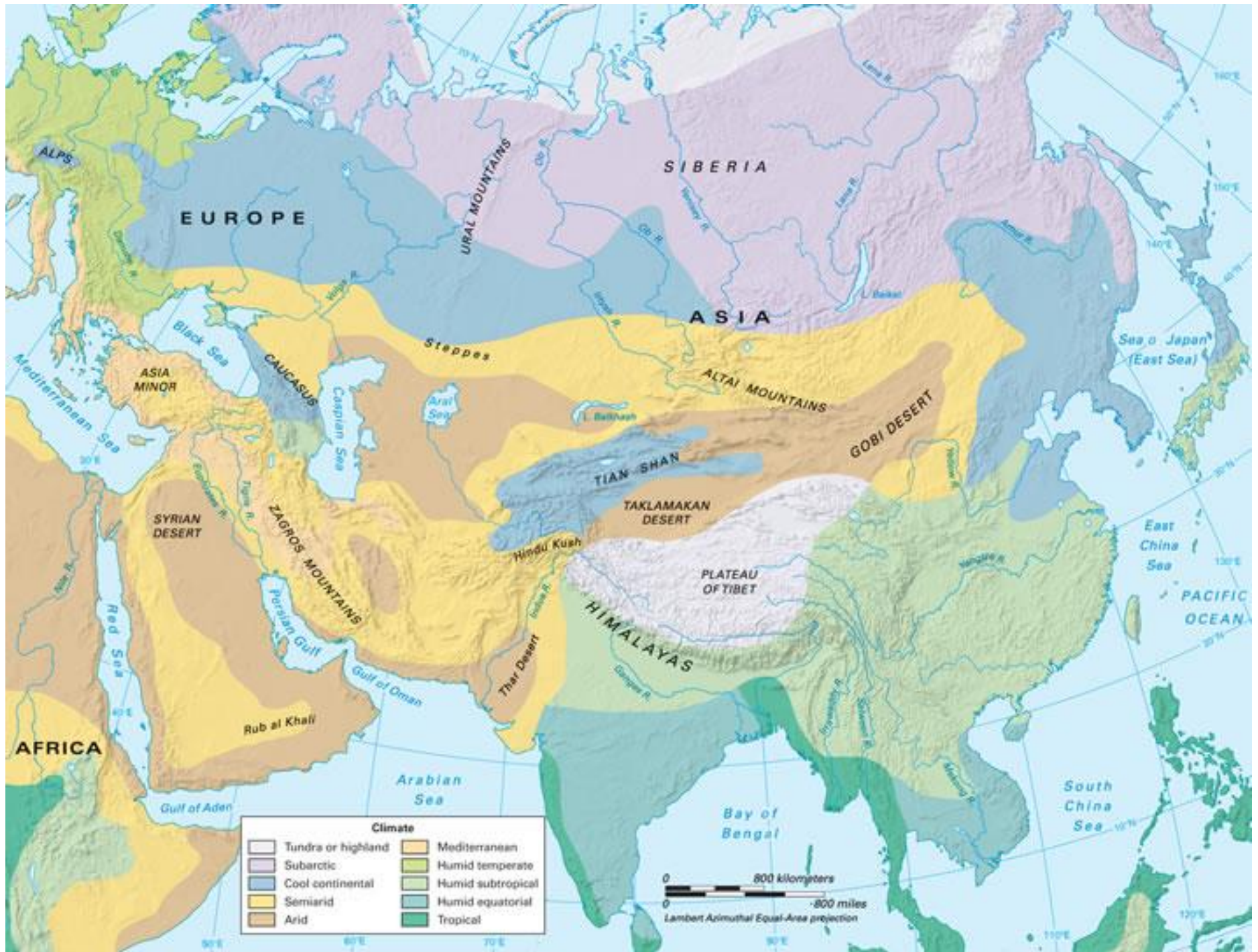


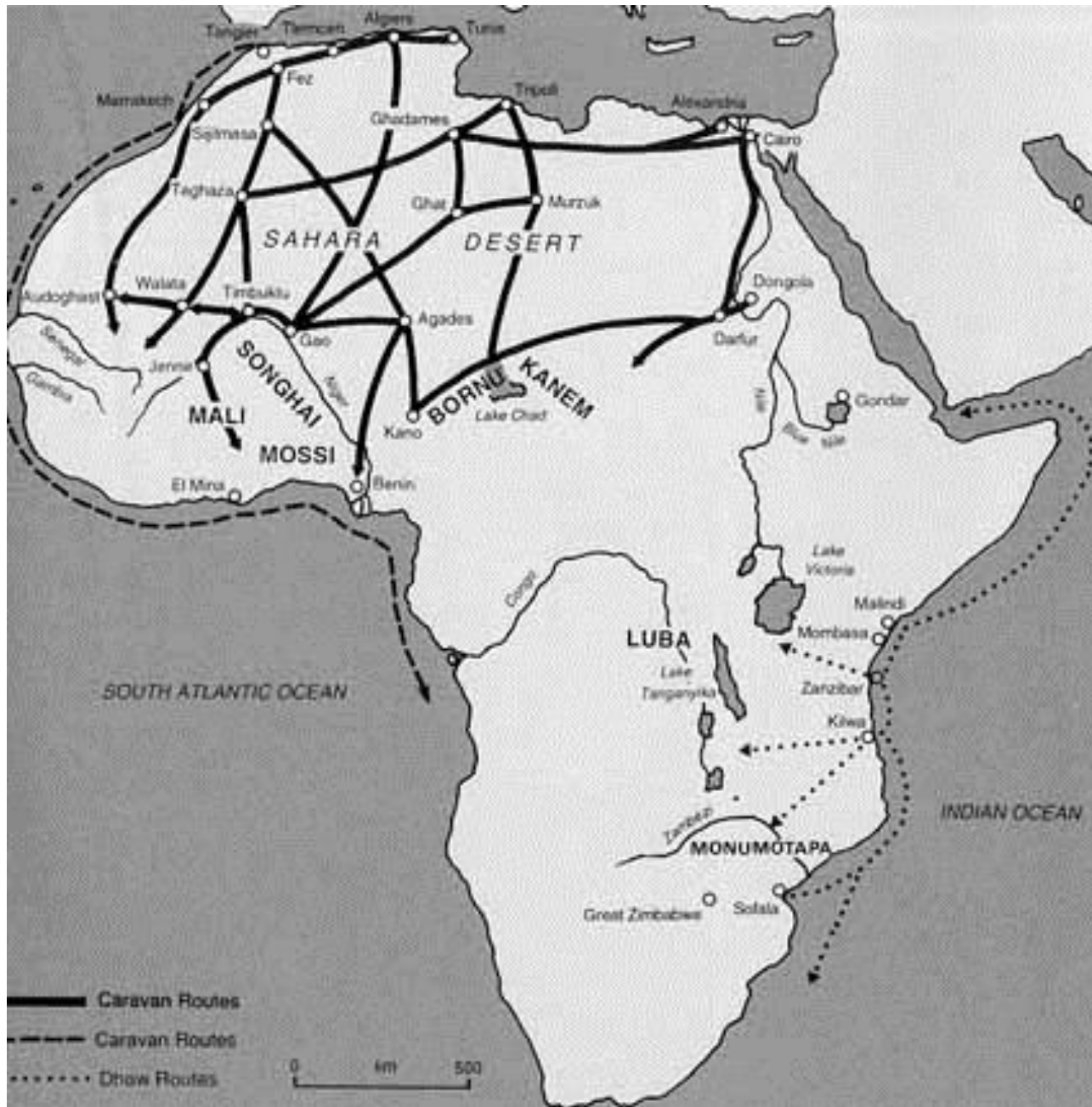
Trade Route Activity – SILK ROAD

<http://www.amnh.org/exhibitions/past-exhibitions/traveling-the-silk-road/take-a-journey>

