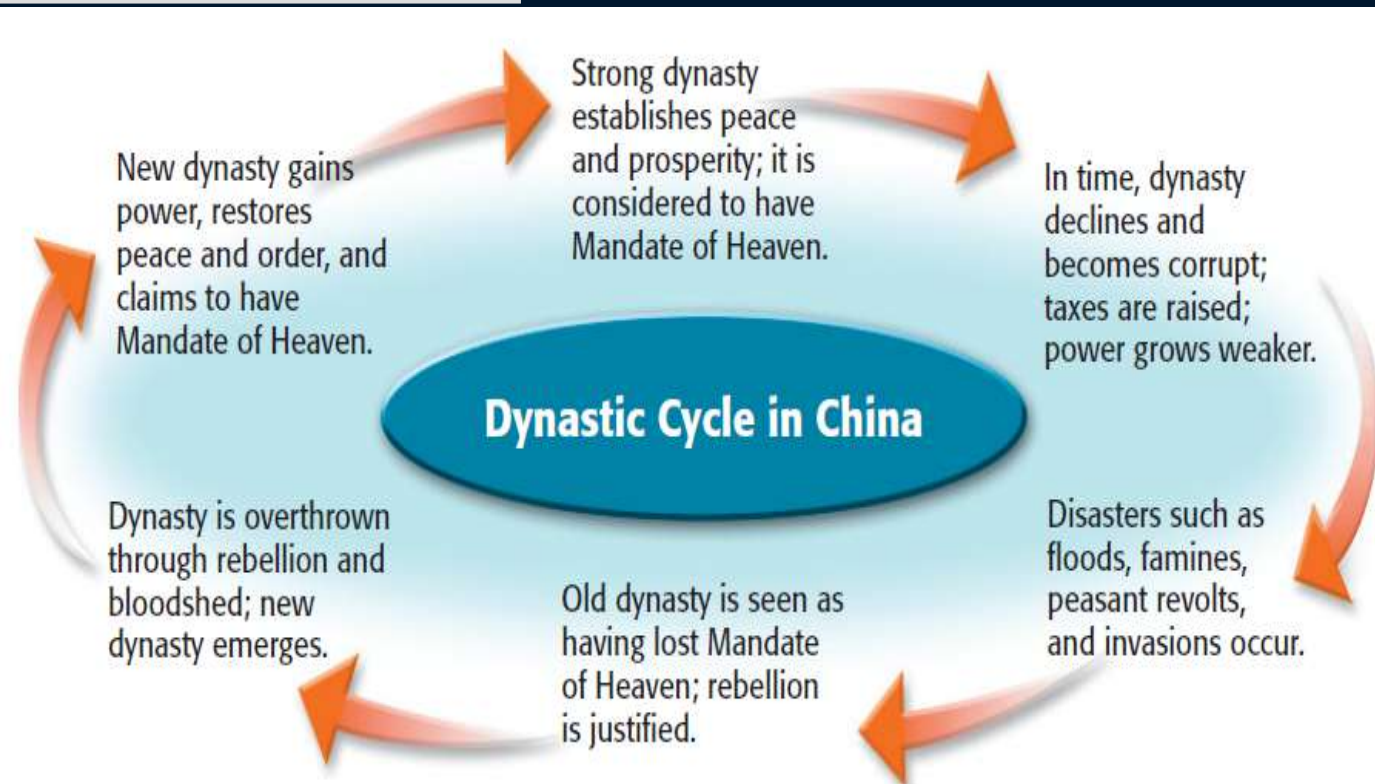
Han Dynasty in China

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



During the Han Dynasty, China became a “**classical** civilization” marked by its advanced gov’t, trade, & technology

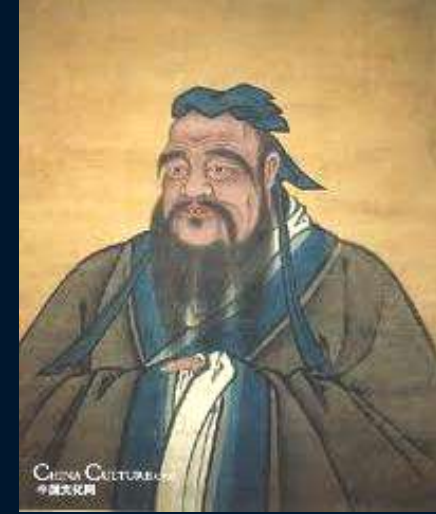
Han kings built a powerful **army** & expanded into Asia to form China’s first empire

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



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

