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the journey to population milestones is a fascinating ride. Find out how countries reached significant population milestones — from 20 million to 2 billion. Read More Most Popes throughout history were born and how shifts in
the scope of the Catholic Church have impacted its leadership. Read More Mongol Empire It's mind-boggling when one thinks about how a small group of nomadic tribes went from a confederation to becoming a massive empire that stretched from the 13th to
14th century, was simply unstoppable. Notwithstanding the sheer level of fear the evoked in their enemies as well as anyone that tried to stop their advances, the Mongols boosted trading activities in those areas. But how did it all start for the
Mongol Empire? Just how massive was the empire? And who were some of the great leaders that changed the course of the empire? Below, World History Edu explores the origin story, rise, conquests, and fall of the Mongol Empire? Below, World History Edu explores the origin story, rise, conquests, and fall of the Mongol Empire? Below, World History Edu explores the origin story, rise, conquests, and fall of the Mongol Empire? Below, World History Edu explores the origin story, rise, conquests, and fall of the Mongol Empire? Below, World History Edu explores the origin story, rise, conquests, and fall of the Mongol Empire? Below, World History Edu explores the origin story, rise, conquests, and fall of the Mongol Empire? Below, World History Edu explores the origin story, rise, conquests, and fall of the Mongol Empire? Below, World History Edu explores the origin story, rise, conquests, and fall of the Mongol Empire? Below, World History Edu explores the origin story, rise, conquests, and fall of the Mongol Empire? Below, World History Edu explores the origin story, rise, conquests, and fall of the Mongol Empire? Below, World History Edu explores the origin story, rise, conquests, and fall of the Mongol Empire? Below, World History Edu explores the origin story, rise, conquests, and fall of the Mongol Empire? Below, World History Edu explores the origin story, rise, conquests, and fall of the Mongol Empire? Below, World History Edu explores the origin story, rise, conquests, and fall of the Mongol Empire? Below, World History Edu explores the origin story, rise, conquests, and fall of the Mongol Empire? Below, World History Edu explores the origin story, rise, conquests, and fall of the Mongol Empire? Below, World History Edu explores the origin story, rise, conquests, and fall of the Mongol Empire.
empire, the Mongols were a group of pastoralist nomads. They were poor and the harsh weather of the Central Asian steppes made life difficult for them. At his birth, Genghis Khan was named Temüjin. He was the son of a Mongol chief. During that time Mongolian plateau was divided into five confederations, each ruled by different tribes: Khanag
Mongol, Mergid, Keraites, Naiman, and Tartar. These tribes had, for the most part, been in conflict with each other for many years. Temujin was from Khamag Mongol, which had been established by his great-grandfather Khabul Khan. He believed that for the Mongols to survive, they needed to unite. When he was a young adult, Temujin, who was
then a military commander, went to war against Kurtait who was the most powerful ruler at the time. The young warrior defeated Kurtait; and with his victory, he was able to expand Kharag Mongol through a series of successful military conquests, including defeating other confederates like Naiman and Tartar. Regarded as one of the greatest
conquerors of all time, Genghis Khan is best known for founding the Mongol Empire. As first khagan, the warlord led his army to conquer large parts of Central Asia and Northern China. Image: Bust of Genghis Khan in Ulaanbaatar, Mongolia. Unlike previous warlords that distributed the spoils of war among the nobles, Temujin encouraged his
fighters to share any spoils from a war amongst themselves. But not everyone admired his benevolence, particularly his uncles. Believing that they were the rightful heirs to the part of Temujin to ward off the plots of his uncles.
