

## SOCIETY AND CULTURE UNDER THE SHOGUNS

Peace brought prosperity. Internal trade in textiles and food blossomed, but Japanese society became static. By law, a strict, hereditary social order was imposed. Classes descended from warriors to farmers to artisans to merchants. Farmers became bound to the land just as the serfs had in Europe. There were peasant rebellions in the countryside in the 1400s. They reduced the shoguns' power and enhanced the prestige of local warlords and clans. However, the rebellions never improved the peasants' lot. The only class to expand were the merchants who provided goods for the daimyo while lending money to them.

Still, the arts flourished in the general prosperity of the shogunate. Dramatic classics emerged from the **Noh** theater (Zen Buddhist themes), and later, the **kabuki** theater offered more free-wheeling comedy and drama. A national literature burgeoned with works such as *Heike Monogatari* (*The Tale of Heike*, 1240) and *Tsurezure Gusa* (*Idle Jottings*, 1320). Short stories, essays, and poetry such as the simple, three-line **haiku**<sup>1</sup> flourished. Architects created

<sup>1</sup> haiku (Japanese lyric verse form having three unrhymed lines of five, seven, and five syllables, traditionally invoking an aspect of nature or the seasons)

masterpieces such as the Golden Pavilion (1395) and the Moss Garden of Kyoto (15th century).

## RISE AND FALL OF THE MONGOLS AND THEIR IMPACT ON EURASIA

### ORIGINS

The Mongols were descendants of a variety of nomadic people of the Central Asian Plateau including the Huns, Turks, and Uighurs. In 1206, a fierce warrior, Temujin (1167-1227), united the Mongols. They proclaimed him the "universal ruler," **Genghis Khan**. He launched a highly organized, disciplined cavalry against China. In 1215, the Mongols conquered Beijing laying the groundwork for the Yuan Dynasty.

In 1219, Genghis Khan sent the Mongols westward and took the Central Asian trading cities of Tashkent, Samarkand, and Bukhara. The Mongols moved into the steppes of Russia and through Himalaya passes into India.



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## MONGOL IMPACT

Area	Impact
China	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 1st foreigners to rule all of China. Yuan Dynasty (1279-1368)</li> <li>• Created capital at Beijing</li> <li>• Retained the Chinese bureaucracy</li> <li>• Opened China to foreign contacts</li> </ul>
India	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Mughal Dynasty (1526) by Babur, a Muslim descendant of both Genghis Khan and Timur</li> <li>• Ruled Indian subcontinent until the mid-18th century</li> <li>• Policy of tolerance toward Hindu subjects</li> <li>• Great rulers: Akbar (r. 1556-1605), Jahngir (r. 1605-1627), Shah Jahan (r. 1627-1658)</li> <li>• Became mere puppets of the British in 19th century</li> <li>• Magnificent Mogul art and architecture (Taj Mahal) influence Indian styles</li> </ul>
Southwest Asia	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Hulegu (Persia - Iran, Iraq, Syria), became assimilated into Islamic culture</li> <li>• Jagatai Khanate (Central Asia) became Turkish in language and custom; adopted Islamic faith</li> <li>• Law codes based on loyalty</li> <li>• Influenced culture of Afghanistan, Turkmenistan, Uzbekistan, Kazakhstan</li> <li>• Briefly regenerated by Tamerlane (c. 1400)</li> </ul>
Russia	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Destroyed Kievan Rus' urban life</li> <li>• Depleted the population</li> <li>• Exploited Russians with tribute payments in silver</li> <li>• Indirect rule through local Russian princes</li> <li>• Orthodox Church exempted from tribute (allowed it a cultural leadership role)</li> <li>• Isolated area from Byzantium and Western Europe</li> <li>• Moscow princes defied Mongols and offered peasants protection</li> <li>• Overthrown by Ivan III in 15th century</li> </ul>

### THE MONGOL EMPIRE

Genghis Khan created the largest empire in human history. The Mongol domain eventually stretched from the Pacific Ocean to the Black Sea. When the "universal ruler" died in 1227, his descendants divided his empire into four **khanates**<sup>1</sup>:

