

MMW 13, Lecture 3

Nomadic Incursion



Invitation to MMW's 2014 Deer Park Monastery Retreat

Weekend Residential Retreat (April 25-27,
2014)





Who said this?

- “At the same time it will have become increasingly clear that the Afro-Eurasian civilized zone was not a static historical context. It had its own characteristics as a set of interrelations. The several civilized regions formed a persistent historical configuration, in which each region had its typical place, its repeatedly typical relationships to the others. This interregional configuration, then, even while maintaining its key characteristics, constantly changed as to the detailed manner of its interrelationships.

- The civilized zone as a whole had its own history.”

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.



- “What will happen will happen; what we will not know will happen; We do not know!”

“Genghis Khan”



Eurasian Integration



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
- 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?



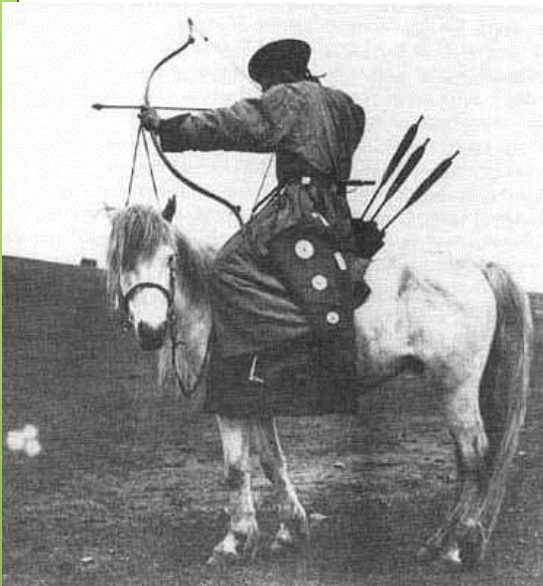
Nomadic people



- ◉ 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) Psychological 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



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)
- Influence of his mother
- In 1190s he made an alliance
With other Mongol tribes and fought against the
Tatars



