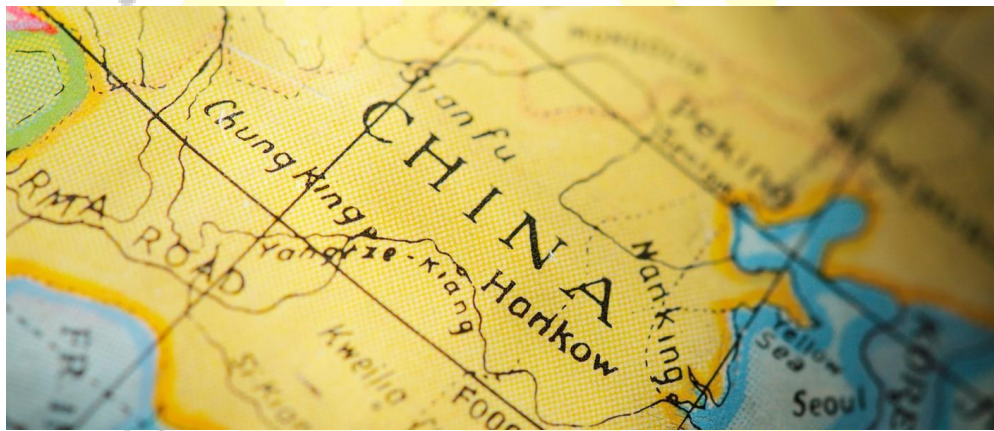




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Xi'an- The Birthplace of China's Silk Road initiative

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“If you want to know China’s history of thousands of years, go to Xi’an; if you want to know China’s history of five hundred years, go to Beijing; if you want to know China’s history of one hundred years, go to Shanghai. And in every city, no matter how long its history, there is always a facet of modern times. When you visit China, you will see a colorful and a diverse nation, President Xi Jinping.

Historical Background:

China has a rich and diverse history. A famous city of China, Xi'an is the old imperial capital of China and the Eastern starting point of the Ancient Silk Road. Xian, ancient name Chang'an, is more than 3,100 years old city. Today Xian is an administrative center of Shaanxi province located in the North-Western region of China. Since 1990, Xian became a main cultural, educational and industrial center. 13 ancient imperial dynasties have been settled in Xian. After the rule of Western Han Dynasty, Xi'an has become the key city of economic and cultural exchanges and promoting mutual connections between China and other countries. One of the eight wonders of the world, Terracotta Warriors demonstrates the city's profound history and culture. Xi'an enjoys reputation as the "Natural History Museum" due to its historical and cultural heritage. "Changan culture" represents the backbone of Chinese culture.

Strategic importance of Xi'an City:

Assuming the map of China, as that of a shape of a rooster, the head of China lies in the North East, the tail towards the West and the feet lying in the South. According to this, the city of Xi'an would be located right at the point where the heart lies. Xi'an has been an important junction between China, Central Asia, and the Middle East. It has remained a hub of diverse ethnic identities and religious beliefs. It is one of the first places to flourish between Chinese and the West. Xi'an has a rich cultural history. In imperial times, it functioned as a wealthy Silk Road trading hub comprising the land from India, stretching towards Rome. The historic routes of China are now being upgraded with innovation for trade and commerce, promoting economic

development. Xi'an is in the center of it all. It is one of the major places for tourism and high technology development.

Innovation and Upgradation under BRI:

Located in the center of China, Xian is a converging point of highways, railroads, air routes and communication cables that offers access to the vast market in the inland of China. The city has enhanced its infrastructure by building roads, a steady power supply and efficient water supply, while keeping the traditional and cultural practices intact.

For centuries, the Silk Road brought kingdoms and markets together, sharing a common goal to trade and innovation. This route was used as a national Road throughout from the ancient central plains. Emperors, nobility, businessman and traders had left their footprints on this road.

The Belt and Road Initiative is a mega economic action plan to strengthen the trading and cultural ties between China, Asia, Africa and Europe. In Xi'an, the technological innovation is on its boom to promote these economic and social ties. Today, BRI places Xi'an with its splendid history, and marks the starting point of the Silk Road Economic Belt. The city of Xi'an has a great transportation network that is composed of railway, aviation, and highway. It is an important transportation hub in Northwest China. The Eurasian Continental Railway connecting LianYungang in East China and Rotterdam, Netherlands passes through Xi'an. The Xianyang International Airport of Xi'an is one of the most important airports of China. In 1992, the State Council approved Xi'an as an inland open city and now it is the largest city on the Northwest China section of the new Eurasia Continental Bridge.

To accommodate a new concentration of highly educated, skilled and a prosperous community, and also to enhance tourism, Xi'an has launched major construction projects. Government policy of pouring funds into western China, in order to increase the development of future wealth in the services sector have been successful in Xi'an. Technology has transformed the cities along Silk Road, Xi'an being one of them. From trains to bridges to magnificent infrastructure, Xi'an has become an important economic hub and the best part about Xian city is that it has kept alive the culture and history along the path of transformation and innovation. In the beginning of mid-1950s, Xi'an was a primary focus of expenditures from the central government and since then has been one of China's major industrialized cities. A major development was creating regional centers dedicated to manufacturing specific products: the textile district, electrical machinery, a research and production base for China's aerospace industry and the electronics sector.

The central government is developing Xian City into the new base for modernizing and opening up inland regions and with becoming China's window, opening up to the West. According to the 13th five-year plan, from 2016 to 2020, Xi'an is planned to be developed into an international cosmopolitan center linking China with the West. Due to these ongoing projects under the BRI, there are plenty of opportunities opening up in Xian.