

The Mongol Empire



EQ

What was the impact of the Mongols on Russia, China, and the Middle East?

Mongol Conquests and Empire

1200s - 1300s



Don't Write

“The greatest happiness is to scatter your enemy, to see his cities reduced to ashes, to see those who love him shrouded in tears, and to carry off his wives and daughters.”

Temujin

(a.k.a. Chinggis Khan)

(a.k.a. Genghis Khan)

Generally speaking, the Mongols:

- Had few technological breakthroughs
- Spread no new religions
- Wrote few books and plays
- Brought no new crops or agricultural methods
- Left few artifacts and buildings
- Didn't hold on to an empire very long



According to many perspectives in different times, the Mongols:

- were destroyers of civilizations
- were ruthless uncivilized barbarians
- were evil forces against Christians, Buddhists, Confucians, or Muslims



- In other places, they (especially Genghis Khan) are revered.





They lived on horseback.

- Ate there, slept there, spent a week or more there.
- Especially fought from there.
- Opposing armies were not prepared for this style of rapid, mobile warfare.



- Mongolian horses were slightly smaller than most other breeds and would lose in a race.

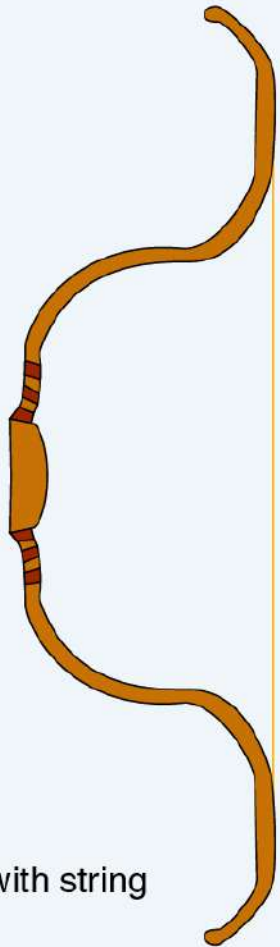
- BUT... they were tough and the Mongols fought much lighter than most of their opponents, so they could still outmaneuver, outlast, and go faster than their enemies.



- The Mongols were skilled horsemen and mounted archers. Their bows were the best of the time.

The main weapons were the axe, and bow.

- Heavier cavalry also used lances.



bow with string



Strong Equestrians and Archers

- The Mongols were oriented around extreme mobility. They carried their houses with them, drank their own horse's blood to stay alive, and could travel up to 62 miles per day.
- They had an elaborate priority-mail-system which allowed orders to be transmitted rapidly across Eurasia.
- Mongol archers were very deadly and accurate
 - Their arrows could kill enemies at 350 yards



