

## **Topic 6: Caravans and Conquest: Song to Mongols.**

Marco Polo, Rabban Sauma, and Kublai Khan  
READING: Article #9 (Fletcher) in Reader; Marco Polo; Rossabi

Oct. 6 2003 Outline

### **1. Discussion of Whitfield**

## **Regional Shifts and Trends, 900 – 1200 CE**

### **1. The Rise of Islam, 600-1000**

- ca. 570 CE Birth of Muhammad in Mecca
- 610 Muhammad's first revelations
- 613 Muhammad begins public preaching
- 622 Hijrah: 1<sup>st</sup> year of Islamic calendar
- 630 Occupation of Mecca by Muslims
- 632 Death of Muhammad
- 661 Establishment of Umayyad Caliphate in Damascus [Origin of Sunni – Shi'ite split]
- 749 Abbasids seize Caliphate, transfer capital to Baghdad
- 945 End of Abbasid Caliphate

### **2. The Maritime Silk Road**

### **3. The Formation of Russia**

- 980 Prince Vladimir grand Prince of Kiev
- 988 Conversion of Kievan Rus to Christianity
- 1055-88 Attacks by Polovtsy and Volga Bulgars.
- 1147 1<sup>st</sup> mention of Moscow
- 1240 Mongols conquer Kiev

## **4. China Divided**

**No. Song [960-1127]**

**So. Song.[1127-1279]**

**Liao [907-1124] [ruled by Khitans]**

**Jin [1115-1234] [ruled by Jurchens]**

**Xixia [1038- ] [ruled by Tanguts]**

**938 CE: Beijing first becomes a dynastic capital**

## **5. Who's in the Middle?**

**Uighurs**

**Seljuq Turks**

**Khazars**

**Byzantine Empire:**

**1071 Battle of Manzikert; loss of Asian Minor to Turks.**