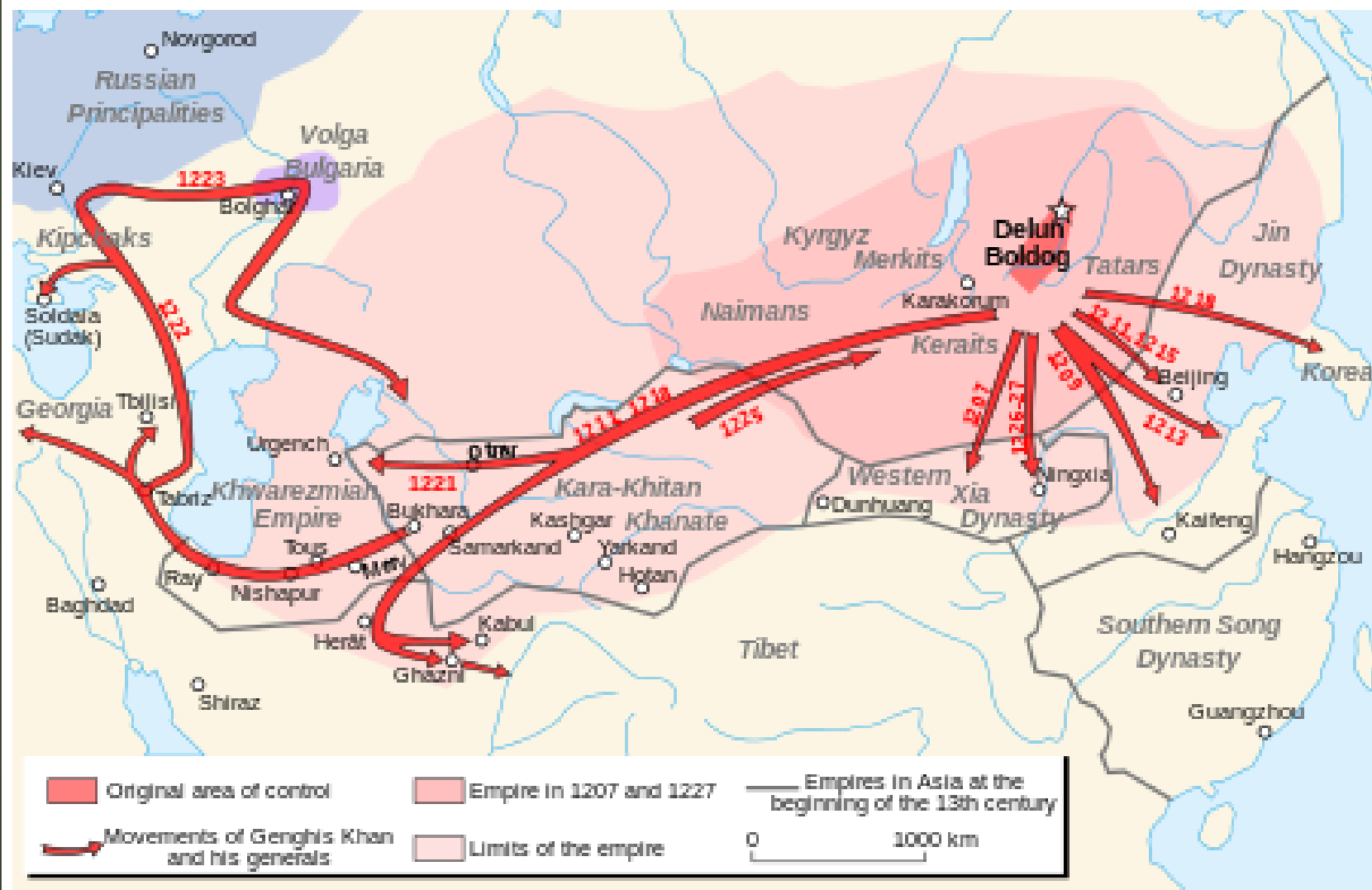
Consolidation of power

- ◉ (1201) Naiman Mongols did not join
- ◉ Jamukha claimed to be the Universal Rulers
- ◉ (1206) Jamukha's generals turn him in to Temujin
- ◉ Temujin offered alliance, but Jamukha refused.
- ◉ Noble Death: No blood; break back and die!



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

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



Khwarezmian Empire (1077-1231)

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



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Timur (1336-1405)