Between 1203-1205, Temujin was embroiled in a fierce war against his relatives, as well as members of other rival tribes. Nonetheless, by 1206 he had defeated his enemies, united the other tribes, and was made khan (emperor) of the Great Mongol State. During his coronation, he also bestowed himself with the title of Genghis Khan. Historians like
to maintain that Genghis Khan's ascension to throne marked the birth of the powerful Mongol Empire. Genghis Khan's military campaign and defeated both the Tangut and Jurchen tribes. By conquering those tribes, he was able to expand the
Mongol Empire into Northern China. In 1218, he sent his army to fight against the Khwarazm Empire (in modern-day Iran) after an earlier Mongol Empire Genghis Khan was an expert war tactician. He used decimals to create groups of soldiers
and also established an imperial guard called the Kheshig. While he was kind to his people, he was seen as fierce to many other empires and cities, who were prepared to surrender to him to avoid any brutalities. The first emperor of the Mongol Empire died in 1227, and by the time of his death, the empire had expanded into Korea, the Middle East,
and sections of India and Russia. To put into perspective just how large the Mongol Empire was at the time of Genghis Khan's death; the empire was double the size of the Roman Empire. The Mongol Empire at its peak It all started under the guidance of Genghis Khan, the first emperor, who turned the Mongols from a group of nomadic pastoralists to
one of the world's greatest and fiercest warriors. By 1279, the Mongol Empire had stretched to Southern China. Though the empire succeeded in shaping world history. Image: Size of the Mongol Empire in the late 13th century. These
are some of the empire's biggest achievements chalked in its existence, between the 13th and 14th centuries: At its peak, the Mongol Empire covered much of Eurasia, but its conquests were usually marked with extreme violence and destruction. When the empire was birthed kind courtesy of Genghis Khan, it first focused on unifying the other
nomadic tribes in Central Asia. Shortly after becoming emperor, one of Genghis Khan's first tasks was to launch invasions into China. The Mongols would later defeat the Jin and Song dynasties in 1234 and 1279, respectively. In 1253, the Kingdom of Dali became a Mongol vassal state, and with the support of Duan Xingzhi, the King of Dali, the empire
also expanded into Yunnan. After attempting nine invasions, the empire was finally able to conquer Korea. However, during the reign of Kublai Khan, the Mongols were unable to invade and conquer Japan. While sailing to the island, they were caught up in strong storms at sea, which the Japanese called "kamikaze." Kublai Khan's biggest achievement
was starting the Yuan Dynasty while in china during 1271. In the south and southeast Asian regions, the Mongol descent. How the Mongol descent. How the Mongol
invasion of Bagdad brought an end to the Islamic Golden Age The Mongols, under the leadership of Hulagu Khan, used siege engines and powerful catapults to lay to waste the defenses of Baghdad in 1258. Image: Siege of Baghdad in 1258 Under Kublai Khan's reign, the empire also expanded into Burma, but they were unable to conquer neighboring
Vietnam. The Mongols then set their sights westwards, fighting against empires in Mesopotamia and the Middle East, including in what is today's Iran, Turkey, Iraq, the Caucasus, and Palestine. They won several battles such as the Siege of Baghdad (1258). In the 13-day siege, Mongol forces, who were led by Hulagu Khan (i.e. the grandson of
Genghis Khan), successfully defeated forces of the Abbasid Caliphate of Baghdad under the leadership of Al-Musta'sim (reign: 1242-1258). Having gravely underestimated the resolve and ferocity of the Mongols, the Abbasid Caliph Al-Musta'sim not only lost his life, but his city, which was the jewel of the Islamic Golden Age, was irrecoverably lost.
Not even the Great Library of Baghdad (i.e. the House of Wisdom) was sparred by the Mongols' sacking and looting of Europe In
addition to their legendary invasion of Baghdad, the Mongols also carried out large-scale military campaigns in Eastern and Central Europe, invading kingdoms in Bulgaria, Poland, Hungary, and many others. They also invaded several Russian cities. Some historians maintain that the Mongol military campaigns into Europe helped spread the bubonic
plague (i.e. Black Death) that ravaged Europe in the 14th century. Although there weren't any records of how much destruction the Mongols caused, the invasions and conquests carried out by the Mongols had a long-lasting impact on the known world. From the reign of Genghis Khan in 1206 to that of Timur (aka Tamerlane the Conqueror) in 1405,
the death toll from their military expeditions fell between 20-57 million people. Pax Mongolica & Control of the Silk Road For the most part, the Mongol Empire is globally remembered for embarking on some of the world's deadliest conquests. But what is mostly forgotten is the fact that following the bulk of its conquests, there was a time when there
was relative peace within Mongol-hold Eurasia in the 13th and 14th centuries. That era of stability was called the Pax Mongolica (1227-1260) or the "Mongolian Peace." During that period, the Mongol Empire had expanded well into Europe and Mesopotamia, and its army had also expanded in size, with many of its soldiers stationed at major roads to
protect travelers and also ensure that trade activities proceeded smoothly. They also introduced a mailing system called "Yam", which connected the empire to other towns and cities. During the Pax Mongolica, traveling within Eurasia was much safer compared to the previous era. As a result this, trading activities on the Silk Road shot up. The Silk
 Road had long served as the major trade route between Europe and the rest of the western world and Asia. Many ancient empires fought among themselves for full control of the Silk Road in order to gain economic advantage and power. Because of years of wars and attacks, by the time of the Mongol Empire, the Silk Road had been abandoned.
