

# Encountering the Mongols

AP World History Notes  
Chapter 12

# China and the Mongols



- ◆ Most difficult and lengthy conquest for the Mongols
- ◆ Took 70 years (1209 to 1279) to conquer
- ◆ Violently conquered northern China → then controlled by various nomadic states
- ◆ More peacefully conquered southern China → then controlled by the Song Dynasty
- ◆ Result = unification of a divided China
  - ◆ Gave the Mongols legitimacy
  - ◆ Believed they had earned the Mandate of Heaven

# China and the Mongols

- ◆ Goal = extract wealth from China
- ◆ In order to do so → must accommodate the Chinese
- ◆ Accommodations included:
  - ◆ Use of Chinese administrative practices, taxation systems, and postal system
  - ◆ Took a Chinese dynastic title = the Yuan
  - ◆ Transferred capital from Karakorum in Mongolia to Beijing in China

# Kublai Khan

- ◆ Mongol ruler of the Yuan dynasty (1271-1294)
- ◆ Improved roads
- ◆ Built canals
- ◆ Lowered some taxes
- ◆ Supported scholars and artists
- ◆ Limited the death penalty and torture
- ◆ Supported peasant agriculture



# China and the Mongols

- ◆ Mongol rule in China was still harsh, exploitative, foreign and resented
- ◆ Mongols did NOT become Chinese and they did not accommodate EVERY aspect of Chinese culture

# Mongols Being Mongols



- ♦ Many still lived, ate, slept, and gave birth in yurts they put up everywhere
- ♦ Planted steppe grass within the capital and let animals roam freely
- ♦ Didn't use civil service exams
- ♦ Didn't learn Chinese

# Mongols Being Mongols

- ◆ Mongol women never adopted foot binding
- ◆ Intermarriage = forbidden
- ◆ Chinese scholars = couldn't learn Mongol script
- ◆ Supported artisans and merchants → opposite of Confucian values



Mongol women mixed freely with men, rode horseback, and hunted

# China and the Mongols

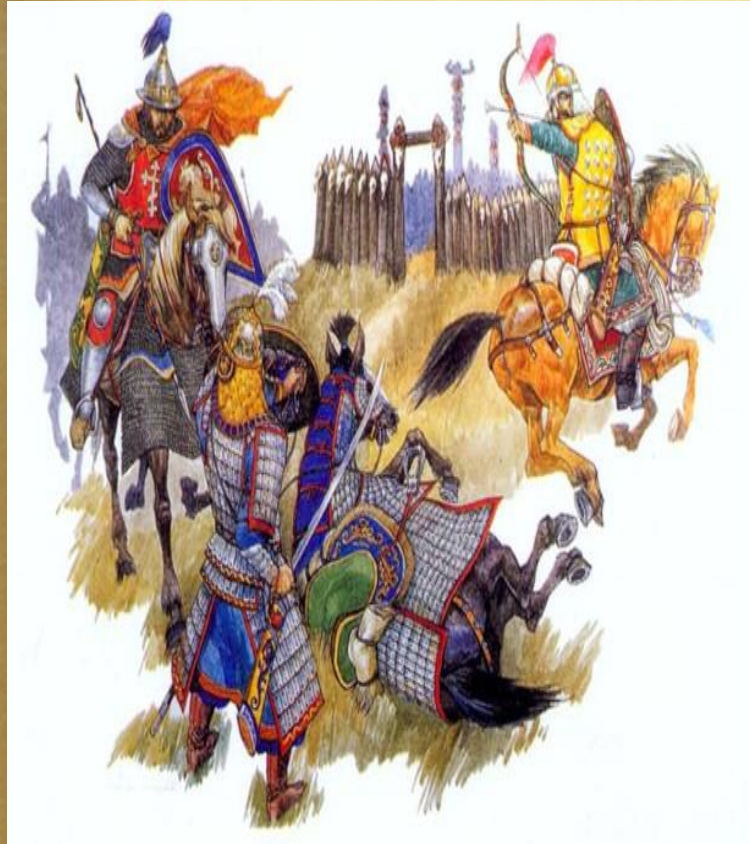


- ◆ Mongol rule in China declined in the mid-1300s
- ◆ Many factors caused this decline:
  - ◆ Division among the Mongols
  - ◆ Rising prices (inflation)
  - ◆ Epidemics of the plague
  - ◆ Growing peasant rebellions