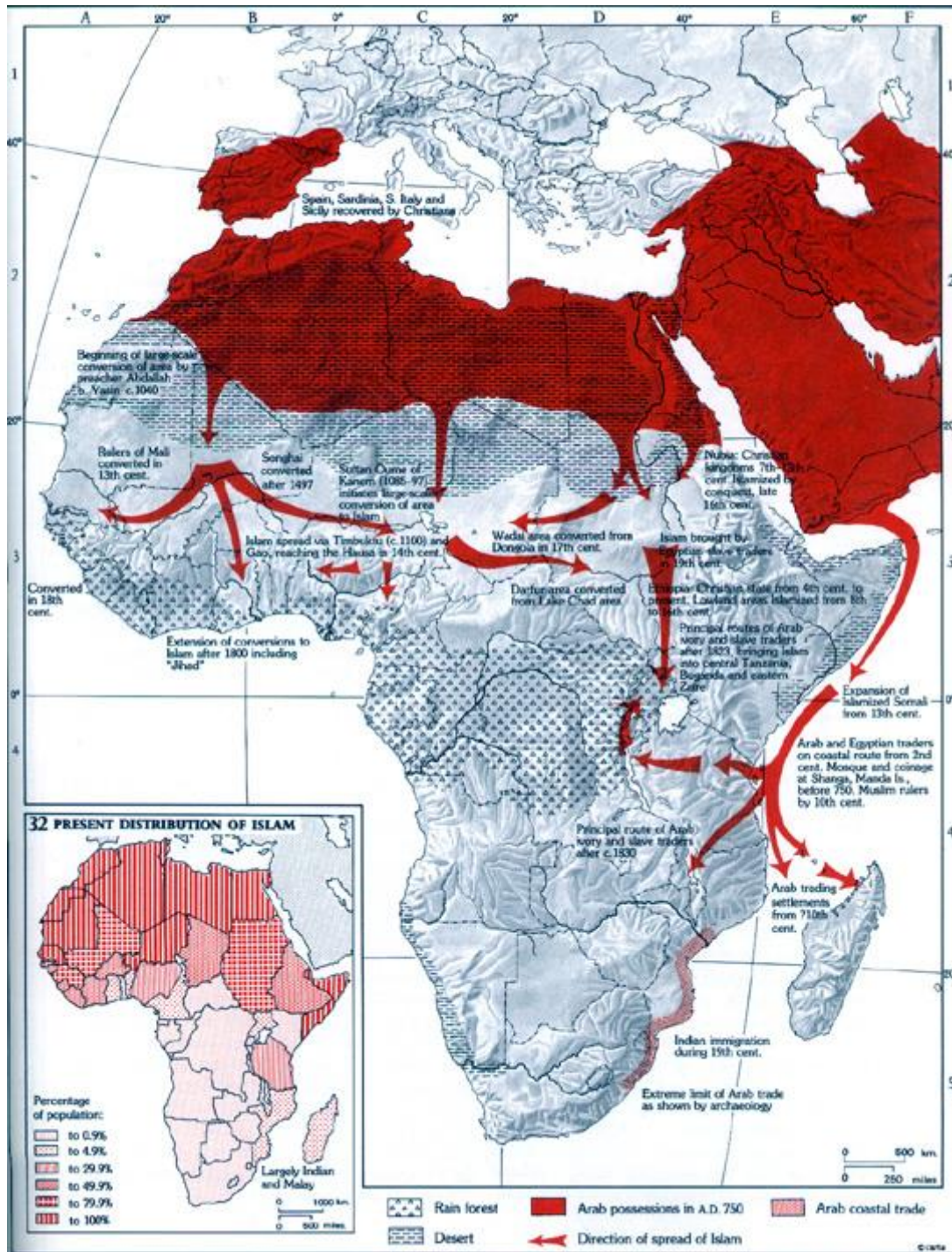








Trade Route Activity – TRANS-SAHARAN http://www.metmuseum.org/toah/hd/gold/hd_gold.htm





ATLANTIC OCEAN

EUROPE

MEDITERRANEAN SEA

AFRICA

SAHARA

Gulf of Guinea

Salt, used to preserve and flavor food, was available in the Sahara. Traders from the north took salt south. Camel caravans carried huge slabs of salt weighing hundreds of pounds.



Some goods that were traded across the Sahara, like silk and spices, came all the way from Asia along the Silk Road. These luxury items were traded for West African goods like gold and ivory.



A Difficult Journey

Temperature Temperatures soared to well over 100 F during the day and below freezing at night. Dying of heat or cold was a real danger.

