



The Mongols

The Mongols

- **The Mongols** lived in an area north of China called *Mongolia*, where they lived in a **tribal** setting.



- **Tribe** – groups of related families, loosely joined together.

The Mongols

- The Mongols raised cattle, goats, sheep and horses.



- They followed their herds as the animals grazed Mongolia's great **Steppes**.

The Mongols



- **Steppes** – are wide, rolling, grassy plains that stretch from the Black Sea to northern China.

The Mongols

- From an early period in their history, the Mongols were known for two things...
- **1)** Their ability to ride horses well...Mongols practically lived on horseback, learning to ride at age four or five.
- **2)** The other skill for which the Mongols were know for was the ability to wage war.



The Mongols

- They could fire arrows at enemies from a distance of up to 600 feet while charging at them.



- The Mongols were also very skilled in the art of spear and sword fighting as well.

Who Was Genghis Khan?

- The man who would unite the Mongols was born in 1167 C.E...his name was **Temujin**, which means “Blacksmith”.
- He was born to a prominent family with a powerful father who actually forged an alliance within the Mongol Clans.
- **Temujin** showed his leadership skills early on in his life.
- He was still a young man when he began to unite the Mongol tribes.



Who Was Genghis Khan?



- When **Temujin** was ten rivals poisoned his father, destroyed the Alliance of Mongols...forcing him to hide in poverty stricken areas where he was eventually found and imprisoned for twenty years.

Who Was Genghis Khan?



- Temujin eventually escaped prison and began mastering the art of steppe diplomacy, which called for **displays of personal courage in battle**, combined with **intense loyalty to allies** and a **willingness to betray others to improve ones position**.

Who Was Genghis Khan?



- Temujin strengthened his position by forging useful allies, conquering rival contenders of power and turning suddenly against troublesome allies.

Who Was Genghis Khan?

- In 1206 a meeting of Mongol leaders took place somewhere in the **Gobi**, vast desert that covers parts of Mongolia and China.



- At that meeting, Temujin was proclaimed **Genghis Khan**, which means “**Universal Ruler.**”

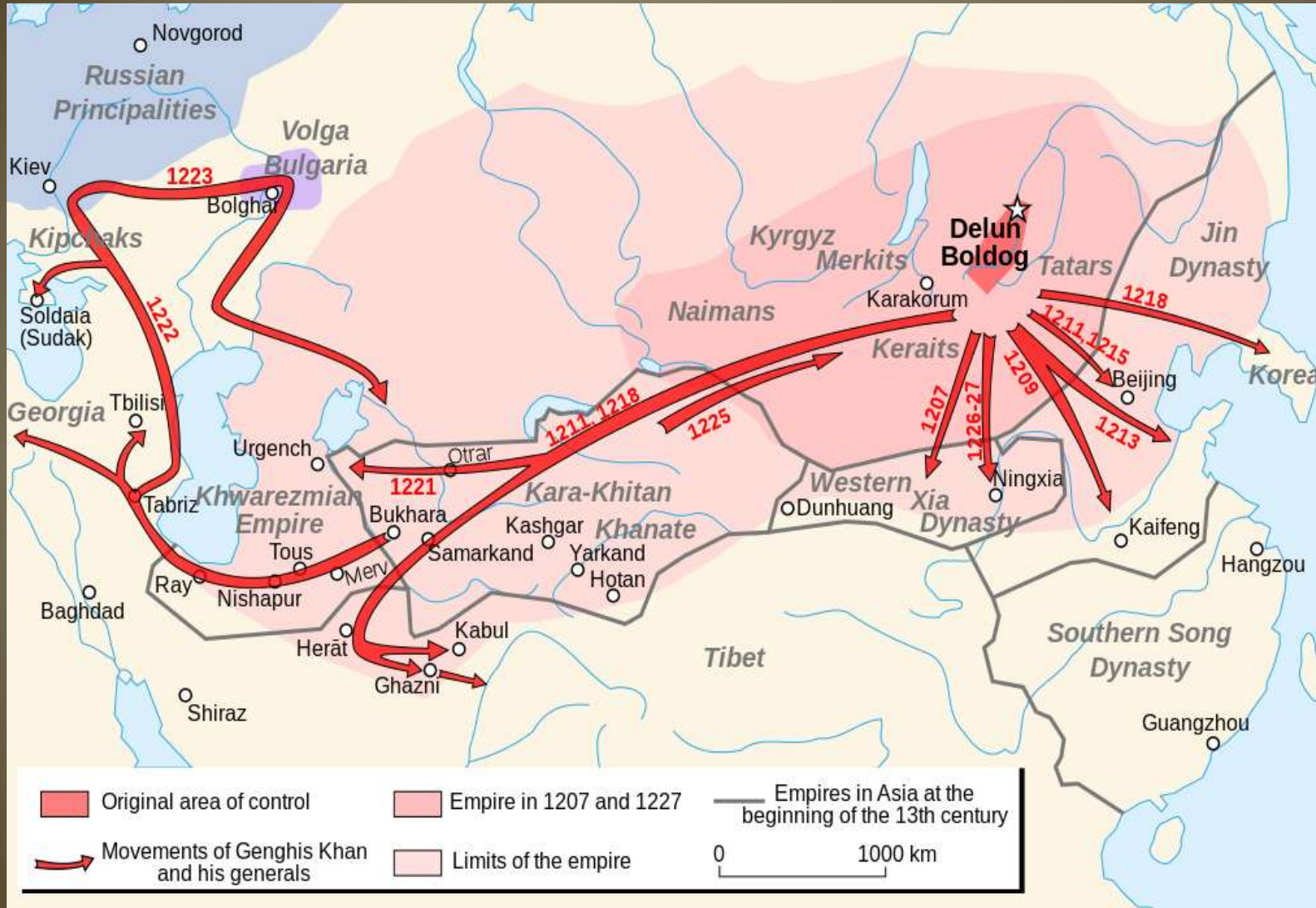
Who Was Genghis Khan?

