

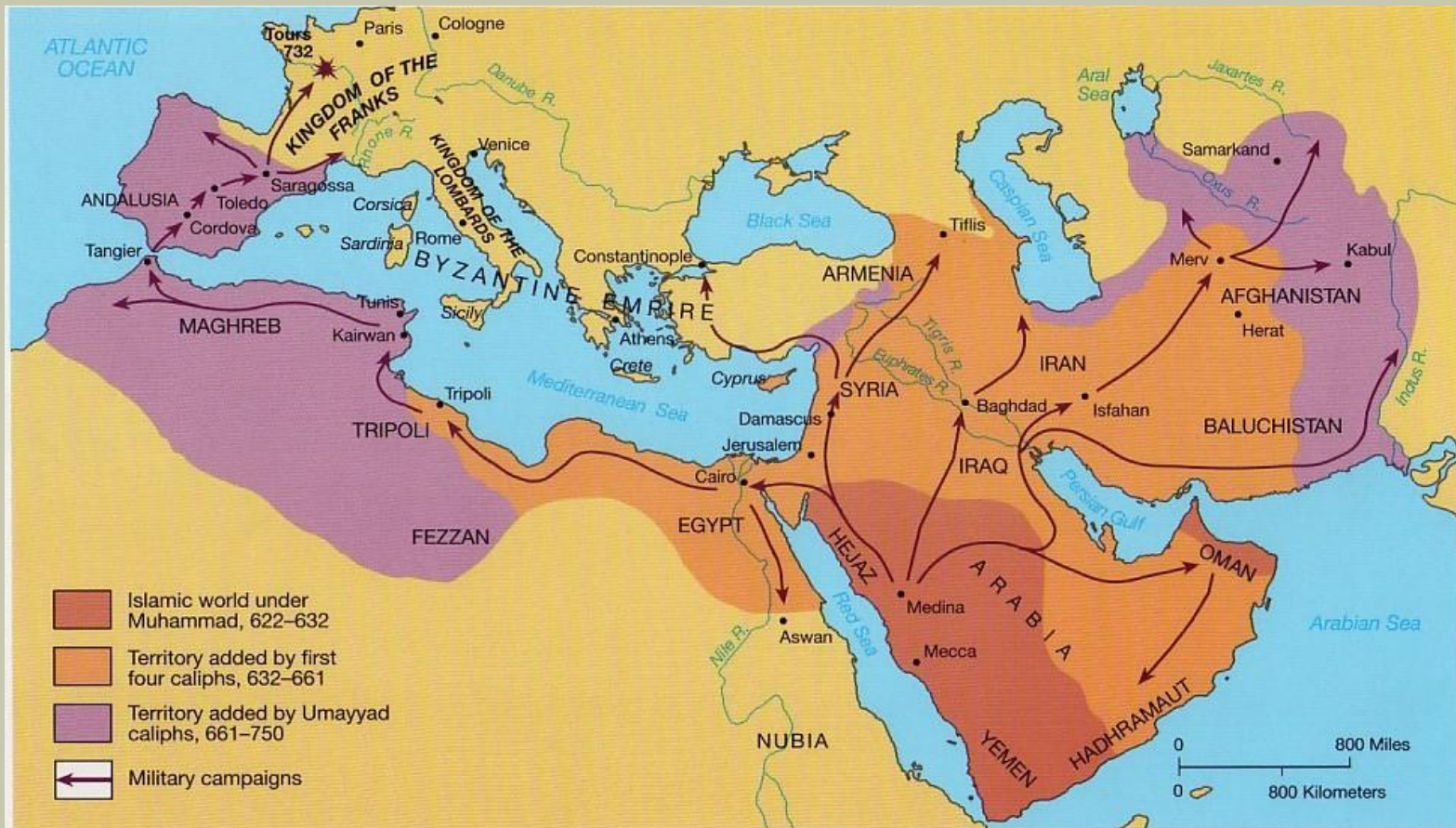
# Muslim Trade Routes

The spread of Islam created a vast trading empire that stretched from West Africa to South East Asia

The early trade routes stretched through the Roman Empire and across to China but travel was difficult.



