

# Terms, People, and Places

Steppe:

Genghis Khan:

Kublai Khan:

Yuan Dynasty:

Marco Polo:

Pax Mongolia:

# Lesson Objectives

- Summarize how Mongol armies built an empire
- Describe China under Mongol rule.

# Summary

## “The Mongol Empire”

During the 1200s and 1300s, the Mongols conquered and ruled China, much of Asia, and a part of Europe. Their rule greatly affect the world.

CHAPTER  
**12**  
SECTION 2**Section Summary**

## THE MONGOL AND MING EMPIRES

**READING CHECK**

What are steppes?

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**VOCABULARY STRATEGY**

What does the word *dominated* mean in the underlined sentence? *Dominates* comes from the Latin word *dominus*, which means "master." Use this word-origins clue to help you understand the meaning of the word *dominated*.

**READING SKILL**

**Recognize Sequence** List in correct chronological order the three Chinese dynasties mentioned in the Summary.

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The Mongols were nomads who grazed their animals on the steppes, or treeless plains, of Central Asia. Mongol clans spent much of their time warring with one another. In the early 1200s, however, a Mongol chieftain united these clans. He took the name **Genghis Khan**, meaning "Universal Ruler." Under his leadership, Mongol forces conquered a vast empire. After his death, his heirs continued to expand the Mongol empire. For the next 150 years, they dominated much of Asia. The Mongols established peace and order within their domains. They controlled and protected the Silk Road, and trade flourished.

Genghis Khan's grandson, Kublai Khan, toppled the last Song emperor in China, in 1279. He named his dynasty the **Yuan**. Only Mongols could serve in his military and in the highest government jobs, but he allowed Chinese officials to continue to rule in the provinces. He welcomed many foreigners to his court, including Ibn Battuta and Marco Polo. Polo's writings about the wealth and splendor of China sparked European interest in Asia. The pope sent priests to China, and Muslims also set up communities there. Chinese products, including gunpowder and porcelain, made their way to Europe.

**Review Questions**

1. Why did trade flourish under the Mongols?

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2. What effect did Marco Polo's writings have in Europe?

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# Aim #14: How did the Mongols build and maintain their large empire?



## Genghis Khan's Tax Laws:

- *If you do not pay homage, we will take your prosperity.*
- *If you do not have prosperity, we will take your children.*
- *If you do not have children, we will take your wife.*
- *If you do not have a wife, we will take your head.*



"World Emperor"

fierce & Used cruelty as a weapon

# Mongol Empire (1206-1368)

- Nomads from **steppes** of C. Asia

- Vicious skilled warriors

- **Genghis Khan**

- United Mongol warring tribes

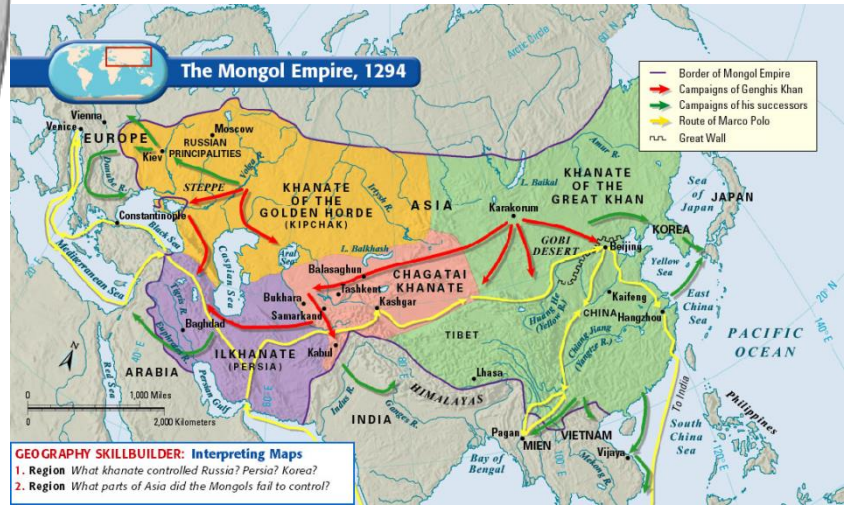
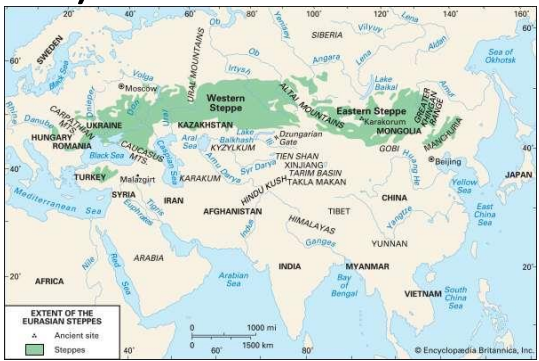
- strict discipline

- Demanded loyalty

- Tolerant

- Empire from Europe to Pacific O.

