

MMW 13, Lecture 3

Nomadic Incursion



HOW and Why?

The largest Empire before the British Empire



What we talked about in last lecture

- 1) No pure originals
- 2) History is interrelated
- 3) Before Westernization (16th century) was southernization
- 4) Global integration happened because of human interaction: commerce, religion and war.

Known by many names

- “Ruthless”
- “Bloodthirsty”
- “madman”
- “brilliant politician”
- “destroyer of civilizations”
- “The great conqueror”

“Genghis Khan”

Ruling through the saddle



Helped the Eurasian Integration



Euroasia in Fragments



Afro-Eurasia



- Afro-Eurasian complex as interrelational societies
- Cultures circulated and accumulated in complex ways, but always interconnected.

Contact Zones

1. Eurasia: **(Hemispheric integration)**

- a) Mediterranean-Mesopotamia
- b) Subcontinent

2) Euro-Africa

- a) Africa-Mesopotamia

3) By the late 15th century

Transatlantic **(Globalization)**

- Africa-Americas

12th century

- Song and Jin dynasties
- Abbasids: fragmented: Fatimads in Egypt are overtaken by the Ayyubid dynasty (Saladin)
- Africa: North Africa and Sub-Saharan Africa
- Europe: in the periphery; Roman catholic is highly bureaucratic and society feudal



How did these zones become
connected?

Nomadic incursions

- ▶ Xiongunu
- ▶ Huns (Romans)
- ▶ White Huns (Gupta state in India)
- ▶ Avars
- ▶ Slavs
- ▶ Bulgars
- ▶ Alans
- ▶ Uighur Turks

In Antiquity, nomads were known for:

1. War
2. Migration

Who are the Nomads?

- ▶ Tribal clan-based people--at times formed into confederate forces-- organized based on pastoral or agricultural economies.
- 1) Migrate so to adapt to the ecological and changing climate conditions.
- 2) Highly competitive on a tribal basis.
- 3) Religion: Shamanistic & spirit-possession

Two Types of Nomadic peoples

1. Pastoral: lifestyle revolves around living off the meat, milk and hides of animals that are domesticated as they travel through arid lands.
2. Sedentary: Settled for agricultural activities at oases. Mostly would do commerce with urban regions.

Ibn Khaldun (1332-1406)

- “Group solidarity”

Or *Asabiyyah*

1) Religion can intensify such Group solidarity.

2) Decay Theory: Attack, settle, assimilate and then, disintegrate.



Why did Mongol-Turkic People go beyond Central Asia?

Three theories:

- 1) Economics: lack of goods and supplies (city people are not into commerce with nomads)
- 2) Religious: Conquest of others as a spiritual experience.
- 3) Charismatic leadership:
 - Attila the Hun & Visigoths, Ostrogoths, Vandals and Franks.

Huns

Military incursion (4th century)



Enter the Mongols: 13th century



Why so successful in their military conquests?



Why so cruel?



Nomadic people



- **Ethno-linguistic group of people (resembles Turkic languages)**
- Lived in harsh environments
- Clan-based societies: patriarchal, patrilineal, claiming a common ancestor.
- Paternal tent: family domain
- 1920s Communist party changed society

Military Innovation

- 1) Light cavalry
- 2) Mobility: horse archers



Hunting Nomadic Life:

3) Equestrian skills



Marco Polo

The Book of Ser Marco Polo

- “When they are going on a distant expedition they take no gear with them except two leather bottles for milk, a little earthenware pot to cook their meat in, and great urgency they will ride ten days on end without will sustain themselves on the blood of their horses, opening a vein and letting the blood jet into their mouths, drinking till they have enough, and then staunching it....”

In Nomadic Empires and Eurasian Integration.

