

Chapter 18 - Mongols

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Turkish Migrations and Imperial Expansion

- Turkish people were never unified, they fought with each other a lot.
- All Turkish people spoke related languages and were nomads.

Nomadic Economy and Society

- Could not build irrigation systems and were limited to oases.
- Had vast open spaces in central Asia, took advantage by herding grazing animals (sheep, horses, also cattle, goats, camels).
- **Their Animals**
 - Moved herds/flocks to grassy areas, moved them when they depleted the resources.
 - *Did not wander aimlessly* - followed migratory cycles following seasons and climate.
 - Used every part of the animal.
 - Lived off of meat, milk, and hides.
 - Animal bones for tools, animal poop for fire fuel .
 - Wool used to make tents (*yurts*).
 - Got drunk on fermented mare milk (*kumiss*).
 - Migratory habits made intensive agriculture and large-scale craft production **impossible**.
- **Interaction with Settled Peoples**
 - Traded with settled peoples since the classical era.
 - Nomads participated in *long-distance trade networks*, due to their ability to organize trade caravans across familiar central Asia.
 - During postclassical era and later, Turkish peoples were very prominent on caravan routes in Central Asia.
- **Nomadic Society**
 - Two social classes: commoners and nobles.
 - Nobles were charismatic, organized tribes into alliances which they oversaw.
 - During peacetime, nobles were *not* governors - tribes handled things themselves.
 - During wartime, nobles commanded all forces.
 - Nobility was very fluid; passed through heirs but heirs lost job if unqualified - so commoners could become nobles too.
- **Nomadic Religion**
 - Earliest religion revolved around *shamans* - religious specialists with supernatural powers, communicated with gods and nature spirits, informed companions of gods' will.
 - Many Turkish people got attracted to other established religions encountered while trading.
 - By 6th century, Turks were Buddhists, Christians, and Manichaeans.
 - Helped them develop writing systems.
- **Turkish Convert to Islam**
 - Initial immersion by Abbasid military conquest.
 - 10th century - Saljuqs converted to Islam for money.
 - These guys entered Iran and influenced the region.
 - Remember these guys, they're important later.
 - Through 10th-14th centuries, most Turkish clans on steppes of central Asia converted to Islam, carried it with them when they expanded their influence.
- **Military Organization**
 - Nomadic leaders organized big confederations under a *khan* (ruler).
 - Khans rarely ruled directly; ruled indirectly through leaders of large tribes.
 - At large scales, nomadic forces had lots of power due to their amazing cavalry forces (very skilled horse riders).
 - Very disciplined, had high mobility, could retreat very easily.
 - Formidable force against settled peoples, and they used this in the 10th century to build imperial states in and around Central Asia.

Objective #18 - Nomadic people had advantage of controlling trade in central Asia.

Objective #18 - Nomadic people had more social mobility than settled peoples.

Objective #18 - Nomadic people were more experienced with horses and had much better projectile (arrow) accuracy than their settled counterparts.

Turkish Empires in Persia, Anatolia, and India

- **Takeover of Abbasids**
 - Saljuq Turks took over just as the Germanics did to Rome.
 - Slowly spread into the civilization, then took over from within.
 - In 1055, caliph recognized Saljuq leader, Tughril Beg, as the *sultan* (ruler).
 - Caliphs became figureheads for the last two centuries of the Abbasid state... the real dudes were the sultans.
- **Takeover of Byzantines**

Objective #19 - Identify the conquests of the Saljuq Turks, which are the Abbasids and the Byzantines.

- Caliphs became figureheads for the last two centuries of the Abbasid state... the real dudes were the sultans.
- **Takeover of Byzantines**
 - Other Saljuq Turks wanted Anatolia, the breadbasket of Byzantium.
 - Turkish people, led by Saljuqs, came in swarms to Anatolia in the 11th century.
 - 1071 - Saljuqs took over the empire and captured the emperor.
 - Seen as liberators by locals.
 - Suppressed the church, promoted Islam.
- **Sultanate of Delhi**
 - Different guys this time, the Ghaznavid Turks of Afghanistan.
 - Raided lucrative sites in northern India to plunder it.
 - Sultanate of Delhi arose by 1200s, claimed authority of northern India.
 - Held an army (with elephants!) to hold their land, not expand.
 - Leader, Mahmud of Ghazni, hated Buddhism and Hinduism and suppressed it.