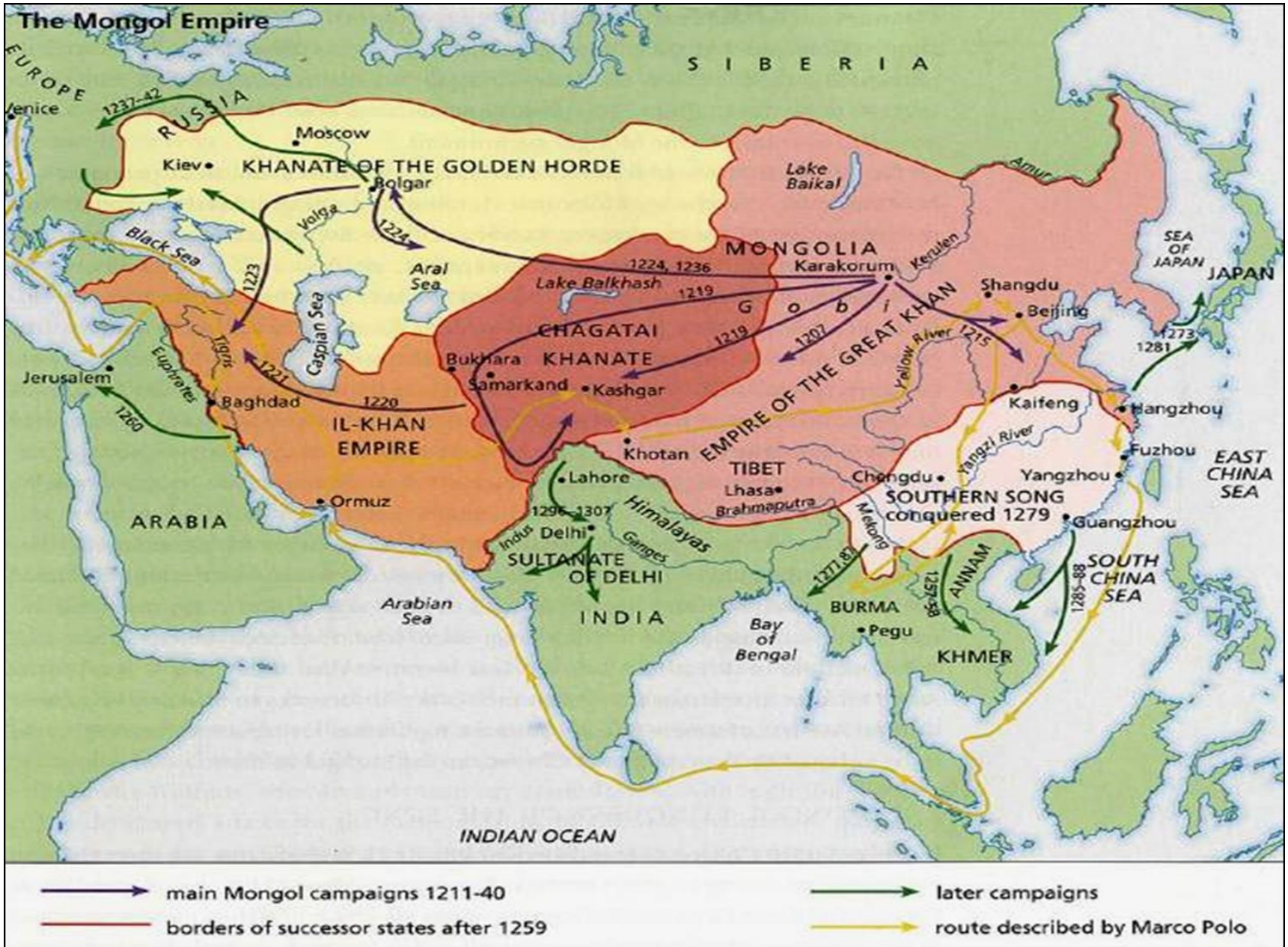
- Russia, Persia, Mesopotamia, China, India



**GEOGRAPHY SKILLBUILDER: Interpreting Maps**  
 1. Region What khanate controlled Russia? Persia? Korea?  
 2. Region What parts of Asia did the Mongols fail to control?