However, when the Mongols took over, order was restored and the Silk Road, many new materials like silk, as well as jewels and other artifacts. It was also through this route that
Europe gained access to gunpowder, which the Chinese had invented. With travel to and fro Asia now accessible and relatively safe, many notable people like the Italian explorer and merchant Marco Polo traveled to Asia in a bid to find new products to sell and also expand his market. There was a lot of development in the Silk Road region. Many new
cities and businesses, including banks, sprang, making travelers feel at ease knowing they could keep their money safe. Who were some of the famous emperors of the Mongol Empire? The Mongol Empire is synonymous with Genghis Khan, and while he was perhaps the empire's greatest emperor, many other successors contributed to its success:
Ogedei Khan succeeded his father Genghis Khan to become the second emperor of the Mongol Empire. During his 12-year reign, from 1229 to 1241, he continued his father's works and expanded the empire well into Korea, Persia, India, and China. Ogedei also oversaw the construction of many buildings, including palaces, pavilions, and even the city
of Karakorum, which he completed in 1235. Ogedei was known for his humility and was described as one always willing to hear the opinions of his advisors and generals. But he was also known for some of the empire's atrocities, such as ordering four thousand little girls over the age of seven from Oirat in Western Mongol to be raped and later
captured to work as prostitutes. He was also an alcoholic, and it is believed that his excessive drinking might have accounted for his death in 1241. Güyük Khan was the third Khagan-Emperor. He reigned from 1246 to 1248 Having reigned for two years, from 1246-1248, Guyuk Khan was one of the few khans with the shortest reigns
Before his rise to the throne, he trained under his father, Genghis. When his father, Genghis. When his father, Genghis to make sure any threats to her son's position had been suppressed. In the end, Guyuk was elected khan in 1246. Despite his
short reign, he was a good leader. He reversed many of Torgene's unpopular policies, which likely was the source of tension between him and his mother. Their relationship further worsened when he ordered the execution of a courtier called Fatima when he suspected her of using witchcraft to kill their brother, Koden. Güyük's military campaigns in
so many ways paved the way for future khans to gain full control over China as they waged war against the Song Dynasty. Similar to his father, Guyuk Khan might have lived longer had he not succumbed to alcoholism, which affected his health. He died in 1248, with historians split on whether he'd been poisoned or that his health had finally failed
him. Möngke Khan was the fourth khagan-emperor of the Mongol Empire and grandson of Genghis Khan. Much like his predecessors, Mongke Khan expanded the empire and grandson of Genghis Khan. Much like his predecessors, Mongke Khan was the fourth khagan-emperor of the Mongol Empire and grandson of Genghis Khan. Much like his predecessors, Mongke Khan expanded the empire further into China and Syria. He also introduced several administrative reforms to the empire.
years, from 1251-1259, during which time he led the empire resolutely. Kublai Khan was Genghis Khan was also extremely popular. Following the
empire's successful invasion into China in the 13th century, he went on to establish the Yuan Dynasty in an attempt to unite the land. He was successful, and by 1279, he was the first Mongol to rule over China. Kublai Khan was known for his intelligence and kindness. He oversaw many construction projects and also improved the empire's mailing
system, and invested heavily into scientific pursuits. It was also during his reign that paper currencies became popular. It was also in his time that he encountered the famous explorer Marco Polo. They had a good relationship, with Kublai Khan bestowing upon the Italian several diplomatic positions. The emperor also had some failures, including the
empire's attempt to invade Japan and imposing excessive taxes on the Northern and Southern Chinese people. At the time of his death in 1294, Kublai Khan (reign: 1227-1255) was the ruler and founder of the Golden Horde. Image: Batu depicted by
Rashid al-Din In addition to the above Great Khans, the Mongol Empire could boast of many prominent generals and matriarchs, including the General Subutai, Batu Khan, and Hoelun. Hoelun was not a ruler per se; she instead the mother of the empire's first ruler, Genghis Khan. When her husband, Yisugei, was poisoned, she and her son escaped to
live in the steppes. In "The Secret History of the Mongols", Hoelun was depicted as a determined woman and mother who ensured all her children were taken care of. She is praised for instilling in Genghis Khan many noble and admirable traits, including courage and determination, which ultimately proved useful when he went on to unite all of
Mongolia under one rule. What was life like during the age of the Mongol Empire? Like many other empires before and after it, the Mongol Empire had several practices that made it unique and gave its people a culture and identity. Here are some interesting social elements that formed the empire: Religion While the Mongols never had any set
religious practices or writings, their religious beliefs were an amalgamation of different religious, including shamanism, and ancestral worship. They believed that spirits dwelled in natural elements such as rainstorms or mountains, and ancestral worship. They believed that spirits dwelled in natural elements such as rainstorms or mountains, and ancestral worship.
