

CULTURE

The Balkans & Arab Lands



- Economy
- Religion
- Geography
- Customs

Balkan Economy

- ▶ High degree of husbandry & farming
- ▶ Wheat
- ▶ Cattle & leather
- ▶ Broadcloth
- ▶ Knives / Ironware
- ▶ Amber (via Russia)
- ▶ Wool cloth & cotton



Balkan Religion

- ▶ Largest proportion of Christians in the Empire (Orthodox, Catholic) – millet system
- ▶ Islam's influence spreads though
- ▶ Christian children taken for service in the Janissaries



Balkan Geography

- ▶ Extremely rugged mountains & difficult terrain
- ▶ Goats thrive throughout & cattle in the north
- ▶ Cereal crops (wheat)
- ▶ Mountain passes are easily defended



Physical Map of Balkans



Balkan Culture

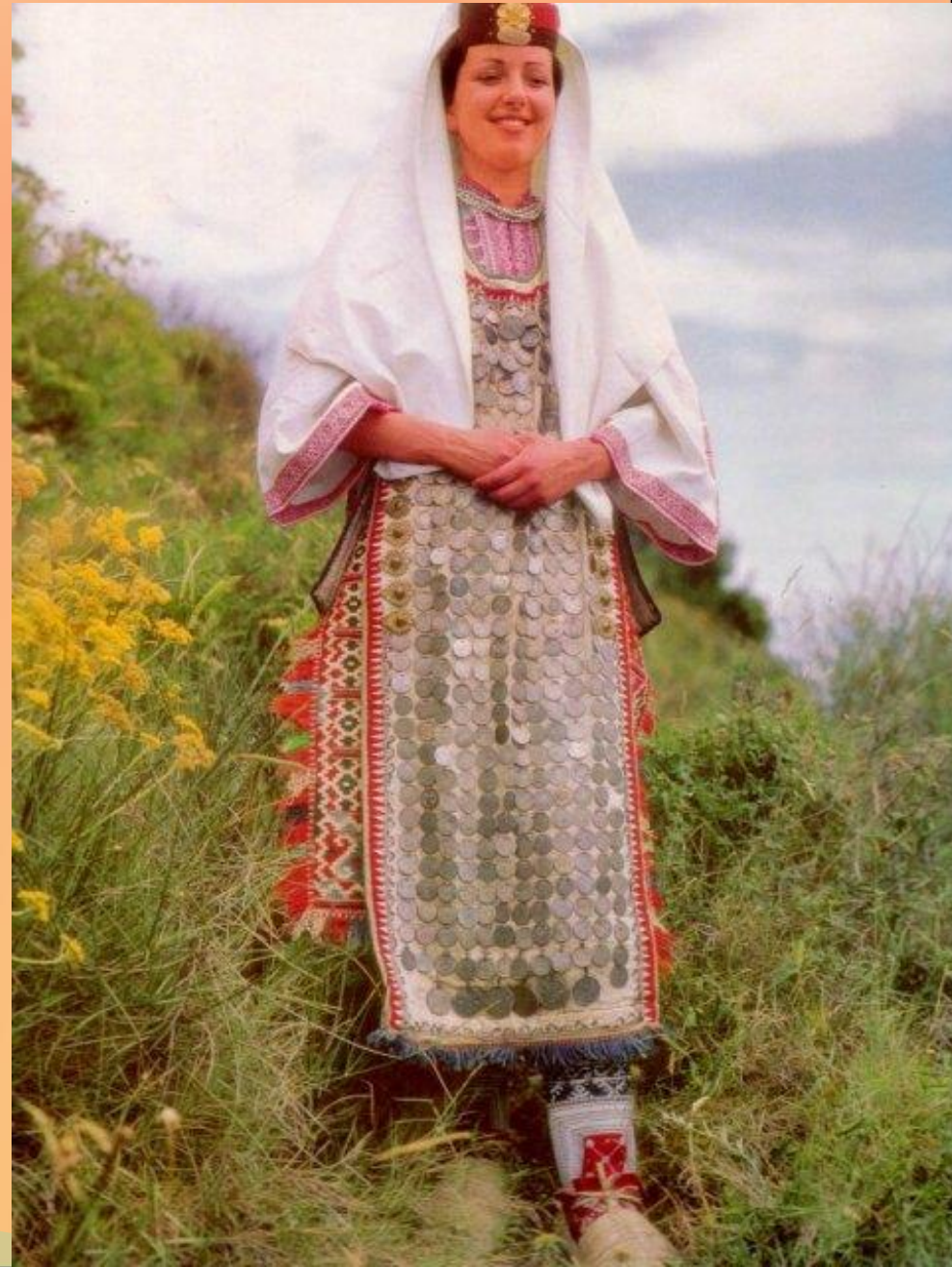
- ▶ Timar, Millet, & Janissary systems are entrenched
- ▶ Agrarian, proud and tough people (like the land)
- ▶ Colorful and elaborate clothing
- ▶ Simple diets – roasted meats, fresh fruits and vegetables



