

DBQ- Impact of the Mongols

Write an essay that:

- Has a relevant thesis and supports that thesis with evidence from the documents.
- Uses all of the documents.
- Analyzes the documents by grouping them in as many ways as possible. Does not simply summarize the documents individually.
- Takes into account the sources of the documents and analyzes the authors' points of view.
- Identifies and explains the need for at least one additional type of document.

You may refer to relevant historical information not mentioned in the documents.

- 1. Analyze the impacts of the Mongol Empire on Eurasia during their conquest and domination during the 13th and 14th centuries? Identify and explain the need for an additional type of document(s) that would help you further assess the impacts.**

Historical Background: The Mongols were a nomadic people from the steppe lands of north and central Asia who were united under one khan, Temujin (Genghis Khan), in the early 13th century. The Mongols were very effective warriors on horseback and they utilized a variety of tactics in conquering almost all of Eurasia (China, Central Asia, Persia (Iran), and Russia). Prior to Mongol conquests, China was split into three kingdoms (with the Song being the most powerful), the Abbasid Caliphate was a shell of its former greatness, and Russia was loosely controlled by princes in various cities. There have been many names used to refer to the Mongols: Mughal, Tartar, Mogul. Eventually, each khanate collapsed because of economic problems and political infighting by the late 14th century.

Document 1

Source: Speech by Genghis Khan to his men before the campaign into China, 1206

“The greatest joy for a man is to defeat his enemies, to drive them before him, to take from them all they possess, to see those they love in tears, to ride their horses, and to hold their wives and daughters in his arms.”

Document 2

Source: Letter sent to fellow Franciscans who were working as missionaries in the Black Sea area by Friar John, 1307, forwarded to Rome

“I, Friar John of Monte Corvino departed from Tauris in the year of our Lord, 1291.....found my way to Cathay (China), the realm of the emperor of the Tartars (Mongols) who is called the grand Khan. To him I presented the letter of our lord the pope and invited him to adopt the Catholic faith of our Lord Jesus Christ....but he had grown too old in idolatry; however, he bestows many kindnesses upon the Christians....I request some good fellow-workers to help me.”

Document 3

Source: Chinese chronicler writing about the Yuan dynasty, 1390

“They smell so heavily that one cannot approach them. They wash themselves in urine.”

Document 4

Source: Muslim historian, Rashid Fadl Abi-l’Hair, 1498

“Hulagu Khan handed the rich treasures which had been brought from Baghdad in 1258 from the Caliph’s court to the ruler of Rayy...for safekeeping, and had them carried to Azerbaijan as was the booty from Asia Minor, Georgia, Armenia, Luristan and the land of the Kurds.....These invaders burned our great libraries, broke our canals and ditches, destroyed our farms, defiled the true Faith by raising temples to Buddha...attempted to destroy our trade with paper money...”

Document 5

Source: *Novogord Chronicles*, 1238

“And the Princes ordered....’Give us your numbers for tribute’. And the common people would not give their numbers for tribute but said: ‘Let us die honourably for St. Sophia’ and the people were divided... And it was on the morrow, the Prince rode down...and the accursed ones began to ride through the streets writing down the Christian house; because for our sins God has brought wild beasts out of the desertAnd having numbered them for tribute and taken it, the accursed ones went away...”

Document 6

Source: Marco Polo, who spend 17 years at the court of the court of Khubilai Khan. Yuan Dynasty (China), 14th century.

With these pieces of paper, made as I have described, he [Khubilai Khan] causes all payments on his own account to be made; and he makes them to pass current universally over all his kingdoms and provinces and territories, and whithersoever his power and sovereignty extends... And with this paper-money they can buy what they like anywhere over the Empire, whilst it is also vastly lighter to carry about on their journeys.

Document 7

Source: Francis Bacon, English philosopher, commenting on Chinese inventions introduced to Europe during the early 15th century.

“It is well to observe the force and virtue and consequence of discoveries. These are to be seen nowhere more clearly than those three which were unknown to the ancients [the Greeks], and of which the origin, though recent, is obscure and inglorious; namely printing, gunpowder, and the magnet. For these three have changed the whole face and stage of things throughout the world, the first in literature, the second in warfare, the third in navigation; whence have followed innumerable changes; insomuch that no empire, no sect, no star, seems to have exerted greater power and influence in human affairs than these three mechanical discoveries.”