1368 = all Mongols forced out of China  
and returned home to the steppe



# Persia and the Mongols



- ◆ Conquest of Persia = much quicker and more violent than that of China
- ◆ 1258 = capital of Baghdad sacked
  - ◆ End of Abbasid dynasty
  - ◆ More than 200,000 people massacred

# Devastation to Persia

- ◆ Peasants pushed off their land due to heavy taxation
- ◆ Nomadic Mongols with their herds of animals turned agricultural land into pasture, wasteland, and desert
- ◆ Irrigation channels = neglected

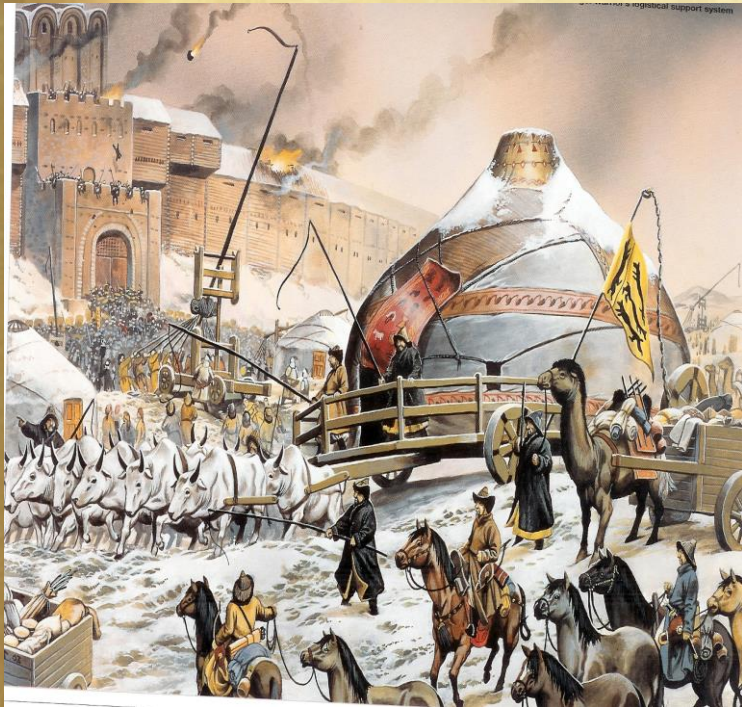
# Persia and the Mongols



Mongol man and Persian woman

- ◆ Many Mongols in Persia were heavily influenced by the Persians there:
  - ◆ Adopted Islam
  - ◆ Left government operation in Persian hands
  - ◆ Learned Persian
  - ◆ Some turned to farming and abandoned nomadic ways
  - ◆ Some married local people

# Russia and the Mongols



Painting of the fall of Kievan Rus

- ◆ Heavy devastation to Russia → perhaps more than in Persia
- ◆ Mongol conquest of Russia = called the “Khanate of the Golden Horde”
- ◆ Mongols defeated the Russians, but did NOT occupy Russia
  - ◆ Russia had little to offer
  - ◆ Less developed economy
  - ◆ Not located along any major trade routes

# Exploitation of the Russians

- ◆ Russian princes required to send tribute to the Mongols
- ◆ Variety of heavy taxes on Russian people
- ◆ Continuing border raids
- ◆ Tens of thousands of Russians sent into slavery



# Influence on the Russians

- ◆ Although the Mongols weren't influenced much by the Russians, the Russians were influenced by the Mongols:
  - ◆ Adopted Mongols' weapons, court practices, diplomatic rituals, taxation system, and military draft

# End of Mongol Rule in Russia



- ◆ Mongol rule in Russia started to decline by the end of the 1400s
- ◆ Major causes of this decline:
  - ◆ Divisions among Mongols
  - ◆ Growing strength of Russian state → now centered on the city of Moscow