9.2 million square miles (US 3.8 mil.)

# Mongol Invasions





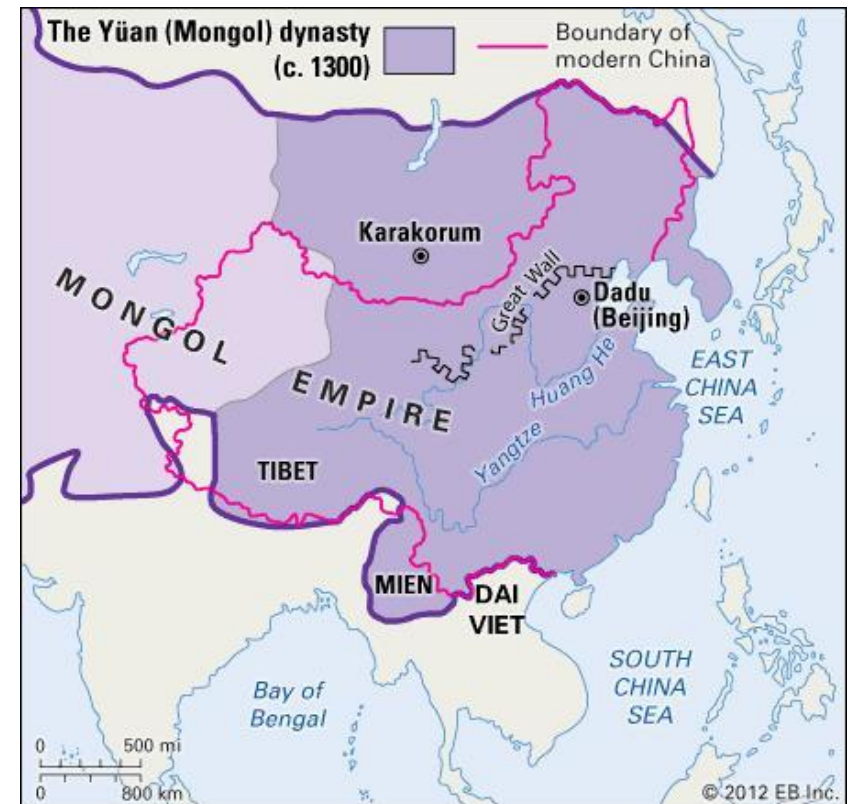
# China Under Mongols (1279-1368)

- 70yrs to conquer
- completed by **Kublai Khan**



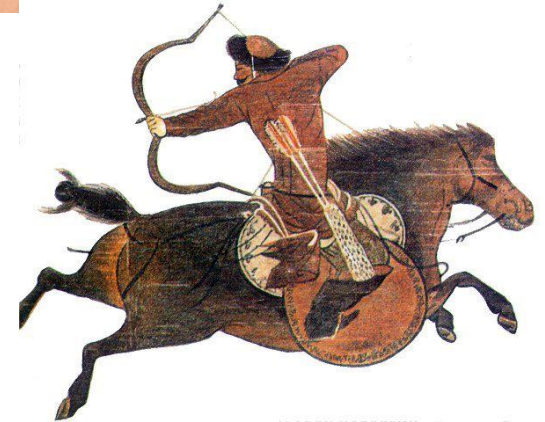
## ➤ Yuan Dynasty

- Only Mongols in high military & gov't jobs



# Mongols' Success

- Strong Leadership
- Military
  - Strict discipline
  - Expert horsemen & bowmen
  - Mobile
- new weapons
  - gunpowder & canons



# Document: Mongol Army

All Mongols were fighters, but Genghis made a reorganized army the core of the society and the carrier of many of his reforms. Under him and his successors, the Mongol army had the following characteristics:

All males 15-70 served in the army, all as cavalry (soldiers on horses).

The army's 95 units of 10,000 soldiers were subdivided into units of 1,000, 100, and 10.

Soldiers were promoted based on merit [their ability] not based on their family's status in society.

Members of different tribes were mixed together in units of every size to ensure loyalty to the army above loyalty to the tribe.

Allies and military men from conquered territories were also integrated into the fighting force, the soldiers from conquered areas were usually placed in the front ranks.

Absolute obedience to orders from superiors was enforced.

Officers had tight control over their troops' actions (plunder only with permission, no one allowed to transfer out of their unit).

