

MONGOLS

The first khan of the tartars, Chinggis:

Chinggis was chosen as the tartar's king in 1187, and as Marcos puts it a man of great valor great intelligence and great prowess and tartar's from all over the world accepted him as their lord and when chinggis khan saw that he has so many followers, drunk with power he decided to equipped them with bows and armor and went to start conquering lands, he conquered 8 provinces but did no harm to them, which I find hard to believe and Marco claims that they went with him willingly. The khan had a desire for prester john's daughter and wanted to marry her, this angered John and he belittled the khan which hurt his fragile ego and he called for his downfall. A huge battle took place with enormous armies and they met on a vast and beautiful plain called tenduc in this battle chinggis won and presser John died. Chinggis khan's reign of terror went on for 6 years conquering many castles and provinces, but then he died due to a wound in the knee. After he died he was buried. How a great khan is buried, they have respect in life and death. Here is how great khan's are treated after death They are taken to a mountain that are about 40 days away and all their men are buried with them to go serve their lord in the other world and their horses are killed too.

The mongols migrated based on the season and they made sure that every time they built a house the door always faced south . Gender roles with the mongols The ladies were involved in buying and selling and housekeeping and raising children and the only thing the men concerned themselves with was hunting and war. They also had interesting eating habits, eating the flesh of camels, dogs and rats, they didn't spare any animal.

They are known for being sexually wild people but they never touched another man's wife and each man can take as many wives as he desires as long he's able to provide for them all and he has to give dowries to the wives' mothers. The first wife has there most respect and mongols were known to marry their cousins and when a man dies his eldest son marries his wife as long as she is not his mother.

Tartar's god and religion

They have a god called nacigai that protects their sons animals and crop and they also make an imaginary wife and son for him putting the wife on his left side n son in the front, when they eat they stuff fatty meat in the mouths of this god, his wife and his sons then they take bread and spread it around the house and after they do this they say

their god and his household have had their share of the food They prepare mare's milk like wine (qumis) and drink it with their food

Mongol laws and society

Mongols' social classes was based on their tribal living system, tribes that would constantly get into wars because of their violent nature, but chinggis unified all the mongols to use their violent nature and war skills in his own advantage

They had four social classes

The Ruling Class:

The top of the social hierarchy included children, close relatives of chinggis and the nobles he rewarded for helping him in his early wars.

2Public class:

Each tribe had a leader and tribe rulers and kings and the members of this class lacked education and lived a very nomadic almost caveman like life and didn't have any occupations besides "hunting, grazing, or plundering their enemies".

The class of merchants and craftsmen:

Mongol society was very behind on civilisation and this led to them having difficulties leading their empire, so with the help of muslims they attracted business men builders and other occupations that are necessary in a growing empire

Slaves and concubines:

Bottom of the system, sold and bought at cheap prices and used them for militaries and as sexual slaves, they were mostly war captives.

Mongol laws:

Early Mongolian society suffered from high crime rates and some tribes even views these crimes as signs of courage. Chinggis unified the tribes and set a justice system by the name of Elias that consisted of the death penalty for a variety of crimes such as adultery, sodomy, lying, witchcraft, spying, aiding fighters, repeated business loss, feeding captives without permission, or not returning runaways. The rules were very strict due to the mongols violent nature and environment and this law worked and severely decreased crime rates and brought stability to the mongol society .

After defeating Nayan, the Great Khan went back to Khanbaliq and celebrated. With that many of Khan's competitors backed down as this was one of the main campaigns that put Khan in power. Chinggis recognised the loyalty of his warriors and he would reward them based on their status and roles, giving them rewards that displayed their privileges and how grateful he is for the efforts of his commanders. Holders of tablets wore silk on their heads, and would be treated as higher status, some tablets even giving the holder the ability to issue orders if he was not able to. Qubilai Khan, the great lord of lords had 4 wives, all of which were called empresses.

The Great Khan had 22 sons from his 4 wives and 25 from his mistresses. His eldest son named Chinggis died, leaving a son named Temür, making him the next in the leading line. Some of his sons ended up leading just like him, but while we give credit to the men in these stories, it is important for us to also talk about the women who played a role in the forming of Chinggis. Like Chinggis's own mother, Hoelun. As she managed to keep her family afloat and help build Chinggis into who he was.

He stayed in Khanbaliq, capital of Cathay, during December, January, and February. Ordering his people to hunt during the winter season to gather food and skin of wild animals to use during the weather change.

He had a large palace, almost like a makeshift village as it had many sections with different purposes, some being for his armor and equipment and other palace corners were for the weaponry he was keeping. It was covered with designs and had beautiful colors to make it shine.

Near the palace was the Khan's Green Mound, it was meant to be a peaceful area for the emperor himself. And he made sure the environment was displaying the green nature he appreciated. The Great Khan made sure to make his heirs also feel powerful

by creating the same palaces for them, fitting them into the role even while he was alive. Though they had to move cities out of fear from a rebellion, Dadu (Taidu) was made. A refined city, with a large bell in the middle palace that would ring at night. The city was protected by many horsemen who kept the quiet environment around.

During banquets, the Great Khan made sure to be seated at the highest area to view everyone around the hall, he made sure to be the center of attention of the visitors and to feel honoured.

Back to the point about women, Chinggis made sure that no man would be able to dine if his wife was not present to enjoy the feast and entertainment as well. Same seating arrangement was in place for The Great Khan's birthday, which was on 28 September.