4) Warfare



Feigned retreat as Tactical military operation: Attack, retreat and attack

- 1) Light cavalry retreats
- 2) ambush or immediate attack from multiple smaller units

Objective

- 3) Confuse and surprise the enemy
- 4) And ultimately destroy moral

Irregular Warfare



Psychological

- Cut off the heads of soldiers with a certain height
- Disembodiment
- Tactic to leave no option for resistance (only surrender)

Battle of the Badger Mouth (1211)

- 1210 Genghis Khan insults Jin emperor Wanyan Yongji (1168-1213)
- Battle with the Jin empire (1115-1234)



Tengri (God?)

- 99 Tengri
- Sky-father and Earth Mother

Animism: Non-human objects have spiritual force

Ancestor reverence

Shaman can become Tengri

Tomb of Shaman



○ Shamanism



Call spirits to heal and intercede



Mongolian Shamanism (or “Tangerism”)

- Practiced by tribal organizations
- Buddhist monk Dharmapriya (5th century)
- Mixed with Buddhism, spread under the Tang Dynasty (618-907)
- Ground is sacred
- Heaven is the protector

- Eternal Spirit

Features of Mongolian Shamanism

- Medicine
- “worship” of nature
- Ancestor reverence
- Female and male intercessors



Khan (Universal Leader)

- Warrior
- Charismatic
- And Tangri

“Genghiz Khan” or Universal Ruler

- Temüjin (b. 1167-1227) “Iron worker”
- His father a famous warrior.
- His father poisoned by Tatars (1175)



Steppe grass lands



Influence of his mother, Hoelun



1177: the Great Escape



- 1182 Temujin marries and gives his wedding gift to Tugrul Khan and Jamukha (his childhood friend), and a pact is made to punish those (the Merkits tribe) who abandoned his mother



Wife captured



Formation of Tribal Confederacy

- 1186 Temujin is declared the khan of the Mongols
- Jamukha rivals Temujin and launches attack against his childhood friend
- Temujin defeated and exiled

1197

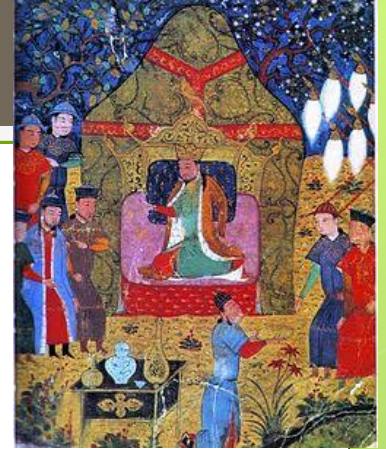
- Alliance with Jin and Temujin's power is restored
- **Yassa code:** a tribal secret code (or decree), a contract, for wealth distributed among civilians and soldiers
 - A) total obedience
 - B) formation of alliance between clans
 - C) punishment for transgression
- **Code of Hammurabi** (similar to it 1754 BCE)

1206 Jamukha is captured
Noble Death: breaking the
back; NO BLOOD!



1206

- Temunjin had untied and subdued several tribes, including Merkits and Tatars into a confederacy
- Established peace between the tribes
- But also made them into a formidable force



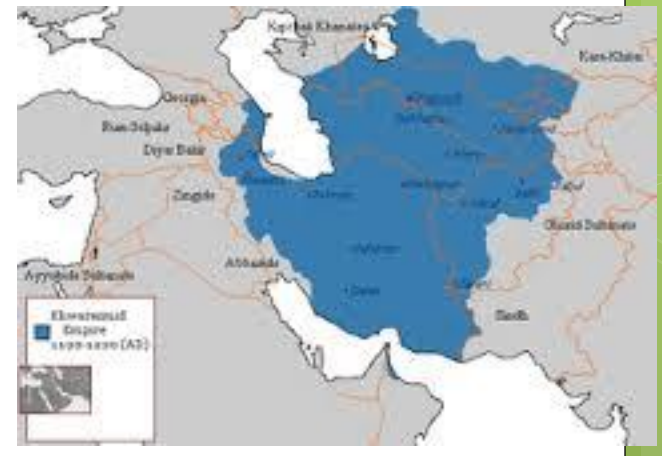
Imperial achievement

- In just two decades his forces carved out the biggest empire in world history
- From Black Sea to Korea