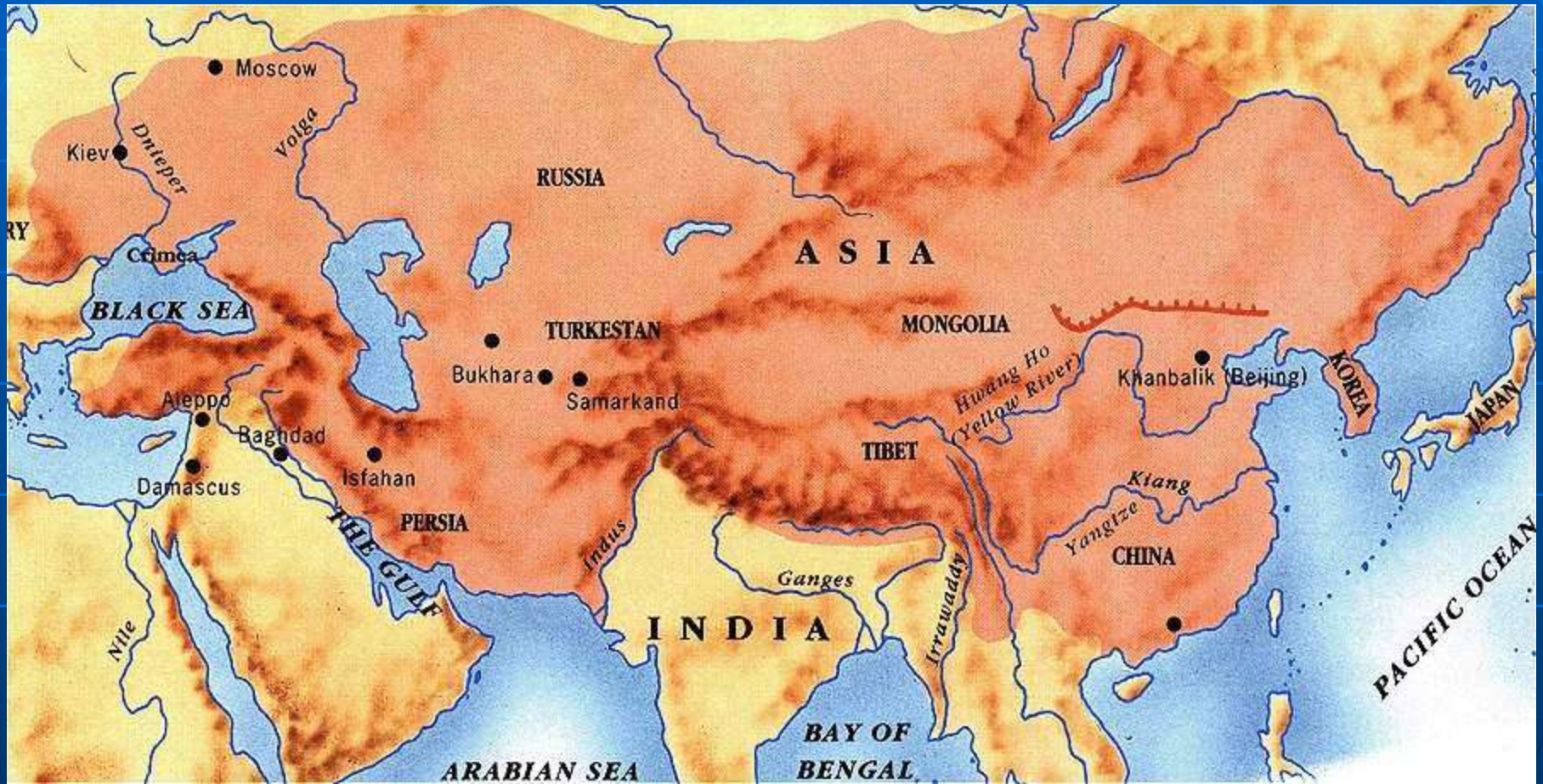
Mongol War Equipment (don't write)

- **The warrior carried a protective shield made of light leather armor**
 - which was impregnated with a lacquer-like substance in order to make it more impervious to penetration by arrows, swords and knives, and also to protect it against humid weather
- **The Mongol warrior used to wear Chinese silk underwear, if it could be obtained, because it was a very tough substance**
 - If arrows are shot from a long distance, it would not penetrate the silk
 - It would also prevent poison from entering the bloodstream
- **During winter they wore several layers of wool as well as heavy leather boots with felt socks on their feet.**
- **The legs were often protected by overlapping iron plates resembling fish scales, which were sewn into the boots.**
- **Each warrior carried a battle axe, a curved sword known as scimitar; a lance, and two versions of their most famous weapon: the Mongol re-curved bow.**
 - One of the bows was light and could be fired rapidly from horseback, the other one was heavier and designed for long-range use from a ground position



The Mongol bow: (Don't Write)

- Their draw weight was 100-170 pounds and had an effective range of 350 yards.
- Compare this to the celebrated English longbow which had a draw weight of 70-80 pounds and a range of 250 yards.



