

Download **The Silk Road A New History** Valerie Hansen

Valerie Hansen is Professor of History at Yale University. Her books include *The Open Empire: A History of China to 1600*, *Negotiating Daily Life in Traditional China: How Ordinary People Used Contracts, 600-1400*, *Changing Gods in Medieval China, 1127-1276*, and, with Kenneth R. Curtis, *Voyages in World History*. "The Silk Road was already the best introduction to the reality behind this commonly used phrase. With the new documents, this version gives an even more vivid picture of how the 'Silk Road' actually functioned. The Silk Road was an ancient network of trade routes that connected the East and West. It was central to cultural interaction between the regions for many centuries. The closure of the Silk Road initiated the Age of Discovery (1453-1660 CE) which would be defined by European explorers taking to the sea and charting new water routes to replace over-land trade.