traveling to the spirit world, and interacting with spirits. Eventually, the Mongols also worshiped a sky deity called Tengri, who they believed had given them the mandate to take over the world. It was with this belief that guided Genghis Khan, as well as other
khans, to lead many successful invasions and conquests. Mongol Women Much like the men, Mongol women were also trained in horse riding and using bows. They held several high positions in the communities with some of them becoming shamans or participating in tribal meetings. Women had the right to inherit and own properties. In some cases,
the wives or mothers of khans also served as regents in the event of a death, and their reigns could last for several years. A case in point was Toregene Khatun who served as regent for about five years. They also supported the male warriors during battles by handling all logistics aspects. During battles, the women were usually at the back with the
war supplies. The women also looked after the home and could make decisions on behalf of the family. Some prominent Mongol women include Hoelun (mother of Genghis Khan), Toregene (ruled as regent from 1241-1246), and Alan Goa (Mongolian mythical character). Marriage Mongols saw marriage as the union of two clans as a well as a means to
forge alliances. As a result, they practiced exogamy, which is the practice of finding a partner from another clan. The Mongol men were required to abducting wives
from rival tribes during invasions. On other occasions, the bride's family would allow the groom or his family to pay a dowry, which was more affordable than the bride price. To completely avoid paying anything, some families agreed on betrothing their children. Many Mongol men practiced polygamy, as it was a patriarchal society, The Mongols did
not frown on divorce; however, if the marriage ended by adultery, both husband and wife would be executed. Military Image: Mongol general Subutai of the Golden Horde Some historians believe that at the start of the empire around 1206, the Mongol army numbered up to at least 105,000 soldiers. Genghis Khan was credited for organizing the army,
using a smart decimal system. It comprised groups that each contained ten men. The groups were as follows: "arbans" (10,000), and "tumens" (10,000), and "tumens" (10,000), and "tumens" (10,000). Because of their nomadic lifestyles and early horse training, they were excellent horse archers. It's said that Mongol fighters were adept at wielding
other weapons, including lances, while on horseback. They were also skilled engineers and could build machines while in battle using whatever resources they had. Their nomadic lifestyles also meant that traveling long distances was no problem for them.
This is just one of the reasons why they were able to expand into other Asian regions, as well as Europe. They were known for easily adapting to various weather patterns, using this to their advantage during conquests. But the Mongols were typical land dwellers, and while that helped them immensely, it also exposed a weak spot. They were not
exactly sailors at sea and failed to navigate brutal storms such as the ones they had encountered while on their failed mission to invade Japan. In some other instances, such as when they had to rely on sailing to conquer the Song Dynasty, they showed some level of naval prowess. Science The Mongols were rather advanced for their time, especially
since its emperors invested heavily in science and technology. Ogedei Khan was known for his interest in astronomy; and to show his dedication to the discipline, he ordered for repairs on the Zhongdu spherical astrolabe (a model of celestial bodies) two times in 1233 and 1236. He also called for the Damingli calendar to be revised and adopted it for
use throughout the empire. Later rulers like Mongol Empire between 1235 and 1260. However, he died before fulfilling that task. His successor, Hulagu Khan, sought the services of an astronomer named Tusi to help build the Maragheh
Observatory located in Persia in 1259. The observatory housed about 400,000 books that Tusi had managed to collect from other Mesopotamian cities after the Mongols had raided them. During Kublai Khan's reign, he built several observatories and libraries across China. Later emperor Ghazan Khan (reign: 1295-1304), who was a polyglot,
constructed the Tabriz Observatory in 1295. Arts and Culture Not much of the Mongols' arts, including paintings and literary works, survived over the course of time. However, one of the empire's earliest books, called "The Secret History of the Mongols' arts, including paintings and literary works, survived over the course of time. However, one of the empire's earliest books, called "The Secret History of the Mongols' arts, including paintings and literary works, survived over the course of time.
