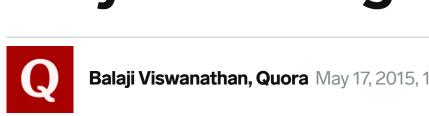
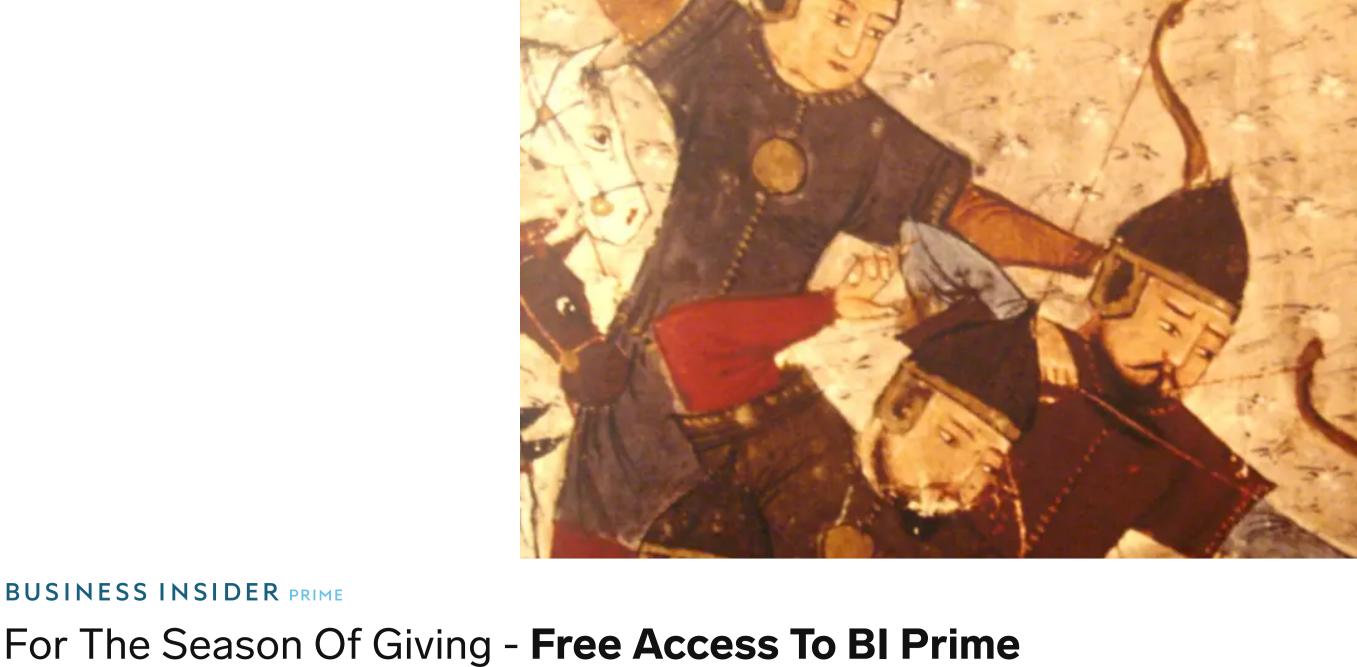
f □ ...

Why the Mongols were the greatest empire in world history





BUSINESS INSIDER PRIME



Wlkipedia This answer by History buff Balaji Viswanathan originally appeared

on Quora as an answer to the question: What was the greatest empire in world history?

The Mongols would be my top choice. They have done some

extraordinary things that have never been done before and never

been done since. Within decades they built a random region literally in the middle of nowhere to become an invincible superpower. Would you be surprised if I told you that they were also great engineers and extremely good learners who changed world more than any other superpower? I see many people having highly outdated stereotypes of Mongols.

We often see a straw-man view of Mongols: guys on horses with bows and arrows. What would you say if someone in the year 2700 described the British Empire merely as guys carrying muskets and the Union Jack and wearing red coats? Or the Arab Empire as guys with swords on horses chanting *Allah*? Or the U.S. as a superpower dropping nuclear bombs while watching Adam Sandler movies? There was far more to the Arabs, British, and Americans than the

straw-man description above. Same for the Mongols. If you are

curious, read on.

Astrokey44

VIDEOS YOU MAY LIKE by Taboola

GET 7 DAYS OF ACCESS

No credit card required

Why astrophysicists black hole in our

Alibaba cofounder Jack Ma is the richest man in China —

think there's a solar system

here's how he spends his \$38...

Inside Dubai's VIP private terminal for the superrich that

Here's how the million-mile battery could lead to Teslas

by Taboola

hour to use

FROM THE WEB

Debt

Sponsored by NerdWallet

Sponsored by History101

Wealthy Retirement

Everything)

FIND A JOB

Tech Jobs

Media Jobs

Finance Jobs

See All Jobs »

Strategic Trends Investor

costs \$11,000 an lasting a lifetime

Unlike Hitler, Napoleon, and so many others, the Mongols had little problem running over Russia. They say you never invade Russia in winter. Mongols actually loved invading that time, as their horses could run over the frozen rivers without the need for bridges. While

The red shows the growth of the Mongol Empire. By the late 1200's, the Mongol empire

had split into several shown in yellow, green, and purple. Wikimedia Commons User

Afghans might have resisted Americans, Soviets, and the British, they had no clue of what hit them during the time of Mongols.

Military prowess of the Mongols

China was never ruled by outside powers until then. The Arab Empire was at its glorious heights with Baghdad being the world's greatest city. Until the Mongols, of course. Indians barely avoided being run over by Genghis Khan's hordes due to a strong leader. Later, even India was partly defeated.