- Genghis Khan brought together Mongol laws in a new code.



- He also created a group of tribal chiefs to help him plan military campaigns.

Who Was Genghis Khan?



- From the time of his election until the end of his life, Genghis Khan fought to conquer the lands beyond Mongolia...he wanted to take the world for himself!

Who Was Genghis Khan?

- Genghis Khan gathered an army of more than **100,000** warriors.
- He placed his soldiers into well trained groups, with commanding officers chosen for their brutal fighting abilities and not their family ties.
- These changes allowed the Mongols to grow into the most skilled fighting force in the world at the time.



Who Was Genghis Khan?

- Genghis Khan began building his empire by conquering other people on the Steppes of Mongolia.



- These victories brought him wealth and new soldiers to fill the armies ranks.

Who Was Genghis Khan?

- Soon the Mongols were strong enough to attack major civilizations.



- In 1211 C.E., Mongol forces turned east and invaded China.

Who Was Genghis Khan?

- Within three years, the Mongols had taken all of northern China.
- They then moved west and struck at cities and kingdoms that controlled parts of the **Silk Road**.
- **(Mongol Troops storm across the Chang Jiang River on a bridge made of boats)**



Who Was Genghis Khan?

- Genghis Khan and his Mongol Warriors became known for their cruelty and use of **terror**.



- **Terror** - refers to violent actions that are meant to scare people into surrendering, or giving up.

Who Was Genghis Khan?

- Mongol warriors attacked, robbed and burned cities.



- Within a short time, the Mongols became known for their fierce ways and many people surrendered to them without fighting.

Who Was Genghis Khan?

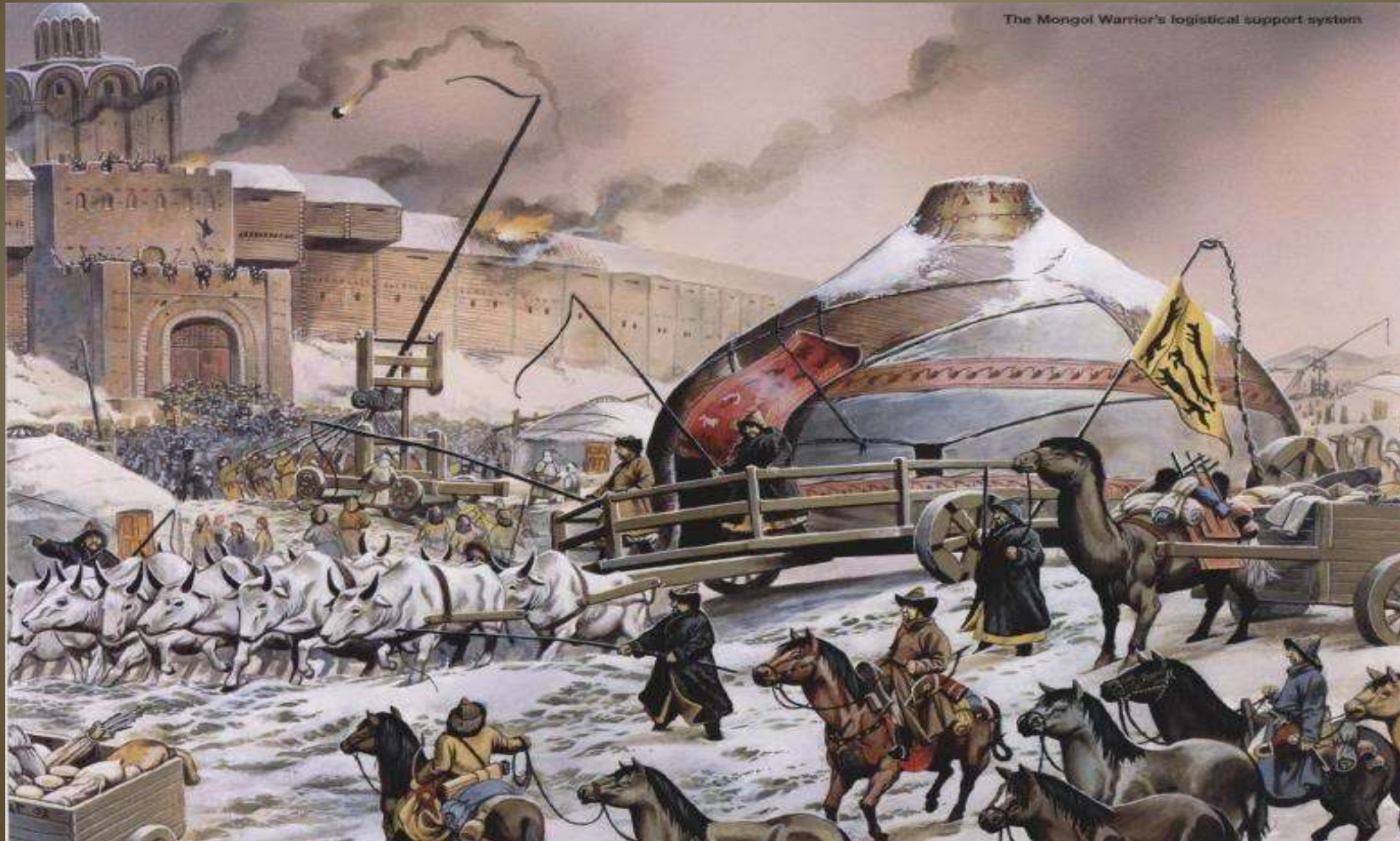
- Like earlier nomadic armies, the Mongol forces relied on outstanding equestrian skills.