tree, as well as the birth of the empire, and the subsequent rule of his son Ogedei. An interesting fun fact to include is that the Mongols were also likely one of the first groups of people to create correction fluid, which they created using resin and vegetable pigments. They also appreciated paintings, but most of the artwork produced by Mongols
depicted more horses than it did the people. Mongol Empire's system of governance As emperor, Genghis Khan introduced a code of laws called "Yassa." It contained information on various punishments for people who disregarded or flouted to pick
up something the other soldier in front of them had dropped. Additionally, if other tribes or cities failed to heed to the terms of "Yassa", leaders were chosen based on their accomplishments. The empire also adopted a parliamentary system of governance which consisted of an assembly
called the "kurultai." In addition to the Mongol constitution, Genghis Khan designed a national seal and also encouraged the Mongol leaders were known for steering away from the internal politics of the people they conquered.
the Mongols At its peak, the Mongol Empire became the largest contiguous land empire in history. It's estimated that the empire, which began as a small group of nomadic tribes in present-day Mongolia, reached a size of 24,000,000 km2 (9,300,000 sq mi). The Mongol Empire was extremely powerful and wealthy, but all that didn't come with sheer
luck. Instead, the leaders and generals of the empire had to muster a lot of courage and discipline. In many cases, they had to act in a barbaric manner in order to accomplish what they set their minds to. Therefore, what are some of the heinous atrocities and dark secrets of the Mongols? Below are some few examples: Torture, murdering and killing
came natural to them Executions were often gruesome. When Guyuk Khan ordered the execution of Fatima, he ensured that lips, nostrils, and ears were sewn up before being wrapped up and cast into a river. Because they did not believe in shedding the blood of royals, they executed royals by crushing them. For example, when they killed the leaders
of the Abbasid Caliph, Abu Ahmad Abdallah al-Musta'sim in 1258, they wrapped him up in a carpet and left him in the path of stampeding horses who trampled him to death. Sexual abuse and rould occupy high offices, with some of them serving as regents.
However, that didn't mean life was particularly easy for women in a society that was mostly patriarchal. During Ogedei's reign, he ordered the raping of some 4,000 young girls. Religious Zealots While the Mongols were mostly tolerant of
other religions, they believed that their rise had been divinely appointed. This was perhaps the reason why they believed they had the right to kill as many people during their military campaigns. When Genghis Khan captured the city of Bukhara (located in modern-day Uzbekistan), he famously said to the people, "You have committed great sins...If
you had not committed great sins, God would not have sent a punishment like me upon you." These sorts of beliefs were widely upheld by subsequent rulers such as Guyuk and Mongke Khan. Ogedei Khan's plot to eradicate the Chinese population As nomads, the Mongols spent a lot of their time out in the pasture, and each time they had planned an
invasion, they typically sent smaller groups of soldiers to destroy any villages or farmlands that did not belong to them. The idea was that by the time the rest of the troops arrived there, most of these lands would have become open fields. For many years, the opportunity to conquer China had evaded the Mongols. So, during the reign of Ogedei Khan
he decided to use this approach. However, his plan was nothing short of grisly; he wanted to kill the Chinese advisor, Yelu Chucai, stopped him from going through with the plan and the ruler listened to him. Why many Mongol khans struggled with
alcoholism The Mongols typically weren't heavy drinkers. The only alcoholic drink that was fairly common among them was fermented milk from mares. For a long time, that was the only alcoholic drinks such as wine. By the end of
Genghis Khan's reign, many Mongols had started to suffer from alcoholism. Future successors like Ogedei also struggled with the condition, and it is likely that the khan died from it. Ogedei's drinking was so bad that it was rumored that he took vital decisions concerning the empire while drunk. How did the Mongol Empire fall? The empire had
grown so large that it had become difficult for the emperor to control; so it was divided into four regions: the Ilkhanate, Golden Horde, Chagatai, and Great Khan. Each region had a khan who was often the descendants of Genghis Khan. And while they each had their own emperor, those regions were still subject to an overall ruler. By the 15th
century, the Mongol Empire had become a shadow of itself. Image: The successor states of the Mongol Empire in 1335 The decline of the Mongol Empire began after the reign of Kublai Khan. The Khan's reign had seen the unification of all of China, and the empire's capital was moved from Karakoram to China, in a location now known as Beijing. At
this time, the empire was too massive for it to be managed by one universal ruler. And for many years, the empire found itself grappling with fierce civil wars triggered by power struggles among the grandsons of Genghis Khan. Following Kublai's death in 1294, the Mongol Empire was divided into four khanates. About seven decades later, the Yuan
Dynasty fell, paving way for the rise of the Ming Dynasty. A few years later, in 1380, a Russian alliance defeated the Mongols. Several other states like Ukraine, Persia, and Belarus also reclaimed their lands from the Mongols. Several other states like Ukraine, Persia, and Belarus also reclaimed their lands from the Mongols. Several other states like Ukraine, Persia, and Belarus also reclaimed their lands from the Mongols.