Khwarezmian Empire (1077-1231)

- 1218 Genghiz Khan sends trade mission and diplomats
- 1220 conquest of Samarqand



Timur (1336-1405)



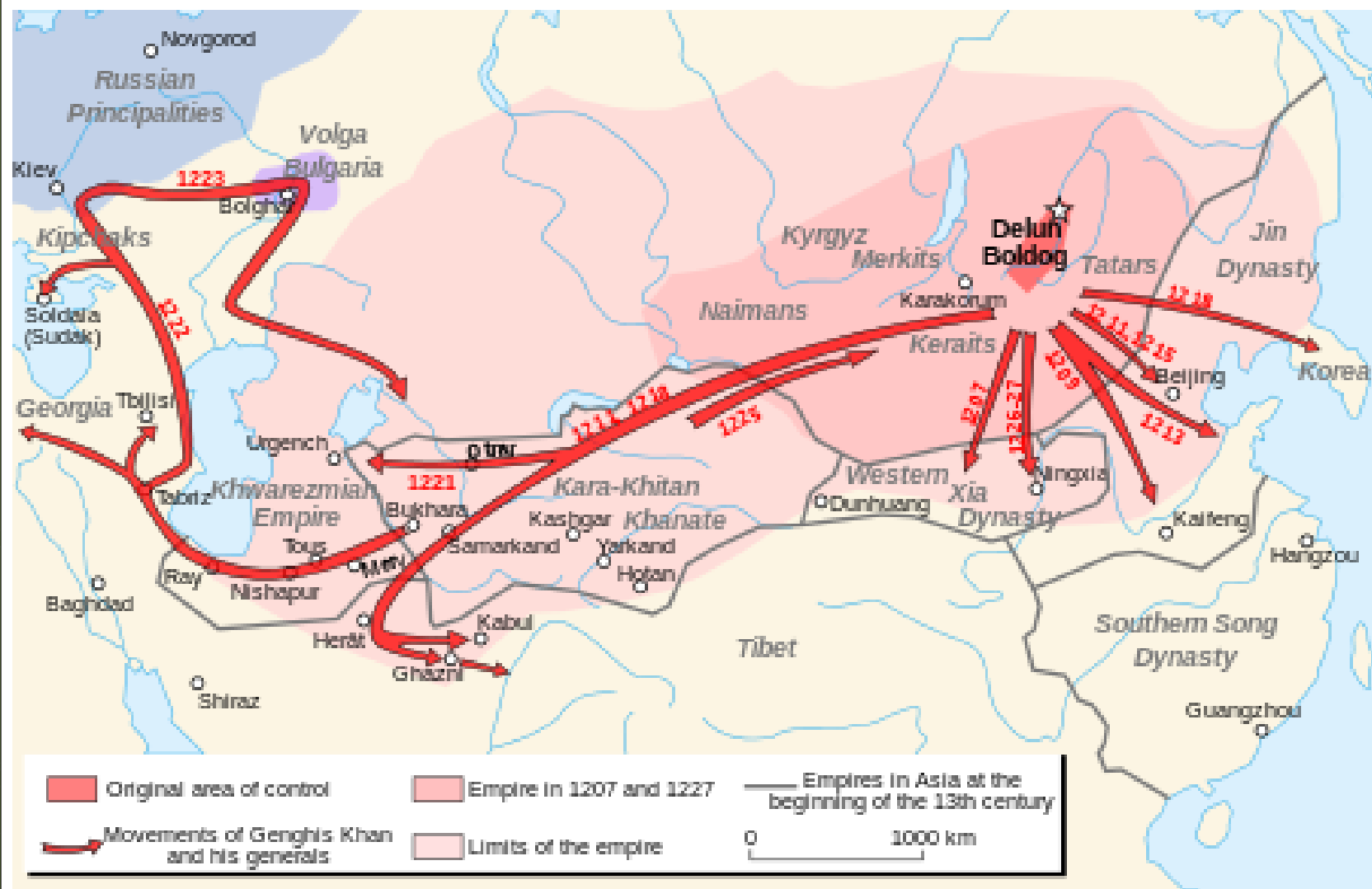


- 1209 Western Xia Dynasty
- 1211 conquest of Jin Dynasty begins

1218 defeats Kara-Khitan or Western Liao (1124-1218)