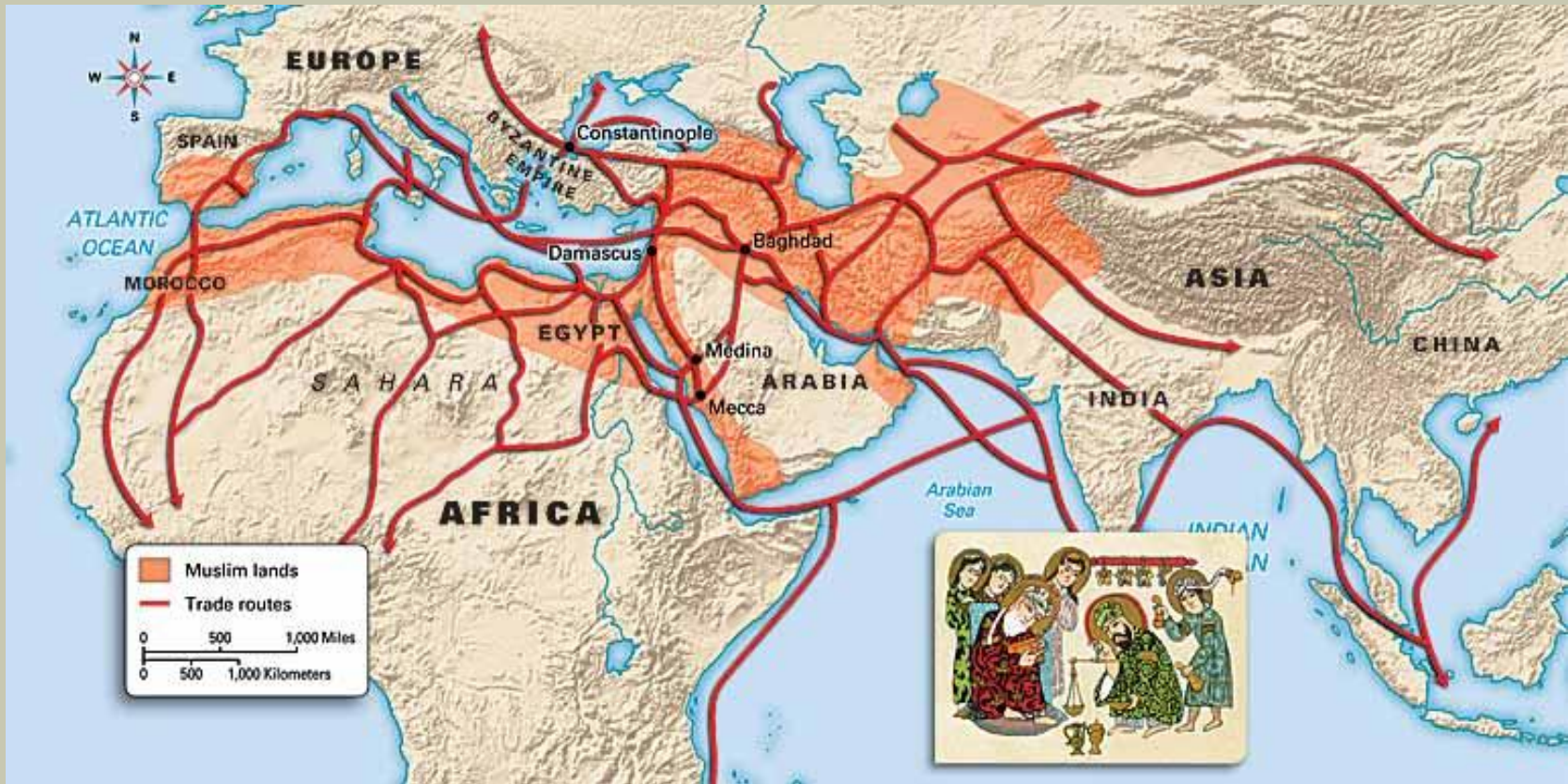
# The spread of Islam unified the Middle East and North Africa allowing a better environment for trade