- They had also developed bows that were short enough for archers to use while riding, and their arrows could nail enemies from about 600 feet away.

Who Was Genghis Khan?

- Mongol Horsemen were among the most mobile forces of the ancient world, sometimes traveling up to 200-300 miles a day just to surprise an enemy.



- The Mongols also understood the psychological dimensions (**Terror**) of warfare and used them to essentially play mind games with enemy armies. (Moveable Yurt)

Who Was Genghis Khan?



- If enemies surrendered without resistance, the Mongols usually spared their lives and even provided generous treatment for artisans, craft workers and those with military skills.

Who Was Genghis Khan?



- In the event of resistance, however, the Mongols ruthlessly slaughtered whole populations, sparing very few, who they would later drive in front of their armies as human shields during future conflicts.

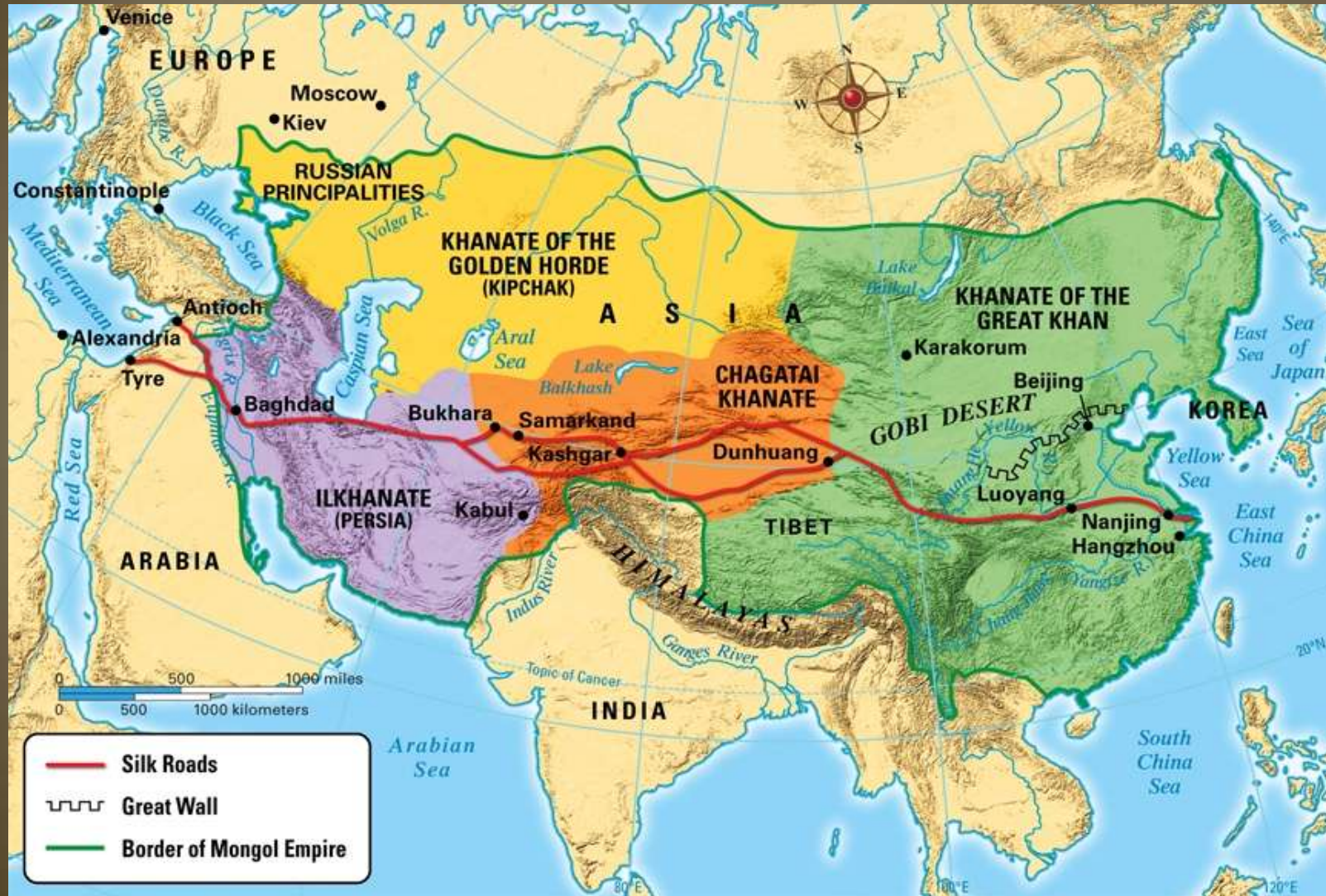
The Mongol Empire

