

Chapter 18 The Mongols Unify Eurasia



960-1279	The Song Dynasty
1167–1227	Life of Chinghis Khan
1221-1258	Mongol conquests of Persia and Iraq
1227-1279	Conquest of China
1227-1480	Khanate of the Golden Horde in Russia
1258-1349	Il Khan Dynasty in the Islamic heartlands
1260	Mongols defeated at Ain Jalut
1271-1368	Yuan Dynasty in China

China Under the Song Dynasty, 960-1279

- Most advanced civilization in the world
- Extensive urbanization
- Iron and Steel Manufacturing
- Technical innovations
 - Printing
 - Gunpowder
 - Water pumps and locks used for canal network
 - Flying (paper) money



Song Internal Policies

- Obedience and discipline of bureaucracy
- Completion of Grand Canal, 611 CE
- Linked Yangtze and Yellow Rivers
- Population grew to about 100 million
- New hybrid rice allows two crops per year
- Development of Commercial Economy
 - South specialization in silk cultivation and weaving for export
 - Porcelain factories operated around the clock
 - Hundreds of huge warehouses
 - Expanded use of silver coin
 - Experimented with paper money
 - Large ships using magnetic compass and sternpost rudder
 - Traveled to Japan, Southeast Asia, to trade

Song Trade and Foreign Affairs

- Trade
- Song did not control north, Silk Road
- Trade focused primarily on South China Sea
- Use of compass and sternpost rudder
- Foreign affairs
 - Reduced sized enabled focus on heartland
 - Between Yellow & Yangtze Rivers, from new capital, Kaifeng
 - By 1100s, lost western lands to Mongols
 - Mid-1200s, descendants of Chingis Khan took northern and central China
 - Song finally defeated by Kubilai Khan in south by 1279

Pastoral Nomadism among the Mongols

- Originated as small group of steppe nomads
 - Lived off of herds
 - Used hardy ponies for transportation and food (blood and milk)
 - Lived in felt tents called yurts
- Organized in tribes and divided into clans
- Form of military action involved raiding for livestock and slaves
- Prolonged campaigns to seize pastureland and water rights or extend control over populations
- Tribal leaders (males), whom Turco-Mongolians called khans, chosen on basis of personal wealth and charisma, and military skills
- Women from khan families helped manage tribal affairs
- Nomadic women sometimes fought as warriors alongside men



Chingis Khan and the Mongols

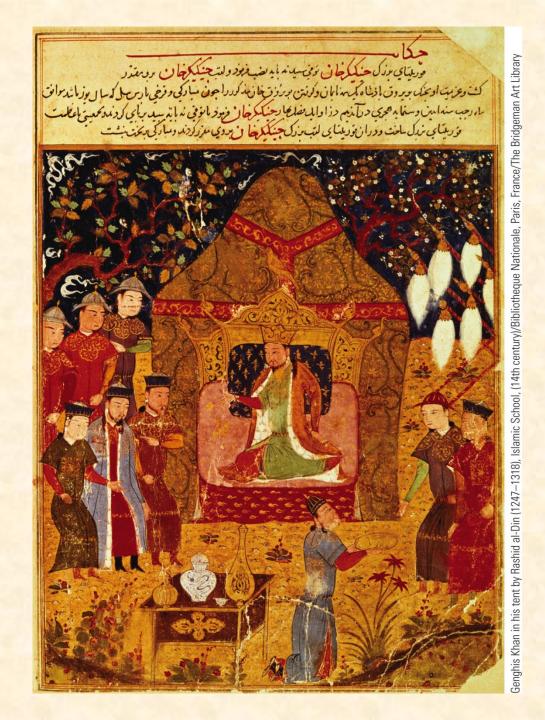
- Chingis Khan (1167-1227 CE) greatest conqueror in world history
- --ruled from Russian steppes to China Sea
- Given name Temujin
- Asserted control over other tribes by 1196
- Given title Chingis Khan by clan elders at capital, Karakoram
- Combined traditional fighting methods with new organization of light and heavy cavalry, mixing tribes into new units
 - Tumen of 10,000 men
 - Learned to make gunpowder and primitive guns
 - Encouraged spread of rumors about Mongol blood thirst
 - Terrorism used to to demoralized opponents, victorious sieges without a shot having to be fired



- Stage 1 (under Chinghis, 1206-1227)
 - Initial failure to conquer China
 - Attacked Turks, Persians
 - Cities destroyed, populations massacred or enslaved
 - Invaded southern Russia (1222)
 - Conquered by 1238, completed by grandson
 - Called Tartars or people from hell
 - Second invasion of northern China was successful (1227)

Mongol Conquests

- Stages 2, 3
 - Believed it was divinely ordained to conquer whole world
 - Extended conquests in Russia, Eastern Europe
 - Turned back 1241 after death of the Grand Khan for succession dispute
 - Grandson, Hulegu, conquered Persia, Iraq (1251)
 - Plundered Baghdad (1258, ending Muslim "Golden Age")
 - Killing 80,000 in process
 - Destroyed libraries, mosques, universities



The Mongol Empire and its Significance

Pax Mongolica (Peace of the Mongols)

- First time, all Asia (except southern India) under rule of single power
- Reopened Silk Road where goods passed
- New technologies pass from China westward
 - Spinning wheel revolutionize textile making
 - Compass essential for overseas navigation
 - Europeans/Turks improved gunpowder, guns/rockets making superior weapons
- Spread of diseases devastating great civilizations: China, Islamic Western Asia and North Africa, and Europe
 - Black Plague
- Empire divided amongst Chingis Khan's sons and grandsons

Yuan Dynasty in China

- Kublai Khan completed conquests of China
- New weapon gunpowder
- Initially tried to use agricultural lands of grazing
- Persuaded not to destroy tax base
- Rule based on hierarchy with Mongol officials at top
- Foreigners given preference as government officials
 - Often Muslims
- Confucianism was tolerated, preferred Buddhism
- China secure from further invasions from the north



Mongol Empire: Russia and Middle East

Khanate of the Golden Horde in Russia

- Mongols settled, exacted tribute
- First Mongols to adopt Islam
- Most long lasting khanate, until 1480

Dynasty of the II Khans in the Middle East

- Controlled Iran, Iraq Syria
- Defeated at Ain Jalut, 1260, by Egyptian sultanate army prevent conquest of Palestine, N. Africa
- Slow conversion to Islam
- Tamarlane (1379-1405) spread destruction from India to Moscow
- Turco-Mongol convert to Islam

Fragmentation of Empire

- After death of Kublai Khan, ethnic segments broke apart
- Second and third generations of Mongol rule more sensitive to needs, expectations of subject peoples
- New rulers converted World Religions
- In China to Buddhism
- Islam elsewhere
- Empire began to disintegrate into ethnic groups
- Former rulers absorbed into subject populations or returned to central Asia
- Silk Road dies

TABLE 18.1 The Great Khans of The Mongols

Chinghis Khan	1206–1227
Ogodei Khan	1229–1241
Guyuk Khan	1246–1248
Mongke Khan	1251–1259
Kubilai Khan	1260–1294

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