▲ The Spread of Islam



Many more trade routes were added within the Muslim Empire and prosperity grew



The Silk Road linked Constantinople to China and became a major network for trading goods and services along its route

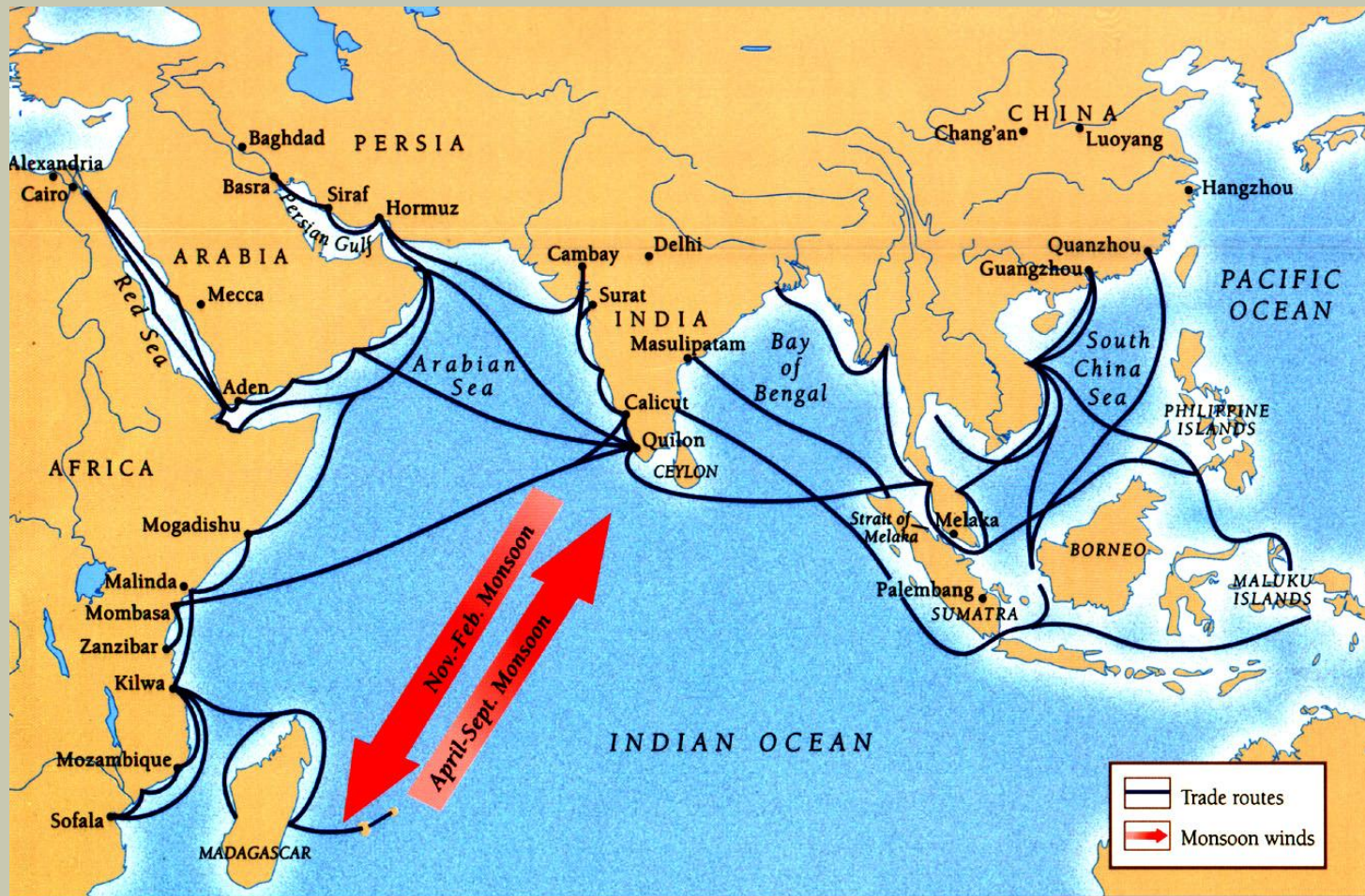




The emergence of better sailing ships allowed more goods to travel longer distances in a shorter time