- China - empire of Kublai Khan (Yuan Dynasty 1279-1368)
- Persia - Hulegu Khanate
- Turkestan - Jagatai Khanate
- Russia - Khanate of the Golden Horde

By the 14th century, Mongol drives brought them into Central Europe, India, and Southeast Asia. They were destructive as conquerors, but more benevolent as rulers. Rarely did they

impose a social or political order on conquered peoples, nor did they enslave large groups. Except in Russia, the Mongols absorbed and assimilated local cultures. However, they did extort heavy **tribute**<sup>2</sup>. Their tight discipline and military control over a vast area ensured peace and security.

Because of this regional stability, some historians even refer to the brief era of Mongol rule as the "**Pax Mongolia**," and compare it to the *Pax Romana* (31 BC - 167 AD). As a result of the stability, trade among societies in Asia, the Middle East, and Europe strengthened. Travel and wealth increased in the region. In the 14th century, the Mongol khanates disintegrated. **Timur Lenk** ("Tamerlane"), a Turk-Mongol, briefly revitalized the Persian and Turkestan khanates. He challenged the Ottomans for Asia Minor, but his empire collapsed after his death in 1405.

<sup>1</sup> khanates (realm of khans or kingdoms)

<sup>2</sup> tribute (payment in money or other valuables made by a feudal vassal to an overlord to show submission or as the price of protection or security)

**THE YUAN DYNASTY:  
RULE BY NON-CHINESE**

The Mongol conquest marked the first time foreigners had ruled over all of China. Genghis Khan's grandson, **Kublai Khan**, set up the Yuan Dynasty (1279-1368). At his capital at Beijing, high officials were Mongols. Yet, he retained the Confucian Chinese bureaucracy. He did not make great changes in Chinese governmental structure. However, he opened China to contacts with the world at large. Frequent Middle Eastern and European visitors included Christian missionaries and traders.

Economic problems and resentment of the foreign dominance of Kublai Khan's successors led to a rebellion in 1368. The Chinese overthrew the Yuan Dynasty and set up the Ming Dynasty (1368-1644).

region were the Italian **Marco Polo** (1254-1324) and the Arab **Ibn Battuta** (1304-1368).

Marco Polo of Venice wrote of his adventures as a merchant in Asia with his father and uncle. In 1271, they crossed the Mongol khanates of Central Asia along the old Silk Route. For 17 years, they served at Kublai Khan's court. Marco Polo's tales aroused Western interest in trade with the Orient.

The security of Mongol rule also allowed Ibn Battuta to travel through Central and South Asia. Between 1325 and 1354, he is said to have traveled a remarkable 75,000 miles. He also journeyed to North and East Africa, India, and the Middle East. His tales expanded knowledge of the world beyond Europe and the Middle East.

**MONGOL INTERACTION WITH THE WEST**

The Mongols' discipline and control over a vast area strengthened trade between Asia and the Middle East and Europe. It reestablished the Silk Route, and brought more travel and wealth. Two famous traveler-explorers in the

**GLOBAL TRADE INTERACTIONS**

When the era of the Crusades dawned, Constantinople was the main connection between the West and Asia. Later, new global trading centers arose with the demand for goods. Commercial interests and adventurers in

**GLOBAL TRADING CENTERS**

City	Connections	Background
Canton, China (now Guangzhou)	Asian goods traded for Indian, Persian, Arab, and European goods	Settled in 9th century BC, it became earliest Chinese international port. European traders came during the Tang dynasty (618-907). Foreign merchants were confined to a small area outside the city wall.
Cairo, Egypt	Middle Eastern goods traded for East and Sub-Saharan African, Central Asian, Indian, European goods	This old Roman town was made military camp by Arabs in 640. Its real growth began under Fatimid dynasty after 969 and expanded under Saladin in late 12th century. It declined after plagues, a Mongol attack (c.1400), and the Turkish conquest (1517).
Venice, Italy	European goods exchanged for Middle Eastern, African, Central Asian, Chinese, and Indian goods	Venice controlled Adriatic Sea (9th century AD) and became a chief staging area for the Crusades. After the 4th Crusade devastated Constantinople (1204) and Venice defeated rival Genoa in 1380, it was unchallenged in Mediterranean. Venice led a coalition against Turks at the Battle of Lepanto (1571).

