GHS grad studying border trade in Kazakhstan

Imagine living in a country that bridges East and West.

A place where colorful caravans stopped in bustling marketplaces to barter goods on their journey along the Silk Road.

Genghis Khan and his warriors invaded this land to unite the nomadic tribes of northeast Asia.

Centuries later, Kazakhstan is a temporary home for 2006 Gothenburg High School Cobus Block who has been there since August.

Block describes the country, the last Soviet republic to declare independence in 1991, as a cultural melting pot.

“The people groups here have had a long history of contact with Europeans through the Greeks and the Russians, with East Asia through the Chinese and with the Middle East through the Persians,” Block explained. “The exchanges between so many very different cultures left Central Asia and Kazakhstan with a very rich heritage.”

Block, who graduated from the University of Wyoming earlier this year, is a Fulbright scholar with a research grant to study the trade relationship between Kazakhstan and China.

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