**Group 1: Document 12-4: Read and answer the questions at the end of the document. (Ward & Gainty, source 12-4).**

**Question #1: What were some of the dangers of traveling the Silk Road?**

**Answer:** There are many risks of traveling the Silk Road and there are several places where the quality of water is not great. “Even friendly forces present threats because without the compensation they seize and consume the villagers' livestock. They must store their harvest in caves from the hostile armies”. Also, extreme heat and absence of water can make people crazy when they go through the desert. They start hearing voices and seeing spirits. Not just because of the risk of sandstorms, the Silk Road was hazardous, but hunger and thirst were two variables that had to be taken into account. Also, thieves were a threat to Silk Road voyagers in hunt of gold and other valuable materials (Ward and Ganty et al., 258).

**Question #2: Describe the role of the Mongols in the areas that Polo visits. What impact did the Mongol presence have in these territories?**

**Answer:** The Mongols were large hospitable idolaters (Buddhists). They often entertained tourists because of their superior hospitality. Travelers stopped more frequently in this city than others. In addition, sadly, these locations were demolished and devastated by the Mongols (Ward and Ganty et al., 257).

**Question #3: Consider the story Polo tells regarding the wives of Kamul. What does the response of the Great Khan say about the political strength of the Mongol leader in his empire?**

**Answer:** Although Kamul's people were unwilling to follow the law of the Great Khan about giving their wives for generosity to voyagers, they still followed. This implies that Great Khan had excellent political power because they followed while the Kamul individuals disagreed with his choice. “But as a leader, he also paid attention to the desires of his individuals, because after giving him a wealthy donation and explaining to him why they share their wives, he informed the individuals that this is the embarrassment that you then want to be so” (Ward and Ganty et al., 260).

**Work Cited**

Ward, Walter D., and Denis Gainty. *Sources of World Societies*. Boston: Bedford/St. Martins, 2012.

**Group 2: Describe the impact of Chinese culture on Korea, Japan, and the Mongols. (Wallech, 246-279).**

**Impact of Chinese culture**

Due to their "practicable political attitude that functions when that state was robust, Chinese culture was very influential, and more divine, natural philosophy in which individuals could find the power to go on in moments of disunity or chaos" (Wallech et al. 2013, 262). China started to take over the neighboring communities and ruin those who had no cultural system of their own. Three of China's main societies were Korea, Japan, and Mongols.

During China's one era of distant livelihood, when the Mongols reigned China as the Yuan Dynasty, Chinese cultural standards ended up bestowing the Mongols, playing a part in their failure to reign the vast nation as their own, leading to their demise (Wallech et al. 2013, 259). During the Tang dynasty, China's cultural impact on Korea and Japan achieved its peak. The Tang empire turned the Korean state of Silla into a vassal and became an importer of Chinese culture and institutions. Buddhism was triumphant, and many Korean monks were on their way to China. The art and religion of China heavily affected Korea's. For Southeast Asia, Japan and Korea, the same is true, both used Chinese characters for millennia to write their language, and Japan still does (Wallech et al. 2013, 247-250).

Chinese culture affected Japan. Since the Japanese were quite receptive to the principles of Buddhism and its foundation, most of the impact engaged philosophical thoughts. However, they added many indigenous ideas from Japanese elements to the practice after they embraced the religion. This led to a distinctive style and faith known as Zen Buddhism in Japan (Wallech et al. 2013, 270). One of the initial three kingdoms of Korea, the Goguryeo, was strongly affected by China itself. And another, the Silla, publicly allies against their enemies with the Tang. Through China, Korea also embraced new philosophies: first, Buddhism, then Confucianism (Wallech et al. 2013, 250,251).

The Mongols were very violent, unlike Japan and the Korean society. Many societies, including China, had been taken over. As time passed on to Mongols, they started to understand that they would profit significantly from agriculture. They used Chinese materials like a copper cannon to construct sophisticated machinery. Soon, "Mongols have finished rule over China," giving China a chance to begin a fresh one (Wallech et al. 2013, 261).

**Work Cited**

Steven Wallech, Peter Wan. *World History:* *A Concise Thematic Analysis*: Wiley-Blackwell, 2013.

**Group 4:  Explain the shift in military power from older urban civilizations in Eurasia to the nomadic Mongols. (Wallech, 246-279).**

**Shifting in Military Power**

Military control and authority over the individuals and other nations were not very powerful during the Song dynasty. The army had loose connections and the commanders had no decent grip on their troops. There were many issues with the economy and community taxation other than the army. Song Taizu staged a successful coup that led to his own overthrow of a dynasty. In order to prevent this danger from occurring to him by his own paranoia, he "rotated the command of his commanders and sent eunuchs to their garrisons to supervise their activities" (Wallech et al. 2013, 254). The text goes on to describe how "He also worked with his civil public employees who had lately come to authority through the examination system." (Wallech et al. 2013, 254).

The Mongols, on the other side, have been flawless. Mongols are natives of the Eastern Steppe and have been able to drive Turks out of the Eastern Steppe permanently owing to the development of their empire. Although it was still under Mongolian control, the western steppe was inhabited by Turkish tribes. Turks did not withstand the Mongols as they became administrators in the Mongolian empire (Wallech et al. 2013, 275).

They conquered many countries with the army and government authority. Skillful, strategic, and strong was the army. They were so strong that by murdering and enslaving they conquered and some. Mongols have been renowned for their aggressiveness and accuracy. Because of their attachment to the commanders and rulers, they were so effective that they were a unity. Unlike the other dynasties in the past, through the economy and taxes, they were able to promote each other and provide their troops with the appropriate equipment and training (Wallech et al. 2013, 275).

The Mongols created a sedentary lifestyle hybrid-nomad overtime that mixed sedentary and nomadic army strengths. Hybrid countries were dominated by the unified nomad force, however, and many of their military experts and units were absorbed. They also had a labor division system that helped the armies fight while the individuals who stayed behind were preparing supplies for the soldiers. The Mongols were able to adapt as nomads to the harsh weather circumstances and cover long distances.

**Work Cited**

Steven Wallech, Peter Wan. *World History:* *A Concise Thematic Analysis*: Wiley-Blackwell, 2013.