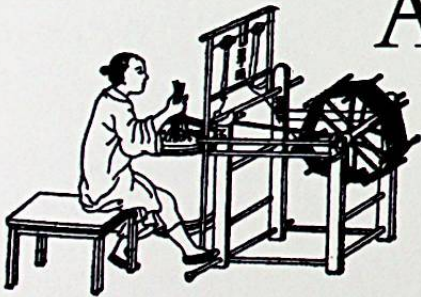

THE SILK ROAD: A HISTORY



by Irene M. Franck and
David M. Brownstone



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PREFACE

Often the best book to write is the one you have long sought and never found. This is one such. We have for 20 years lamented the absence of a comprehensive history of the Silk Road—one that ties together the threads of Asian history that link the Mediterranean and China—and have for most of that time been determined ultimately to write one. Our determination has taken a long time to bear fruit. Perhaps this has become a better book for its long period of gestation.

Throughout *THE SILK ROAD* we have used a great many quotations and excerpts; most of those from the Chinese are drawn from pre-Pinyin translations. Since the book is aimed primarily at a general readership, we have chosen to retain the older style of representing Chinese names, on the theory that a general audience may be unnecessarily confused by the juxtaposition of Pinyin and pre-Pinyin names, and quite put off by the technique of using both, with one in brackets, every time a name is used. In addition, for people and places throughout Eurasia, we have used the form of name that seemed most likely to be familiar to a general English-speaking readership.

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The excerpt on p. 279 is from "Explorations in the Gobi Desert," by Roy Chapman Andrews, published in the *National Geographic Magazine*, Volume 63, June 1933.

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Our thanks, too, for the fine work of Mary Racette, who helped with bibliographic research and typed early portions, and to Mary Bunch, who typed the balance of the work on her computer; to our publisher, Edward Knappman, our editor, Kate Kelly, and her assistant, Claire Johnston, who have been most encourag-

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Chappaqua, New York

THE Silk Road

"Great Princes, Emperors and Kings, Dukes and Marquises, Counts, Knights and Burgesses! and People of all degrees who desire to get knowledge of the various races of mankind and of the diversities of the sundry regions of the World, take this Book and cause it to be read to you. For ye shall find therein all kinds of wonderful things, and the divers histories of the Great Armenia, and of Persia and of the Land of the Tartars, and of India, and of many another country."

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