Objective #20 - Turks influenced parts of Eastern Europe by suppressing the activities of the Byzantine Church and promoting Islam in Byzantium.

Objective #20 - Sultanate of Delhi suppressed and attacked Hinduism and Buddhism, decreasing those religions' influence in northern India and promoting Islam in their stead.

The Mongol Empire

- Nomadic people, lived on the high steppe lands of eastern Central Asia and similar traits to those mentioned prior.
- Before strong leaders, they rarely unified as one people but rather into tribes.

Chinggis Khan

- **Rise to Power**
 - Allied with prominent clan leader, mastered steppe diplomacy by showing battle ferocity with ally loyalty.
 - Strengthened power by forming alliances and conquering others, and also by betraying allies.
 - By 1206, a group of Mongol leaders recognized his supremacy, named him *Chinggis Khan* ("universal ruler").
- **Political Organization**
 - Chinggis Khan disbanded tribes and forced men of fighting age to join military units (without tribal loyalty).
 - Anomaly: Recall that nomadic peoples with a central ruler usually had the *khan* rule through large tribal leaders.
 - Chinggis Khan hated the tribal system due to his personal experiences, so he killed it.
 - Chose high military and political officials based on talents and loyalty to him.
 - Anomaly: different from nomadic criteria of inhering positions and performance.
 - Built a capital at Karakorum.
 - Symbolized authority superior to clan or tribe.
 - Created state stronger than any earlier nomadic confederation.
 - Unified confederation of forces.
 - Less troubled by tribal/clan conflicts.
- **Mongol Arms**
 - Army only ~100,000 men strong, how did they build an empire?
 - Mongol horsemen
 - Very skilled archers.
 - Most mobile horsemen in the world.
 - Understood psychological dimensions of warfare.
 - Mongols spared the lives of those who did not resist.
 - Those who did resist were massacred and used as human shields :)
- **Conquest of Northern China**
 - Overtook the nomadic Jurchen people of northern China by 1220.
 - Began with raids in 1211, became more frequent and intense.
 - Captured the Jurchen capital, renamed it to *Khanbaliq* ("city of the khan").
 - By 1220, largely established rule over northern China.
- **Conquest of Persia**
 - Chinggis Khan sent envoys to Afghanistan and Persia to establish trade relations.
 - Locals despised Mongols and killed the envoys.
 - Mongols invaded, killed their leader, ravaged cities.
 - Killed hundreds of thousands of people.
 - Destroyed delicate irrigation systems, impeding agricultural capability of the land.
- **Governing Conquered Lands**
 - Chinggis Khan did not create a central government for conquered lands.
 - He appointed Mongol overlords.

Objective #19 - Chinggis did not entirely follow the archetype of nomadic political structure; rather, he organized it in a way that poised it for greatness.

Objective #20 - Mongols conquered Northern China and Persia under Chinggis Khan.

- **Governing Conquered Lands**
 - Chinggis Khan did not create a central government for conquered lands.
 - He appointed Mongol overlords.
 - They supervised local administrators.
 - Administrators took a generous tribute from regions for the Mongols to use.

