A detailed portrait of Genghis Khan, the founder of the Mongol Empire. He is depicted with a stern expression, wearing a traditional blue and black Mongolian hat (doppa) and a brown robe with a blue collar. The background is a textured, light blue-grey.

Genghis Khan's Military Dynasty

Berkeley Model
United Nations



LXIII
SIXTY-THIRD SESSION

Riyaz Shah
Akshay Jagadeesh
Jing Liong



Welcome generals and rulers of the Mongol Empire. This is a super unique and innovative committee at BMUN and I am really excited to see how it goes! Overall, this committee will be structured as a “meeting” amongst Mongol generals and regional rulers, under the rule of the great supreme leader, Ogedei Khan. Each delegate will have certain powers under them - they will either be commanding certain troops or have control over certain valuable resources in particular regions.

When most people think of the Mongol Empire, they think of Chinggis’ Khan. However, it is often forgotten that Chinggis’ son, Ogedei, is the ruler that expanded the Mongol Empire Westward. Thus, this committee will be following Ogedei as we will be expanding westward dealing with different threats and obstacles. Throughout the conference you will have to deal with attacks from other armies, offensive maneuvers, local uprisings and so much more!

Before we get into the details of this topic synopsis, I would like to introduce the dais: I am Riyaz Shah and I will be the head chair. I have two awesome vice chairs: Akshay Jagadeesh and Jing Long.

As I mentioned, my name is Riyaz Shah and I am senior at Cal majoring in Electrical Engineering and Computer Science (EECS), with a minor in Industrial Engineering and Operations Research (IEOR). While I never did MUN in high school (I did policy debate), I was very excited at the opportunity to chair a committee and helping in the educational debate process for high school students. Debate has helped me in so many different ways throughout college, so I love being in a position to help pass on the knowledge that I gained throughout the process. All of my experience in chairing MUN has been in crisis, and I love it. I think crisis committees are super dynamic, keeping delegates on their toes and therefore preventing debate from getting stale and boring. I am very excited to see how all of you delegates interact - be it through compromise or through competition - in order to advance the Mongol Empire to a level of power even greater than was seen in history.

Hi delegates! My name is Akshay Jagadeesh; I am a junior at UC Berkeley and will be one of your chairs in this year's Mongol expansion crisis committee. I'm studying the cognitive and computer sciences as I'm really interested in what intelligence is and how we can simulate it. I decided to join BMUN because I think that critical discussion which is informed and diplomatic is really important and promoting it is a worthy effort. I'm really excited about our Khan committee this year because it will challenge delegates to be decisive and think on their



feet. The Mongol expansion under Ogedei Khan was one of the most fast-paced and dominant military campaigns in human history and recreating that at BMUN LXIII will be nothing short of epic.

Hello delegates, my name is Jing Liong—a first-year directed at economics and business—and I will be serving as a co-chair for this committee. With four years of high school experience in MUN, I naturally gravitated towards BMUN; With an obsession with Genghis Khan, I naturally gravitated towards this committee. During the conference, feel free to talk to me about things outside the MUN-sphere: basketball, Childish Gambino, Sherlock, and etc. With this said, I look forward to fruitful debate and to seeing you all sit in the saddles of conquerors.

The rest of this paper is a topic synopsis; it covers the historical background leading up to the start of committee as well as details around the Mongols themselves - specifically how they fought and how they ruled. Please remember that this paper should be used as a starting-off point for your research in preparation for committee. You will definitely need to do more research around what actually happened under the rule of Ogedei in history, as well as how your character interacted with the Mongol Empire.



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<http://upload.wikimedia.org/wikipedia/commons/9/9e/YuanEmperorAlbumOgedeiPortrait.jpg>



Historical Background

The Formation of the Empire

During the 11th and 12th centuries, the ethnic Mongols were split up into disparate tribes. The largest tribes were the Mongols, Turks, Tanguts, and Tatars. The Tatars controlled the North; the Turks the West and Southwest; the Tanguts the East; and the Kitan tribe of China formed the Liao Dynasty. Apart from these four large powers, many smaller tribes were dispersed throughout the region.

