The Mongols
Background and effects
Background

Chronology of the Mongol Empire

- 1206-1227 Reign of Chinggis Khan
- 1211-1234 Conquest of northern China
- 1219-1221 Conquest of Persia
- 1237-1241 Conquest of Russia
- 1258 Capture of Baghdad
- 1264-1279 Conquest of southern China
Mongolian Conquests
First Period - 1206
Mongolian Conquests
Second Period 1206 - 1219
Mongolian Conquests
Third Period 1219 - 1223
Mongolian Conquests
Fourth Period 1223 – 1227
Death of Chinggis Khan
Mongolian Conquests
Fifth Period 1227 - 1237
Mongolian Conquests
Sixth Period 1237 - 1259
The Mongols and the Eurasian Empire

- Built
- 100 million people under Mongol rule
The Mongol Empire at its height
Who were the Mongols?

- Steppes
- Nomadic peoples
- United under Temujin (or Chinggis/Genghis Khan)
- "Courage Culture"
  - WHAT IS THIS??
Steppe

Inner Eurasia

Outer Eurasia
The Steppe

How would you characterize this region?
Temujin

- Born 1167
- Fatherless
- Master of Steppe Diplomacy
Temujin

• Warlike and merciless

• Fighting wasn’t enough – Winning is ALL that matters!!!

• 1206 CE – “Chinggis Khan”

“Man’s greatest joy is in victory: to conquer one’s enemies, to pursue them, to deprive them of their possessions, to make their beloved weep, to ride on their horses, and to embrace their wives and daughters…”
Partner Discussion Question

• What were some of the benefits of the Mongol’s large empire? What were some of the drawbacks?
Mongol Art of War

- Armies
  - Expert Calvary
  - Archers
- Battle tactics

A “ger” or “yurt”
Mongol Art of War

- “Cutting Edge Weapons”
  - Bows
  - Armor
  - Gunpowder
Psychological Warfare

• Mongols would slaughter the inhabitants of a few cities. WHY???

Historian John Fairbank:

“By putting cities to the sword, they let terror run ahead of them.”

A Persian Observer from the 13th century:

“In one stroke, a world which billowed with fertility was laid desolate, and the regions thereof became a desert, and the greater part of the living and their skin and bones crumbling in the dust; and the mighty were humbled and immersed in the calamities of perdition...”
Partner Discussion Question

• What difficulties occurred when Genghis Khan died? Why? Was there any way in which the Mongols could have avoided these problems? How?
Background

• After the death of Chinggis Khan
Effects of Mongol Rule

• Effects on **Eurasia**

• **Pax Mongolia** – under the Mongols there was:

  1. Long Distance Trade
  2. Exchange
  3. Cultural Diffusion
  4. Stable government based on ???
  5. Yasa
  6. Religious Toleration
Mongol Effects on Eurasia

- Black Plague
  - As a weapon (Battle of Kalla)
  - Spread disease to Western Europe
  - How???
BUT the Mongols did *NOT* produce:

1. Technological breakthroughs
2. New religion
3. Many written books
4. Architectural achievements
Mongol Effects on Europe

• Western Europe

  • No Direct Contact!!!!!

  • **But** *VERY* beneficial for W. Europe – WHY???

• Venetian Merchants

• Increased trade

  • Spread Bubonic Plague
Mongol Effects on Europe

• Eastern Europe
  1. Mongols defeated ???
      Why ???
  2. Eastern Europe was very poor so… ????
Partner Discussion Question

• Compare and contrast the Mongol’s impacts on Western and Eastern Europe?
Mongol Effects on Europe

• Russia

1. Defeat Kiev in 1224

2. Most cities destroyed, rest made HIGH tributary payments

3. Autonomy for Local Rulers
   • Few Mongol Officials in Russia WHY???
Mongol Effects on Europe

- Rise of Muscovy (Moscow)
  - Mongol destruction of Kiev
  - Moscow becomes cultural and economic center
  - Ivan III defeats the Mongols in 1480, Mongol rule over Russia ends

- Mongol rule led to limited contact between Russia and Western Europe:
  1. Isolation
  2. Cultural decay
Mongol Effects on Japan and Korea

• Mongols fail to conquer Japan
  • Kamikaze
  • Mongol rule – little to no effect on Japan

• Korea – Mongols defeated the Koryo dynasty
  • Economy and Peasants Suffered
  • Koryo Ruling Family
Mongol Effects on SE Asia

- Burma (Myanmar) and Laos
- Failed to conquer Vietnam
- WHY?? What do we know about Vietnam’s interaction with China?
- Role of Chinese Merchants
  - Trading Stations
  - Vietnam defeats Mongols
Mongol Effects on SW Asia

• Commerce and Civilization
• Destruction of Baghdad
  • Abbasid Empire
• Mongols controlled Islamic world
  • What ISLAMIC areas remained outside of Mongol control???
• Persian Culture
Mongol Effects on China

• Establish Yuan Dynasty (Mongol Dynasty)
• Abolished Civil Service Exams – WHY???
  • Continued administration (bureaucracy)
• Promoted trade and commerce
  • Merchants status increases
• Paper Money
• Supported Peasants – HOW???
  • **BUT** Required Forced Labor WITHOUT Pay
Cultural Effects of the Yuan Dynasty

• Protected Mongol identity
  
  1. Marriage
  2. Language
  3. Rejection of Chinese Religious Beliefs
  4. Mongol’s still adopted religions from the area… HOW???

• Religious toleration encouraged
Social Effects of the Yuan Dynasty

• New Social Hierarchy
  • Ethnically Based
  • Han Chinese lowest status
  • **BUT**... Sinification

• Women
  • **BUT** more sinification led to loss of public power
  IN China... only women IN Mongolia continued to
  enjoy higher social status!
Group Discussion Question

• Why did Mongol women living in Mongolia have more rights and responsibilities than Mongol women living in China? Explain!
Kublai Khan

- Grandson
- Well-educated
- Preferred Urban Lifestyle
- Extends Grand Canal To Beijing
- Wanted to appear more Chinese (Sinicized in art)
- Foreign and Chinese Advisors - Marco Polo
- In private remained truly Mongol

How does this look sinicized?

Marco Polo en route to China
Fall of the Yuan Dynasty

• Shortest of the major Chinese Dynasties (1264 CE to 1368 CE)

• Decline caused by:

  1. Series of weak rulers
  2. Lack of Cohesion
  3. Chinese never accepted legitimacy of Mongol rule
  4. High Taxes
  5. Corruption
Fall of the Yuan Dynasty

- Overthrown by Zhu Yuanzhang
  - Buddhist monk
  - Establishes Ming Dynasty