# The seasonal monsoon winds allowed trade to spread to East Africa, India and South East Asia



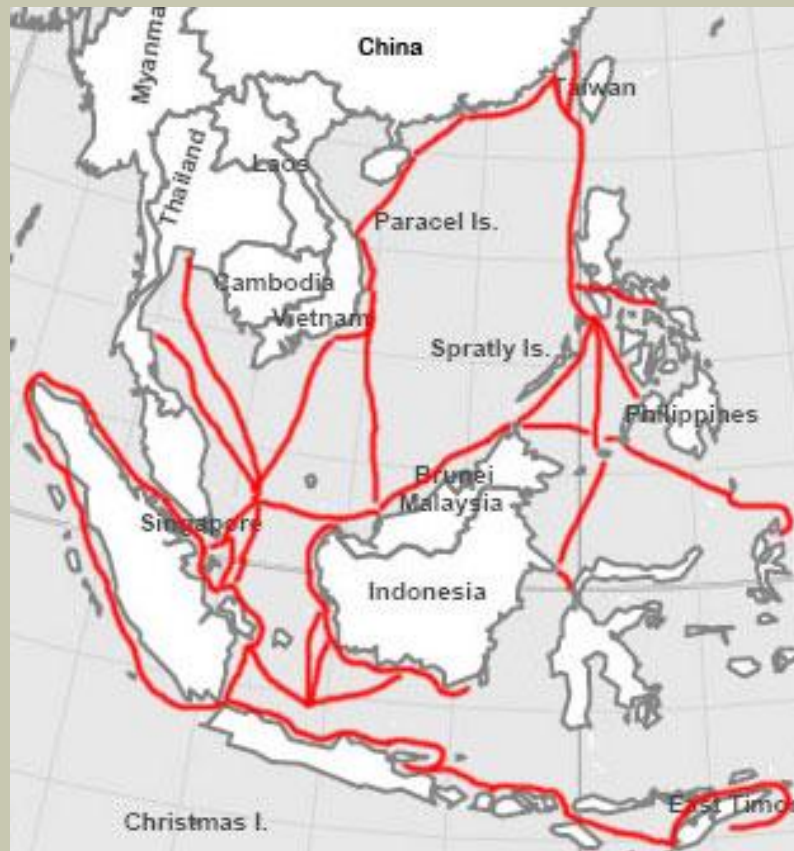


# Spices were a main commodity carried by sailing ships from South East Asia back to the Middle East





# Major trading networks began between the Asian mainland and the outer islands



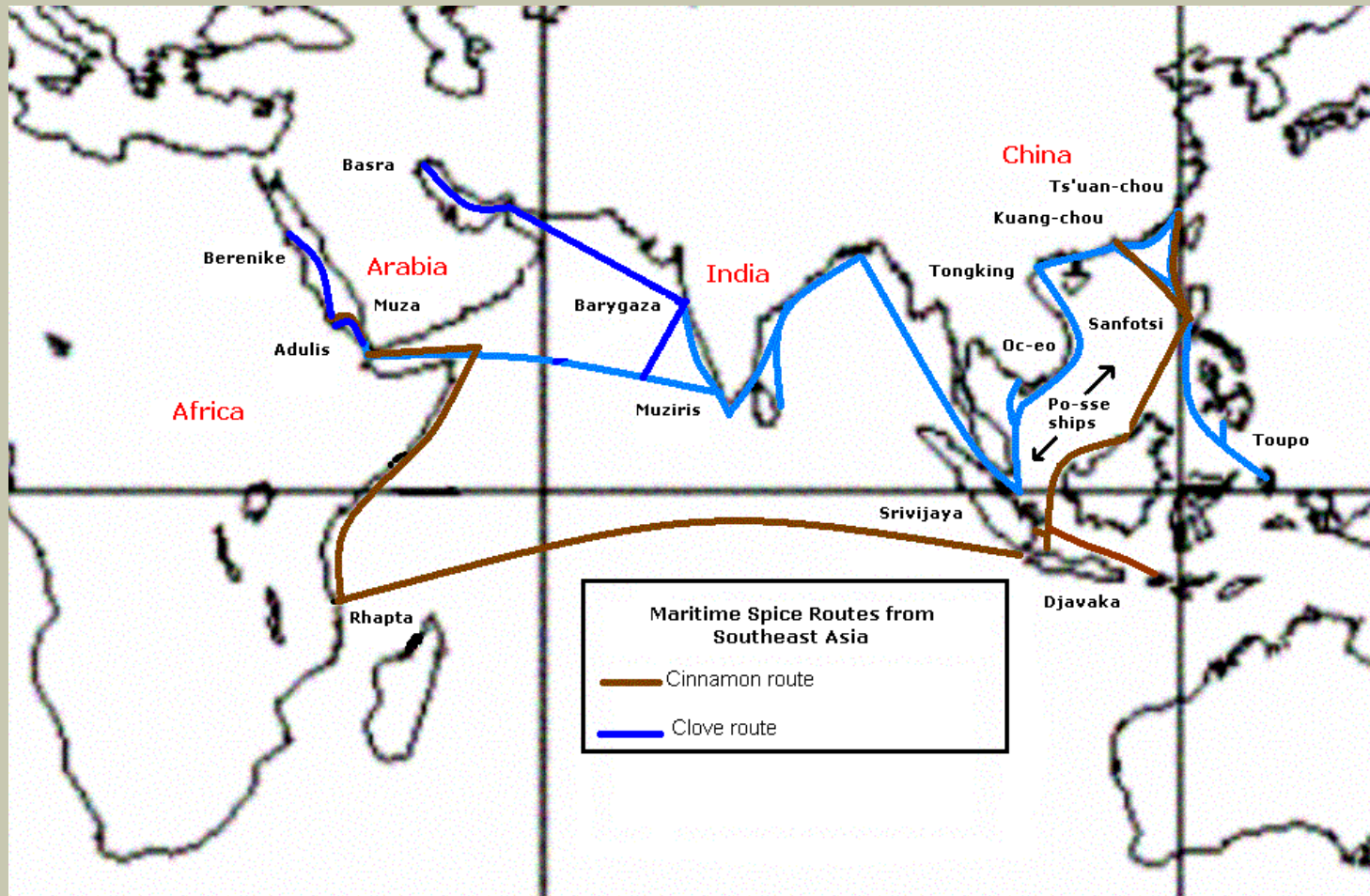
The Asian Spice Trade in Pre-European Era.

A typical Middle Eastern bazaar sold many types of spices imported across these trade lanes





# Two common items traded were Cinnamon and Cloves



Other items such as china and glassware appeared in market places across the Middle East and North Africa





To assist in trading, Arab merchants began to use a “universal currency” that was not paper money or coins

