The map below shows overland trade routes across Asia. These routes became heavily used in the centuries after 300 C.E. The overall route was known as the Silk Road. China exported its silk, iron, and bronze. Merchants took these goods west to the Middle East and then to Europe. Gold, glass, ivory, animal hides, horses, and cattle were brought east to China from the Middle East and Central Asia. Trade contacts with India led to the introduction of Buddhism to China.

What products were taken from China to the Middle East (Southwest Asia) along the Silk Road, and then on to Europe?

______________________________________________________________________________
______________________________________________________________________________

What products and ideas were taken to China along the Silk Road?

______________________________________________________________________________

What impact did the Silk Road have on the people of Europe and Asia?

______________________________________________________________________________
______________________________________________________________________________

(continued)
DBQ 9: TRADE AND INTERACTION

Document 2

The map below shows the voyages of Zheng He, a Chinese admiral, in the 1400s.

This excerpt comments on the impact of Zheng He’s voyages.

Yonglo [the Ming ruler] hoped to impress the world with the power and splendor of Ming China and also hoped to expand China’s tribute system. Zheng He’s voyages accomplished these goals. . . .

Everywhere Zheng He went, he distributed gifts, such as gold, silver, silk, and scented oils, to show Chinese superiority. As a result, more than 16 countries sent tribute to the Ming court. Many envoys traveled to China. . . .

Demand for Chinese goods had a ripple effect on the economy. Industries such as silk making and ceramics grew rapidly. Manufacturing and commerce increased. However, China did not become highly industrialized for two main reasons. First, the whole idea of commerce offended China’s Confucian beliefs. . . . Second, Chinese economic policies traditionally favored agriculture. Taxes on agriculture stayed low. Taxes on manufacturing and trade skyrocketed.

Source: Bech, Black, Krieger, Naylor, Shabaka, World History: Patterns of Interaction, McDougal Littell, 1999 (adapted)

Where did Zheng He’s voyages go?

(continued)