Water Most areas of the Sahara get less than one inch of rain per year. Travelers had to bring lots of water or they could die of thirst.

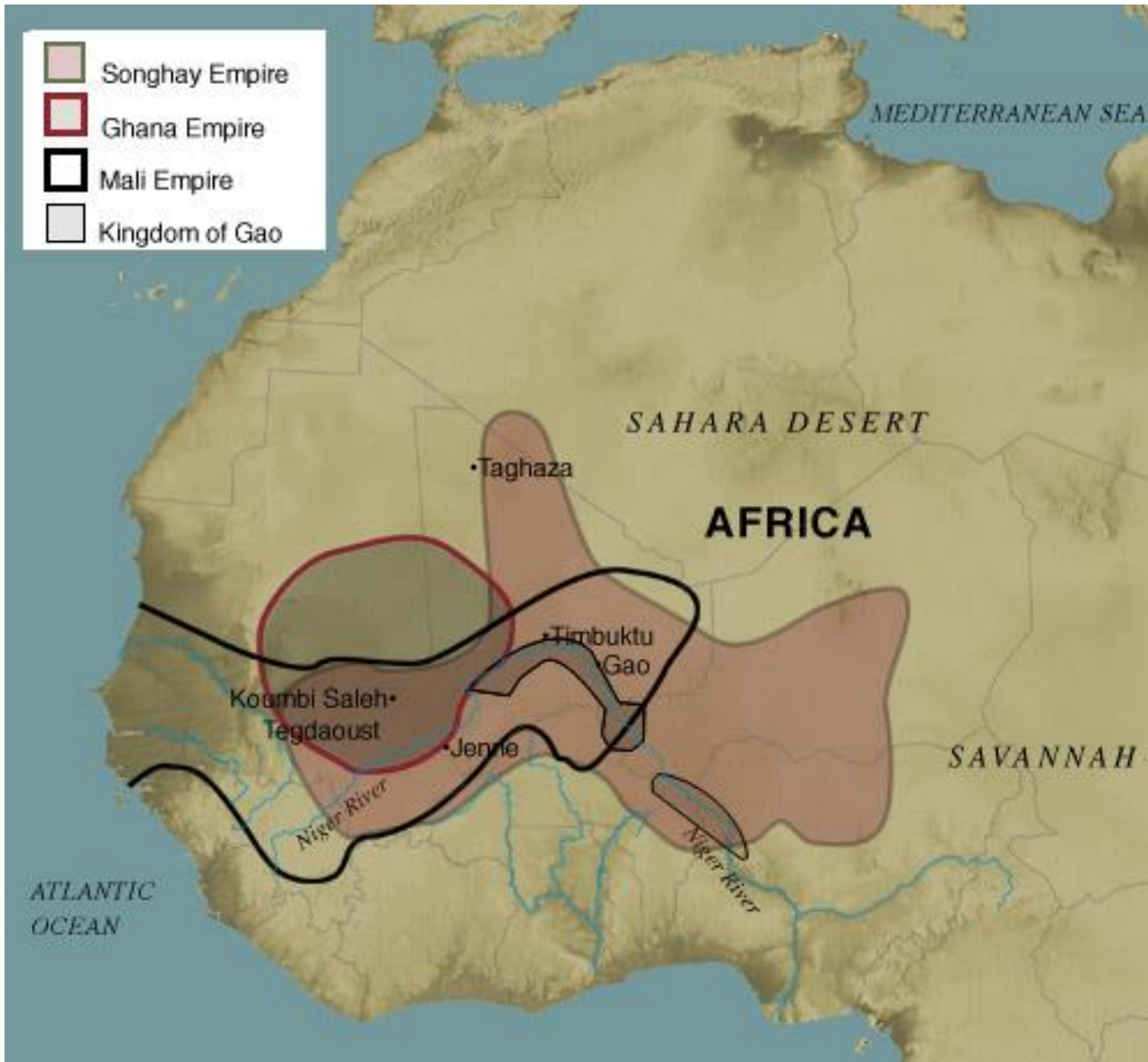
Distance The Sahara is huge, and the trade routes were not well marked. Travelers could easily get lost.