regions to succumb to the empire's decline in 1502. Apart from the empire's decline in 1502. Apart from the empire's central government.
more territories than the Roman Empire, which existed over four centuries. Many other khans further expanded the empire is best known as the largest contiguous land empire in history. Improved Trade The Mongol Empire's
conquest of Asian and European regions brought forth the "Pax Mongolica", where there was relative peace. During that a woman could traverse along the road while holding a gold nugget. Further boosting trade and improved world traverse along the road while holding a gold nugget.
along the Silk Road was the communication system that made good use of horse messengers and relay posts. They Spread the Plague When the bubonic plague started in China, the active trading on the Silk Road played a role in spreading it to Europe. Rise of Russian Power Russia benefited largely under the Mongol Empire when some leaders were
appointed tax collectors on behalf of the Mongols. It was a likely sign that the Mongols barely visited the lands they had seized from the Russians. But the Russians used that to their advantage; and during the reign of Ivan III (also known as Ivan the Great), he reclaimed the lost lands and started the Russian Tsardom. Ivan, who ruled from 1462-1505
is hailed for securing victory over the Great Horde in 1480, which in so many ways marked Russia's independence. Depopulation & Death Toll The Mongol Empire killed many people during its numerous conquests. For many years, the number of people who died at the hands of the Mongols has been heavily debated amongst historians. Some
researchers believe the death toll to be around 30 million people, whereas others placed their estimates between 50-80 million people. The Mongols weren't selective concerning who they killed, whether men, women, or children. Some accounts even state that the Mongols derived pleasure in "humiliating women." The Mongols might have also
decimated at least half of China's population. Before the invasion, China's population was set to be about 120 million; however, and after the Mongols had conquered the land in 1279, it dropped to about 60 million. However, some scholars have pointed that there are several other factors that might have accounted for the halving of China's
population, including the bubonic plague. In the Islamic kingdoms, the Mongols killed between 10-15 million people. Following the rise and fall of the empire, Iran's population could not reach what it previously was until the 20th century. The Mesopotamian region, which was believed to be the birthplace of humanity, was severely depopulated and
many of its lands were turned to open fields. Answers to Popular Questions about Genghis Khan's Major Accomplishments and Conquests FACT CHECK: At worldhistoryedu.com, we strive for utmost accuracy and objectivity. But if you come across something that doesn't look right, don't hesitate to leave a comment below. This post may contain
affiliate links. As an Amazon Associate, we earn from qualifying purchases. The Mongol Empire arose from the alliance of several nomadic clans in the Mongol tribes before rapidly expanding his territory across Asia and establishing the World's most
extensive empire in the process. However, his Empire would split after his death, causing Mongol Empire from 1206 to 1294. Here is another more detailed map illustrating the heyday and demise of the Mongol Empire The Mongol Empire became the
biggest contiguous empire by area in history, covering 24 million square kilometers (9.27 mln sq mi) and the fourth-largest empire by the percentage of the global population. Starting in Mongolia, the Mongol Empire and
The Roman Empire at their peaks. The Mongols obtained more land in 25 years than the Roman empire's size whitened in contrast to that of the Mongol empire at their peaks. The Mongol empire's territorial peak in 117 AD, the Roman empire's area was 24 mln sq km (9.3 mln sq km), while the Mongolian empire's territory in
1279 AD was only 5 mln sq km (1.9 mln sq mi). While the Mongolian Empire was the largest contiguous empire in history, the British Empire is the most extensive empire by area, though its constituent parts were expanded over oceans: 35.5 mln sq km (13.7 mln sq mi). Subscribe to author Print Article PDF Mongol Warriors in
Battle The Mongol Empire (1206-1368) was founded by Genghis Khan (r. 1206-1227), first Great Khan or 'universal ruler' of the Mongol peoples. Genghis forged the empire by uniting nomadic tribes of the Asian steppe and creating a devastatingly effective army with fast, light, and highly coordinated cavalry. Eventually, the empire dominated Asian
from the Black Sea to the Korean peninsula. Expert horsemen and archers, the Mongols proved unstoppable in Central Asia and beyond, defeating armies in Iran, Russia, Eastern Europe, China, and many other places. The descendants of Genghis each ruled a part of the empire - the four khanates - the most powerful of which was the Mongol Yuan
Dynasty in China (1271-1368), established by Kublai Khan (r. 1260-1279). Eventually, the Mongols became part of the sedentary societies they had so easily overwhelmed and many converted from traditional shamanism to Tibetan Buddhism or Islam. This was a general symptom of the Mongols not only losing part of their cultural identity but also,
