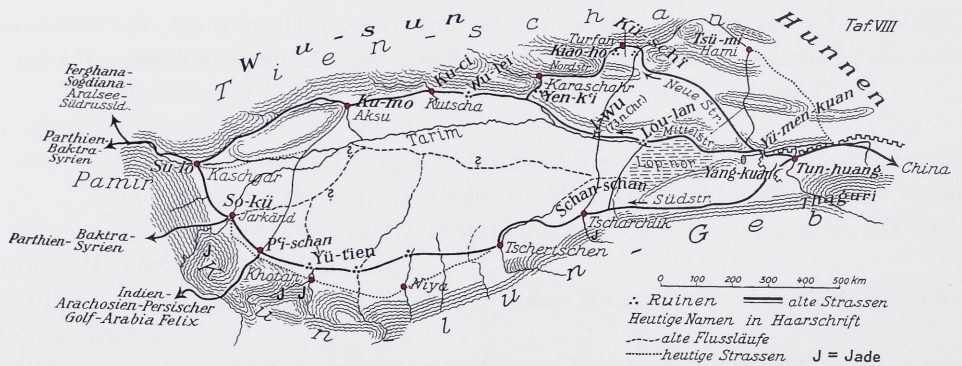
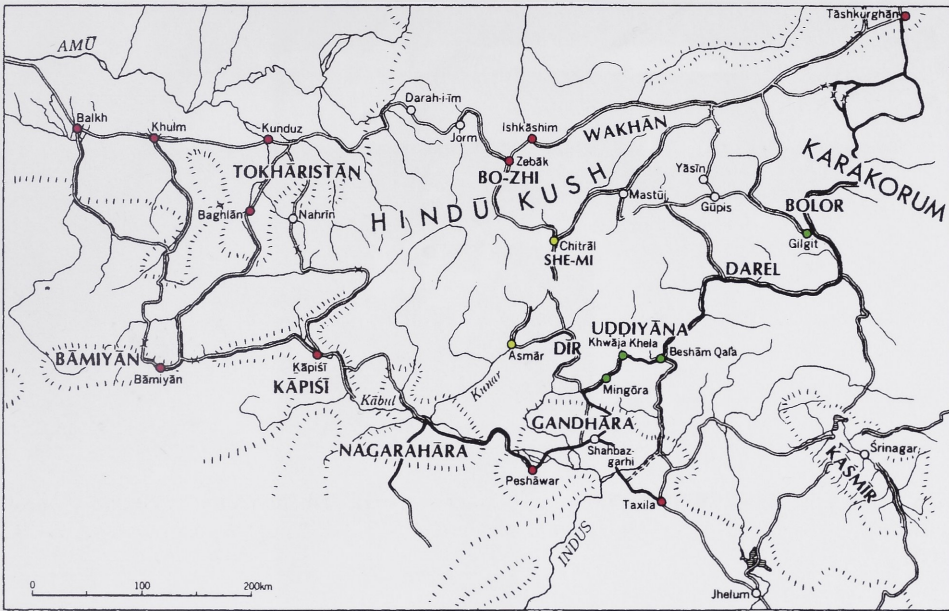


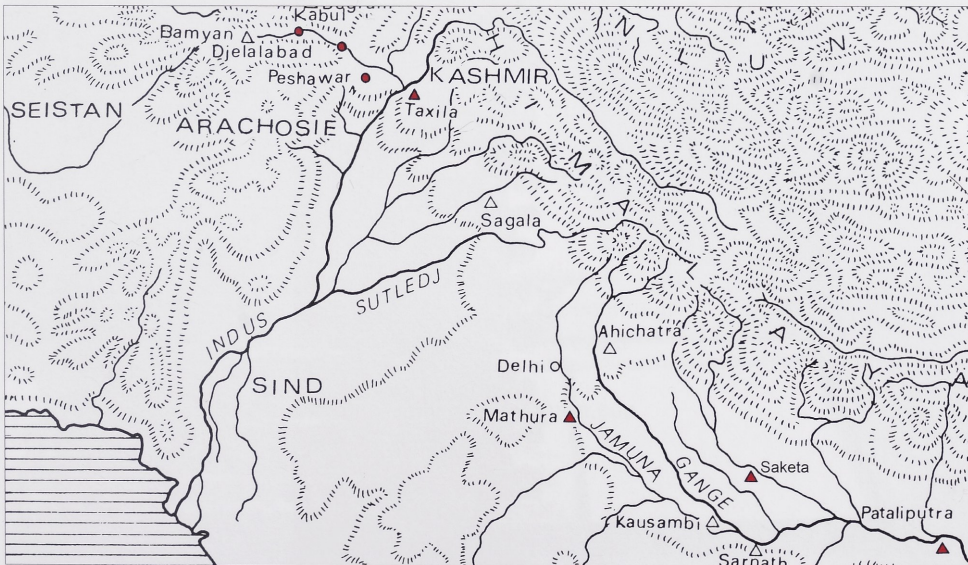
Map 1: From the Chinese Sea to the eastern border of the Taklamakan (after F. Grenet, N. Sims-Williams & É. de la Vaissière, *The Sogdian ancient letter V. Bulletin of the Asia Institute* 12.1998 [2001]: 99).



Map 2: The Taklamakan with its road connections (after A. Herrmann, *Das Land der Seide und Tibet im Lichte der Antike*. Leipzig (Köhlers) 1939: Tafel VIII).



Map 4: Itineraries of Chinese monks, first before ca. AD 550 (blue) through the Karakorum, then after ca. AD 550 (red) all around Tokharistan (after S. Kuwayama, *Across the Hindukush of the First Millennium – A Collection of the Papers*. Kyoto (Kyoto University): fig. 17. In AD 520 Song Yun took the middle road (yellow) from Zebak to Chitral and Dir.



Map 5: From Gandhara to Palatiputra. After *Studia Iranica* 19.1990: 82.