One tribe, the Jurchens (formed from the Tanguts), struck an alliance with the Song Dynasty of China. Using the strength gained through this alliance, the Jurchens were able to defeat the Kitan tribe who previously held the most power in the region. Upon this victory, the Jurchens formed the Jin Dynasty and began to move East; however, as they left the region a power vacuum formed that was filled by a tribe of Mongols called the Borjigin Mongols.

The Borjigins were led by Kabul Khan, Chinggis Khan's grandfather. In 1135 Kabul and the Borjigins began raiding the Jin Empire with small raids that were mildly successful but were never strong enough to make any lasting damage and hold the conquered territory (Worden).

Early Life of Temujin

Temujin (Chinggis Khan's birth name) was born in 1162 to Yesügei, chief of the Kiyat - a subclan of the Borijin (Lane 13). Yesügei was killed when Temujin was 12 and his family was abandoned. The tribe decided to choose someone else instead of Temujin as their chief and did not want any challenges to the leadership (16). Despite being abandoned and left to die, in 8 years Temujin rallied support and became chief of the Kiyat clan. By using his persuasive skills and a vision for uniting the Mongol Tribes, Temujin continued to garner loyalty and soon thereafter, Temujin became chief of the entire Borijin tribe.

Rise of Temujin

Temujin quickly began setting his sights on unifying the different Mongol tribes under one rule and was very skilled at determining which tribes to take on as allies and which tribes to fight. His first major test came against Jamuka, his one-time *Anda*, ("blood brother"). While Jamuka and Temujin began their rise to power together as allies, they eventually broke apart; Jamuka became the ruler of the Jadarat tribe while Temujin took all who were loyal to him and



those who questioned the traditional tribal hierarchy. However, Jamuka was able to build up an army of nearly 30,000 men from fourteen tribes to defeat Temujin forcing him to flee (22-23).

Eventually, Temujin was able to find an ally with the Chin empire in a battle against the Tatars and as a result was awarded a position as an advisor to the emperor. Under the rule of both the Chin emperor and Temujin, the Mongols and the Keraites - a small Mongol Tribe - allied together and began to be successful. However, Jamuka once again assembled a loose alliance comprised of Merkits, Naimans, Tartars, as well as other smaller tribes. Despite this allied force, around 1201-1202 Temujin was able to secure victory against this alliance and eventually all but exterminated the Tatars (25).

But, Jamuka had not been completely defeated, and was still attempting to strike back against Temujin. He staged an ambush against Temujin and the Chin emperor, and while Temujin was able to escape, his troops suffered significant losses. But, once again, Temujin was able to recover and build up support amongst his existing allies (allies that would be greatly rewarded in the future for their loyalty). Temujin was able to defeat the Keraites and take over their tribe. During this battle, the Chin emperor was killed, and since Temujin was the closest thing to a son the emperor had, he took over the throne (26-27).

Despite this newfound power, Temujin still felt uncomfortable. There was still one great tribal confederation - the Naimans - that posed a threat to his regime. Temujin put together a well organized army and led them into battle to destroy the Naimans and thus was ultimately able to defeat and execute Jamuka, the biggest obstacle to his rise to power (27).

In 1206, the leaders of all the now united Turco-Mongol tribes awarded Temujin Khan the title of Chinggis Khan - Oceanic or Universal ruler.

Expansion into China

During this rise to power, China was divided into three kingdoms - the Tanguts, Jurchens, and the Sung. Chinggis was easily able to raid the Tanguts and defeat them. This was Chinggis' first raid of a fortified city, which taught him valuable lessons that he would use throughout his expeditions in China and would later become a key aspect of Mongol fighting strategy. The Mongols were also able to defeat the an empire formed by the Jurchens (also called the Chin Empire but this is a separate Chin Empire than the empire that Chinggis allied with earlier), and eventually take territory as far south as the Great Wall of China (39).



