*HIPPO #4*

*“The Arab merchant Suleiman on Business Practices in Tang China” (Chapter 15, page 390)*

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| **H** | ***H****istorical Context* | This was written near the end of the Tang dynasty in the 9th century CE. Despite the decline of the Tang dynasty, the wealth of China in trade goods was ever present (Silk, textiles). The introduction of new naval technology and the establishment of the Islamic Empires in Asia and North Africa, created motivation to trade between East and West with India being one state in the center of this commerce. |
| **I** | ***I****ntended Audience* | The geographer that wrote this account about Suleiman’s travels would have been writing this for other Arab merchants and Muslims in general in the Islamic world (Southwest Asia). |
| **P** | ***P****urpose* | The purpose was to demonstrate the wealth of China and the way Chinese treated each other fairly. He states, “No one in China is treated unjustly.” Most likely this was to encourage more Muslim merchants to get involved in the business of trading with India and China. |
| **P** | ***P****oint of View*  *(P.O.V.)* | From the point of view of the author it seems that he believes that the business practices of the Chinese are better than his own country. He also states the abundance of wealth in China, stating that all Chinese men, young and old wear silk shirts (a luxury in other parts of the world). |
| **O** | ***O****utside Info.* | The maritime trade that is alluded to hear will supersede the old Silk Road. Not long after (15th century), the Portuguese will arrive in the Indian Ocean basin, changing the entire dynamic of trade from China to Southwest Asia and Europe. |