

The Last Great Nomadic Challenges

Chapter 14



PASTORAL SOCIETIES

- Why do historians not normally focus on pastoral peoples?
- no cities
- no works of art
- no architecture
- no literature

Similarities of Pastoral Societies

- small population
- encampments
- kinship clans
- women – higher status
- mobility



NOMADIC STATES

- Disadvantages
 - no wealth
 - internal rivalries



- Advantages
 - horses = military advantage
 - extract wealth (raiding)

The Nomadic World

- depend on herds, particularly the horse
 - meat, milk
 - clothes, boots, tents



- Children brought up with horse
 - even eat, sleep on it



CHINGGIS KHAN

- born Temujin
- chaotic upbringing
 - orphan
 - scavenger
 - murderer???
 - kidnapping of wife



- rise in power = “master of steppe diplomacy”
 - personal courage in battle
 - intense loyalty
 - ability to get other tribes to cooperate



MONGOL WAR MACHINE

- trained from youth for war
 - riding and hunting (war skills)
 - tough, mobile



Weapons

- lances, hatchets
- short bow (400 yard range from horseback)

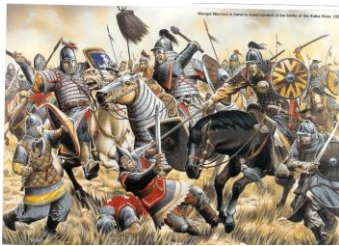


Leadership

- organization
- discipline
- unity
- tumens- soldiers grouped by tens (10,000-1,000,100,10)



- Discipline
 - penalty for fleeing battle- death



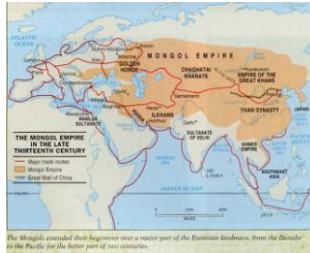
Adaptation

- new technologies, weapons
 - flaming arrows, gunpowder, siege machinery
- took the best from the people he conquered



Conquest

- felt destiny was to rule the known world

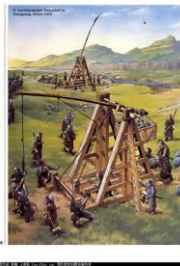


- Biggest problem: fortified cities
 - develops siege weapons
 - rams, catapults, bamboo rockets



Psychological Warfare

- terror
- “word of mouth”
- biological weapons

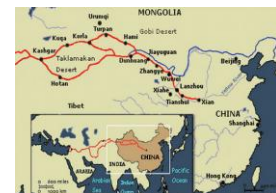


LIFE UNDER THE MONGOLS

- Toleration- religion and customs
- New Capital: Karakorum
 - brought in
 - Confucians- how to rule China
 - Muslims- engineers, trade
 - Daoist- immortality



- Effects of toleration
 - Asian peace
 - secure trade routes (Silk Road)



WESTWARD CONQUESTS

- under Ogedei- grandson of Chinggis
- Golden Horde- “people from hell”



Russia

- Goals
 - fine tune war machine
 - money from booty



- peasants slaughtered or sold into slavery
- 250 yrs of Mongol rule
- Effects:
 - peasants flee
 - increase trade
 - rise of Moscow....leads to overthrow of Mongols

Retreat from Europe

- W. Europe thought Mongols were Prester John
- Forced to turn back:
 - death of Ogedei
 - lure of Middle East



Assault on Islam

- 1258- Baghdad falls
 - 800,000 killed
- Effects
 - ended 400 yr. dynasty
 - left Muslims without central authority
 - hurt trade



YUAN DYNASTY

- Kublai Khan
 - Yuan Dynasty



- Separation between Mongols and Chinese
 - forbidden to marry Chinese
 - kept Mongol religious ceremonies
 - yurts in capital
 - no civil service exams



- Gender roles:
 - no footbinding
 - took the “daintiness” out of women
 - rode horses
 - wrestling



Mongol Tolerance

- cosmopolitan
 - scholars, artists, artisans
 - Muslim social class
 - building, astronomy, medicine
 - Visitors
 - Marco Polo



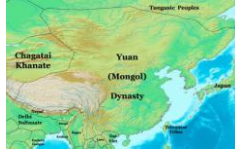
Social Policies

- took scholarly gentry down
- upped artisans
- merchants prospered



Fall of Yuan

- Reasons:
 - loss of “invincibility”
 - softening of the ruling class
 - revolts/banditry/piracy
 - famine



IMPACT OF THE MONGOLS

Death

- mass casualties
 - decrease will of enemy
 - reduce future resistance

- but...
 - spared artisans, scribes, scholars, etc
 - were “product of their time”

Destruction

- byproduct of conquest rather than policy
- but...often helped rebuild towns after conquest
- roads to move army became trade routes

Disease

- most extreme...Black Death

Displacement

- fleeing from army
- occupying forces
- craftsmen taken with army