August 1227 dies (no 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



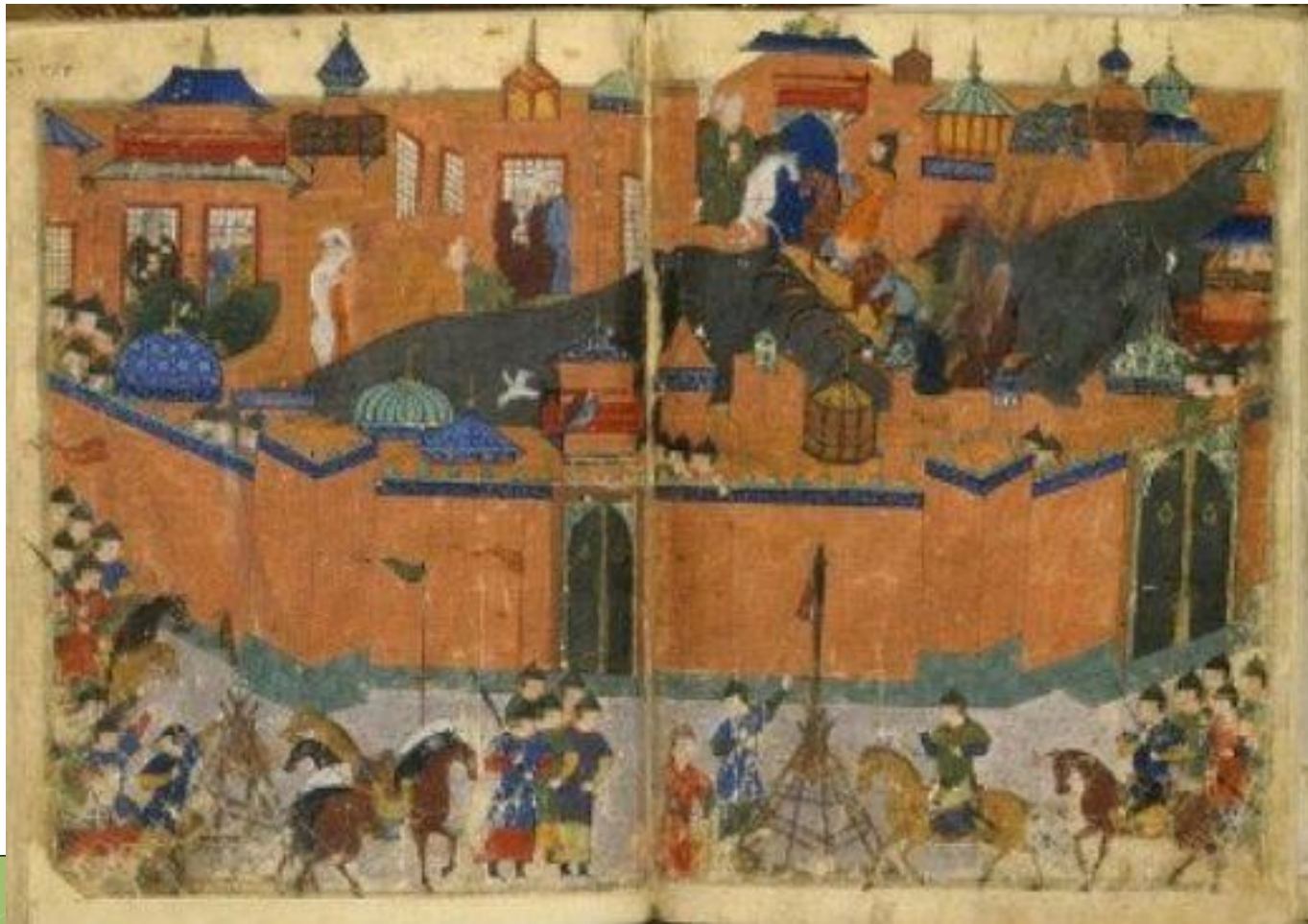
After Chinggis Khan

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



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 Collapse 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

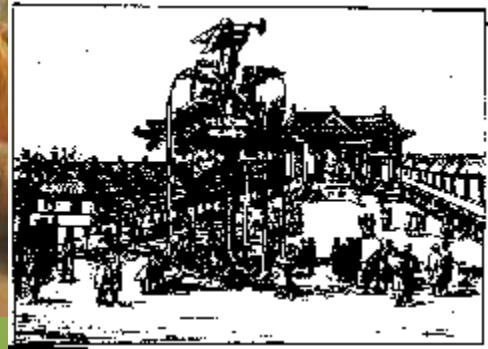


km
mi

— Main Silk Road — Eurasian Steppe Route — Main Connecting Routes



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

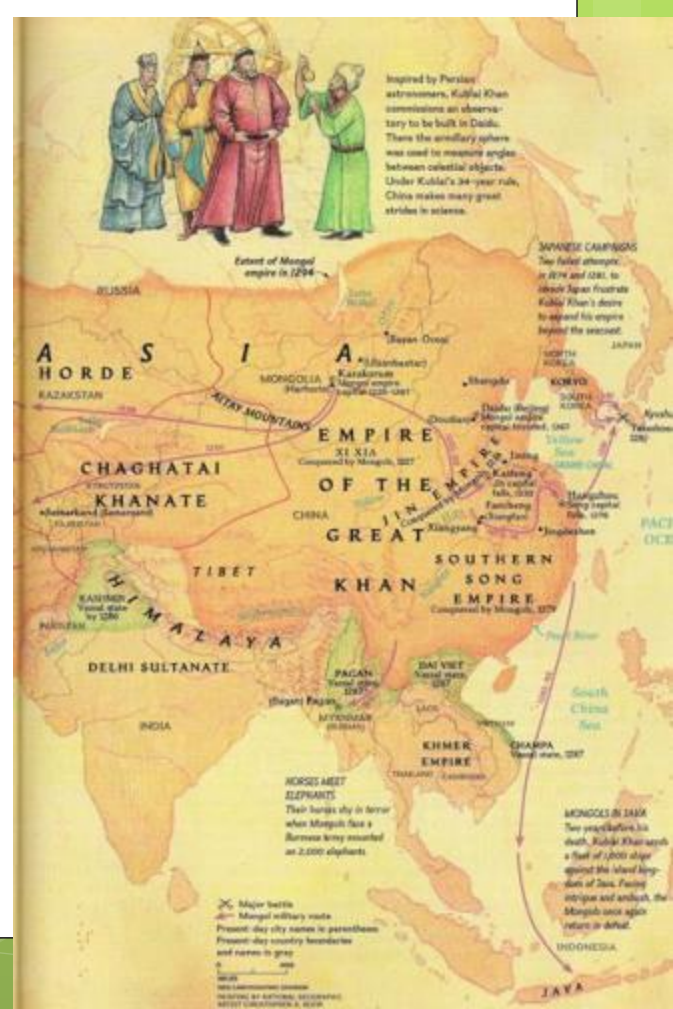


The Caucasus and Central Asia



- _____

Inspired by Persian astronomers, Kublai Khan commissions an observatory to be built in Daidu. There the armillary sphere was used to measure angles between celestial objects. Under Kublai's 34-year rule, China makes many great strides in science.



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