Chinggis and the Mongols continued to attack China, pushing the Jurchen-Chin Empire back and taking more and more territory under Mongol rule through 1227 at the time of Chinggis' death. On his deathbed, Chinggis named his son Ogedei Khan as the new Supreme Ruler. Chinggis told his sons: "With Heaven's aid I have conquered for you a huge empire. But my life was too short to achieve the conquest of the world. That task is left for you" (48).

Ogedei's defeat of the Chin

As Mongol Emperor, Ogedei's first priority was to defeat the Jurchen-Chin empire. Ogedei formed an alliance with the Sung Empire, allowing the Mongols to attack the Chin from the North and the Sung to attack from the South. Under the leadership of both Ogedei and Subodei (Subutai) the combined forces of Mongol and Sung troops were able to defeat the Jurchen-Chin Dynasty (48). Thus, Ogedei fulfilled his father's wish, and all of China was now under the rule of the Mongol Empire. With China conquered, the Mongols began to turn their attention westward.

Weapons, Tactics and Strategy Horses

The Mongols' major strategies relied heavily on their horses. Horses were extremely valuable to their military efforts as they offered speed and versatility over their opponents. Each cavalryman would have three to four horses for themselves so that they could constantly be changing the horse they would be riding on longer journeys. This way no single horse would have to bear the weight of the rider and therefore they could ride much longer, farther, and faster.

Horses were a valuable asset on the battlefield - the Mongols designed their fighting strategy around the speed and agility of their horses. The Mongols innovated saddles and stirrups to allow the horses to hold their rider for extended periods of time and, for the first time in history, to allow archers to shoot while on horseback.. Rangers were extensively trained to be effective archers on horseback. This training, coupled with a new composite bow, presented an extremely deadly long range weapon -- with a range of over 350 yards, Mongol archers beat European archers by over 100 yards. The Mongols now had a speedy and accurate long-range weapon allowing them to weaken the enemy before suffering any damage.

Horses also were integral to the Mongols short range attack. The Mongols could quickly ride into a farm or small town, inflict damage, and ride away before the villagers could respond.



Additionally, armor was developed for the horses themselves to protect these vital military assets (Rossabi).

Battle Tactics

The Mongols' tactics depended on the landscape in which they encountered their enemy. They were especially strong against enemies encountered on the road, outside of cities. The Mongol army was split into smaller units that were individually proficient; this allowed the horde to be divided efficiently for tactical maneuvers. The leaders of each individual unit were given freedom by the generals to execute orders as they saw fit; therefore, when the Mongols encountered an enemy in the field they would split up and use their speed to flank and surround the enemy so that they couldn't retreat, leading to relatively easy defeats ("Mongol Military Tactics and Organization").

When the Mongols had to attack well fortified and defended cities, their speed tactics were much less successful. In these situations, the Mongols would use a "Kharash" - a mob of common people captured from previous sieges. This mob would be arranged into a big group, placed in front of the Mongol forces, and pushed to storm the city, acting as a human shield for the Mongol soldiers that followed (Snepsts).

In addition to the Kharash, the Mongols used siege weapons. Since the Mongols wanted to travel light and fast they could not always bring these bulky and heavy weapons with them; therefore, the Mongols retained talented engineers as part of their army who would build the necessary weapons in the field. These engineers would be recruited from captured populations - especially from China and Persia (Turnbull 15).

Psychological Warfare

A major military tactic the Mongols employed was the use of fear. Before the Mongol army would attack a city, they would be offered a chance to surrender. If the city chose to surrender, the citizens would (generally) be spared, but forced to support the empire by providing tribute, manpower, resources, etc. If the city chose not to surrender, they would face the full strength of the Mongol army and would be defeated completely - all citizens would be killed and the city would be pillaged. In order to spread fear of the Mongol Army and encourage the surrender of future cities, the Mongols would allow a few citizens to survive and escape,



spreading news of the epic defeat of their city and the military prowess of the Mongol armies (Quester 43).