- In 1227 Genghis Khan died and the specific reason for his death is uncertain.
- What we do know is he dies in a Mongol camp during a campaign against the Chinese kingdom of Xi Xia.
- The great Khan, who was over 60 and in failing health, which could have been the cause of his death.
- However there are accounts that say he may have succumbed to injuries incurred during a fall from a horse
- Others contend that he may have contracted an illness or a respiratory issue.



The Mongol Empire

- His empire was divided among his four sons.



- Under their leadership, the empire continued to expand.

The Mongol Empire



The Mongol Empire



- The Mongol Empire swept into parts of eastern and central Europe and also conquered much of southwest Asia.

The Mongol Empire

- In 1258 C.E., the famous Muslim city of Baghdad fell to the Mongols.



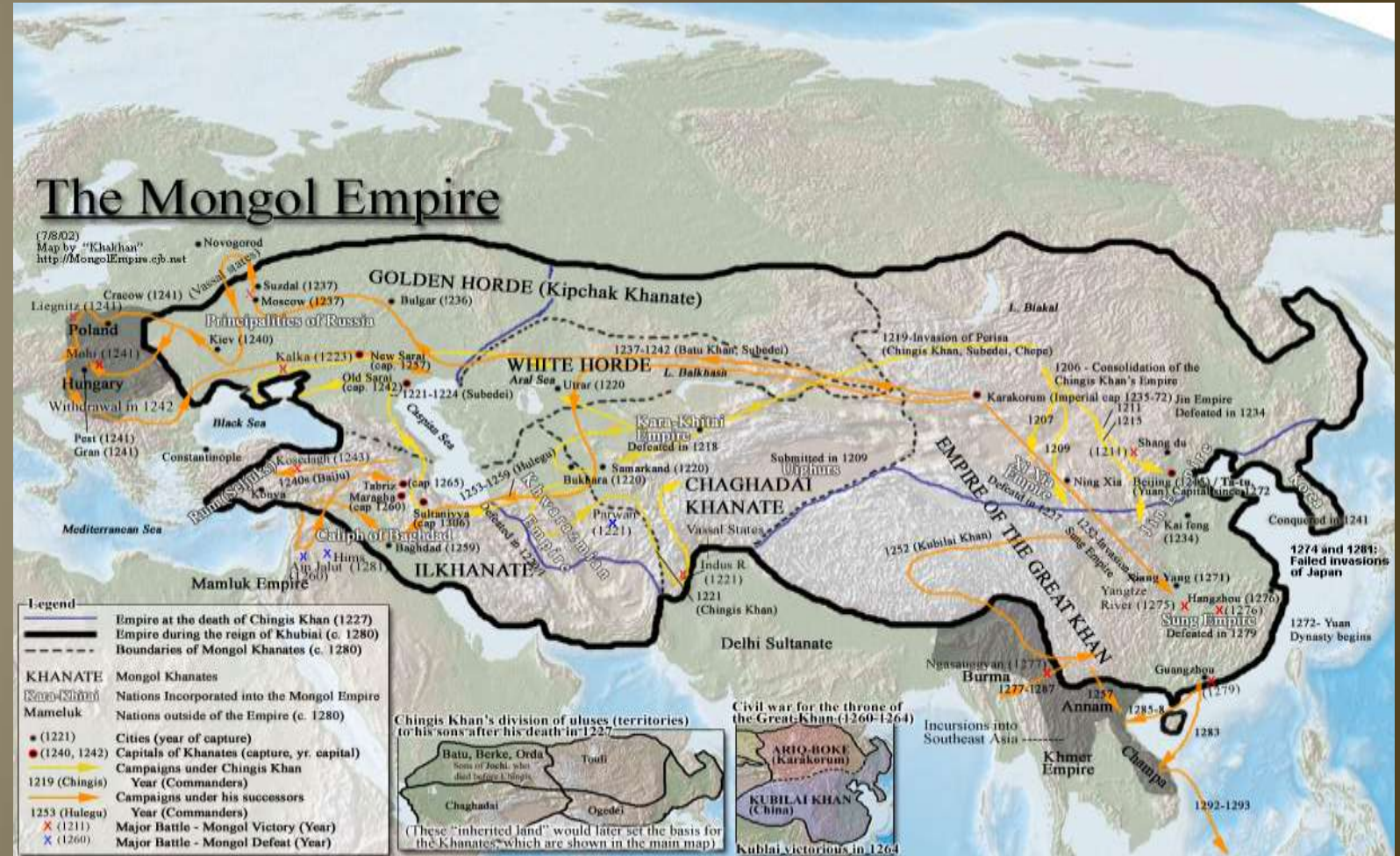
- Mongol armies then swept through Syria, Palestine and were finally stopped by the Muslim rulers of Egypt in 1260.

