

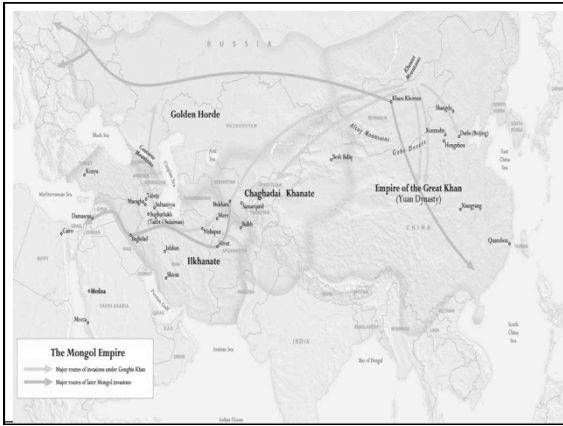
The Last Great Nomadic Challenges:
Chinggis Khan to Timur

Introduction

- Mongols are known for their ruthlessness and cruelty. However they were much more than “barbarians” they were also lover of culture and art
- Mongols were typically quite cruel when defied like with Muhammad Shah of Khwarazm. They attacked a Mongol caravan and refused to pay retribution for the attack. The Mongols attacked and destroyed the kingdom slaughtering all those that resisted. It was said that the Mongols left behind great pyramids of skeletons after defeating Khwarazm cities.
- They did spare the lives of artisans and people with special skills and spread them throughout the Mongol kingdom. They also revitalized trade and the Silk Road.
- They were also tolerant of various religions

Mongol Empire

- They were nomadic peoples who herded goats and sheep. They lived off of these animals meat and milk products.
- They traded extra goat and sheep products for grain, vegetables, jewelry, weapons, and clothing
- They learned to ride ponies from the time they could walk and could even eat and sleep in the saddle
- Mongols were divided into tribes. Each tribe was divided into kin-related clans that would camp and herd together. When preparing for raids and invasions the Mongols would unite clans and tribes into large confederations for more power.
- Leaders were elected by free men of the group. Strong leaders would attract a large following. Over time if they proved to be weak or feeble then they were abandoned!



Chinggis Khan

- Mongols periodically had kingdoms in north China, but always seemed to lose power over time and not maintain the giant confederation necessary for a kingdom
- Chinggis Khan was the great grandson of Kabul Khan, born in the 1170's, and was in a splintered clan. His father was an okay leader and had planned a favorable marriage for his son, Temujin (Chinggis Khan). However, his father was poisoned and the clan attacked. Chinggis was taken captive and enslaved, but he escaped and formed an alliance with a more powerful clan. Soon he conquered his enemies and proved to be a great military commander. Many started to follow him. In 1206 Temujin was renamed Chinggis Khan and elected as the khagan or supreme ruler of the Mongols.

Chinggis Khan



Mongol War Machine

- Mongols were trained to ride, hunt, and kill from the time of learning to walk. They were bred to love combat!
- They were especially mobile and great with their short bows (350 yr) with stunning accuracy. They could ride (even under or on the end part of the pony) while shooting!
- Used laces, hatches, and iron maces too
- When the infighting was ended between the various clans and tribes their forces could then be used for conquest!
- Mongol military was divided into armies made up of basic fighting units called **tumens**, each consisting of 10,000 warriors. Each **tumen** was divided further into units of 1000, 100, and 10 warriors.
- Mongols had both heavy (lances) and light (bows) cavalry. They even had scouting parties that would go ahead of Mongol armies.
- Special messenger force to send messages, a formal soldier code that dictated execution to traitors, excellent maps, spies and informants, and new weapons

Conquest: Chinggis Khan

- Chinggis Khan stated that his greatest pleasure was making war, defeating enemies, forcing "their beloved to weep, riding on their horses, embracing their wives and daughters". He wanted more than merely the large Mongol empire already established!
- 1207 set out to fulfill his destiny! Attacked Xi Xia and made ruler declare himself a vassal and pay tribute. Then conquered the Jin Empire (Jurchens). Had some problems against the Chinese, but capture some Chinese artisans and military commanders. They learned how to make siege weapons and were more successful. They made battering rams, catapults, hurled rocks, explosive balls, and even bamboo rockets!
- If the towns they attacked would give in without a fight they were usually required to pay tribute. But if a town fought they would destroy it to rubble, slaughter the people, or even maybe sell the people into slavery.

First Assault on the Islamic World

- 1219 conquered Kara Khitai
- 1220 conquered Khwarazm
- 1227 Chinggis died and his empire stretched from Persia to the North China Sea
- They would attack and send in their cavalry and then the cavalry would retreat and pretend they couldn't handle the other force. Then the other cavalry would chase after the retreating Mongol forces. Then the Mongols would reveal a much larger cavalry and surprise them and slaughter their forces! They would then use their siege weapons to attack the kingdoms cities!