No one in the army was paid, though all shared to varying degrees in the riches they took from others

# Document: Bow & Arrow

... The Mongols had developed a composite bow made out of sinew and horn and were skilled at shooting it while riding, which gave them the upper hand against ordinary foot soldiers. With a range of more than 350 yards, the bow was superior to the contemporaneous [around during the same time] English longbow, whose range was only 250 yards. A wood-and-leather saddle, which was rubbed with sheep's fat to prevent cracking and shrinkage, allowed the horses to bear the weight of their riders for long periods and also permitted the riders to retain a firm seat. Their saddlebags contained cooking pots, dried meat, yogurt, water bottles, and other essentials for lengthy expeditions. Finally, a sturdy stirrup enabled horsemen to be steadier and thus more accurate in shooting when mounted. A Chinese chronicler recognized the horse's value to the Mongols, observing that "by nature they [the Mongols] are good at riding and shooting. Therefore they took possession of the world through this advantage of bow and horse."...



Adapted from the New York State Education Department. June 2013. Global History Exam. Internet.

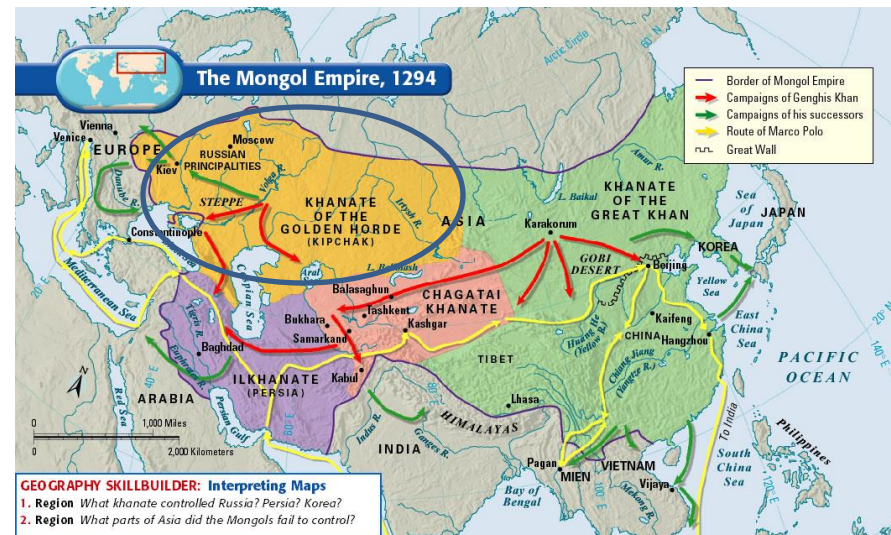


# Checkpoint

How did the Mongols build an empire?

# Mongol Impact

- Spread terror & destruction
- **Golden Horde**
  - influenced Absolutism
  - Cut off Russia from W. Europe
    - ❖ during Renaissance



# Pax Mongolica → Global Trade

- Period of peace & order
  - made Silk Rd. safe
  - Trade flourished across Eurasia
  - allowed Marco Polo's travels
    - ❖ reports sparked European interest in China

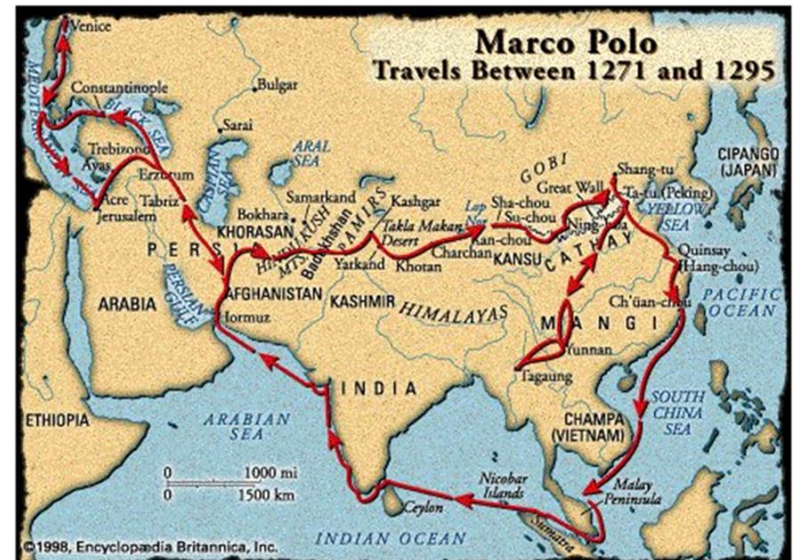


Gunpowder, porcelain, paper, & disease



“Under the reign of Genghis Khan, all the countries . . . enjoyed such peace that a man might have journeyed from the land of the sunrise to the land of sunset with a golden platter upon his head without suffering the least violence from anyone.”

