

The Mongols

-nomadic tribe of
Asia

-had to be nomadic
due to elevation of
their homeland,
difficult to have
agriculture

-expert warriors
on horseback, very
mobile

- the Steppes of Asia
- the importance of grass
- grass is everywhere in a permafrost environment

-experts in use of
bow & arrow
-ruled those they
conquered by fear,
use of violence,
murder, vandalism,
intimidation,
enslavement
-created & controlled
largest empire in
history (until that time)

- Mongols had little time for culture
- they would enslave artisans & craftsmen and transfer them back into the Mongol empire to learn from them
- Mongols were contradictory;

—on one hand—
Mongols were brutal
in their succession
of victories,
literally murdering
everyone in a
conquered city
and completely
destroying and
wiping certain

Civilizations from
the earth
absolutely brutal
in use of fear
tactics
(siege stories)
(attack of Japan
story)

—on the other hand-
Mongols wanted to
trade w/ the west
they re-opened the
"Silk Road" trading
route that went
from Europe to
China
they wanted the
exchange of ideas

those who surrendered
were allowed
freedom of religion
wanted 100% literacy
in their empire
made best maps in
history til that time
eliminated use of
torture in China
invented paper money

invented concept of
"diplomatic
immunity";
ambassadors from
different civilizations
should be able to
travel freely &
safely
set-up a 'pony
express' like

System for
sending messages
and mail

- most famous
people

Ghenghis Khan

1162 AD - 1227

- conquered N. China,
Southern Asia to the
middle east,

Ogodai Khan

dies 1241

Ghenghis's son

- conquered Asia to the Pacific, Korea, west to European continent,

- Mongols were set to launch invasion of Europe when he died, invasion then called off

Kublai Khan

1215-1294

Ghenghis's grandson

- completes conquering
of all China,

South to N. India,

invades Japan twice

Marco Polo

- "1st" European to travel to Asia,
- from Venice
- stayed 17 years
- personally travelled w/ K. Khan
- was not believed by fellow Euros upon his return

- given 2 nicknames
 - "Prince of Liars"
 - "Marco's Millions"

importance

A) ruthless control of some areas (like Russia) made those places fall behind both socially and technologically

B) M. Polo's travels
increased interest
in more east/west
trading

C) new inventions
brought to west
helped end feudalism

ex. gunpowder made
armor & walls
obsolete

D) the Mongols make
the world a better
place for business