Life under the Mongols

- Mongols were quite tolerant after they conquered. They summoned the great leaders and artisans of conquered lands to Karakorum (the Mongol capital).
- Chinggis Khan consulted with Confucian scholars for information on ruling, Muslim engineers for weapons and trade, and Daoist holy men for immortality.
- He modeled administration off of both Muslim and Chinese bureaucrats. He also started a script for the Mongolian language and standardized laws.
- Mongols brought peace to much of Asia and helped open up trade routes and scholarship flourished under their rule.

Death of Chinggis Khan and drive west

- After Chinggis Khan died in 1227 his empire was divided among his sons into Khanates. The best khanate was given to his third son, Ogedei. He inherited the property that was considered the lands of the Mongol ruling family, east Asia. He was a great diplomat. Ogedei succeeded Chinggis as the great khan.
- 4 empires: Golden Horde (Batu khan), Ilkhan Empire, Djagatai Empire, and empire of Kubilai Khan.
- Focus now on Russia and Eastern Europe for expansion. This was the project of the Golden Horde (named after the golden tent of the early khans of the western sector of the Mongol empire). Batu (grandson of Chinggis) started to invade Russia in 1236. The Russians were divided into city-states and preferred to fight alone. In 1236 Batu led more than 120,000 cavalymen into Russia. From 1237-1240 the Tatars (Russian for people from hell) carried out the only successful winter invasion of Russia in HISTORY!!! The Mongols actually preferred to fight in the winter (hard ground for their horses and frozen waters gave them easy access to cities)
- Mongols slaughtered and enslaved Russians who resisted. Great cities fell like Kiev (which was already at war between the sons of Yaroslav). Novgorod was spared b/c they worked with the Mongols. The Mongols then focused their attention on western Europe b/c they thought it was far richer than Russia.

Batu Khan Golden Horde



Bondage of Russia

- Russian princes were forced to become vassals of the Khan of the Golden Horde and to pay tribute.
- The Mongols dominated Russia for 2 ½ centuries!
- Some peasants became serfs to the Russian ruling class in return for protection. Some Russian cities got rich off the trade benefits of the Mongols, Moscow.
- The princes of Moscow collected tribute for the Mongols and grew richer. They also swallowed up nearby towns and villages into their kingdom. They became an important religious seat too.
- In 1380 Moscow joined other Russian vassals to raise an army against the Golden Horde at the Battle of Kulikova. This was the first Russian victory over the Mongols!
- Mongol rule did protect Russia from much powerful kingdoms to the west of Poland, Lithuania, and Hungary. Some say that much was adopted from the Mongols including their centralization with the king having much power and reducing the power of elite, clergy, and merchants.

Map

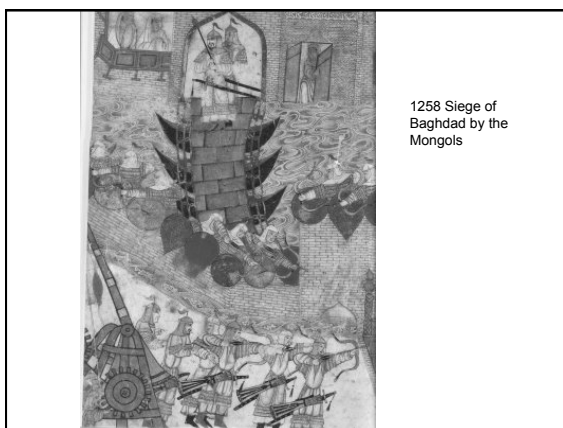


Mongol Incursions

- Europeans thought that a Christian kingdom had been cut off by the Muslim conquests of the 7th century and that one day it would reconnect with Christian Europe to defeat the Muslims (Prester John). They thought that when Chinggis Khan defeated the Muslim Khwarazm kingdom that he was indeed Prester John. The soon realized that Batu Khan was no such person and that the Mongol armies were not partial to Christianity.
- Europe was slow to recognize powers of Mongols
- Hungary and Silesia raided. Batu only backed down when Ogedei died and a fight for succession ensued. He then decided perhaps the Golden Horde was large enough and turned his attentions back toward Russia. However, by now he realized the riches of the Muslim empires and decided to focus on attacking them instead of Europe.

