

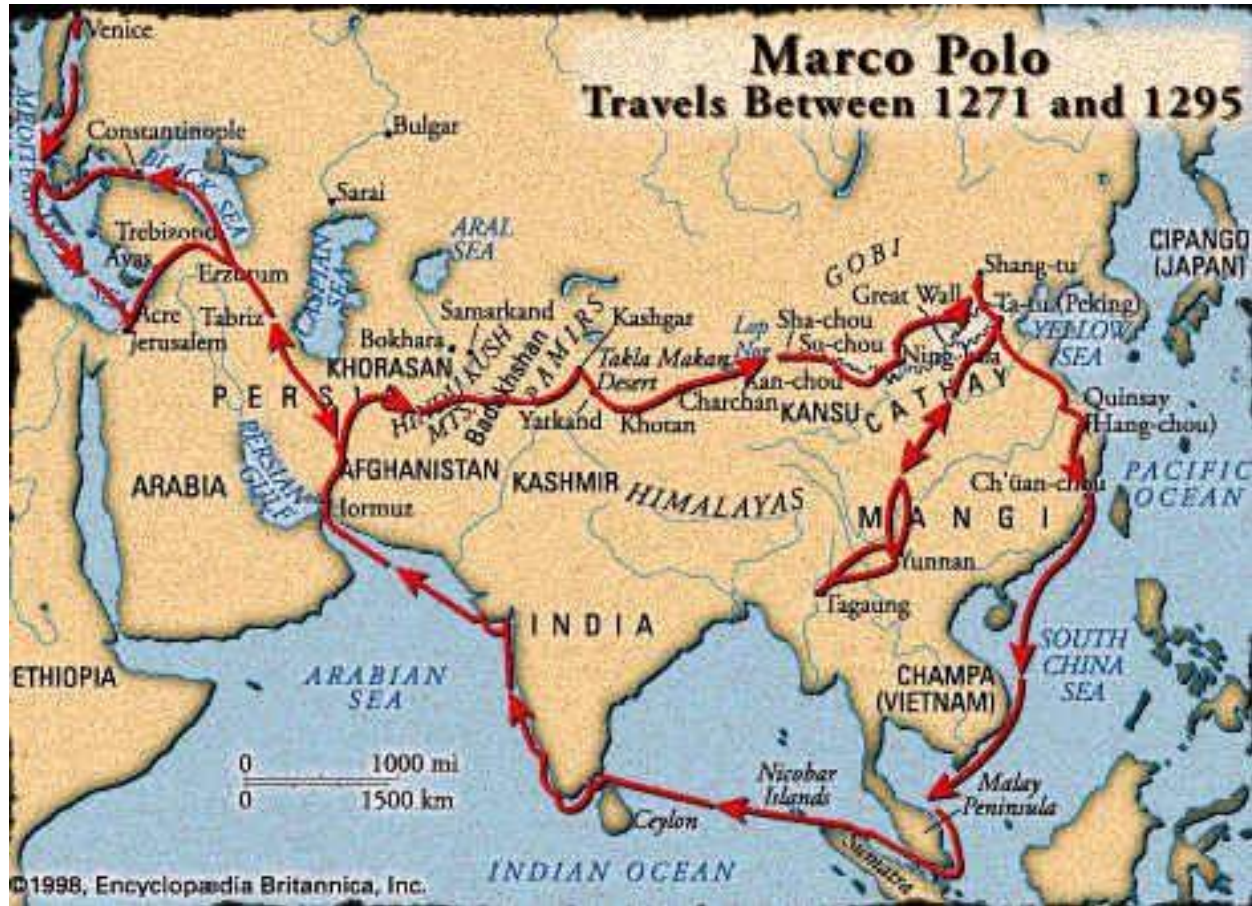


# Station 1:

## Marco Polo and Ibn Battuta: The Merchant and the Pilgrim

	<b>Marco Polo</b> 	<b>Ibn Battuta</b> 
<b>Travel Basics</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 1271 travelled with father and uncle (merchants) to Mongol Emperor of China Kublai Khan</li> <li>• Returned to Italy (Venice) in 1295</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 1325 traveled from home in Tangier, Morocco to begin his travels East (75,000 miles total travelled)</li> <li>• Returned home in 1354</li> </ul>
<b>Aided by</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• “Pax Mongolia”—period of peace established by Mongol rulers in the Asian steppe lands from about 1250 to 1350 allowing safe travels</li> <li>• Strong control of Mongol rulers from Persia to China allowed for their safe journey</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 50 years after Polo, Battuta began—Pax Mongolia not as helpful</li> <li>• Hospitality and safety were provided to Muslims by a network of Muslim traders and rulers extending from Southeast Asia to the strait of Gibraltar</li> </ul>
<b>Insider/ Outsider</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Lived and worked in Asia cultures whose religions and cultures were foreign to him (Polo was Christian, Catholic)</li> <li>• Knowledge of 4 Asian languages as well as Italian allowed him to communicate with foreigners and work as administrator for the Chinese (Mongol) emperor</li> <li>• Yet, still an “outsider”—which enhanced his observations and curiosity</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Travelled primarily in Muslim-ruled lands—the Dar al-Islam [House of Islam] (Battuta was Muslim)</li> <li>• “Insider”—hosts accepted him as a respected Muslim jurist and student of Islamic mysticism (Sufism)</li> <li>• Travelled to over 60 Muslim courts (met rulers &amp; officials)—judged behaviors in light of the Koran and precepts of Islamic law</li> <li>• Difference between his North Arabic culture and their native culture were not as important as their Islamic practices</li> </ul>
<b>Focus of their writing</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Written with a "merchant's eye for flourishing manufactures."</li> <li>• About the social and economic practices of those he meets</li> <li>• Discussed commerce, government, and customs with some attention to the spectacular and exotic</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• On the purity of Islamic ritual and belief in the lands he visited</li> <li>• More willing than was Polo to describe his own difficulties and good fortune</li> <li>• Much less concerned with trade, commerce, and the forms of government</li> <li>• <i>Rihla</i> (Arabic for Travels) described a personal journey, a pilgrimage</li> </ul>

## Journeys of Marco Polo



## Journeys of Ibn Battuta