August 1227 dies (no tomb)
The Mongols burying and
hiding the tomb





Political accomplishment

- Reorganized tribal loyalty and by detribalizing the Mongols into a Confederacy
- **Tribal Confederacy**” a loose association of sovereign clans that join for a common, shared identity or interest

Military accomplishments

- Employed light and mobile military tactics to expand beyond Mongolian territories.
- Conquered other empires
- Psychological warfare

Economic expansion and religious tolerance

- Protect Silk road
- Religious pluralism under the Mongol Empire

Legacy like Alexander World
Conqueror;
divinely protected



Genghis khan popular religion



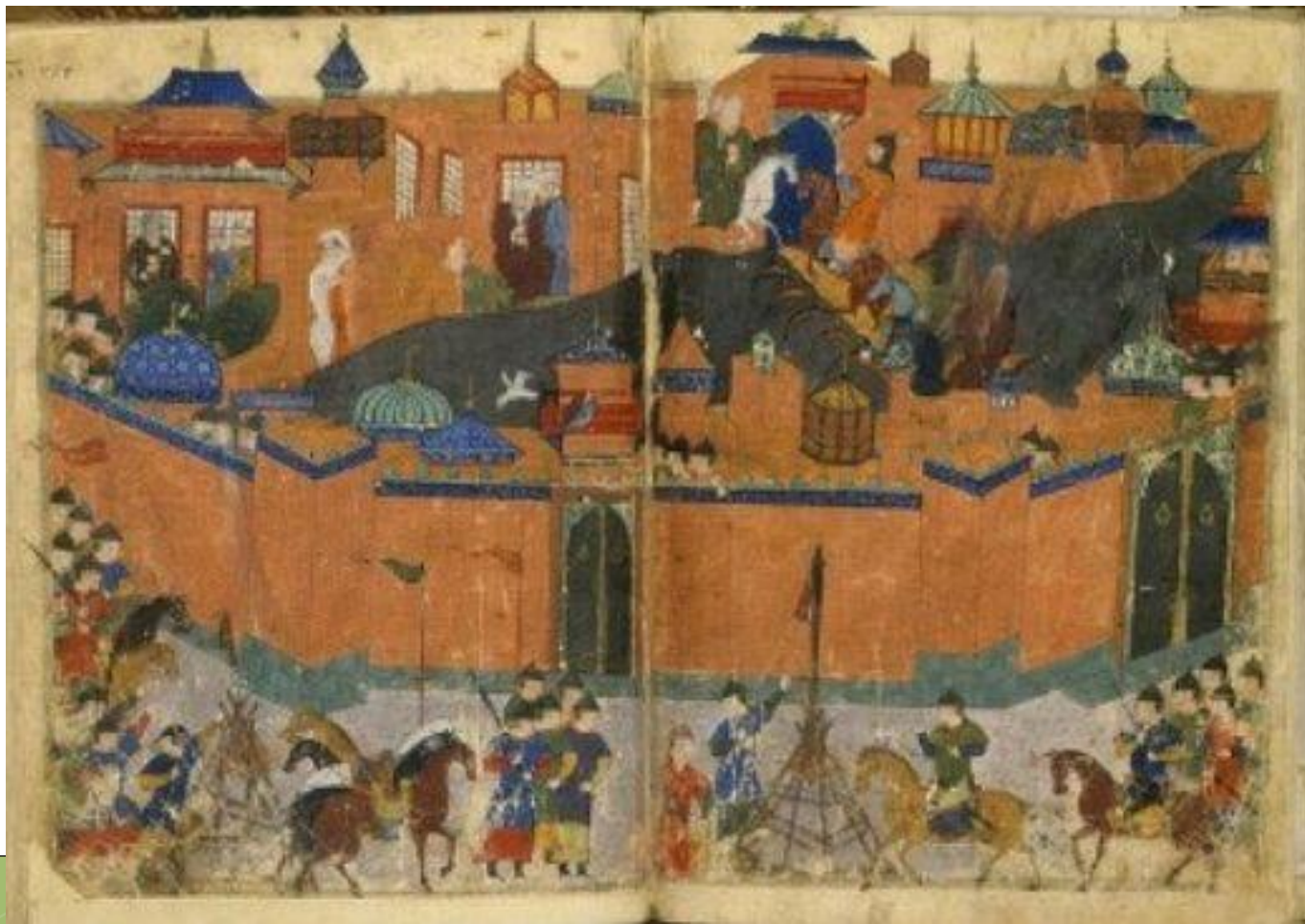
After Genghis Khan

1. Khanate of Chaghatai (Central Asia)
2. Khanate of the Golden Horde (Russia)
3. Khanate of
the Great Khan
(China)
4. Ilkhanate of Persia



1258

Battle of Baghdad



Halagu khan (1218-1265)



The Ilkhanate of Persia

- Khwarazm Shah
