

- The Mongols
- **Nomadic people never build large cities, except for the Mongols**
- **All major empires are agricultural, except for the Mongols**
- **No one has conquered Russia or Afghanistan except for the Mongols**
- **Forcing slaves into your army has never worked, except for the Mongols.**
- The Mongols
- The Mongols were pastoralists, nomads who moved their herds in search of grass to feed them.
- They followed the same routes year after year, returning to previous places in a cycle.
- They would need to fight when returning to past settlement areas
 - People would move into the area and settle when Mongols were elsewhere
- One man who rose to prominence taking back areas from settlement squatters.
- Genghis Khan (Chinggis Khan)=Universal Ruler
 - Temujin
- United Mongol tribes into

one empire

-Largest land empire ever

- Genghis Khan died in 1227 in his sleep.
- Just as it was with Alexander, after his death the kingdom was split between his heir apparents.
- From the mid 1200s to the mid 1300s, the Mongols instilled stability and law and order across Eurasia.
- The Pax Mongolica
 - Era of stability within the Mongol Empire

– Growth of trade, cultural exchange

- Kublai Khan
- Kublai Khan was the grandson of Genghis.
- He assumed the title of “Great Khan” in 1260.
- With the various regions of the kingdom under the rule of various cousins, Kublai focused his attention on competing the goal of his grandfather, conquering China.
- After many failed invasion

attempts, Khan’s armies finally

invaded in 1276.

- Although his dynasty lasted little more than 100 years, it is considered a great one.
- It united China.
- It opened the country up to trade and foreign contact.
- Khan tried numerous times to invade Japan but was unsuccessful.

The Mongols were successful at
maintaining control of large areas
for many of the same reasons

Alexander was.

- They did not attempt to impose their way of life on their conquered subjects.
- They allowed them to maintain their governments and religions.
- They also helped these places to flourish by creating safe avenues for trade.
- Merchants from all over came to the empire.
- Marco Polo
- Read: Marco Polo at
- the Mongol Court,

- p. 337.
- Fall of the Mongols
- Much like the Romans, the Mongols began to weaken due to fruitless attempts to conquer the fringe of the empire as well as extravagant spending on public works projects.
- End of the Empire
- Kublai Khan dies in 1294.
- His decedents argued over who would take control.
- In 8 years, 4 different Khans took the throne.
- Rebellions broke out all over China.
- In 1368, Chinese rebels finally overthrew the Mongols.
- The Mongols were replaced by the Ming dynasty in China.
- The other Mongol kingdoms would fall soon after, except for the Golden Horde which would maintain control of Russia until 1480.