The Mongol Empire at its height



1206

The Mongols and Eurasian Empire

- Built the largest empire in history stretching from Poland to China
- 13.8 million square miles
- 100 million people



Genghis Khan

Central Asian Nomads- (Constantly Moving)



- Social Classes – based on abilities
- Women had greater status than in most settled regions.
- Leaders were “elected” by the free men of the clan, tribe, or confederation.

Conquests

- Under the leadership of Genghis Khan, the combination of Mongol discipline, technology, strategy, and ruthlessness helped the Mongols take control of Central Asia, then Northern China.
- By Genghis Khan's death in 1220s, Mongol armies had moved west into the Islamic lands and Central Europe.



1206-1227

- Genghis was exceptionally ruthless, but also very shrewd.

- He was excellent at exploiting new technologies and tactics.

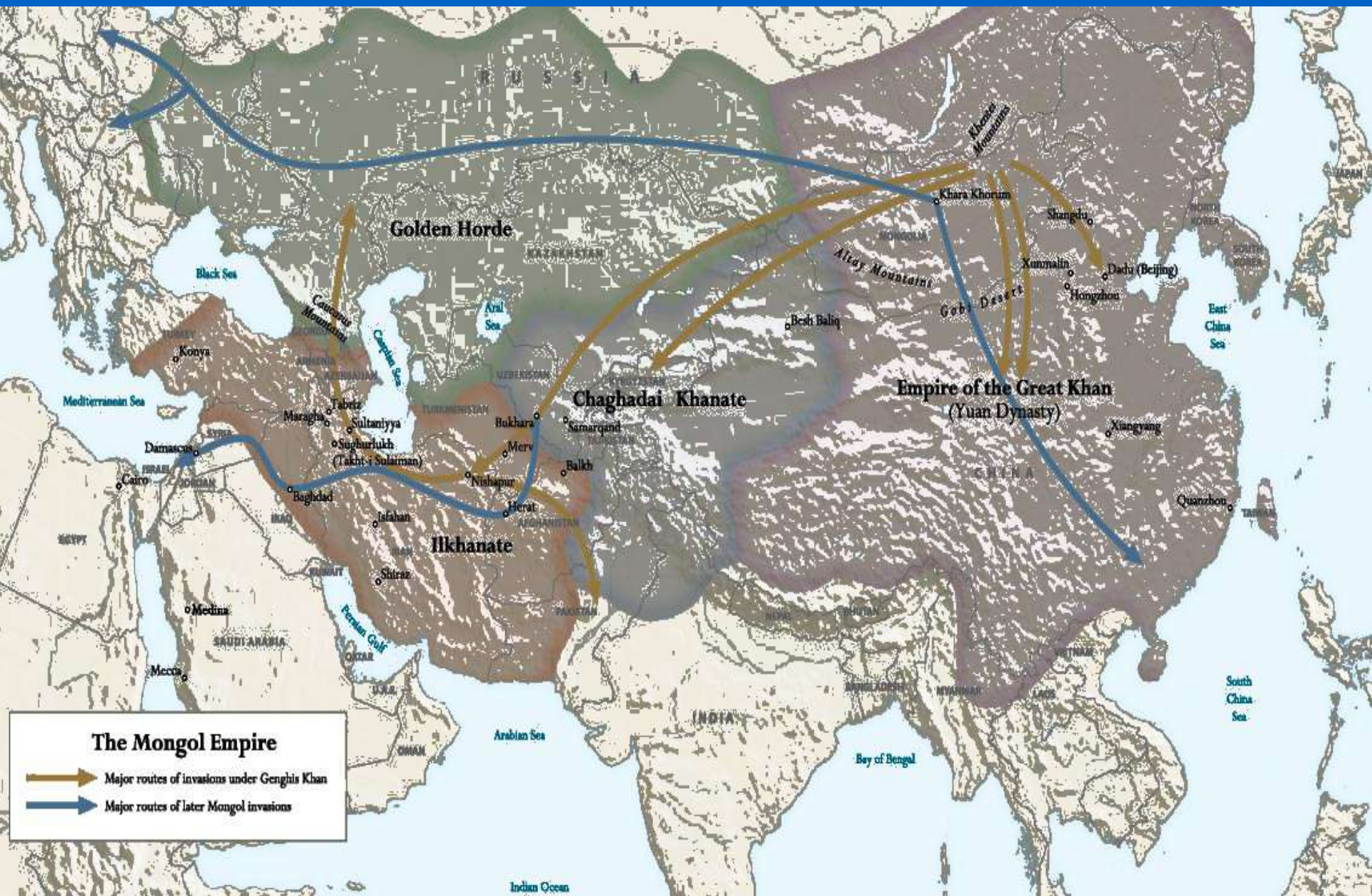
- Had a spy network that reported on happenings elsewhere.

