THE MONGOL EMPIRE UNDER GENGHIS KHAN

Focus Question: How did the Mongols maintain their empire?

Do-Now: Take out your homework and work from yesterday.

Homework:
Outline 307-313, stop at Mongol assault on the Islamic Heartland.
**ANALYZING THE MONGOLS**

**Directions:** You will be reading a series of documents around the room. Based off the information and analysis in each document, complete the PERSIAN chart below. Make sure to put the information *in your own words.*

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- [https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=PJRpdw2Ofw4](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=PJRpdw2Ofw4)
- What allowed for the Mongols to be so successful in conquering their empire?
- How was having a cavalry (army on horseback) so advantageous?
- Why is it believed that the Mongols began to expand and build an empire?
- Describe Mongol invasions/battles.
- Under Genghis Khan, answer the following:
  - How many people were killed?
  - How many years did it take to build his empire?
  - How many miles did he conquer?
- How did the Mongols maintain their success of the empire?
CAPITAL AT KARAKOURM
The Mongols first conquered China, then set their sights on the Middle East. The Mongols used their strong cavalry and favorite battle tactic, retreat, to conquer their enemies. Cavalry were sent to attack the main enemy’s force. As the enemy was about to be defeated, the Mongols would retreat which would get the enemy’s forces out of formation in the hope of beating the Mongols. Once the enemy pursued the Mongols, the cavalry would spread themselves out as the main force of the Mongol cavalry (which was concealed) attacked the enemy with devastating effects. This technique was perfected in China and used in all invasions.

| After unleashing their destruction on conquered territories, Mongol rule was actually quite peaceful and tolerant. The Mongols promoted cross-cultural exchange and relations through the Pax Mongolica, or Mongolian Peace. Having conquered an enormous territory in Asia, the Mongols were able to guarantee the security and safety of travelers. Recognition that trade and travel were important for all of the Mongol domains meant that traders were generally not in danger during the 100 years of Mongol domination and rule over Eurasia. |
Genghis Khan was committed to spreading new ideas and having an empire where all of the diverse people could live in peace together. Although Genghis Khan was illiterate, he had a strong interest in the arts and learning. He established a new capital at Karakorum in the steppes. The wisest people from the empire lived in Karakorum where Genghis Khan’s lavish palace was built.

At Karakorum, Genghis Khan consulted with Confucian scholars about how to rule China. He also consulted with Muslim engineers about building siege weapons and improving trade with the west. Although Genghis Khan followed shamanistic beliefs (focus on spirits of nature) and ancestor worship, he tolerated all religions in his empire. An administrative framework was created based off of Chinese and Muslim bureaucrats. A written script for Mongolian was devised to facilitate recordkeeping and standardize laws. Much of the law code was focused on ending divisions between Mongol tribes and other nomadic tribes. Grazing lands were given to each specific tribe and there were harsh penalties for stealing any livestock or grazing areas of another community/tribe.
Towns of the Mongol Empire flourished with handicraft production, scholarship, and artistic creativity. Secure trade routes allowed for merchants to prosper and created cosmopolitan (familiar with many different cultures) cities. One Muslim historian wrote that people living within the Mongol empire “enjoyed such a peace that a man might have journeyed from the land of sunrise to the land of sunset with a golden platter upon his head without suffering the least violence from anyone.” Although many have considered Mongol expansion ruthless and barbarous, it was a major force for economic and social development across the Middle East and Asia. Life became more civilized. This did come at a cost though; some historians believe that because of this intercontinental activity, it helped to spread the Black Plague/Death from China to Europe.

Genghis Khan died in 1227 after falling ill during a battle in China. As he fell ill, Genghis lectured his sons on the dangers of quarreling over the spoils of the empire. After the khagan (ruler) died, the Mongols carried Genghis’ body back to Mongolia for burial, killing every human and animal in is path. The remaining land was divided between his three remaining sons and a grandson, Batu. Ogedi, the third son, was elected khagan. After Genghis Khan's death, the Mongols focused on further conquests in Russia, Eastern Europe, the Middle East, and China.