AMSCO Chapter 13

The Mongols and Trans-regional Empires

1. The Mongols and Their Surroundings
2. 12th century Mongols were nomadic pastoralists of East Asia north of the Gobi Desert
3. Both men and women were skilled horse riders
4. Lived in a circular tent called a yurt
5. Genghis Khan
6. Temujin created an alliance of tribes and defeated neighboring tribes; he appointed officials based on merit and was ruthless in his quest for power
7. In 1206 he was elected khan of the Mongolian Kingdom and took name Genghis Khan (ruler of all)
8. Beginning of Conquest
9. Conquered Jurchens of Jin Empire, killing all who resisted; rumors of his brutality caused some leaders to surrender without a fight; by 1227 Genghis Khan controlled from North China Sea to eastern Persia
10. Genghis Khan at War
11. Archers on horseback made Mongolian warriors fast and dangerous; *tumens* were groups of 1000 warriors which included both heavy and light cavalry (soldiers on horseback)
12. Messengers carried messages for days, and specialists mapped terrain to assist in attacks
13. Aristocrats in conquered towns were often killed, and skilled workers were recruited as laborers
14. Mongols incorporated technology of conquered peoples, like siege weapons and the pony express
15. Genghis Khan at Peace
16. Pax Mongolica between 13th and 14th centuries was a time of stability and growth, when Genghis Khan consulted scholars and engineers from China and Islamic empires to build the capital city of Karakorum
17. Religious tolerance was the policy; Mongols soldiers protected the Silk Road routes, enabling increased trade along long abandoned routes
18. Genghis Khan’s Successor
19. Died in 1227 in battle; his third son, Ogedei took over
20. Ogedie conquered land in the Georgia, Armenia, Azerbaijan, parts of India, China, and Korea
21. Invested more money in capital city of Karakorum
22. Mongolian Empire Expands
23. Batu and the Golden Horde
24. Batu conquered small Russian kingdoms
25. Batu was heading for Europe when Ogedie died; after the funeral, Batu returned to Russia and built a new capital, Sarai
26. Mongols used local Russian rulers to maintain the peace and pay tribute
27. In 1380 the Russian leaders rose up to defeat the Golden Horde at the Battle of Kulikovo
28. As a long term effect of Mongol control, Russian princes were forced to improve their military organization and adopt centralized leadership; 300 years of Mongol rule served to isolate Russia from the rest of Europe
29. Hulegu and the Islamic Heartlands
30. Conquered Baghdad and the Abbasid territories, known as Il-Khanate
31. Were heading toward the Middle East, but stopped by a coalition of Islamic warriors and Christian crusaders
32. Hulegu ruled a territory in Central Asia, but used local Persian officials for tax collection and day to day governance
33. Hulegu and Mongols converted to Islam, ending their religious tolerance and contributing to the massacre of Jews and Christians
34. Kublai Khan and the Yuan Dynasty
35. Took 11 years to conquer Chinese Song Dynasty and establish Yuan Dynasty, Mongol control of China, with capital in Zhongdu, renamed Dadu
36. Religious tolerance inspired loyalty in conquered peoples, including Buddhists, Daoists, Christians and Muslims
37. Yuan had rebirth of Chinese trade, art, literature
38. Marco Polo, Venetian explorer visited Yuan dynasty and wrote about his trip, spreading idea that China was prosperous and innovative
39. Eventually Mongols hired foreigners and dismantled most of civil service system, alienating Chinese scholar-gentry
40. After 1274, Yuan efforts to conquer Japan failed, highlighting weakness of Mongols
41. White Lotus Society began an organized attempt to oust Mongols that succeeded in 1368, led by Zhu Yuanzhang
42. Mongol losses in China were part of an overall decline of Mongol power
43. What Was the Long-Term Impact of the Mongolian Invasions?
44. Huge territory gained in bloody battles
45. Pax Mongolica revitalized trade between Asia, Middle East, Africa, and Europe
46. Centralized power developed as successful plan, with one international law for all conquered areas
47. Transmission of Black Death (plague) via fleas on rats on ships from southern China to Europe and Asia
48. Mongol women were independent, rode horses, wore pants, could divorce and remarry
49. End of European feudal suits of armor as too heavy to fight Mongols speed
50. Ended practice of European walled cities, because Mongols used siege weapons to defeat them, such as cannons
51. Males in Europe adopted Mongol attire of pants and jacket rather than robes