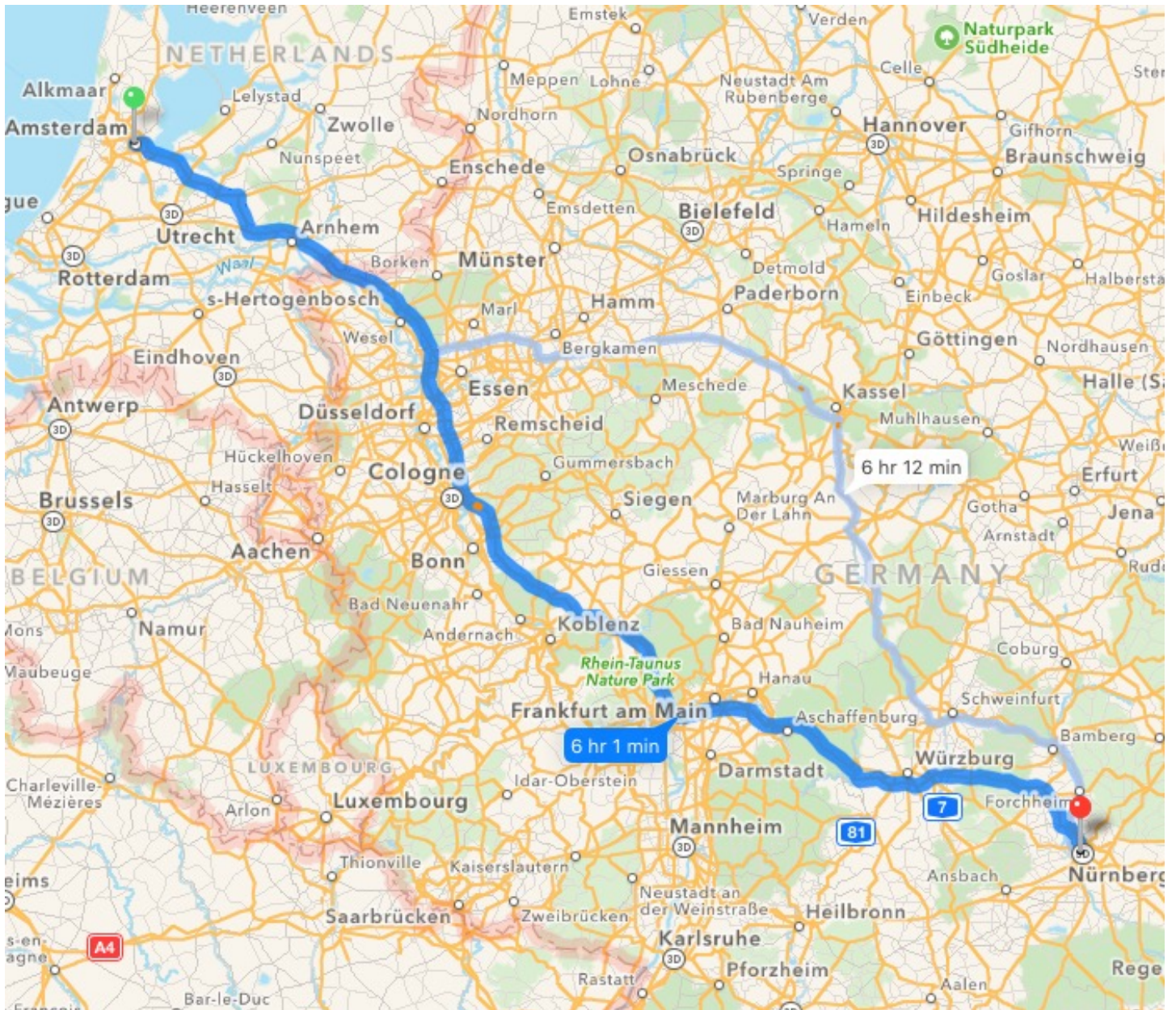


Medieval Trade Routes

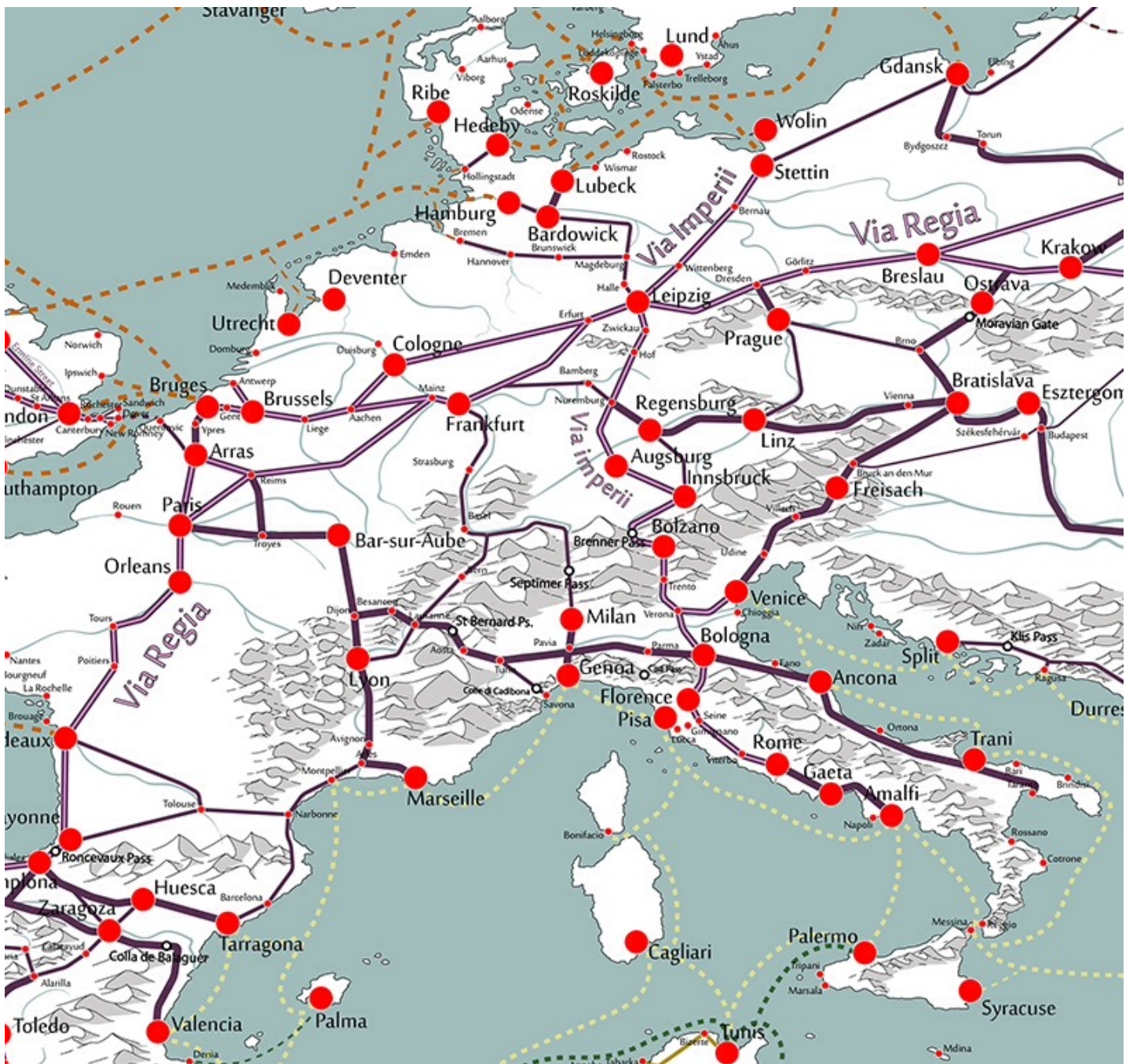
Here's the map of the trade routes for the Late Middle Ages :



To get to Nuremberg, the Dutch artisans would have to go from Amsterdam to either Utrecht or Arnheim and then follow the Rhine River all the way, through Germany, past Wesel, Düsseldorf, Köln, Bonn, Koblenz and finally Mainz, where they would turn east on the road that would take them through Frankfurt am Main, Afschaffenburg, Würzburg and finally Nuremberg. Of course, they didn't have cars in those days ; the whole trip would have taken six weeks, not six hours!