Mongol Empires after Chinggis Khan

- There were four khans that divided up Chinggis Khan's empire into four regions.
- They often fought amongst each other.
- **Khubilai Khan**
 - Unleashed ruthless attacks against enemies, but took interest in cultural matters and welfare of his subjects.
 - Actively promoted Buddhism, supported Daoists, Muslims, and Christians.
- **Mongol Conquest of Southern China**
 - Relentlessly attacked the Song dynasty.
 - Hangzhou, the capital, fell to Mongolians in 1276.
 - By 1279, Khubilai Khan was the emperor of the Yuan Dynasty (ended 1368).
 - Conquest to the East ended here; Mongols tried and failed to capture Southeast Asia and Japan due to humid climate and guerrilla tactics.
- **The Golden Horde**
 - Golden Horde, a Mongol group, overran Russia between 1237 and 1241.
 - Steppes north of Black Sea good for their horses.
 - Maintained a large army here.
 - Used it to raid Russia.
 - Also explored Poland, Hungary, and eastern Germany.
- **The Ilkhanate of Persia**
 - Khubilai's brother Hulegu toppled Abbasid empire in 1258.
 - Established the Mongol ilkhanate in Persia.
 - Sacked Baghdad, killed the caliph, executed 200,000 people.
 - Muslim forces from Egypt halted their expansion into Syria.
- **Mongol Rule in Persia**
 - Mongols were never comfortable being governors.
 - In Persia, they made concessions to local interests.
 - Persians could be government officials at lower levels.
 - Allowed Persians to administer the ilkhanate in exchange for tax receipts and maintaining order.
 - Eventually, Mongols became Muslims, thus assimilating into Muslim Persian society.
- **Mongol Rule in China**
 - Very different from Persia, they resisted assimilation and scorned locals as cultivators.
 - Oppressed the local Chinese, had them ruled by every race except Chinese.
 - Determined to extract as much wealth as possible from the locals.
 - Dismantled Confucian institutions.
 - Ended merit system.
 - Ended benefits to Confucian scholars.
 - Did not persecute them, but allowed it to wither away.
- **Mongols and Buddhism**
 - Most Mongols continued to follow native shamanist cults.
 - Lamaist Buddhism became attractive though.
 - Lamaist Buddhists in Tibet gave Mongols high status in the religion.
 - Compatible with shamanist ideas.
 - Ruling elite enjoyed this and converted.

Objective #19 - Khubilai Khan consolidated power in Asia and was a sponsor of culture and welfare, and supported many religions.

Objective #20 - Mongols gained control of Persia, China, and Russia as well (under Khublai Khan, though not as directly).

Objective #19 - Hulegu toppled the Abbasid empire and established Mongolian control of Persia.

Mongols and Eurasian Integration

- **Mongols and Trade**
 - Secured trade routes and ensured safe passage of merchants through their territories.
 - Long-distance trade across the Eurasian landmass became much less risky than before.
 - Lands such as western Europe and China became directly linked for the first time.
- **Diplomatic Missions**
 - Mongols provided safety to merchants and ambassadors alike.
 - Maintained diplomatic ties with Korea, Vietnam, India, western Europe, and other lands.
- **Missionary Efforts**
 - Sufi Missionaries popularized Islam among Turkish people in central Asia.
 - Lamaist Buddhists attracted Mongolians.

Objective #22 - Mongols facilitated travel and trade directly across the Eurasian continent for the first time in history. Mongols also resettled people to other places in the vast empire for their talents.

- Nestorian Christians won converts in China.
- Roman Catholics had missionary expeditions to China.
- **Resettlement**
 - Mongols moved people around where their skills were needed.
 - Recruited talent from allies and conquered peoples.
 - Uighur Turks for clerks/secretaries/administrators
 - Arabs and Persians for faraway administration
 - Mongols took censuses starting in the 1230s.
 - Levied taxes.
 - Conscripted military.
 - Found talented individuals.

Decline of the Mongols in Persia and China

- **Collapse of the Ilkhanate of Persia**
 - Persians were victims of economic collapse due to excessive spending, and were not reunified until the late 1300s.
 - Fell in year 1335.
- **Decline of the Yuan Dynasty**
 - General population lost confidence in paper money (which predates the Mongols).
 - Factions and infighting hastened Mongol decline in China.
 - By the 1320s, power struggles, assassinations, and civil war destroyed the dynasty.
 - In 1368, Chinese rebel forces against Mongols took the capital.
 - As a result, Mongols fled China for the steppes.
- **Bubonic Plague**
 - 1330s - plague began in China.
 - 1340s - plague had reached Europe (dubbed "The Black Death").
 - Killed millions of people, seriously disrupted economies and societies throughout Eurasia.
- **Surviving Mongol Khanates**
 - Central Asia - khanate of Chaghatai still prevailed.
 - Russia - Golden Horde dominated steppe lands north of Black and Caspian seas.
 - Mongols posed a threat to northwestern borders of China all the way to the 1700s.