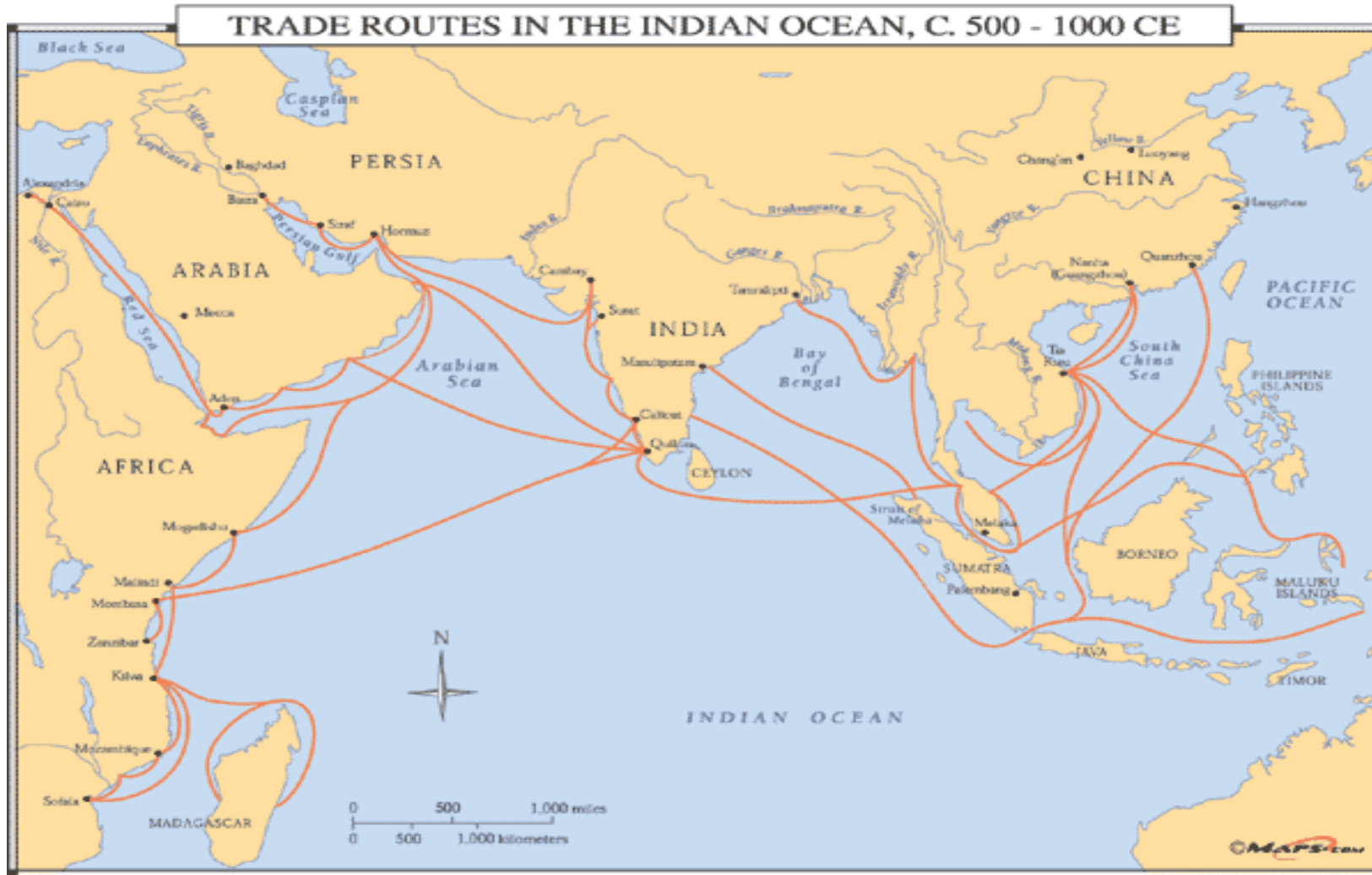
Bandits Valuable trade goods were a tempting target for bandits. For protection, merchants traveled in caravans.

In exchange for salt, people in West Africa offered other valuable trade goods, especially gold. Gold dust was measured with special spoons and stored in boxes. Ivory, from the tusks of elephants, was carved into jewelry.