From Wilbur Hanson Kalb



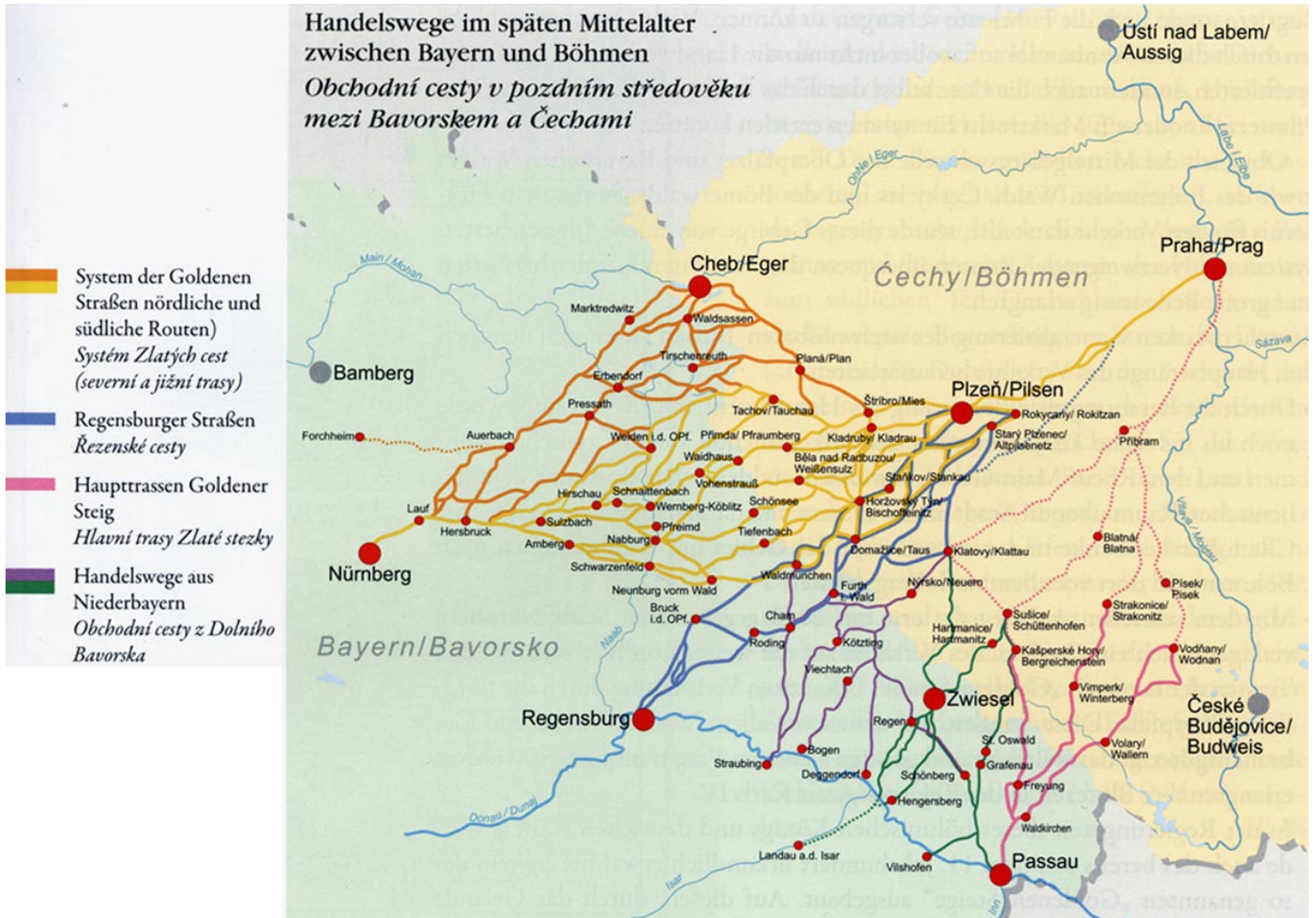
As you may have noticed from the Storer map, Medieval Europe was crossed with two major roads — the *Via Regia* [Latin, “Royal Road”], from west to east, and the *Via Imperii* [Latin, “Imperial Way”], from south to north. To get to his first university, Judocus had only to stay on the boat down the Rhine River, which flows out of Rhaetia and past Feldkirch and through Lake Constance, until he reached Basel, where he would have taken the road north to Freiburg im Breisgau. For Leipzig and Wittenberg, he would have to go through Bregenz, Memmingen and

Krumbach to Augsburg, where he could just get on the *Via Imperii* and stay on it all the way, through Nuremberg, to his two other universities!!!