Mongol Assault-Islamic lands

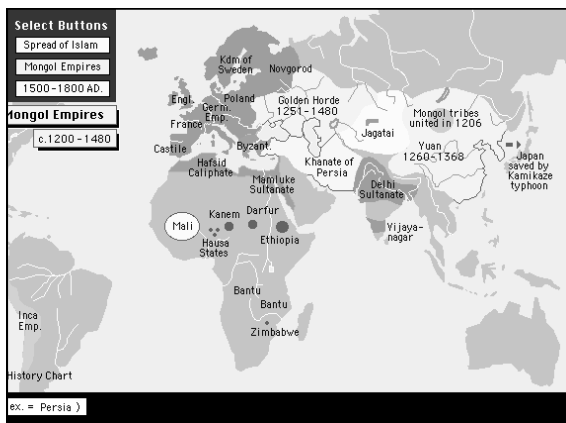
- After Khwarazm Empire was conquered the Mongols soon focused on other Muslim empires of Mesopotamia and North Africa
- Hulegu (grandson of Chinggis Khan) was the ruler of the Ikhan khanate. Remember...Hulegu was the Mongol that captured Baghdad in 1258. The Mongols murdered the Abbasid caliph and perhaps as many as 800,000 people b/c the city resisted. They continued sacking cities!
- 1260 the Mongols were defeated by the Mamluks or Muslim slave dynasty of Egypt. The Baibars or commanders of the Egyptian slave dynasty were actually enslaved by the Mongols earlier and sold in Egypt where they rose to power! The Christians even cooperated with the Muslims so that they could defeat the Mongols.
- Hulegu was away dealing with a successional problem. He returned to find his troops lost to the Mamluks and that his cousin Berke (new khan of the Golden Horde) threatened his position. Berke had become a Muslim. Soon Huelgu learned of that the Mamluks were wanting an alliance with Berke. Therefore, Hulegu decided to stop pressing further into the Muslim world and stick to want his kingdom had originally been.



1258 Siege of Baghdad by the Mongols

Mongol Interlude in China

- Xi Xia and Jin empires conquered then the Mongols focused their attention on the Song empire of China under Kubilai Khan (grandson)
- 1235-1279 Mongols on the march through China fighting. In 1260 Kubilai assumed the title of great khan. By 1271 he changed his name to a Chinese dynastic title, Yuan dynasty. Kubilai ruled most of China!
- Kubilai tried to make sure that Mongol culture was retained through the process by not allowing Chinese scholars to read Mongol script, not allow intermarriage or even friendships for the most part, and keeping the traditional religions ceremonies and customs of the Mongols.
- Kubilai prior to the conquest of the Song in 1279 had Chinese advisors, practiced specific Chinese rituals and ceremonies, and adopted the Chinese calendar!
- During Yuan era: Mongols, Asian nomadic and Muslim allies, north Chinese, ethnic Chinese and Chinese of the south. Chinese ran local bureaucratic level, but never at the top. Also the censor of Bureau was empowered though the Mongols to scrutinized local activities.



Gender

- Mongol women didn't adopt footbinding!
- Mongol women retained their rights to property and control within the household and freedoms move about
- Mongol women rode into the hunt, some even refused to marry!
- Kubilai Khan's wife, Chabi was one of his closest political confidants.

Mongol Tolerance

- Very tolerant of foreigners, artists, and scholars
- Muslims were included in the 2nd highest social grouping. Persians and Turks admitted into the inner circle of Kubilai's advisors
- Kubilai welcome travelers like Marco Polo! Polo served and lived in Kubilai's court for 17 years as an administrator!

Social Policies

- Kubilai's attempt to promote Mongol adaptation to Chinese culture was overshadowed by the idea of Mongol separateness. Many Chinese still saw the Mongols as uncouth barbarians. Plus they refused to reinstate the examination system and thus allow Confucian bureaucrats power.
- Kubilai elevated status of artisans and merchants which Confucian scholars weren't happy about
- Even developed a navy which helped the Mongols conquer the Song dynasty. Afterward used to control pirates.
- Poetry and writing were limited, but dramatic works and plays were quite popular, *The Romance of the West Chamber*.
- Kubilai forbade Mongol cavalymen to turn farmland into pasture lands, restored the granary system, sought to lower taxes, and even wanted to developed a new education system!

Fall of Yuan

- China was ruled for 9 decades most of which fell under Kubilai Khan.
- He was unsuccessful in his campaigns to spread and take over Japan, Vietnam, and Java!
- Kubilai got soft after the death of his wife, Chabi and his favorite son. His successors lacked leadership and didn't care for day to day administrative duties
- Song loyalists raised revolts against the Mongols
- 1350's Yuan decline in full swing: banditry and piracy widespread, famine spread which led to more uprisings, and religious sects took advantage of the uprisings and encouraged the people to overthrow their "barbarian" usurpers!
- Ju Yuanzhang (a peasant) started the next dynasty that would rule China for 3 centuries: MING

Timur

- Nomadic warriors who were Turkish! After Mongols started to fall from power Timur the Lame spread his forces!
- He was complex: known for his culture and at the same time horrible atrocities
- 1360's started to conquer Persia, Fertile Crescent, India, and southern Russia
- Timur the Lame didn't have a large empire to compare to the Mongols, but he was ferocious!
- It is said that his armies built pyramids of skulls with the head so those they killed. Tens of thousands of people were slaughtered after they took Aleppo in Asia Minor. They wanted send a warning to the citizens of Delhi in India not to resist his armies.
- In 1405 Timur died and his empire ended. His empire was brief and violent. After his death his commanders fought with each other and rivals tore the empire a part.