The Mongol Empire



The Mongol Empire

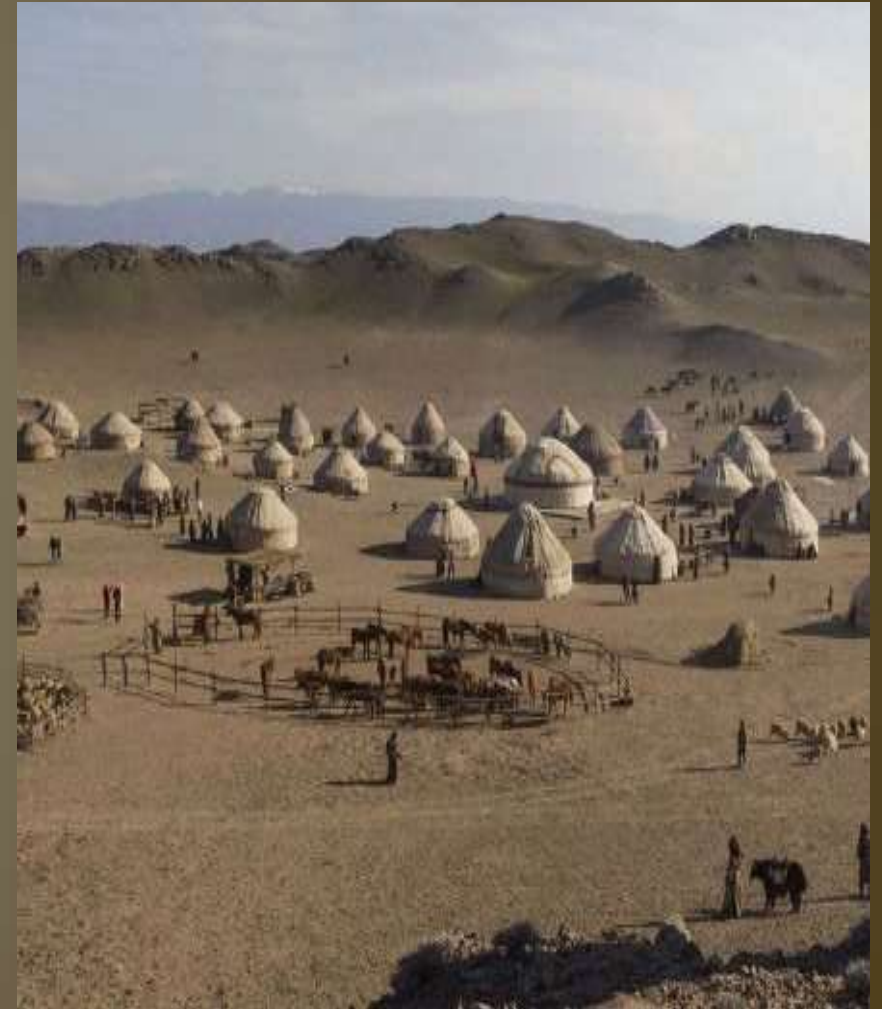
- The Mongols united all of these different territories under their ruler for a long period of time.



- Their empire actually reached from the Pacific Ocean in the East to Eastern Europe in the West and from Siberia in the North to the Himalaya in the south...It was the largest land empire the world has ever known.

The Mongol Empire

- Despite widespread destruction, the Mongols eventually brought peace to the lands that they ruled.



- Peace encouraged trade, which helped the Mongols maintain control of such a large area.

The Mongol Empire

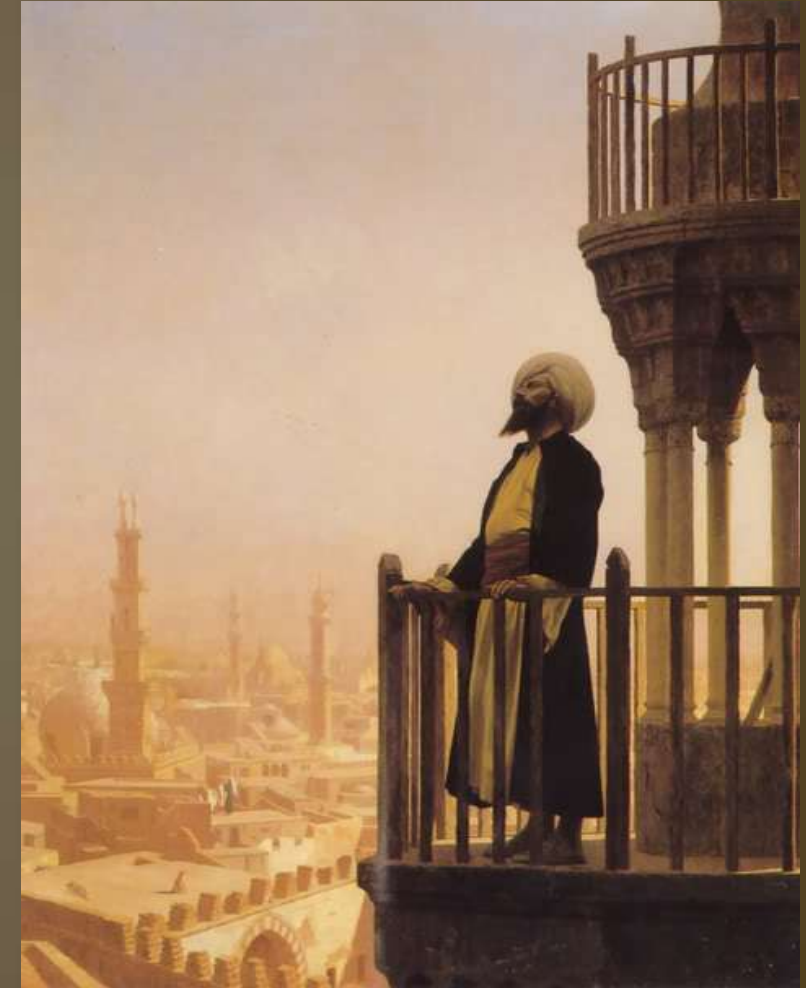
- Many of Asia's trade routes now lay in Mongol hands.