Ruling Style

Law and Governance

The Mongol Empire followed “Yassa”, a specific code of law established by Genghis Khan. Overall, this code of law had three goals in mind: obedience to Genghis Khan, assurance of the consolidation of the disparate Mongol Tribes, and tight discipline as well as harsh penalties for breaking the Mongol rule of law (Lane 35). The Empire was governed by Kurultai, a parliamentary-style assembly composed of tribal chiefs. The members of the Kurultai were in charge of making all political and military strategies and decisions - including appointing people to particular leadership positions and planning out major military campaigns.

Treatment of Conquered People

One unique ruling style established by the Mongols was the use foreigners in ruling different areas. For example, Muslims would be brought from Central Asia to rule in China and vice versa. In this way, the Mongol Empire was able to control the power of the local peoples, as foreign rulers would be less inclined to unite with the common people to overthrow the Mongol Rule (Buel 137). While the Mongols rigidly controlled conquered populations politically, they were very tolerant religiously. The Mongols allowed local populations to practice the religion of their choice so long as they were loyal and servant to the Mongol Empire (Chua 112).

Trade

The Mongol Empire was a huge supporter of trade - they encouraged, supported, and protected merchants. As the Mongol Empire expanded, proper paved roads were built and maintained to connect previously separated regions. A major reason the Mongol rulers supported merchants is because they served a purpose in military expeditions. Since the Mongols always travelled light, merchants would provide clothing and food. Additionally, the Mongols used merchants to learn more about neighboring - and often enemy - territories to learn more about them and determine their weaknesses for future attacks(Waugh).



The Committee

This committee will start in the year of 1232, right after the fall of the Chin capital city of K'ai-feng. You will notice that the historical background in this topic synopsis has only covered the history of Genghis Khan and everything up to the start of this committee. This is because during committee, actual history from the start-date onwards is subject to change. However, since many of the events, challenges, and obstacles you will be facing during committee will be based in historical truth, it will be important to know and understand what actually happened with Ogedei and the Mongol Empire to determine what led to victories and defeats.

It is also important to study history to determine how your character should be interacting within committee. This topic synopsis has provided basic information on how the Mongols ruled politically, and engaged with their enemy on the battlefield; be sure to research this information further specifically for your character to learn how your character would react in certain situations as well as how your character would interact with other members of the committee. However, when researching you may be confronted with a lack of information about your individual character; so rather than finding specific information about your character, you should instead understand how someone in the position of your character would act within the Mongol Empire.

Will the Mongol Empire be larger and greater than the one that existed in history? Or will new challenges prevent it from expanding as far as it did? It is up to you to recreate history.

Questions to Consider

1. What in particular made Genghis Khan so effective at consolidating all of the independent Mongol tribes?
2. What characteristics of Ogedei prompted Genghis Khan to choose Ogedei as the next Khan, despite not being the oldest son?
3. How did Ogedei utilize his different chiefs during the Mongol expansion Westward?
4. Why is your character in a position of power? What was Ogedei's relationship with your character? What were your character's particular skills?

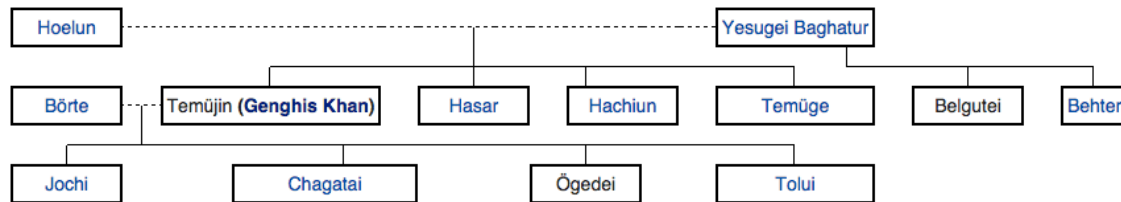


Appendix

1 | The Mongol Tribes



2 | Family Tree





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