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Title of Paper: Dominance of Sogdian merchants on the Silk Road during the Medieval Age: A Semi-Private Ordering Organization.

Abstract: This paper describes the organization of a trade network along the Silk Road in the seventh and eighth centuries, a trade network dominated by an ethnically homogeneous Sogdian merchant group. I will apply my theory of the ethnically homogeneous middleman group (EHMG, Landa 1981)--involved in the marketing of smallholders' rubber in Southeast Asia--to explain the success of the EHMG of the Sogdian merchants in the medieval period. A new twist in this paper is that unlike the Chinese EHMG, which is a private ordering organization, the Sogdian merchant group had some government participation, hence the Sogdian merchant group was a semi-private ordering phenomenon.

* Janet T. Landa, "A Theory of the Ethnically Homogeneous Middleman Group: An Institutional Alternative to Contract Law, *Journal of Legal Studies*, Vol. 10, No. 2, June 1981.