- The Mongols taxed products traded over these roads and as a result the Empire grew very wealthy.

The Mongol Empire

- The Mongols felt great respect for the advanced cultures they conquered.



- Sometimes they even adopted some of the beliefs and customs they encountered.

The Mongol Empire



- For example, the Mongols in southwest Asia accepted Islam as a faith and also adopted Arab, Persian and Turkish traditions.

The Mongol Empire

- The Mongols also learned many things from the Chinese lands they invaded.



- As they battled Chinese troops, they learned about **gunpowder** and its uses as an explosive weapon.

The Mongol Empire

- They also saw the Chinese use the **Fire Lance**, a weapon that used gunpowder to propel projectiles.



- Quickly, the Mongols adopted both gunpowder and the Fire Lance for use in battle...they even created their own variation, the **Hand Cannon**.

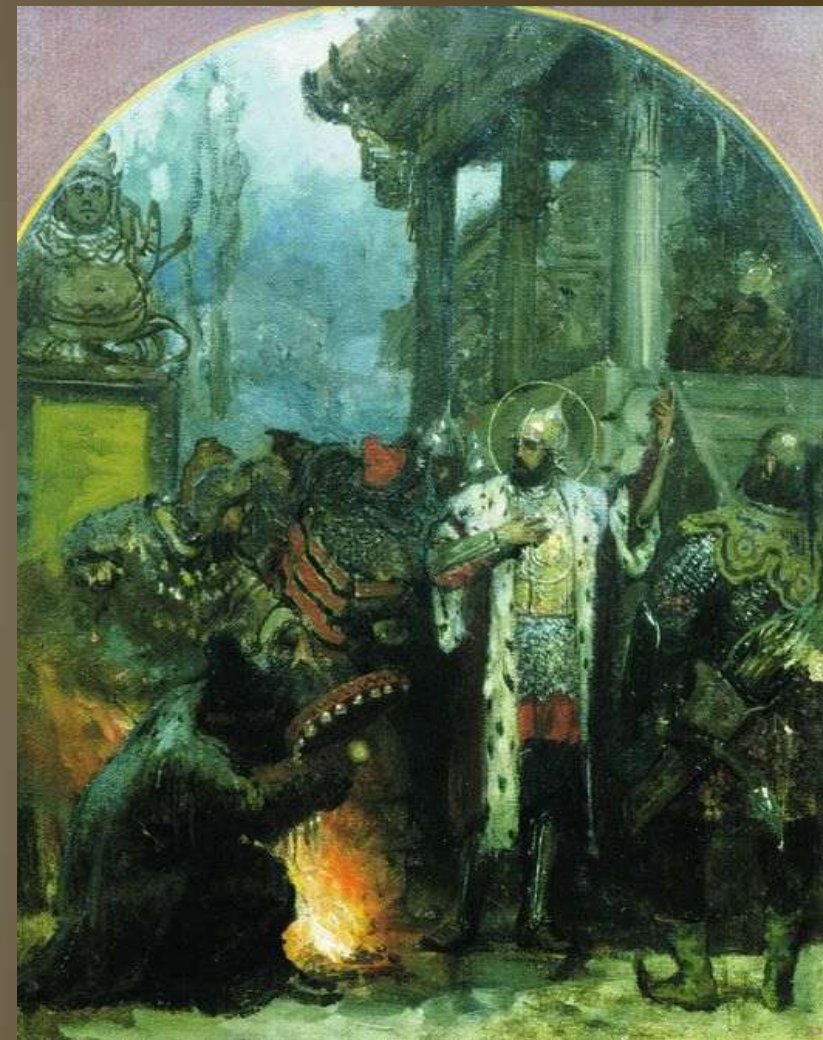
The Mongol Empire

- These new weapons made the Mongol military even more frightening to their enemies.



- (10 Shot Hand Cannon)

The Mongol Empire



- One of the most powerful parts of the Mongol empire was the **Golden Horde**, a large kingdom established by Genghis Khan's grandson, **Batu Khan**, in 1251.

The Mongol Empire



- The name, Golden Horde sounds like a massive cluster of savages in tents, but it was actually a powerful, highly organized country with surprisingly modern stone cities, in particular the capital, **Sarai-Batu**.

The Mongol Empire



- The Golden Horde had massive influence on other cultures as well...presiding over an area that covered parts of Russia, Ukraine, Kazakhstan and Moldova...the Horde even created the city of Moscow.

