Here is a brief selection of favorite, new and hard-to-find books, prepared for your journey.

## Essential Reading Package

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<th>Author</th>
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<td>Peter Hopkirk</td>
<td><em>The Great Game</em></td>
<td>1994</td>
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<td>Colin Thubron</td>
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<td>Frances Wood</td>
<td><em>The Silk Road, Two Thousand Years in the Heart of Asia</em></td>
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<td>Christopher I. Beckwith</td>
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<td><em>Gizi Map</em></td>
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<tr>
<td><em>Empires of the Silk Road</em></td>
<td>CAS171</td>
<td>2011</td>
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Hopkirk’s spellbinding account of the great struggle for European supremacy in Central Asia takes us over the high mountain passes and through the scorching deserts and caravan towns of the Silk Road, capturing the glamour, intrigue, treachery and adventure of the time.

In this classic narrative, Thubron recounts his travels to Samarkand, Bukhara and throughout Central Asia in the wake of the breakup of the Soviet Union. A fine writer, intrepid traveler and insightful observer, he's an outstanding guide to the history, people and culture of the region.

Wood draws on hundreds of archival photographs, manuscripts and paintings from the British Library in telling this lively story of the art, culture and history of diverse trade routes.

A comprehensive, detailed guide to travel in the region, including Afghanistan, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Turkmenistan and Uzbekistan.

A map covering the Silk Roads and surrounding territories from western China and India across Asia to Saudi Arabia, Turkey and the Black Sea at a scale of 1:3,000,000.

Three large annotated color maps, which include dozens of photographs, expert commentary and illustrated Silk Road sites.

From Xi’an across Central Asia to Turkey, this gorgeously illustrated guide covers the sweep of the Silk Road.

A handy pocket phrasebook that focuses on pronunciation, basic grammar and essential vocabulary for the traveler on the Silk Road.

An excellent introduction to Samarkand (by turns inhabited by Uzbeks, Tajiks, Russians, Turks, Koryo-Sarams, Jews and Afghans), this compendium brings the region to life with essays, photos and plenty of recipes little-known to the West.

Primates may share food but only Homo Sapiens trade, says William Bernstein in this far-reaching, dare we say splendid, hymn. An economist (and fine writer), he considers not just silk and spices, sugar and tea but also the considerably less savory exchang

Beckwith rescues Central Asia from the periphery of world affairs with flair and scholarship, depicting millennia of empires, trade and cultural life on the Silk Road.
READNG GUIDE
Central Asia & the Silk Road

Jeff Sahadeo (Editor)
Everyday Life in Central Asia, Past and Present
CAS148 | 2007 | 401 pages | PAPER
Dozens of scholars and ethnographers contributed to this lively reader on the peoples, cultures and customs of Central Asia.
$28.00

Peter Hopkirk
Foreign Devils on the Silk Road
CAS22 | 1984 | 252 pages | PAPER
Hopkirk’s rousing tale of Sven Hedin and other larger-than-life archaeological raiders of the early 20th century captures the excitement of discovery – and the glories of the Silk Road.
$26.95

S. Frederick Starr
Lost Enlightenment, Central Asia's Golden Age from the Arab Conquest to Tamerlane
CAS227 | 2015 | 680 pages | PAPER
Starr brings to life the great flowering of ideas and advances of Central Asia’s medieval enlightenment, showing how, between the years 800 and 1200, Central Asian societies led the world in trade and were at the vanguard of mathematics, philosophy, history, geology, astronomy and science.
$22.95

Richard C. Foltz
Religions of the Silk Road
CAS52 | 2010 | 208 pages | PAPER
A scholarly survey of cultural traditions, and especially religions, along the trade routes through China and Central Asia from antiquity to the 15th century.
$49.99

Luce Boulnois, Helen Loveday (Translator)
Silk Road: Monks, Warriors & Merchants on the Silk Road
CAS111 | 2011 | 575 pages | PAPER
A history and guide to the Silk Road, organized chronologically and featuring a nice selection of contemporary photographs.
$19.95

Ahmed Rashid
Taliban: Militant Islam, Oil, and Fundamentalism in Central Asia
CAS49 | 2010 | 319 pages | PAPER
This revised edition of Rashid’s prescient account of the rise of Islamic fundamentalism in Central Asia in the 1990s includes a new chapter covering the period from 2000-2009.
$22.00

John Julius Norwich (Editor)
The Great Cities in History
WLD171 | 2009 | 304 pages | HARD COVER
This inspired book depicts the rise and fall of cities from earliest Mesopotamia through the great trading centers of the first millennium to medieval Europe and the modern megalopolis. Each entry is magnificently illustrated in color and is paired with an essay by diverse dignitaries including Jan Morris (New York), Colin Thubron (Samarkand), Simon Schama (Amsterdam) and Michael Coe (Angkor).
$45.00