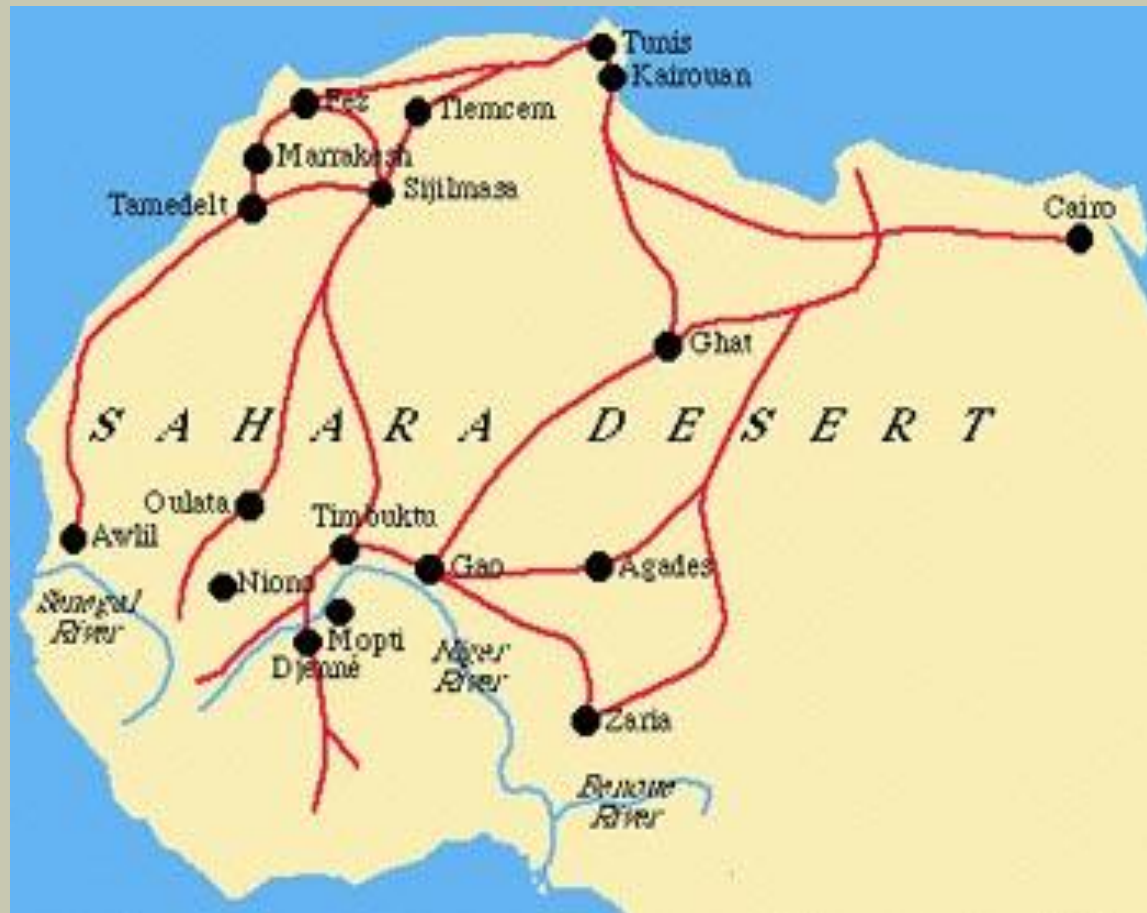


The Cowrie Shell (found only in the Maldives Islands)  
became the first global currency





# Muslim traders also crossed the Sahara Desert and began the Gold and Salt Trade

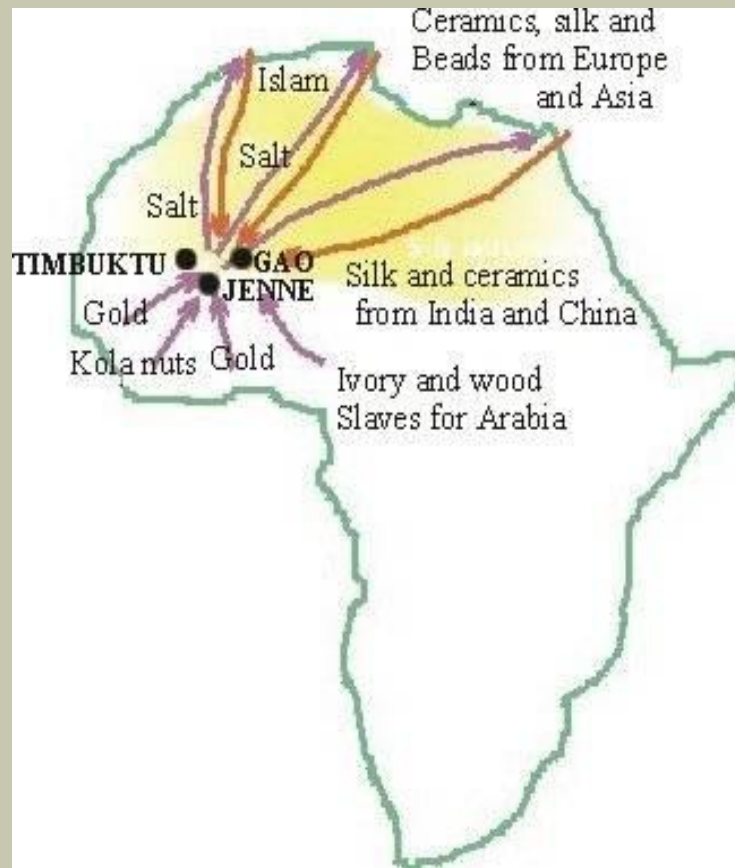


Caravans travelled long distances and in West Africa trading was accompanied by the conversion of the people to Islam