Source: Ghazi, Muslim chronicler, 1270.



# An Excerpt from *The Travels of Marco Polo*

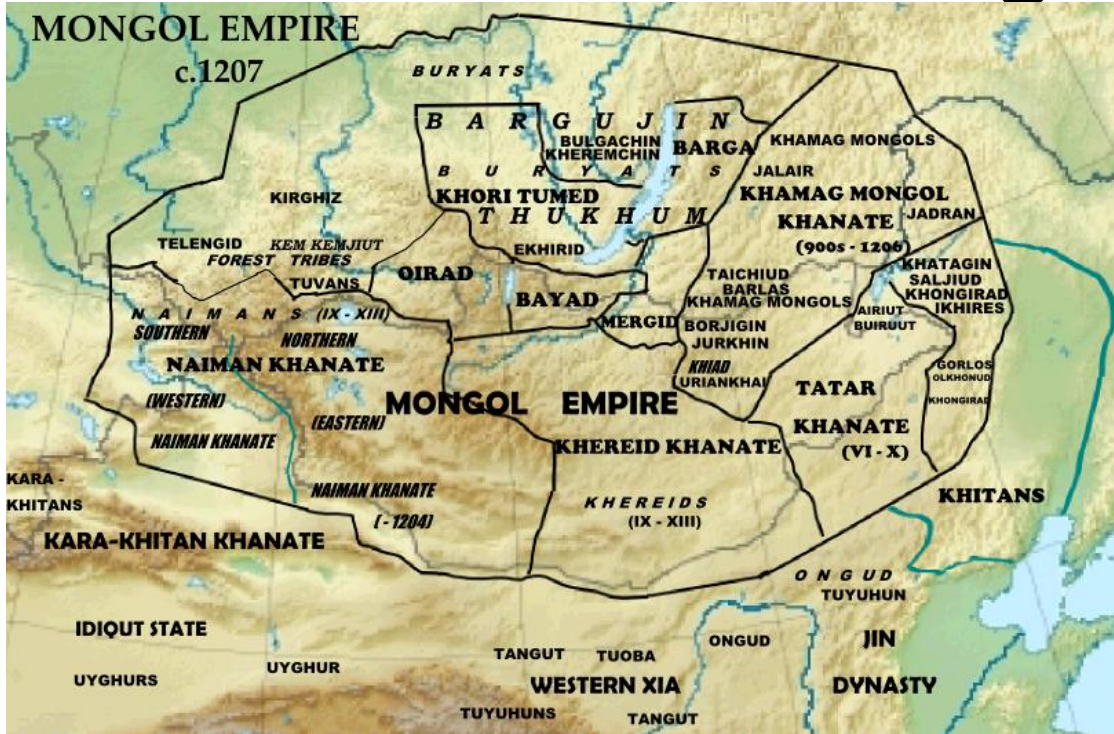
Now you must know that from this city of Cambaluc [Mongol capital in China, now Beijing] proceed many roads and highways leading to a variety of provinces...the messengers of the Emperor in travelling from Cambaluc...will, find at every twenty-five miles of the journey a station which they call Yamb, or, as we should say, the “Horse-Post-House.”

...You must know that by the Great Kaan’s orders there has been established between those post houses, at every interval of three miles, a little fort with some forty houses round about it, in which dwell the people who act as the Emperor’s foot-runners. Everyone of those runners wears a great wide belt, set all over with bells, so that as they run the three miles from post to post their bells are heard jingling a long way off. And thus on reaching the post the runner finds another man similarly equipt, and all ready to take his place, who instantly takes over whatsoever he has in charge...so the new man sets off and runs his three miles. At the next station he finds his relief ready in like manner; and so the post proceeds, with a change at every three miles. And in this way the Emperor...receives despatches with news from places ten days’ journey off in one day and night; or, if need be, news from a hundred days off in ten days and nights; and that is no small matter!