Balkan Clothing

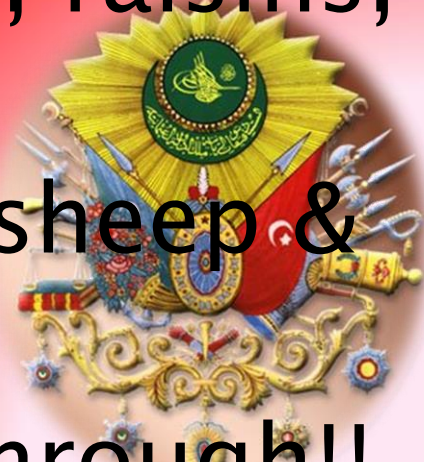


Balkan Costumes

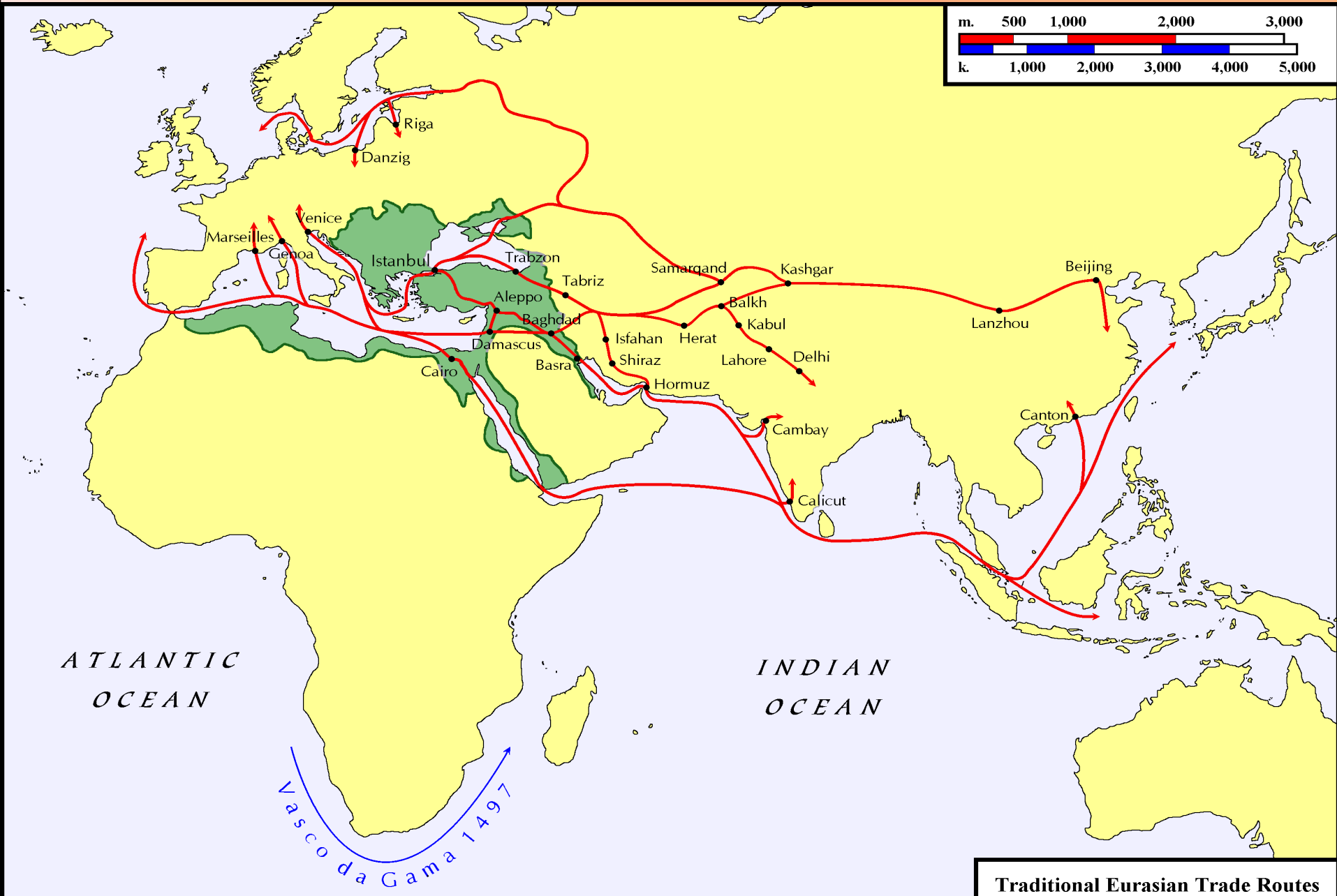


Economy of the Arab Lands

- ▶ Raw materials & trade galore!
Spices (pepper, ginger, saffron, cloves, salt), Incense, Wools (goats, camels), Cotton, Gold, Silks, Precious gems & metals
- ▶ Produce: wheat, barley, millet, raisins, olive oil, oranges, lemons
- ▶ Husbandry (especially goats, sheep & camels)
- ▶ Silk road & spice routes run through!!



Trade routes



Spice Market



Religion in the Arab Lands

- ▶ Birthplace and center of Islam (Mecca & Medina)
- ▶ Overwhelmingly Muslim (Sunni in Ottoman Empire)
- ▶ Small pockets of Jews and Christians are permitted to worship freely (millet system)
- ▶ Mosques and social services blanket the region



Mecca – Arabian Peninsula



Geography of the Arab Lands

- ▶ Arid, hot and brutal desert
- ▶ Interspersed with mountainous regions & difficult terrain.
- ▶ Trade routes are well defined by water supplies & topography
- ▶ Egypt is the “breadbasket” of the Middle East
- ▶ Goats & camels



Arabian Desert



Physical map of the Arab Lands



Culture of the Arab Lands

- ▶ Nomadic, patriarchal society
- ▶ Long multiple layers of robes
- ▶ Deeply religious
- ▶ Culture of courage and individual strength
- ▶ Deep ties to the land



Arab nomads



Traditional Clothing