- Hülegü established the Ilkhanate in Persia and Mesopotamia. (1218-1265)
- 1295 Ilkhan Ghazan converted Mongols to Islam.

Used Persian and Arab administrators to run the empire.

Conquest of China

- The conquest of China began 1211.

THE GREAT WALL

- Hangzhou: Song Capital fell to Mongol forces (1276)
- Khubilai, grandson of Chinggis Khan, became the emperor of China. Yuan dynasty.
- Khanbaliq (Mongol capital in China)

Khanbaliq Daidu (by the Mongols)



After the disintegration of Yuan Dynasty 1368



1274 & 1281 Typhoons that stopped the Mongols



“Divine Winds”

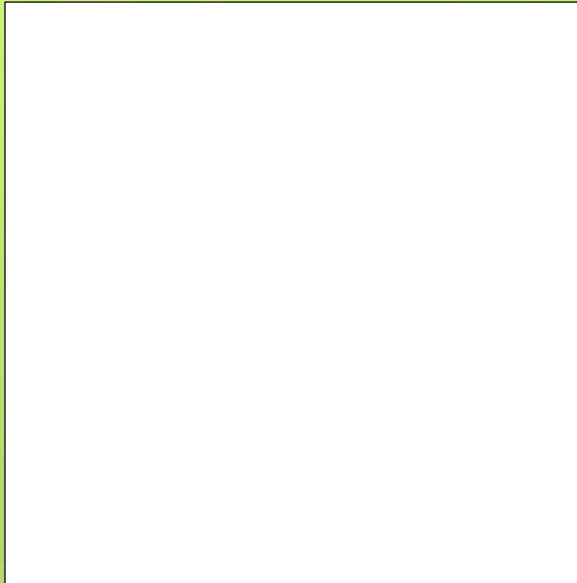


What were the Mongol Contributions to World History?

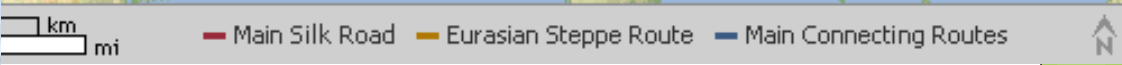
1. **COMMERCE & Trade:** Increased the integration of Eurasia. **SILK ROAD!!!**
2. **Migration & Travel:** Human contact
3. **Spread of Religions:** Specially Islam & Buddhism.
4. By facilitating commerce the Mongols unintentionally spread bubonic plague, which erupted in south-western China (1330-1340).



