

## MONGOLS

Their hoofbeats reverberate through history  
have been given a very bad press

nomads from the steppes of central and eastern asia  
Chinggis Khan himself united mongol tribes and brought central asia,  
northern china and eastern persia under his control  
his grandchildren did in china, tibet, persia, iraq, asia minor, russia and eastern  
europe  
the four khanates of his sons and grandsons, established in 1227, lasted long  
time

this was not just a savage assault by backward people  
they were ferocious warriors  
they did do mass slaughters and level cities  
they were a scourge on humanity, from the victim's point of view

but they did probably construct the largest empire ever  
they did live peacefully within its borders  
they did promote trade and the transmission of foods, technology and  
ideas

### A. Origins

had emerged as a herding, horse-riding nomads on the asian steppes  
raised goats and sheep, got meat and milk, traded hides for weapons, wore sheepskins  
rode from an early age, ponies essential to their lifestyle  
tribes divided into clans that could combine every once in a while for defense into a  
great confederation  
leaders elected by free males, i.e., based on courage in battle

### B. Chinggis Khan

in early 12th century, his grandfather Kabul Khan had one battles in China but then died  
named Temujin when young, born in 1170s,  
his father was poisoned by a rival clan  
father's supporters refused to transfer allegiance to the young lad  
1182 taken prisoner by another clan, but he escaped, joined up with a stronger clan and  
revenged himself, began a growing reputation as a warrior, which won him allies

Tumuchin adopted the tribe's name in 1200  
in 1206 at a Kuriltai, meeting of chiefs, elected khaghan, supreme ruler of the Mongol  
tribes  
symbol of the black moon with nine white tails  
noyon (prince)

Chinggis brought discipline and org to the Mongols  
saw himself as destined to rule the world and in 1207 he started out

organized armies, tumens, of 100,000 cavalry and then into sub-units  
used scouting parties  
also a separate messenger force  
desertion in battle meant execution and with traitors also  
these guys were natural warriors from birth, tough , mobile, used to hunting and  
warfare, used powerful short bows with a range up to 400 yards! All cavalry so  
very fast marches and huge distances covered  
first vs Xi-Xia in northwest china which paid tribute  
1215 Peking captured and huge slaughter  
then Qin empire in manchuria, which also paid tribute  
then overwhelmed KaraKhitai in west

Slowly Mongols figured out siege weapons to destroy cities,  
whenever a town resisted, huge retribution, maybe spared artisans

Chinghiz wanted peaceful trade relations with west, that is why he came west  
1218 Utrar incident when a caravan from Chinggis massacred by the Khwarazam  
governor after a trade agreement had been reached  
when Chinggis sent an envoy to the Khwarazam shah asking for vengeance,  
envoy killed  
very stupid move, this made invasion imminent  
1219 he moved west, towns that did not resist spared  
1220 bukhara plundered and then burnt to ground, inhabitants driven from town  
as sacked  
continued to move west, samarqand fell  
by 1221 chinggis had begun to reorg his territory  
sultan died of TB on an island in the caspian

Chinggis almost died in March 1223 when he fell from a horse and was attacked by a boar

this added turkic tribes to his empire and more horsemen

by August 1227 when Chinggis died, allegedly at age 72, during campaign against the Xi-Xia empire, which he had not conquered earlier, his empire stretched from Caspian sea to North China sea  
city of Karakorum, southwest of baikal, as capital

was a relatively tolerant ruler, as were his heirs

- studied peoples' arts and learning and summoned them to Karakorum
- remained shamanistic, propitiation of nature spirits, though did investigate other religions such as christianity daoism, islam, buddhism
- devised a mongolian script base don an Uighur alphabet
- set up an admin legal code and secret police
- taxed farmers for military support
- brought peace to a huge area, trade and towns grew

### C. Succession and Expansion

empire divide between three sons (Jochi, Ugudei, jagatay) and grandson (Batu, son of the dead Jochi)

the third son Ogedei elected as the great khan, as chinggis had suggested, crafty diplomat

Ilkhan empire, khanate, to south in middle east; golden horde to west; China to east

#### 1. Russia

- destruction of russia a side game

- petty princes tried to fight one by one instead of uniting vs threat
- in 1236 Batu led 120,00 into russia

- called tartars

- in 1237, 1238 and 1240 invaded in a series of winter campaigns

- Riazan, Moscow, Vladimir burned to ground

- in 1240 kiev fell

- the mongol yoke in russia lasted over a century to pay tribute

- moscow tribute collector

- Mongol yoke allowed orthodox church free reign

- Russian population tended to move to northeast away from steppe

- huge negative impact on russia, did russia learn despotism?, as isolation from west

#### 2. Europe

Batu sent envoy to king Bela in Hungary, but he refused to submit to mongols, big mistake, thought them just a group of nomads  
in 1240 repeatedly hungarian and hungarian and german knights defeated; huge european losses  
mongols now on the nice hungarian plain  
but it was the death of Ogedei and struggle for succession that forced Batu to withdraw from Europe  
actually, I think they even reached northern France at one point, Chalons

### 3. Near East

Hulegu, another grandson of Chinggis, ruler of Ilkhan  
in 1258 Baghdad destroyed, Abbasid Caliph murdered, rolled in carpet and elephants trounced?  
1243 destroyed Seljuk Turks in Asia Minor  
huge catastrophe  
irrigation things wrecked  
destroyed military strength and cities  
in 1260 Mameluk army under Baibar defeated them at Ain Jalut in the Palestine desert with some Christian help from crusader states  
Hulegu was in central Asia at time in another succession crisis

Did Mongols transmit black plague fleas west?

in west Turks became a major part of the empire again because of the small numbers of Mongols  
gradually became Sunni Muslim also

### 4. China

Ogedei had led advance into China  
China vulnerable because remember that neither Buddhists or Confucius left a very high place for soldiers  
the Song dynasty helped in attack on Jin in Manchuria, by 1234 Jin gone, then swept into Song state to south  
Kublai Khan, another grandson, directed the campaign  
1235-1279, long campaigns in China vs well-fortified Chinese cities  
1260 Kublai became Grand Khan  
1271 he Sinitized his name to Yuan and became emp of most of China  
capital at Dadu, Beijing, very Chinese type court and Chinese lifestyle, but no exams  
his moving his capital there meant that Mongol empire had, in effect, divided into pieces  
tried to preserve Mongol separateness, no marriage to Chinese, Mongol

religion stayed, no friendship with Chinese, mongols on top of the  
new social structure  
his wife Chabi, promoted buddhism  
tried to make lenient treatment  
eventually did adopt some chinese ways, especially since very small ruling  
class, such as the Chinese palace and bureaucracy  
kubilai very curious, amazing palace and scholars, art etc, welcomed  
muslim scholars and scientists  
Marco Polo!  
but many in china never adapted, such as the scholar-gentry, who  
also resented his favoring of the artisans  
Kubilai khan had a long reign, but only short mongol control of china  
failure to control in japan in 1274 and 1280 and failures in vietnam  
undermined prestige  
when Chabi died and then his son, Kubilai became dissolute in later years  
later successors lacked leadership  
by 1350s risings, banditry, famines  
out of this emerged Ju Yuanzhang to found the Ming dynasty

expansion of mongols turned in 1260, then 1280, then 1285 sultans of delhi repelled  
mongols