too, their famed military prowess, as the four khanates all succumbed to damaging dynastic disputes and the armies of their rivals. Although not famed for creating any lasting architectural wonders or political institutions, the Mongols did make the significant contribution to world culture of finally connecting the eastern and western worlds via
expanded trade routes, diplomatic embassies and the movement of missionaries and travellers from Eurasia to the Far East. Tengri, the 'Blue Sky' god, was thought by tribal elites to have given the Mongol people a divine right to rule the entire world. Nomads of the Steppe The Mongols were pastoral nomads of the Asian steppe who herded sheep
goats, horses, camels, and yaks. These tribes moved according to the seasons and lived in temporary camps of circular felt tents or yurts (gers). The climate of Mongolia is often harsh and, reflecting this, clothing was warm, durable, and practical. Felt from sheep's wool and animal furs were the most common material to make clothing which was
remarkably similar for both men and women: heelless boots, baggy trousers, a long jacket-robe (deel) worn with a leather belt, and a conical hat with earflaps, while underclothes were made from cotton or silk. The Mongol diet was mostly dairy-based with cheese, yoghurt, butter, and dried milk curds (kurut) being staples. A mildly alcoholic drink,
kumis, was made from mare's milk which was often drunk to excess. The herds being too valuable as a sustainable source of milk, wool, and even dung for fuel, meat was typically acquired through hunting and wild fruits and vegetables were gathered through for fuel, meat was typically acquired throu
tribal gatherings, special hunts were organised. At these events a strategy known as the nerge was employed where riders encompassed a huge area of steppe and slowly drove the game - anything from marmots to wolves - into an ever-smaller area where they could be more easily killed by mounted archers. The techniques, organisation and
discipline of the nerge would serve the Mongols well when they went to war. Most of these features of medieval daily life in the Mongol world are still continued today by steppe nomads across Asia. Although nomadic life generally saw men do the hunting and women do the division of labour was not always so clear, and often both sexes
could perform the tasks of the other, including using a bow and riding. Women tended animals, set up and packed away camps, drove the tribe's wagons, looked after the children, prepared foodstuffs, and entertained guests. Women had rather more rights than in most other contemporary Asian cultures and could both own and inherit property.
Several women even ruled as regents in the spells between the reigns of the Great Khans. Another area of Mongols' religion. Religious Beliefs The Mongols' religion. Religious Beliefs The Mongols' religion had no sacred texts or particular ceremonies but was, rather, a mix of animism, ancestor worship, and shamanism. Instances of the elements
of fire, earth, and water, impressive geographical sites like mountains and natural phenomena such as storms were considered to possess spirits. Shamans, who could be both men and women, were thought able to, in a state of trance, communicate with these spirits and travel in their world, helping to find lost souls and divine future events. Other
religions were present amongst the Mongols, notably Nestorian Christianity and, from the 14th century, Tibetan Buddhism (Lamaism) became popular, perhaps thanks to its shamanistic elements. Islam was also widely adopted in the western khanates. Above all, though, there was a widespread belief in the principal two deities: the Earth or Mother
goddess, known as Etugen (Itugen), who represented fertility, and Tengri (Gok Monggke Tenggeri), the 'Blue Sky' or 'Eternal Heaven.' This latter deity was seen as a protector god and, crucially, he was thought by the tribal elites to have given the Mongol people a divine right to rule the entire world. Genghis Khan and his successors would put this
idea into devastating practice by conquering almost the entire continent of Asia and creating the largest empire ever seen up to that time in history. Genghis Khan The Mongol nomadic tribes were then, used to a tough life, were highly
mobile by nature and were trained from childhood to ride horses and shoot bows. These qualities would make them into excellent warriors able to endure long and complex campaigns, cover vast amounts of territory in a short space of time and survive on only the absolute minimum of supplies. Even the role of women and their chores of camp-making
and transportation helped the Mongol army as they provided the vital logistic support for their husband warriors. Genghis Khan was perhaps the first Mongol leader to realise that if only the various tribes and clans could be united, the Mongols could master the world. Genghis, born Temujin c. 1162, overcame a harsh childhood of abandonment and
poverty and established himself as an able military commander for Toghril, chief of the Kerait tribe. The life and times of Genghis are told in The Secret History of the Mongols, a 13th-century chronicle which is our best primary source for the early empire. Over a period of around 10 years from 1195 to 1205, Genghis are told in The Secret History of the Mongols, a 13th-century chronicle which is our best primary source for the early empire.