While he wore cloth with gold, he made sure everyone who was there to celebrate him matched the theme.

His quesitans would receive matching clothing sets for each festival he hosted, as Chinggis paid close attention to how his warriors and guards dressed for events.

The matching clothes did not stop there, as they did the same by wearing all white on New Years for good luck, and would give each other white items or golden pieces.



A piece of cloth with gold threads that was found in a tomb in the 13th-14th century.

<https://www.artoftheforefathers.com/blog/chinggis-khan-musee-dhistoire-de-nantes>

Two of The great lord's barons, who were brothers, were his dog hunting leaders and they have a specific name for this role which is ciunci, and the meaning is those who keep mastiffs. Each brother had 10,000 men under their command, and each of the brothers men would only wear a certain color when they went hunting with the great lord. One brothers men would wear red and the other would all be wearing light blue. When these 10,000 men go hunting 2000 of them would have large mastiffs with them, some of them even carried 2 or 3 , which makes a large number of huge dogs so this would lead them to having really successful hunts, they would catch every animal that they would cross paths with. The great lord does this hunting in three months. After that he leaves the city and goes south to the ocean which is a journey that takes 2 days. This time he doesn't take the dog hunters; he takes 10,000 falconers with him to go birding. How he does this is with the falconers and around 500 gyrfalcons, peregrine falcons and saker falcons, He spreads them out in groups of 100-200 around the land so that they catch more birds he doesn't gather them all up in one place. Of course the birds are not unattended there are 10,000 men there with him they are called tosaor, which means "men who stand guard". the men are disturbed 2 by 2, They are there to help the birds if needed and to call them back because the birds don't go anywhere that the men don't go and the way they do this by using whistles. The birds also have silver tablets on their feet where the name of their owner is written on. This way they don't get lost and if a bird is found that has no owner it is taken to a baron called bularguci which means " keeper of things without a lord", if someone finds a bird like that and doesn't take it to that baron they would be considered a thief.

The great khan Well he travels in a very fancy way he rides elephants and in a chamber, the great lord also keeps 12 of his favorite gyrfalcons, and to keep him entertained and accompanied, several barons stay with him. And when he feels like it

he decides to release his falcons and rest in his bed. The great lord keeps traveling until he reaches a place called cacciar modun, where there are tents for his son's mistress and barons. His tent is very big, so big that it could hold 1000 men inside. Now obviously his big tent is built very well so that it can withstand strong wind and rain and the insides are made beautifully with the finest fur and colors. Now of course his tents have to be this nice because he will stay there until spring with his whole household astronomers and falconers and many of the men that he needs. One thing that is worth mentioning is that no one is allowed to or dares to hunt any animals in the areas where he is headed to for 20 days, so that they multiply, so that the great lord has his delightful and joyful hunting. After all of that he returns to khanbaliq.

When the great khan returns he likes to hold a 3 day feast where he gets to enjoy delicious food with all his wives in the city. Because of this it attracts a lot of travelers, merchants and businessmen. The city has 12 suburbs where it's filled with these merchants and travelers and they bring a lot of precious goods like silk and precious stones and pearls and this makes it a very good market place, another thing worth mentioning is that there are a lot of female sex workers (around 20,000) in these suburbs. Now the city khanbaliq being such a hot spot for marketing is very important because the cities around them also benefit from this.

Another way the great khan benefits is by making his own currency, he makes money from the bark of mulberry trees. Just like how we have dollar bills and 20 dollar bills in the US in the modern day he also made several different amounts of currency. And this currency was accepted throughout his whole empire and whoever refused was immediately punished by being killed. Now because everyone was scared of losing their lives they did use this currency and it was very successful. You can buy anything you want with this "monnaie". With that merchants would regularly bring in goods like precious jewels to the great khan, now because of this he appointed 12 experts to pay the merchants with his currency and by doing this he accumulated a lot of wealth.

The great khan has selected 12 powerful barons to be in charge of important management in the 34 provinces. All barons live together in a castle in khanbaliq. Now

each province has their own judge, and these judges listen to the barons. It is clear to see that these barons hold a lot of authority since they get to pick the governors for the provinces, it's safe to say that these 12 barons come in second place after the great khan himself in terms of power. Another great thing about great khan and his city (khanbaliq) is the communication and travel system that they had. Khanbaliq was the center of his empire, and from this center there were many major roads that would lead to villages and other cities around it and the incredible thing about these roads were that every 25-30 miles there were relay stations, which were stations where already traveling people on horses that carried messages from other stations could switch their horses so that they could relay the message that they want from one place to another faster without taking breaks for days and letting the horses rest. Now across the empire there are 10,000 stations or posts like this. In addition to these posts there were also runners which also carried messages between villages. One thing about them the lord didn't tax them, instead he would reward them. The great lord as way to keep the favor of his people, would help them when they were in need for example if farmers that year didn't get any good crops he wouldn't take the taxes from them instead he would give them some seeds so that they can feed themselves. Likewise for people who owned animals if the animals that year got sick and all died he would give them some of his animals to that family and not ask for anything back in return. Another good thing that he did was to plant trees along the roads where merchants would travel, so that they don't get lost. One last good thing that the great khan did was he gave charity to his people. For example families that had a lot of members were given grains and wheat so that they don't starve and they would be full.



Source ^ <https://commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/File:DiezAlbumsElephant.jpg>

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