Moreover, there are also at those stations other men...who are employed for expresses when there is a call for great haste in sending despatches to any governor of a province...and these men travel a good two hundred or two hundred and fifty miles in the day, and as much in the night..... They take a horse from those at the station which are standing ready saddled, all fresh and in wind, and mount and go at full speed, as hard as they can ride in fact. And when those at the next post hear the bells they get ready another horse and a man equipt in the same way, and he takes over the letter or whatever it be, and is off full-speed to the third station, where again a fresh horse is found all ready, and so the despatch speeds along from post to post, always at full gallop, with regular change of horses. And the speed at which they go is marvellous.



# Pax Mongolica



Through their conquests and strong-handed rule, Genghis Khan and his sons and grandsons who followed him created stability and peace in the Mongol Empire in the 1200s and 1300s. Historians now refer to this period of order as *Pax Mongolica*, or “Mongol Peace.” You may recall that the years between 27 BC and 180 AD of the Roman Empire are known as *Pax Romana*, or the “Roman Peace” because of the prosperity in the Roman Empire that resulted from a strong centralized government and few wars. The same was true for *Pax Mongolica*.

The political stability during the hundred years of *Pax Mongolica* led to more and safer trade on the Silk Roads. Under the protection of the Mongols, goods and ideas moved between China and the Middle East once again. Most importantly, the innovations that started in the Golden Ages of the Tang and Song Dynasties in China, spread to the rest of Eurasia. Chinese techniques for making paper, printmaking, the compass, new agricultural techniques, and the use of gunpowder were then used and improved upon by people in Central Asia, India, the Middle East, North Africa, and eventually Europe.

These innovations spurred historical events for centuries to come including the Age of Exploration during which European sailors using compasses for navigation travelled to the western hemisphere; The Reformation, a religious movement fueled by the writings of a monk named Martin Luther whose ideas circulated in paper pamphlets rapidly produced by printing presses; and gunpowder continues to spark conflict throughout the world.

**What effects did Pax Mongolica have on the Mongol empire, surrounding societies, & future societies ?**

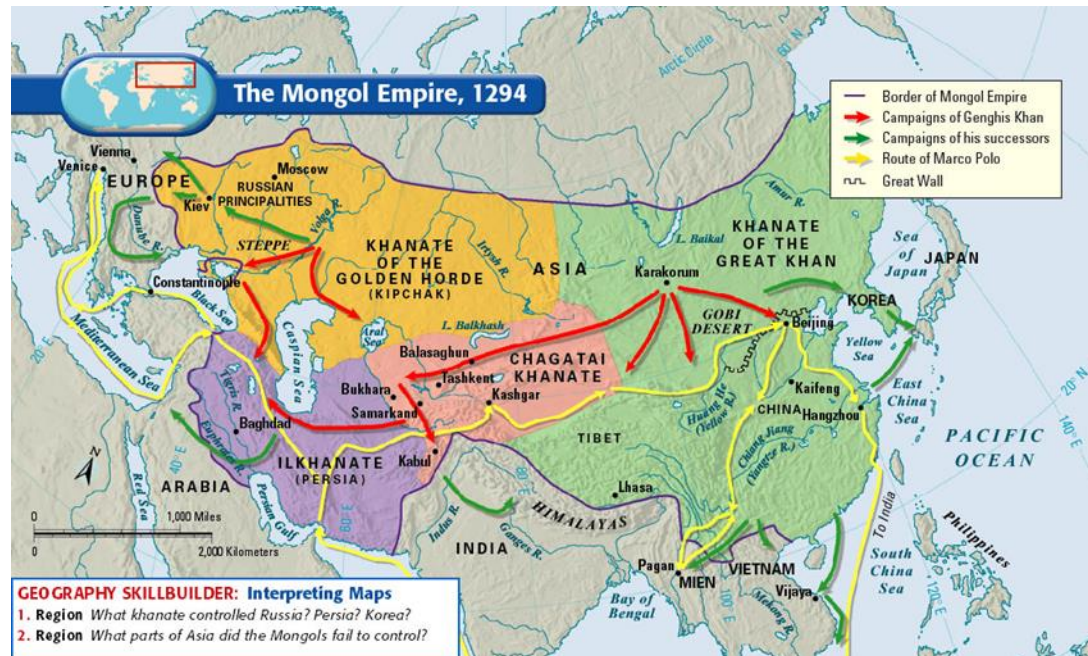


# Checkpoint

What were the effects of Mongol rule?

# Decline

- too large to govern well
  - inexperienced in gov't
- rebellions





I don't get it...



I get it!

EXIT CARD  
Please jot down what you  
have gotten from today's  
lesson and what you still  
have questions on.