Document 8

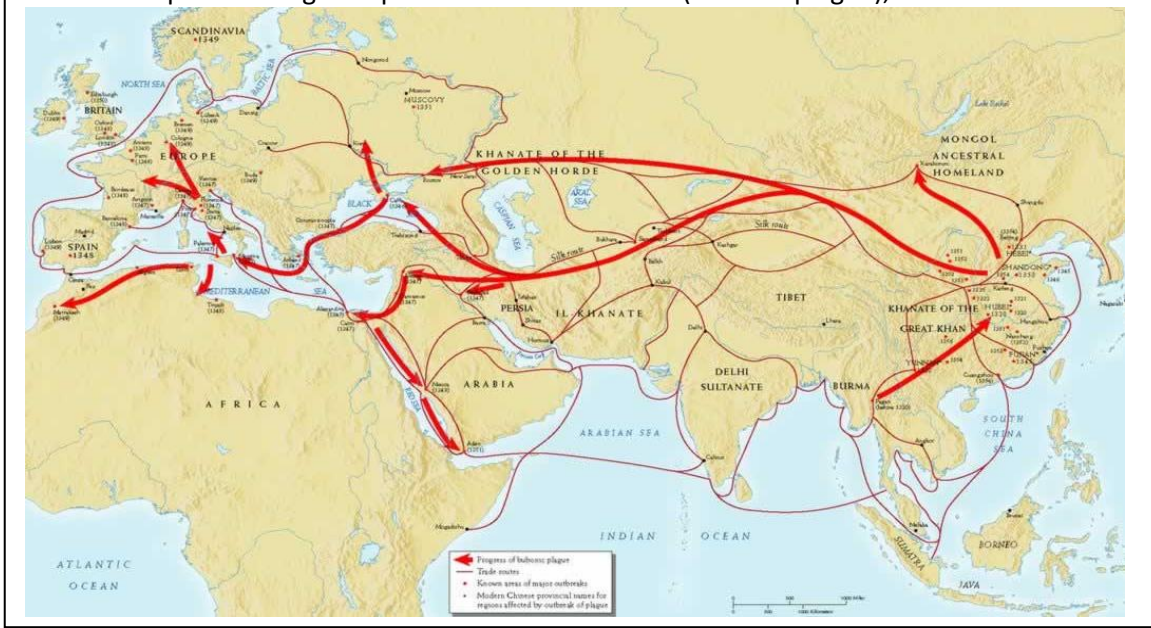
Source: Ibn al-Atir, 1220-1221, Muslim historian

"For even Antichrist will spare such as follow him, though he destroy those who oppose him, but these Tatars spared none, slaying women and men and children, ripping open pregnant women and killing unborn babes....these Tatars conquered most of the habitable globe, and the best, the most flourishing and most populous part thereof, and that whereof the inhabitants were the most advanced in character and conduct, in about a year; nor did any country escape their devastations which did not fearfully expect them and dread their arrival."