COMMERCE & Trade



畫於二〇一二年
此畫係由
中國畫家
所繪
描寫絲綢
之路
之繁榮
與
熱鬧
之景象



Karakorum: northern Capital (13th century)





TURKS





“Original” Turks

- Nomadic people from Central Asia.
- Various tribes who migrated from Central Asia to India, Persia and Anatolia (modern Turkey).
- Highly skilled warriors.
- Religiously diverse: Buddhist, Christian, Muslim...
- Unlike the Mongols, their Nomadic Empires became great civilizations, establishing the most enduring imperial orders in world history (e.g. OTTOMANS)

First Turkish Migrations

At first: mostly random

- Uighur Turks, lived mostly on the oasis cities along the silk roads.
- Abbasids: Slave Soldiers or Mamluks
- 1055: the Abbasid caliph recognized Saljuq Turk, Tughril Beg as *Sultan* (Ruler)
- 1071 Saljuq Turks defeated the Byzantine.
- Led the Crusades.

Tugh

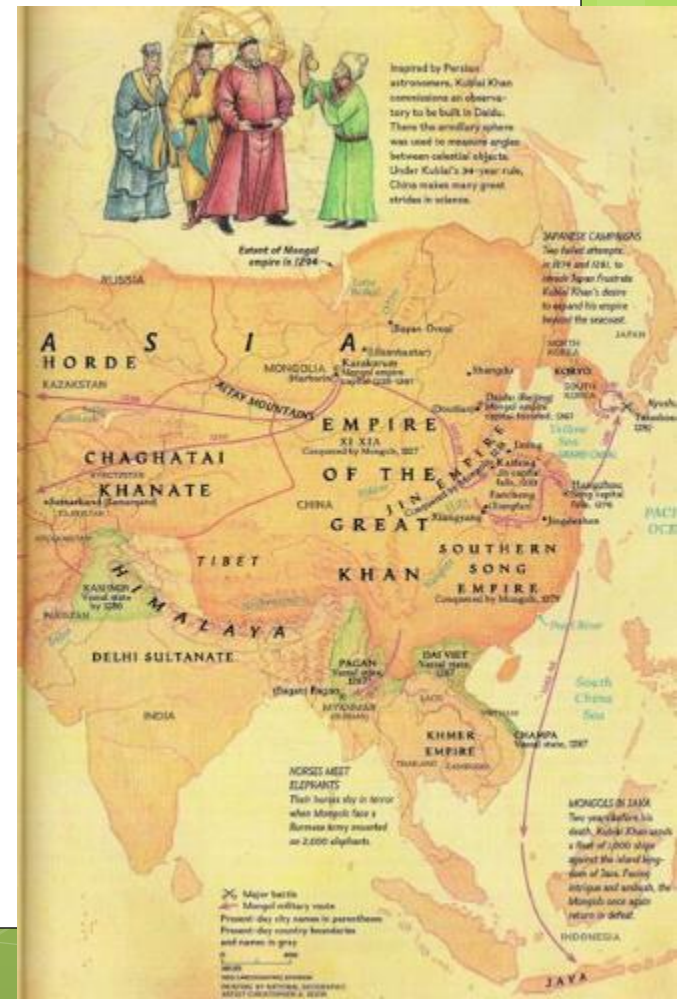
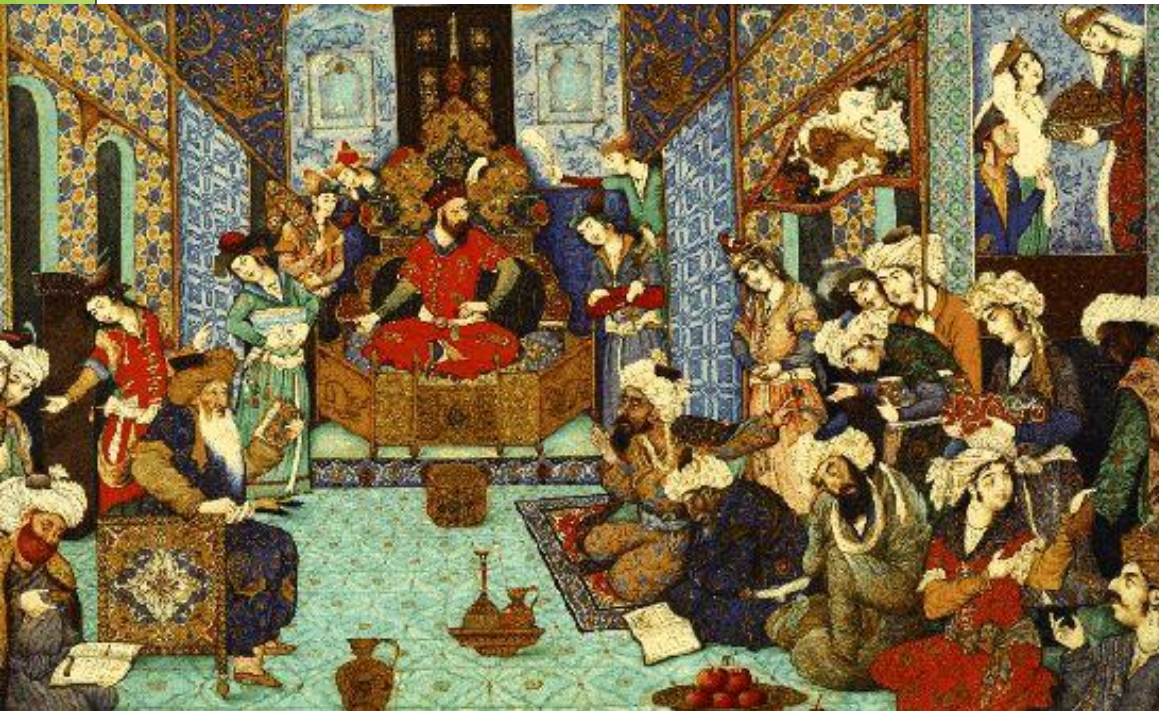