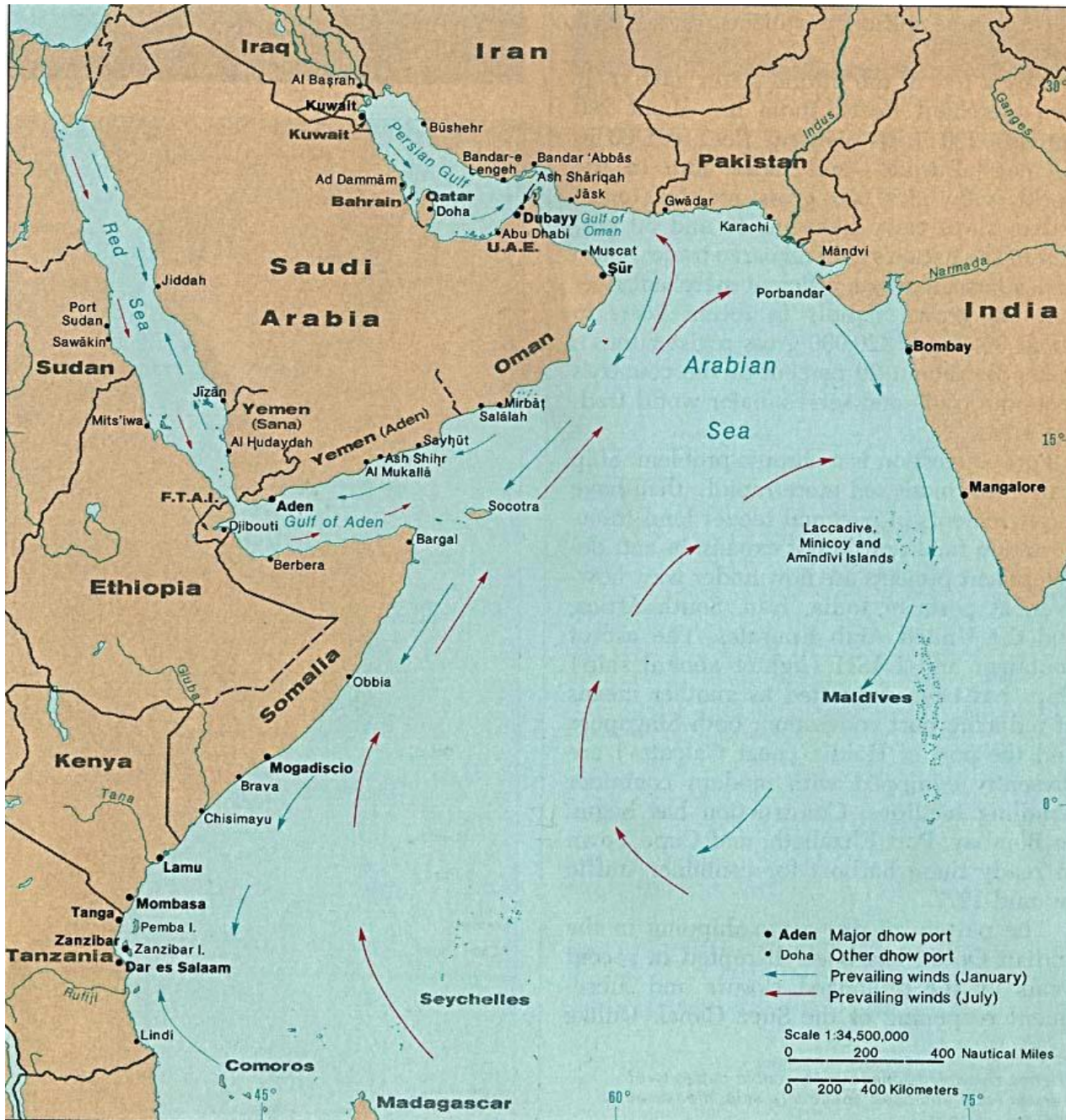
— Trade route
● Settlement
Scale varies on this map.





TRADE ROUTES IN THE INDIAN OCEAN, C. 500 - 1000 CE

#121



Main trade-products and shipping routes of the Indian Ocean region