The Mongol Empire

- The Horde gleefully terrorized the Russians, who actually ended up in a secluded Dark Age because of their Mongol neighbors.



- Muslims were luckier...the traditionally shamanistic Mongol leaders embraced and eventually adopted their religion.

The Mongol Empire

- In 1260 C.E. the Mongols named Genghis Khan's grandson, **Kublai**, to be the new Khan.



- **Khan** = Ruler

The Mongol Empire

- Kublai Khan continued the Mongol conquest of China that his father had begun.



- In 1264 C.E. Kublai moved his capital from **Karakorum** in Mongolia to **Khanbaliq** in northern China.
(**Karakorum** was established originally by **Genghis Khan**)

The Mongol Empire



- Today the modern Chinese city of **Beijing** stands on the site of the Mongolian capital of **Khanbaliq**.

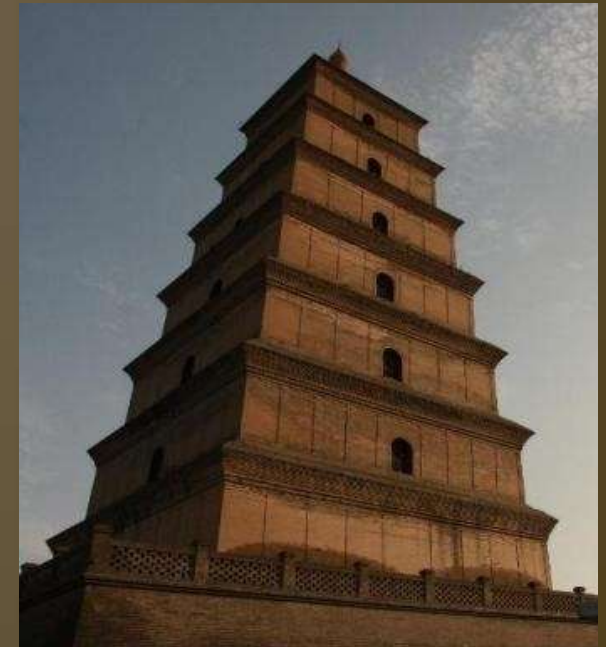
The Mongol Empire



- Buildings of Kublai Khan's **Khanbaliq**.

The Mongol Empire

- In 1271 C.E., Kublai Khan became China's next Emperor.



- Within ten years, the Mongols had conquered southern China and put an end to the Song Dynasty.

The Mongol Empire

- Kublai Khan then started the **Yuan Dynasty** in China.



- **Yuan** means “**Beginning,**” and its name showed that the Mongols really wanted to rule and care for China for a long time.

The Mongol Empire

- Unfortunately the Yuan Dynasty would only last only for about a **hundred** years.



- Kublai Khan would rule for **thirty** of those years...until his death in 1294 C.E.

The Mongol Empire

- Kublai Khan gave Mongol leaders the top jobs within China's government, but he understood that he needed Chinese scholars and officials to help run the government.



- Kublai decided that he would allow many of the Chinese keep their jobs.

The Mongol Empire

- The Mongols were different from the Chinese in many different ways.



- They had their own language, laws and customs...this kept them separate from Chinese social society.

The Mongol Empire



- The Mongols were rulers at the top of Chinese society, however, they did not mix well with the traditional Chinese people...even today the Mongolian people are very different from the rest of Asia's countries.

The Mongol Empire

- Like many Chinese, the Mongols were Buddhists, however, they were tolerant of other religions.



- For example, Kublai Khan invited Christians, Muslims and Hindus from outside of China to practice their faiths and to win converts, people who might change religions. (**Mongolian Buddha Statue**)

The Mongol Empire

- Under Mongol rule, China reached the height of its wealth and power.



- Its splendor drew foreigners who came to China over the Silk Road.

The Mongol Empire



- Khanbaliq, the capital, became know for its wide streets, beautiful palaces, fine homes and massive markets.

The Mongol Empire

- One of the most famous European travelers to reach China was **Marco Polo**, who came from Venice Italy.



- Kublai Khan was fascinated by Marco Polo's stories about his travels.

The Mongol Empire



- For sixteen years, Kublai Khan and Marco Polo worked together, discovering amazing mysteries throughout Asia.
- Marco served in several high-level government positions, including as ambassador and as the governor of the city of Yangzhou



The Mongol Empire

- The Mongols ruled a large empire that stretched from China to Eastern Europe.



- As a result, China prospered from increased trade with all parts of the world...goods such as silver, spices, carpets and cotton flowed in from Europe and other parts of Asia.

The Mongol Empire

- In return, China shipped out tea, silk and porcelain.



- Europeans and Muslims also bought Chinese discoveries, such as steel, gunpowder and the compass back to their homelands for people to enjoy.

The Mongol Empires

- The Mongols still wanted to further their empire so Kublai launched **two** attacks on the small nation of **Japan** in **1274** and **1281**...both failed.



- The combination of Samurai strength and typhoons completely destroyed the Mongol invasions.

The Mongol Empires



- The Mongols sent two separate forces...an impressive force of **900** ships containing **40,000** Korean, Chinese, and Mongol troops set out from Masan, while an even larger force of **100,000** sailed from southern China in **3,500** ships.

The Mongol Empires



- The now famous **Kamikaze**, a massive typhoon, assaulted the shores of Japan for two days straight during the invasion and destroyed much of the Mongol fleet.