Valerie Hansen
The Silk Road, A New History
CAS214 | 2015 | 320 pages | PAPER
A professor of Chinese and world history at Yale, Hansen draws on original sources and the latest archaeology for this magnificently illustrated tale of the overland routes across Asia and the life, history, and culture of fabled Silk Road cities Xiya, Kucha, Turfan, Samarkand, Chang’an, Dunhuang and Khotan.
$21.95

James A. Millward
The Silk Road, A Very Short Introduction
CAS212 | 2013 | 168 pages | PAPER
Millward’s pocket history highlights the important exchanges of goods, ideas and spiritualities that traveled the Silk Road, the Mediterranean’s link to Persia, India and China.
$11.95

Peter Frankopan
The Silk Roads, A New History of the World
CAS246 | 2017 | 672 pages | PAPER
Tightly researched and filled with swashbuckling stories, this history by Peter Frankopan looks eastward, showing how the West grew out of a restless desire to access Asian trade.
$20.00

Kenneth Nebenzahl
Mapping the Silk Road and Beyond
CAS113 | 2011 | 176 pages | PAPER
This visually stunning collection of 80 rare illuminated manuscripts, early modern masterpieces and archival maps traces two millennia of exploration across Asia.
$29.95

Jack Weatherford
Genghis Khan and the Quest for God
CAS250 | 2017 | 432 pages | PAPER
With compelling evidence, top-notch historian Jack Weatherford argues that Genghis Khan used religious tolerance to offset fanaticism and hold his disparate territories together.
$18.00

William Dalrymple
In Xanadu, A Quest
CAS50 | 2017 | 432 pages | PAPER
An intrepid traveler and entertaining writer, Dalrymple deftly observes the people and places he encounters on a journey from Jerusalem across Central Asia to China along the Silk Road, ending, like Marco Polo, at Xanadu, the summer palace of Kubla Khan.
$17.00

Susan Whitfield
Life Along the Silk Road
CAS44 | 2015 | 312 pages | PAPER
With insight, scholarship and dramatic flair, Susan Whitfield recounts the lives of ten diverse individuals on the ancient Silk Road, including four tales set in Dunhuang. With a superb 15-page history of Central Asia.
$29.95
**READING GUIDE**

**Central Asia & the Silk Road**

**John Man**

*Marco Polo, The Journey That Changed the World*

CAS240 | 2014 | 396 pages | PAPER

John Man travels in the footsteps of Italian merchant Marco Polo, bringing to life the exotic world that he uncovered, one of huge armies, untold riches, unusual spices and the great Mongol emperor Kublai Khan.  

$15.99

**Jen Lin-liu**

*On the Noodle Road, From Beijing to Rome, With Love and Pasta*

CAS232 | 2014 | 400 pages | PAPER

Lin-liu, an American living in China, sets out on a culinary journey from China and across Central Asia, all the way to the Mediterranean. Her highly personal account explores what can still be felt of cuisine's storied migration along ancient trade routes.  

$16.00

**Paul Theroux**

*Riding the Iron Rooster*

CHN133 | 2006 | 528 pages | PAPER

A wry account of utterly exhausting, exasperating travels, mostly by rail, throughout China for an entire year. Theroux gets himself to every corner of the huge country and includes memorable passages on his experiences in Mongolia, Xinjiang, Manchuria and Tibet (where his journey ended).  

$16.95

**Colin Thubron**

*Shadow of the Silk Road*

CAS133 | 2008 | 363 pages | PAPER

Thubron returns to Central Asia in this lyrical, erudite account of a 7,000-mile trek across Asia, visiting archaeological sites, people and cities from Xi'an and Dunhuang to Samarkand, Bukhara, Afghanistan and Iran.  

$15.99

**Beatrice Forbes Manz**

*The Rise and Rule of Tamerlane*

CAS11 | 1999 | 231 pages | PAPER

A portrait of the great nomadic conqueror who rose to power in 1370 on the ruins of the Mongol Empire and led campaigns from Moscow to Delhi.  

$35.99

**Kathleen Hopkirk**

*Central Asia, Through Writers' Eyes*

CAS252 | 2014 | 319 pages | PAPER

A literary introduction to the Silk Road that uses the words of travelers, explorers and writers from Marco Polo and Fitzroy Maclean to William of Rubrick and Ella Maillart.  

$35.00

**George MacDonald Fraser**

*Flashman in the Great Game*

CAS120 | 1995 | 336 pages | PAPER

What caused the Sepoy Mutiny, a pivotal moment in the Raj? How about Harry Flashman, the reluctant, much-decorated coward, cad and womanizer at the center of George MacDonald Fraser's wildly entertaining, irreverent series of historical novels.  

$16.00

**Raffael Aye**

*Birds of Central Asia*

CAS209 | 2012 | 320 pages | PAPER

This compact Princeton Field Guide features 141 superb color plates and excellent introductory chapters on the region.  

$39.50