

# CENTRAL AND NORTHERN ASIA: A.D. 101 TO 200\*

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## 1 CENTRAL AND NORTHERN ASIA

Back to Central and Northern Asia: 0 to A.D. 100<sup>1</sup>

In far eastern and northern Asia Mongolian nomads, perhaps with some admixture of Turkish, Europoid elements, all of which are traditionally considered as ancestors of the Huns, lived as harsh, bow-legged men with large heads and massive chests which apparently helped them to withstand the blazing days and freezing nights of the Gobi desert. Their chief meat was mutton, but occasionally they ate beef, horse or camel and the humps of the latter were considered a great delicacy. In general, in the wilder areas the cattle did not adapt well and camels were not sufficiently productive, having only a single foal every three years. The yak was used for milk, rather than fundamentally for meat. (Ref. 211<sup>2</sup>)

As pack animals the horse and Bactrian camel were the means of opening the great commercial routes across the central Asian steppe, with many change-over points along the way. Stone Tower, somewhere north of the Pamirs, was the great meeting place where exquisite Chinese silks and exotic spices were bartered for Roman glassware, pottery, asbestos cloth, coral beads, gems, grape wine for the emperor of China, silver and gold.

The drain of gold from the West was fantastic in amount. In the desert at the north of the Tarim Basin at present day Turpan (or Turfan) about 950 underground canals called "Karez" were constructed to bring irrigation water from the Tian Shan (Celestial Mountains) to the desert, where a melon and grape growing oasis was thus developed. The Han Chinese ruled Turpan at this time, but through the centuries it was controlled by numerous Central Asian peoples. The "blue-print" for such an underground water system was brought along the silk route from Persia, where the canals were called "Qanats". (Ref. 211<sup>3</sup>, 73<sup>4</sup>)

As noted in the last chapter, the Tocharians and other Yue-chi tribes had combined to create the vast Kushan Empire which in this century covered almost the entire central Asian land mass in its southern portion. Their greatest king, Kanishka, ruled this empire from India, and more details will be written in that section of this chapter. On the Turkistan frontier with China, Mongol Hsiung-nu, Tibetans and other

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<sup>1</sup>"Central and Northern Asia: 0 to A.D. 100" <<http://cnx.org/content/m17811/latest/>>

<sup>2</sup>"A Comprehensive Outline of World History: Bibliography", reference [211]

<<http://cnx.org/content/m17805/latest/#twooneone>>

<sup>3</sup>"A Comprehensive Outline of World History: Bibliography", reference [211]

<<http://cnx.org/content/m17805/latest/#twooneone>>

<sup>4</sup>"A Comprehensive Outline of World History: Bibliography", reference [73]

<<http://cnx.org/content/m17805/latest/#seventhree>>

tribesmen lived side by side with the Chinese, who still ruled at least the most eastern portion of this area, although their protectorate over the Tarim Basin had lapsed in A.D. 106. (Ref. 136<sup>5</sup>)  
to Central and Northern Asia: A.D. 201 to 300<sup>6</sup>

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8. Pacific<sup>14</sup>

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<sup>5</sup>"A Comprehensive Outline of World History: Bibliography", reference [136]  
<<http://cnx.org/content/m17805/latest/#onethreesix>>

<sup>6</sup>"Central and Northern Asia: A.D. 201 to 300" <<http://cnx.org/content/m17838/latest/>>

<sup>7</sup>"A.D. 101 to 200" <<http://cnx.org/content/m17708/latest/>>

<sup>8</sup>"Africa: A.D. 101 to 200" <<http://cnx.org/content/m17745/latest/>>

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<sup>10</sup>"Europe: A.D. 101 to 200" <<http://cnx.org/content/m17861/latest/>>

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<sup>12</sup>"The Indian Subcontinent: 101 A.D. to 200" <<http://cnx.org/content/m17934/latest/>>

<sup>13</sup>"The Near East: A.D. 101 to 200" <<http://cnx.org/content/m17981/latest/>>

<sup>14</sup>"The Pacific: A.D. 101 to 200" <<http://cnx.org/content/m18013/latest/>>