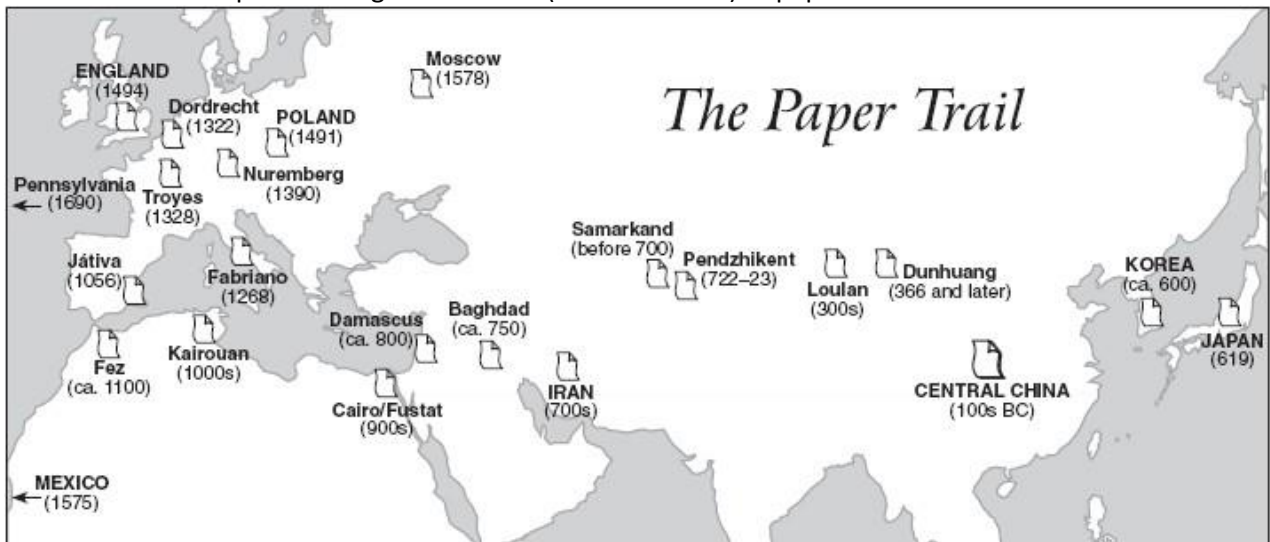
"It is now time for us to describe how they first burst forth into the lands. Stories have been related to me, which the hearer can scarcely credit, as to the terror of the Tatars, which God Almighty cast into men's hearts; so that it is said that a single one of them would enter a village or a quarter wherein were many people, and would continue to slay them one after another, none daring to stretch forth his hand against this horseman. And I have heard that one of them took a man captive, but had not with him any weapon wherewith to kill him; and he said to his prisoner, "Lay your head on the ground and do not move," and he did so, and the Tatar went and fetched his sword and slew him therewith."

Document 9

Source: Map illustrating the spread of the Black Death (bubonic plague), mid 14th c.

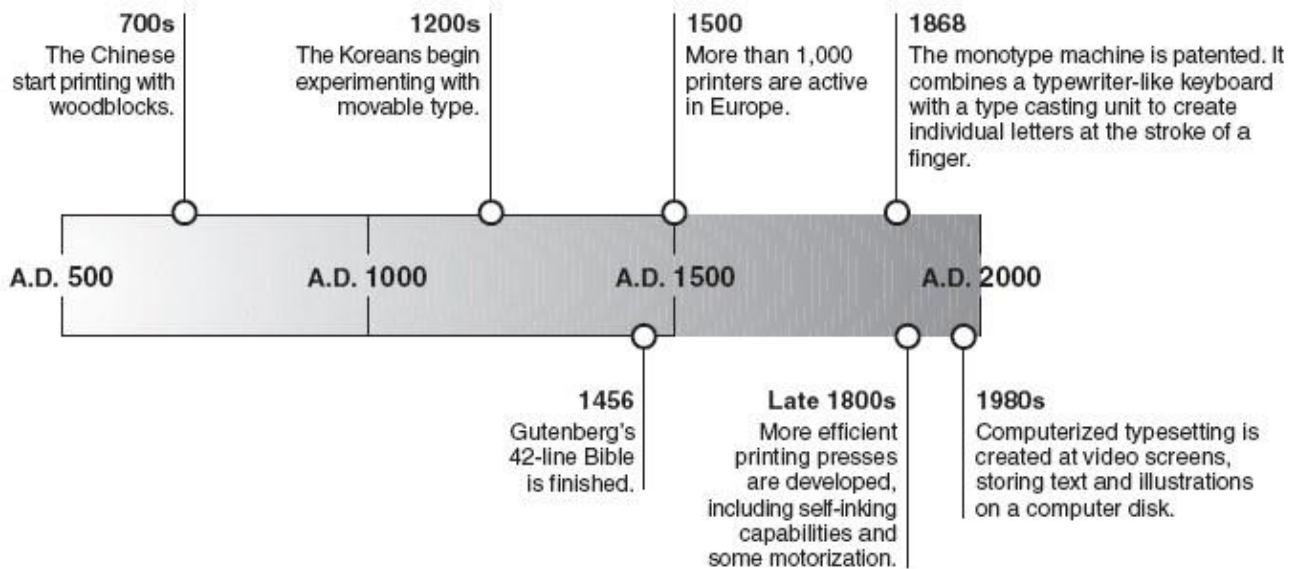


Source: Map illustrating introduction (dates included) of paper.



Source: *Aramco World*, May/June, 1999 (adapted)

Source: Timeline illustrating the spread of printing technology from East to West.



Source: Stephen Krensky, *Breaking Into Print, Before and After the Invention of the Printing Press*, Little, Brown and Company, 1996 (adapted)