- Was good at playing rivals against each other.





Chronology of the Mongol Empire

- 1206-1227Reign of Genghis Khan
- 1211-1234Conquest of northern China
- 1219-1221Conquest of Persia
- 1237-1241Conquest of Russia
- 1258Capture of Baghdad
- 1264-1279Conquest of southern China



The Mongol Empire

-  Major routes of invasions under Genghis Khan
-  Major routes of later Mongol invasions

The Mongol Empires

Each KHANATE or kingdom then worked to add territory and tributary states to the empire which continued under later Mongol leaders. Europeans called them “the Golden Horde” because of the golden color of the Mongol tents.

Mongol control eventually spread into Western Europe, the Middle East, North Africa and all of China.

The ruling class who survived often continued to control aspects of their territory under the “supervision” of Mongol rulers

IMPACT of the MONGOLS

A period of “peace” and stability in many areas of Eurasia led to economic and social development.

It last 100 years and was called the “Pax Mongolia.”

TRADE

Mongol rulers...

Ordered construction of roads and BRIDGES, and extended the Grand Canal in China.

Set up post offices/trading posts.

Protected merchants, gave them a higher status, and set up merchant associations.

Allowed and “exchange of food, tools, goods, and ideas that was unprecedented.”

RELIGIOUS & CULTURAL TOLERANCE

Mongol rulers offered tax benefits to all religious leaders.

Muslims were brought to China to help with administration, and Christians & Jews worked in other posts of the Mongol government.

There was some cultural exchange and some religious conversion.

China Under the Mongols

In 1271 Kublai Khan announced that he was starting his own dynasty called the Yuan dynasty.

Kublai Khan built the capital of his dynasty in Beijing.

The Mongols helped China in many ways.

Ended 100 years of war

Population began to grow again

Built trade routes that linked China to India and Persia

Hurt the economy of China by imposing heavy taxes that the farmers and merchants could not afford to pay.



Contact with the Europeans

During Mongol rule of China, the contact between China and the rest of the world increased drastically.

France & Italy both sent ambassadors to China.

Christian missionaries traveled to China to try to spread Christianity.

Marco Polo

Marco Polo was an Italian man that traveled to China during the time of the Yuan dynasty.

Marco Polo was a famous merchant and explorer. He traveled to China and met Kublai Khan.

Khan was very impressed with Marco Polo and hires him to be his personal representative.

He became famous for his writings about the Yuan dynasty.

His writings were responsible for how the rest of the world became aware of the way of life of people in China.

Chinese-Mongol Relations

The Yuan Dynasty did a lot to help the Chinese, but there were still problems between the Chinese and the Mongols.

Spoke different languages

Chinese were not treated as equals by the Mongols

Chinese people could not hold government positions

Mongol law punished Chinese people more harshly

Chinese people were not allowed to marry outside of their own people.

Chinese-Mongol Relations

Despite the problems, the Mongols did help China in several ways.

Increased contact with Europe

Made local government more responsible to the central government in Beijing

Led political reforms that gave more power to the emperor

Also

The Mongols made an impact by . . .
adapting the use of gunpowder, improving it,
and spreading its use.

spreading the Bubonic Plague (the Black
Death)

Creating a situation in which new groups
could take control of territories after the
Mongols retreated (Ottoman Turks)