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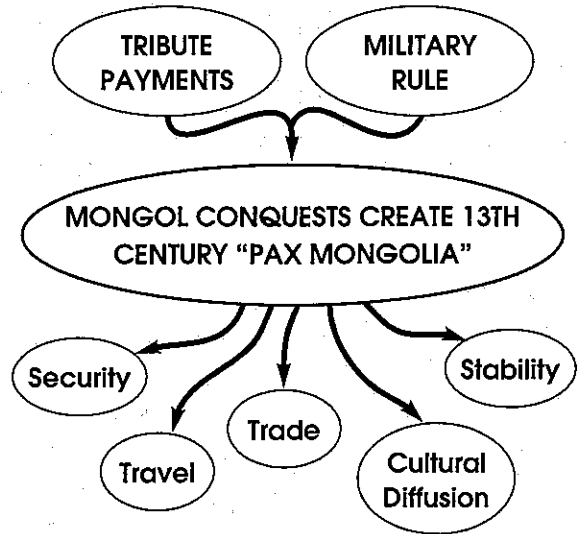
ASSESSMENT

### Mini Assessment

- 1 Which is an example of cultural diffusion?
  - 1 Shinto was partially derived from animism.
  - 2 12th century wars elevated the shoguns to power.
  - 3 Tokugawa shoguns enforced a seclusion policy.
  - 4 Nara became a center for Chinese Buddhist missionaries.
  
- 2 Which resulted from Mongol rule over a vast area of Eurasia?
  - 1 Mongols enslaved large numbers of conquered people.
  - 2 Japan's rulers copied the Chinese-style bureaucracy.
  - 3 It allowed the travels of Ibn Battuta and Marco Polo.
  - 4 Bushido became the Samurai code of behavior.
  
- 3 In which area did Mongol rule last longest?
 

1 China	3 Russia
2 India	4 Southwest Asia

### Constructed Response:



- 1 Which two factors in the diagram are the basis for Mongol rule?
  
- 2 Why do historians compare the Pax Mongolia to the Pax Romana?

contact with Asian centers led Westerners to seek new routes and arrangements.

### EXPANSION OF CHINESE TRADE

In the mid-14th century, the Ming Dynasty emerged from years of rebellion against the Mongol Yuan Dynasty. The Ming rulers restored traditional customs and order to China. With new farming techniques came increased food and agricultural surpluses that broadened trade. The Ming rulers devoted efforts to public works (canals, irrigation). Prosperity led to a flowering of the arts and compiling of great historical volumes.

The early Ming emperors launched a series of large-scale maritime expeditions. In 1405, the adventurous admiral **Zheng He** (or Cheng Ho) left Ming shores with an expeditionary fleet of hundreds of ships. In seven great expeditions over the next thirty years, **Zheng He's** fleets ventured to the East Indies, India, Persia, and along the East African coast. Chinese merchants followed in his wake, spreading Chinese culture

throughout the Eastern Hemisphere. However, later Ming emperors felt the expeditions were too expensive and curtailed them. They also felt that China was superior to all other civilizations. With the attitude of "let others come to us," they allowed a six thousand ship navy to fall into ruin. The Ming emperors' Confucian officials held merchants in low esteem. Disregarding the sea, they turned their attention to strengthening China's northern borders.

### PORTUGUESE TRADE EXPANSION

At the western end of the Silk Routes, the hostile Turks blocked European traders from crossing to the Middle East and Central Asia. Traders received little help from China. Because it was rich and self-sufficient, China did not have the same economic energy as the West. With land routes blocked, Westerners sought water routes to lower trading costs.

In the early 1400s, Portugal was driving the Muslims from the Iberian Peninsula. Also, it launched military expeditions against Muslim