

Mongol Empire

1206-1450's (Throughout most of Euroasia with Russia being one of the last places they left)

Geography	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Largest land empire; vast topography - Originally nomadic pastoral herders from central Asia; expert horsemen - Empire stretched from eastern Europe, most of Russia, Korea, China, Vietnam and south to Tibet and Persia; going no further into Middle East than modern day Iraq because of Mamaluks
Political	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Basic unit= tribe - Tribe divided into clans - Clans would form into larger groups - Leaders chosen based on bravery in battle - Mongols were fair rulers to the people they conquered as long as they followed wishes - Mongols made alliances with other nomadic tribes - Chinggis(Genghis)Khan (Temujin) leader, Kublai (Yuan) , Batu (Russia) - Government based on conquering - Administration based on that of Muslim empires - Yuan did not use CST but kept pre-existing scholar-gentry as local leaders
Economic	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Nomadic herders, Obtained tribute from conquered people - Ensured safety along land trade routes like Silk Road, which increased the amount of trade which pushed goods, ideas and disease out of China., Eurasian trade increased
Religion	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Shamanistic religion with nature spirits (almost like animism) - Mongol leaders tolerated all religions held by people in their empire - often converted to local religions (ie in Northern India –Muslim, in China-Buddhism)
Social	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Society looked highly upon those who were courageous and excelled in battle - Defeated rivals subordinate, technically slaves - Youths trained for military - Tolerated those different from them, including conquered peoples as long as they respected Mongol authority - Little violence among people in the empire...Pax Mongolia (Golden Age) - did not undertake footbinding of Mongol women once Yuan dynasty took China
Intellectual	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - "Borrowed" many ideas from conquered peoples - Siege weapons from Muslim empires; gunpowder from China and spread it - Chinggis (Genghis) Khan creates a written language and a law code - not known for their intellect/culture due to nomadic lifestyle; often took in culture of conquered areas
Artistic	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Lavish tents (Golden Horde in Russia) - Did not design many arts - Chose to become interested in arts and culture of conquered people.
Decline	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Large empire too diverse to be ruled effectively by one person; after death of Genghis, the empire was divided into 4 Khanates (3 went to sons and one to Kublai-grandson) - Liked fighting more than ruling - Corrupt rulers after death of original Khans - Death of great rulers like Chinggis Khan and Kublai Khan causes confusion - Resentment of foreign rule makes conquered people rise up against Mongols in time no one wants to be ruled by foreigners - Yuan dynasty collapsed in 1368 giving way to Ming - Ivan the Great pushed Mongols out in 1460s from Russia
Global Interaction	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Very interested in other cultures, took ideas from people they conquered - Protected trade routes, allowing new ideas to spread (gunpowder, papermaking, and windmills go west, coal burning, black death) and encouraging global trade - Marco Polo and Ibn Battuta traveled to China during the Yuan dynasty - Affected the development of many nations, such as Russia (prevented Russians from experiencing Renaissance and led to autocratic style of rule after as well deeply agrarian based) - collapse of the great Islamic empire of the Abbasid in 1258; leaving power vacuum in Middle East and giving rise to the Ottomans to fill power void in Middle East - Ming China overthrew Yuan in 1368 and worked on reestablishing the civil service test and Confucianism - Never was able to take Japan; Kublai Khan tried a twice times, but fleets were destroyed by typhoons (kamikaze) - Make sure you understand the impact of Mongols on China, Middle East and Russia