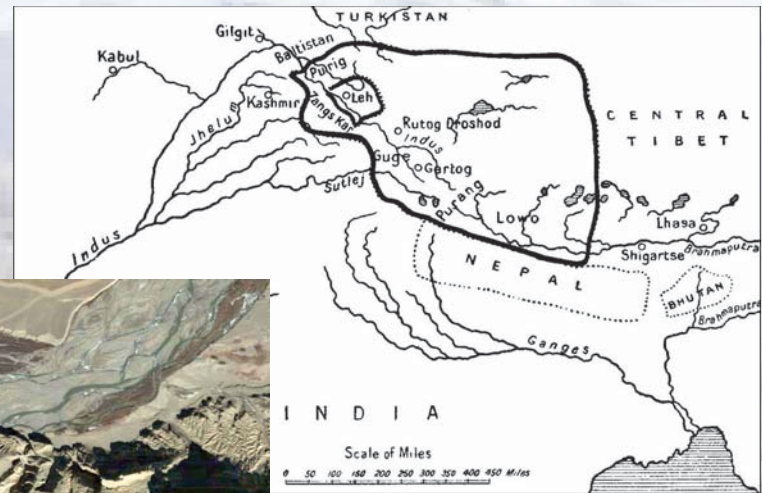


Cultural and Religious Renaissance

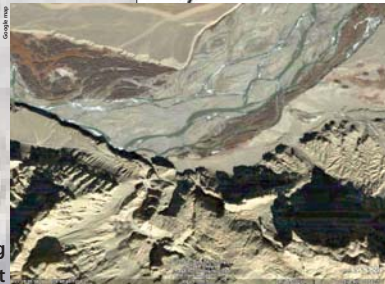
The Second Propagation



The Great Translator
Rinchen Zangpo



Map of the Second Propagation (Francke)



Map of Tholing
in Western Tibet

After Lang Darma killed his brother King Ralpachen in 838 AD, Buddhism was eradicated from Tibet. For more than one and a half centuries, the State lost its political homogeneity; it became fragmented into principalities which continuously fought among themselves. But an empire is truly great when the spirit which built it can survive destruction and reappear under a new and more complete form. It is what happened in the Land of Snows. At the end of the 10th century, the old king of Ngari, Lhalama Yeshe Od was instrumental in the revival of Buddhism in Tibet. Young Tibetans were sent to meet saints, yogis and scholars in the great Indian *Viharas*. They brought back original Buddhist scriptures which were translated into Tibetan. The most famous amongst them was Lotsawa Rinchen Zangpo.



The Bengali master
Atisha Dipankara



The ruins of Tsaparang
monastery in Western Tibet



The great poet and
yogi Milarepa

The spiritual renaissance originated from the Himalayan regions of Spiti, Kinnaur and Ladakh in India and Ngari and Guge in Tibet: these areas had been spared the Muslim invasions. Many renowned teachers participated in this movement; amongst others, the Indian monk Atisha Dipankara; the Tibetan layman Marpa and his disciple Milarepa. Their lives exemplify the continuous crisscrossing of men and ideas across the Himalayas and how the Buddha Dharma was preserved in its integrity.

Art in Western Tibet and Ladakh was markedly influenced by India and Nepal during the 11th/12th century

