

A JOURNEY RESTARTS

MAYUAN



NEW SILK ROAD

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PREFACE

More than 2000 years ago, Zhang Qian, imperial envoy of the Han Dynasty, was sent to the Western Regions, or Xiyu, on a diplomatic mission. He carved out the land trade route starting from Chang'an (today's Xi'an, Shaanxi Province) to Central Asia and West Asia across Gansu and Xinjiang and connecting China with the kingdoms along the Mediterranean Sea. This is known as the Land Silk Road. In the centuries that followed, the ancient Silk Road served as the transmission route for commodities and cultural exchanges between the east and the west, accompanied by the lonely smoke in the vast desert and echoes of camel bells.

In September 2013, President Xi Jinping delivered an important speech at Nazarbayev University of Kazakhstan and deliberated on the grand idea of building the Silk Road Economic Belt. Stepping up policy communication, improving road connectivity, promoting unimpeded trade, enhancing monetary circulation and lastly increasing understanding between peoples will enable European and Asian countries to forge closer economic ties, deepen cooperation and enjoy a broader development space. A grand picture of friendship and cooperation between China and the countries of Europe and Asia is being drawn, centering on the Silk Road.

For many centuries, the peoples of various countries along the ancient Silk Road have written a chapter of friendship that can be passed on from generation to generation. The 2,000-plus-year history of exchanges has proven that countries with differences in race, beliefs and cultural background can absolutely share peace and development as long as they persist in unity and mutual trust, equality and mutual benefits, mutual tolerance and learning from each other, as well as cooperation and win-win outcomes. This is the valuable inspiration that the ancient Silk Road has left us.

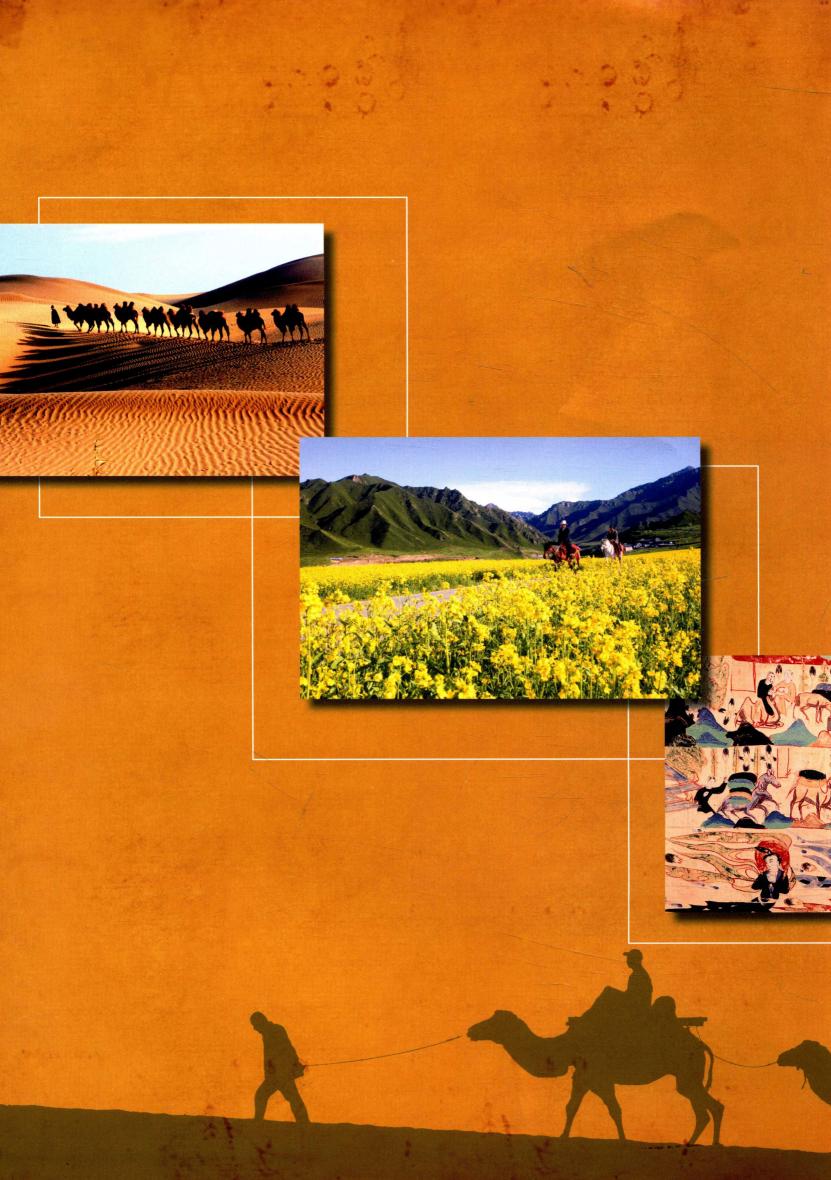
Today the Silk Road Economic Belt describes a new chapter of mutual cooperation, equality and mutual benefits. The economic belt, connected to the Asia-Pacific Economic Circle on the east and the European Economic Circle on the west, is considered the longest economic corridor with the greatest development potential of the world. The construction of the Silk Road Economic Belt will bring along more opportunities for cooperation among various countries of Asia and Europe and facilitate common development in a more efficient way. It will be a great undertaking benefiting the people of all countries along the route to build the Silk Road Economic Belt through an innovative approach.

The Silk Road Economic Belt covers a population of 3 billion people and a market that is unparalleled both in scale and potential. The potential for trade and investment cooperation among countries along the Silk Road is enormous. All countries are urged to discuss a proper arrangement for trade and investment facilitation, remove trade barriers, reduce trade and investment costs and improve the speed and quality of regional economic flow to achieve mutual benefit and win-win progress.

Amity between peoples holds the key to the good relations between states. To make productive economic and cultural cooperation we must have support of the people, enhance friendly exchanges for mutual understanding and traditional friendship and build strong public support and solid social foundation for regional cooperation.

In addition to the land transportation route of the ancient Silk Road, there was a sea route starting from the ports along the southeast coastline of China and reaching East Africa and Europe after crossing the South China Sea, Indian Ocean and Persian Gulf. In October 2013, President Xi Jinping made an important speech to the Indonesian Parliament and proposed that "Southeast Asia has since ancient times been an important hub along the ancient Maritime Silk Road. China will strengthen maritime cooperation with ASEAN countries to make good use of the China-ASEAN Maritime Cooperation Fund set up by the Chinese government and vigorously develop maritime partnerships in a joint effort to build the Maritime Silk Road of the 21st century."

The ancient Silk Road has enabled exchanges of commodity, technology, personnel and thoughts among countries along the route and promoted the economic and cultural development and social progress of these countries and dialogue and fusion of different civilizations. The concepts of the Silk Road Economic Belt and the 21st Century Maritime Silk Road jointly reflect China's new idea to promote the world economic prosperity while adhering to the thrust of global economic openness, freedom and cooperation. The grand vision of establishing the Economic Belt and the Maritime Silk Road, based on the history, conforms to the trend of times of peace, development, cooperation and win-win progress, carries the dreams of development and prosperity of countries along the route and will give the ancient Silk Road a new connotation of the times!



ANCIENT CHARMS OF THE SILK ROAD

- GATHERING OF MERCHANTS ACCOMPANIED BY CAMEL BELLS

The camels fully loaded with goods walked into the distance, accompanied by hurried footsteps of herders and lingering camel bells in the vast desert. The sand dunes moved the footprints of history while the camel fleets carried goods to the horizon.