# West African cities emerged in the old kingdoms of Ghana, Songhai and Mali.

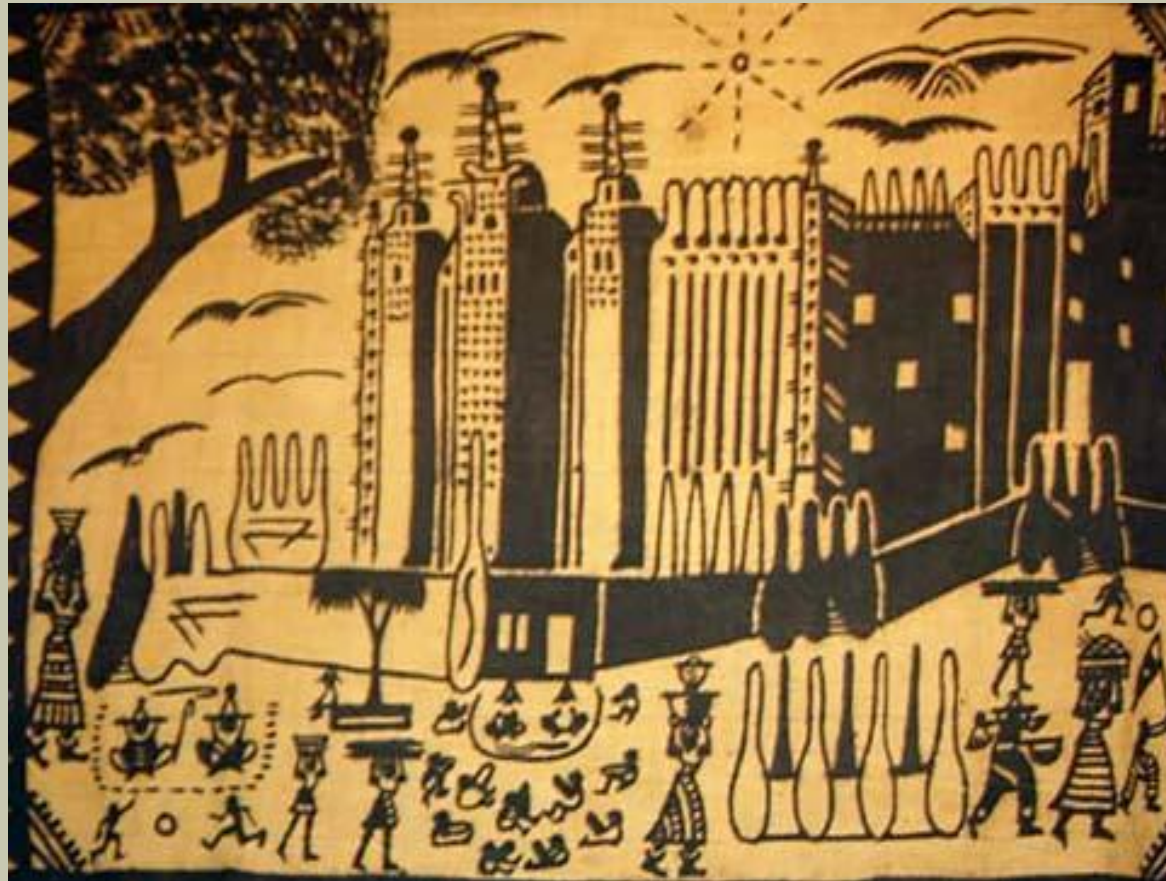


# Slaves were a profitable commodity throughout the Arabic world





The cultural exchange of trade and religion gave birth to new forms of art and architecture



# This is the Djenne Mosque in Mali





Middle Eastern designs were soon adopted in many West African homes and other buildings



The great West African king Mansa Musa converted to Islam and made his hajj to Mecca.





When the European nations finally began to explore the Indian Ocean they were surprised to find that the Muslim trade lanes were already fully developed

