Review of Pastoralists (Pastoralism vs. Agriculture)

- Relied on raising livestock instead of growing food
  - Used every part of the animal: milk, blood, wool, hides, and meat
  - Animals also used for transportation & the military
  - Less productive economy overall
- Smaller populations
- Lived in small encampments with related kinfolk
- Organized by: families, clans, and/or tribes
Review of Pastoralists (Pastoralism vs. Agriculture)

- Pastoralists offered women a higher status in society
  - Fewer restrictions
  - Greater role in public life
  - Involved in productive labor
- Mongol women:
  - Could initiate divorce
  - Could remarry if widowed
  - Served as political advisors
  - Active in the military

Prominent Mongol Woman
Review of Pastoralists (Pastoralism vs. Agriculture)

- Pastoralists = nomadic
- Traveled in systematic patterns based on seasonal changes and environmental conditions
- Not homeless → took their homes and belongings with them

Mongolian Yurt
Pastoralists: Economic Interactions

- Often traded with their agricultural neighbors
- Wanted food, manufactured products, and luxury items
- This desire for goods sometimes caused the creation of larger tribal confederations or nomadic states that could more effectively deal with larger civilizations
Pastoralists: Military Interactions

- Nomadic states had military advantages
  - Horseback riding and hunting skills
  - Entire male population and many females trained in these skills
- Used their militaries to extract wealth from larger civilizations through raiding, trading, and extortion
Many pastoralists became familiar with and experimented with foreign:
- Religions and philosophies
- Clothing and hair styles
- Languages
- Political and social ideas
The Mongol Empire

- Largest land-based empire in world history
- Stretched from the Pacific coast of Asia to Eastern Europe
- Brought the major civilizations of Eurasia (Europe, China, and the Islamic world) into more direct contact than ever before
The Mongol Empire

- One major contribution = facilitated worldwide networks of exchange and communication
- No real cultural impact
  - Did not spread any major religion
  - Did not spread their language or culture

What did they offer? Status of defeated, conquered, and subordinate
Temujin (1162-1227)

- United and led the Mongols
- How did he rise to power?
  - Capitalized on shifting tribal alliances and betrayals
  - Mounting string of military victories
  - Enemies were indecisive
  - Used his reputation as a leader generous to friends and ruthless to enemies
  - Incorporated warriors from defeated tribes into his own forces
1206 = a Mongol tribal assembly recognized Temujin as Genghis Khan
- Means “universal” or “supreme” ruler
Two major reasons for Mongol expansion under Genghis Khan:

- The newly united Mongols needed a common task or else they would fragment and fall apart
- He needed external resources with which to reward his followers

1st goal = China
1209 = marks the beginning of Mongol conquests
Conquests continued for about 50 years under Genghis Khan and his grandsons = Ogodei, Mongke, and Kublai
Final empire contained: China, Korea, Central Asia, Russia, much of the Islamic Middle East, and parts of Eastern Europe
Mongol expansion put in check by a few setbacks, which marked the limits of the empire:

- 1242 = Withdrawal from Eastern Europe
- 1260 = Defeat by Egyptian forces in Palestine
- 1274 & 1281 = Two failed invasions of Japan
- Difficulty of moving through the tropical jungles of Southeast Asia
Genghis Khan reorganized the entire social structure of the Mongols into military units:

- Of 10, 100, 1,000, and 10,000 warriors
- Allowed for effective control and command
- Conquered tribes = broken up and dispersed throughout these units
The Mongol Military

- Displayed incredible discipline and loyalty
  - People that deserted their unit in battle = put to death
  - Unit leaders fought alongside their men
- ALL Mongols benefited from the wealth that flowed into the Mongol Empire from conquered civilizations
The Mongol Military

- Conquered people were incorporated into the military
  - Nomads = put into the cavalry
  - Settled peoples = infantry and artillery forces
- Other conquered people served as laborers → built roads and bridges, carried supplies, etc.
- Artisans and craftsmen = typically spared from massacre, enslaved, and put to work
Brutal and ruthless military tactics
- All who resisted Mongol rule = slaughtered along with their wives, children, and dependents
- Cities destroyed
- Their brutality worked as psychological warfare also → many of those that heard about the Mongols were afraid and voluntarily surrendered
Mobilized human and material resources
Detailed census taking
  - Knew how many people they controlled and what resources were available to them
  - Allowed them to effectively tax the people
Set up an effective system of relay stations
  - Provided for rapid communication
  - Fostered trade
Centralized government
  - Various government offices
  - Scribes translated laws into the various languages people spoke throughout the empire
Marco Polo

- Merchant from Venice, Italy
- Traveled throughout the Mongol Empire for almost 3 decades
- Utilized Mongolian relay stations and road networks
- Kept a diary of everything he encountered and experienced
- Primary way in which Europeans learned about the east
Wanted to foster trade
Allowed merchants free use of their relay stations
Often offered merchants 10% more than their asking price
Mongolian Administrative Policies

- Mongols held the highest decision-making posts
- Chinese and Muslim officials held many advisory and lower-level positions

Ancient Mongol capital = Karakorum
Mongolian Religious Policies

- Total religious toleration → as long as religion wasn’t the cause of political opposition
- Major religions throughout the Mongol Empire = Buddhism, Christianity, Islam, and Daoism