The Teutonic crusader knights had no answer to the Mongols, nor

did the various tribes of Southeast Asia. It didn't matter whether you

were a super-advanced civilization at the apex or totally nomadic—

The Mongols could run over the brutally cold lands of Siberia and

How to Communicate Your Value Proposition as a Financial Advisor E*TRADE Advisor Services **Major 5G Event Coming (This Changes**

The Best Way To Wipe Out Up To \$10,000 Of

New Renderings Show What Historical

Figures Actually Looked Like In Real Life

SPONSORED FINANCIAL CONTENT

Looking To Retire? These 6 Stocks Will

Generate Regular Income

You'll regret not securing this cash back The Ascent **Top 5 Rewards Credit Cards with Good** Credit LowCards dianomi

CAREERBUILDER

C-Level Jobs

Design Jobs

Sales Jobs

the brutally hot lands of Arabia. They didn't care if they were running into the empty grasslands of the Steppes or the deep

you lost to the Mongols.

Wikipedia

tropical jungles of Burma. They could run the paddy fields of China and also run through Himalayas as though it was some irrelevant hill. They could as easily mount the horses as easily as they could launch naval attacks. It is as though geography is some irrelevant detail that they didn't bother about.

If the enemies packed themselves solidly in a phalanx, Mongols

would decimate them with arrows. If the enemies spread thinly, Mongols would chase them with lancers. They would also easily overcome enemy archers, cavalry, and swordsmen. In short, there was not a single technology nor strategy nor weapon that could hold against the Mongols. They were the ultimate superpower the world has seen.

Not just a brute force, but a colossal empire

In talking about Mongols, many have an outdated, often-racist picture of some crude, murderous "barbarians" who got lucky. Only in the recent times have the historians unearthed some fascinating

via Quora

blood on its hands.

lax and obstinate. They kept a diverse governance and learned from every avenue possible. A lot of world's technology growth (including the dissipation of gunpowder, paper, and the printing press to much of Europe) happened as a direct result of their conquests. In short, they helped greatly shape the world we live in.

In their forces, a Christian, Muslim, Confucian, Buddhist all were

treated the same, and they were not stuck much in ideologies. In

that sense, they were far superior to every European colonial power.

They were extremely innovative and played on key weaknesses of

the opponents. They would bring European/Middle East trebuchets

to fight the Chinese, and to fight the Middle East they would bring

things about them and are giving them their due respect. Let's face

The Mongols actually built a very professional force that was open-

used every technology known to man, while their competitors were

minded and highly innovative. They were master engineers who

it: There is not a single superpower or major empire that has less

the Chinese siege crossbows and gunpowder. If they didn't get stone for trebuchets, they would cut huge trees and soak the logs in water to act as rocks. The other views of Mongols:

• Genghis Khan brought the writing system to Mongolia that is still used by many Mongolians. The Mongol empire spared teachers of taxation and led to the great spread of printing all over East Asia. They also helped the rise of an educated class in Korea.

• Mongols built a spectacular international postal system through a

• They started creating standardized bank notes and paper

currencies centuries before Europe created its own.

not matched for the next five centuries.

via Quora

could visit Asia.

big chunk of Eurasia called the Yam (route) whose efficiency was

• Under Mongols there was a fantastic "free trade area" that

connected most of the known world. Trade flourished as

• In an era of religious fighting, the Mongols built a religious

• Chinese sciences, astronomy, medicine, engineering, and

mathematics exploded in the Mongol era, as the Khans

Christianity, Buddhism, Confucianism.

tolerance that spanned almost all religions they knew—Islam,

merchants traveled without worrying about raids. Economy

prospered. It is in this time that Marco Polo and other Europeans

highly accurate calendar. • Art and theater flourished in the Yuan era of China. They introduced a variety of European advancements in glass and musical instruments in China.

understood the value of sciences. Some great scientists in this era

include Guo Shoujing and Zhu Shijie. Mongols also produced a

• Mongols had a constant thirst for knowledge and were very quick

cultures. This caused an explosion of ideas. Europe rose to its age

of exploration within a century of the contact with the Mongols.

learners. They also spread whatever they learn from various

Like all great empires of the world, they had a lot of blood in their

hands. However, their contributions to human existence through

the explosion of ideas in sciences, art, and trade have shaped our

history more than any other superpower.

Follow Quora on Twitter.

The Princess Bride: And The

Sponsored by Noteabley

Wanted Shows

Sponsored by refinery29.com

Not So Professional Behind T...

movie with 100 untamed lions

via Quora

Read the original article on Quora. Copyright 2015. Ask a question, get a great answer. Learn from experts and get insider knowledge. You can follow Quora on Twitter, Facebook, and Google+.

NOW WATCH: 70 people were injured while filming this

More: Quora Military History

Hilarious Teachers Getting These Cars Will Soon Be Straight A's In Humor Worthless – Cars Plummeting... Sponsored by DailyChoices Sponsored by Buzzdrives

BUSINESS

Taboola Feed D

INSIDER

Netflix Caves: Finally Releasing These Long Creatures You Didn't Know Existed Sponsored by Science101

MARKETS

INSIDER

INTELLIGENCE

BUSINESS INSIDER

INSIDER

* Copyright © 2019 Insider Inc. All rights reserved. Registration on or use of this site constitutes acceptance of our Terms of Service, Privacy Policy and Cookies Policy. Sitemap | Disclaimer | Commerce Policy | CA Privacy Rights | Coupons | Made in NYC | Stock quotes by finanzen.net International Editions: INTL | DE | AUS | FR | IN | IT | JP | MY | NL | SE | PL | SG | ZA | ES CA Do Not Sell My Info