The Mongol Empires

- In his last years Kublai ran into trouble...the attacks on Japan and some failed attempts in Southeast Asia had cost the Empire dearly in lives and treasure.



- The government raised taxes, which caused hardship in China.

The Mongol Empires

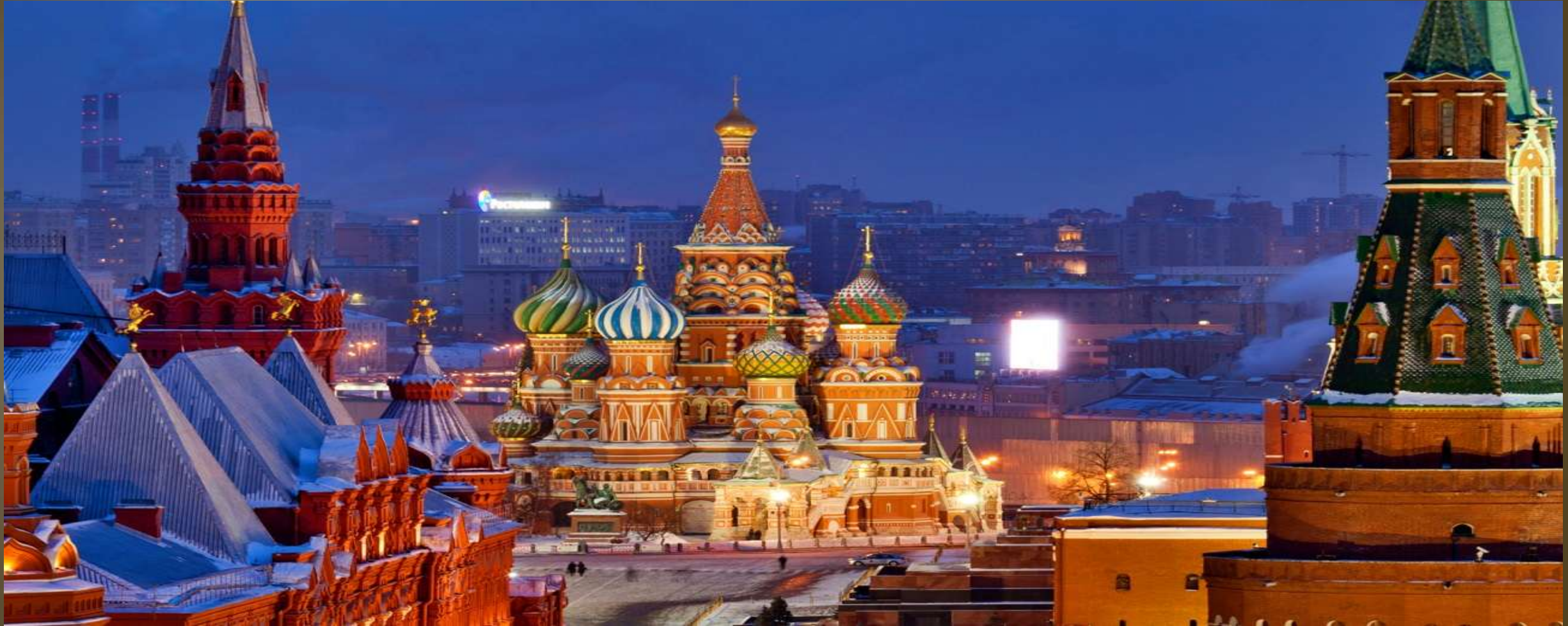
- After Kublai Khan's death in 1294, Mongol leaders struggled for control of the Empire and internal battles began to significantly weaken the realm.



- Rebellion erupted in China and in 1368 had cost the Mongols control over the Chinese sector of the Empire and the Ming Dynasty was established from the rebellion.

The Mongol Empires

- By this time, the whole Mongol Empire had begun to collapse.



- The Mongols had lost control of Persia in the 1330's and central Asia in the 1370's...they continued to rule Russia until the late 1400's however.

The Mongol Empires

- In 2003 a Genetics paper reported results which indicated that a substantial proportion of men in the world are direct line descendants of Genghis Khan.
- These men carry Y chromosomes which seem to have come down from an individual who lived approximately 1,000 years ago. As Y chromosomes are only passed from father to son, that would mean that the Y is a record of one's **patrilineage**.
- 10% of the men who reside within the borders of the former Mongol Empire as it was at the death of Genghis Khan may carry his Y chromosome...about 16 million males.



The Mongol Empires



- The Mongol invasion of Asia in the 1200s took enough carbon dioxide out of the atmosphere to offset a year's worth of the world's gasoline demand today, according to a new study from January of 2015.
- The study used a detailed reconstruction of historical agriculture to model the effect of four major wars and plagues in the 800 to 1850 time period: the Mongol takeover of Asia, the Black Death, the conquest of the Americas and the fall of the Ming Dynasty in China.
 - All of these events led to death on a massive scale...but only the Mongol invasion had a noticeable impact, decreasing global carbon dioxide by 700 million tons of carbon dioxide, which is the amount emitted annually by worldwide gasoline demand today.

The Mongol Empires

- **Mankind The Story of US “Plague”** 01:04 – 13:50

