

# NEGOTIATING HISTORY AND PLAY: TRANSLATING THE SILK ROAD FOR GLOBAL AUDIENCES

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## INTRODUCTION

The localization of the board game The Silk Road (《千年丝路》) aims to build historical awareness of the Belt and Road Initiative's (BRI) roots in an English speaking audience. By including optional historical context through QR codes, players can choose to engage with the material or simply play the game as intended, fulfilling the goal of edutainment.



## BALANCING FACTS AND FUN



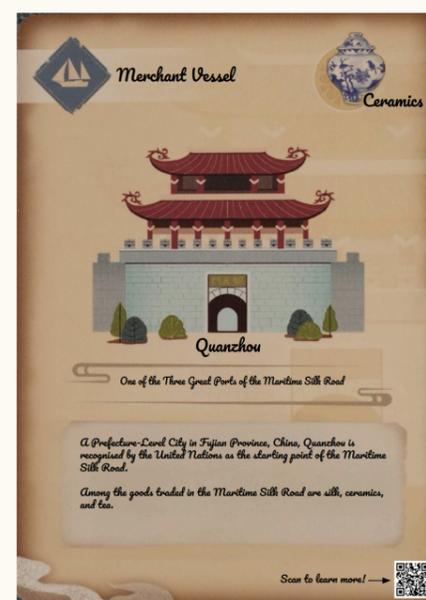
### Rearrangement:

Changing the first sentence of the description into a subheading aims to make the city more memorable to the player.

Just as Paris is known as the City of Light, Quanzhou is presented as one of the Three Great Ports of the Maritime Silk Road, reinventing the text while maintaining consistency with the source material.

### QR Code:

To avoid cluttering, a QR code containing additional historical facts about the city is included. This gives players the choice to scan for more information, or continue playing the game as intended.



## TRANSLATING "QI"



### Multiplying Translation Effect:

Providing a literal translation preserves the form of the idiom in English, while an explanation, in the form of a subheading, allows players to understand the meaning of the idiom.

### Connecting to the game:

To demonstrate the connection between the idiom and the game, the game mechanics are first explained, followed directly by an interpretation of the idiom that links to those mechanics.



## CONCLUSION

The translation of The Silk Road goes beyond translating game mechanics to preserve playability. The inclusion of easily accessible and optional historical and cultural information enriches the experience for players without disrupting the core gameplay or visuals, achieving our goal of edutainment through gameplay.

## VALUE TO TRANSLATING CHINA

Translation takes on many forms, from traditional translation of texts, to multimodal approaches. When translating China, the rendering of texts often come to mind, rather than games. The translation of the Intertwined Silk Road is unique, because it combines traditional linguistic translation while preserving the fun of the game itself.