The Caucasus and Central Asia



- Expansion into Punjab
Gujarat and Bengal.

Mahmud of Ghazni, 997-1030



Persianized Turks

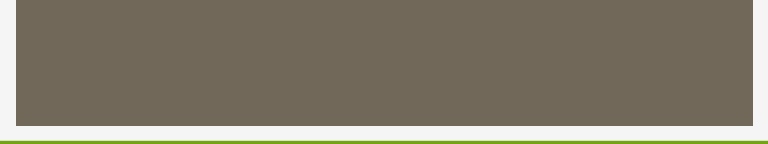
- Persian as the official language of the courts.
- Persian poetry and literature.
- Persian administration based on the Sassanid imperial order (pre-Islamic).

Osman I

1258-1326

- 1299 declared independence from Saljuq sultan
- Expanded his emirates
- *Ghazi*: Spiritual warriors (a myth or a latter Ottoman construct).
- CONFEDERACY: Christian and Turkish Muslim forces.
- Heterodox Muslim
- Established Osmanlis or Ottomans.



- 
- Muslim mystical fraternities who created confederacies with the aim of conquest through spiritual warfare.

Sufi Muslim Brotherhoods
 - 1) Ritualistic: initiation ritual.
 - 2) Secretive: think about the Masonries.
 - 3) Inclusive: other tribal or religious groups also members, if they could prove to be spiritually worthy.
 - 4) Religiously “heterodox” : hardly followed the scriptural or literalist conception of sacred.

“Heterodox” Muslim ?

- Combination of Shamanism & doctrinal Islam.
- *Kumiss*: alcoholic drink from animal product. (Islamic?)
- *Pir* or spiritual elder.
- Sufi or mystical Islam



Tamerlane 1370-1405

Built a central Asian empire
(building on Chinggis Khan's tradition).

Mid-1390s: Invaded India and
subjected Delhi



Tamerlane



Helped Spread Persianized
Culture

Three major Mongol-Turkish Imperial Orders

- 1) Ottoman
- 2) Safavid (1501-1722)
- 3) Mughal