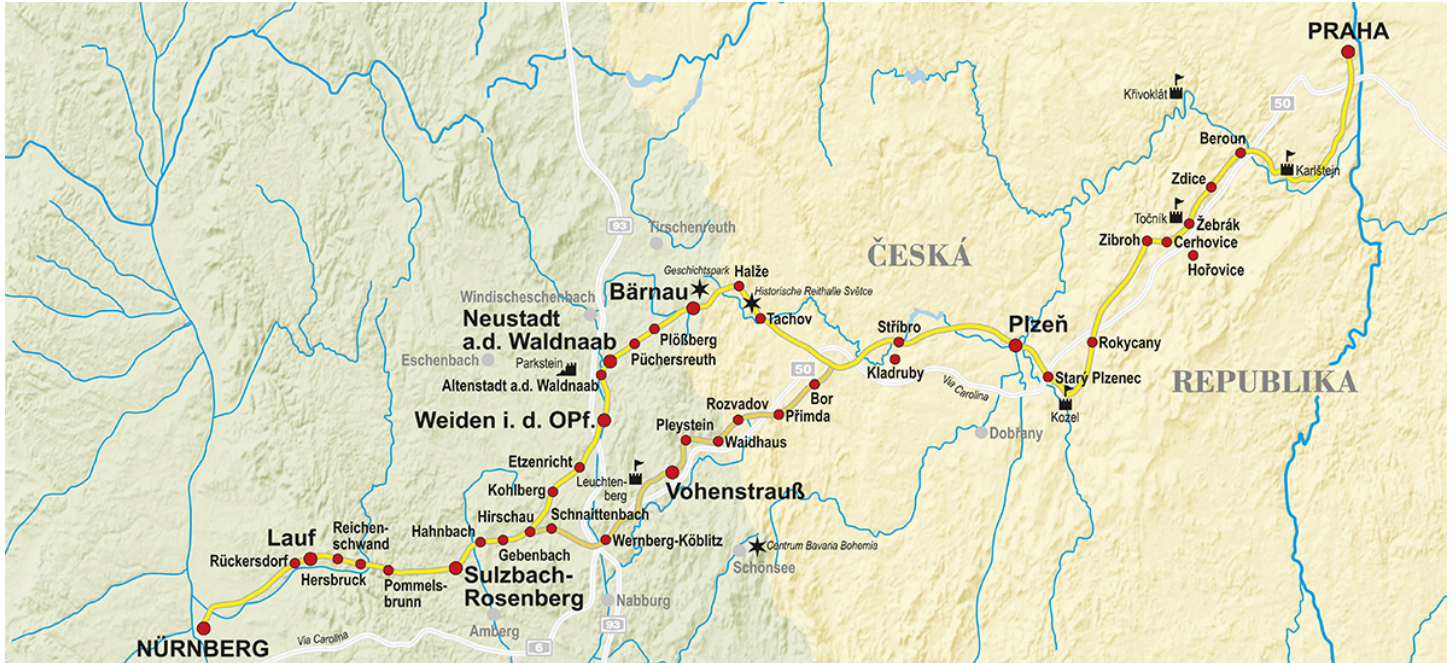


This map is actually for the 11th and 12th Centuries, before Amsterdam, Eger / Cheb and Cham routes developed, but I want to show exactly how far did the Stromer brothers, Ulman and Franz, had to travel for their family's businesses, whose places are circled in bright gold :

I don't know if you have already seen it yet but I found articles and maps of "The Golden Road" (*Die Goldene Strasse* in German, *Zlatá Cesta* in Czech, *Via Carolina* in Latin) on the Internet. The German and Czech Wikipedia have articles on "The Golden Road" but the English Wikipedia doesn't have it. I followed the links from both the German and Czech versions and found the maps. Here is the map of all the trading routes between Prague and Nuremberg for the Late Middle Ages. The orange and yellow lines belong to the "Golden Road" network.



But this is “The Golden Road” preferred by Emperor Charles IV. As you’ll see, it bypassed both Eger / Cheb and Cham but, of course, the Emperor just couldn’t resist the lure of Pilsen beer:



You can read more about “The Golden Road” at the German Wikipedia at https://de.wikipedia.org/wiki/Goldene_Stra%C3%9Fe because this Wikipedia has a longer and better article than its Czech counterpart, which files its own under the title, “Norimberská cesta” [Nurmberger Road].