and slowly expanded his domain through a ruthless mixture of diplomacy, warfare, and terror - for many warriors it was often a case of join the young leader or be executed. Tribes such as the Tartars (a name medieval westerners wrongly applied to the Mongols themselves), Kereyids, Naimans, and Merkids were brought into line. Finally, in 1206 in a
grand meeting of all tribal leaders (a kurultai), Genghis Khan (aka Chinggis Khan) was formally recognised as the Great Khan or 'universal ruler' of the Mongols. The Khan attempted to further unify his realm by insisting that the hitherto only spoken Mongol language was made into a written one using the script of the Uighur Turks and by introducing
a lasting law code, the Yasa. Communication was greatly helped by the establishment of the Yam, a network of staging posts which messengers could use for resupply as they rode across the state. The empire had already begun in earnest but it was about to get a whole lot bigger. Expansion: Northern China & Persia Mongol tribal leaders had
traditionally achieved and then maintained their position of power by distributing war booty amongst their loyal followers and Genghis was no different. The Mongol army was based around a core 10,000 men, which was the khan's personal bodyguard, the kesikten. Members of this elite would also hold key administrative positions across the empire
Additional troops were gained through conscription of the Mongol tribes and contingents from allies and conquered territories. The main offensive weapon was the light cavalry with its riders expert at firing the powerful Mongol tribes and contingents from allies and conquered territories. The main offensive weapon was the light cavalry with its riders expert at firing the powerful Mongol tribes and conquered territories.
allowing riders up to 16 spare mounts which meant an army could travel huge distances with great Khan was the Jin state (aka Jurchen Jin Dynasty, 1115-1234) in northern China. The speed of the Mongol cavalry and the terror tactics when dealing with captured cities reaped dividends, and the
internally fractured Jin state was forced to retreat to the south. A simultaneous target was the Tangut state of Xi Xia (aka Hsi-Hsia, 1038-1227), also in northern China and similarly incapable of stopping Genghis' relentless progress across East Asia. The third target in this period was Song Dynasty China (aka Sung, 960 - 1279). Richer and more
powerful than its neighbours, the Song proved more resilient, despite Genghis sacking many of their cities, but their time would come. By 1219, even northern Korea had been attacked as Genghis chased down the troublesome Khitan tribes who had fled there. Seemingly intent on earning his title as 'universal ruler', Genghis now turned his attention
to western Asia. From 1218, the Persian Khwarazm Empire was attacked. A Mongol army of 100,000 men swept all comers aside, capturing such notable cities as Bukhara and Samarkand. In 1221 the Mongols swept into northern Afghanistan, in 1223 a Russian army was defeated at Kalka, and then the Caspian sea was entirely encircled as the army
returned home. The Muslims of the region now had a new title for Genghis, the 'Accursed One.' Cites had been destroyed down to their foundations, civilians were massacred, and even irrigation systems were wrecked. The Asian world had been turned upside down in less than two decades. Genghis Khan died on 18 August 1227 of an unknown
illness, but his successors would ensure the Mongol new world order would far outlast its creator. Ogedei (Chaghadai), Tolui (Tului), and Ogedei (Ogodei), with each ruling a khanate (although Jochi would predecease his father in 1227)
Ogedei became the new Great Khan (r. 1229-1241) and thus ruler of all the Mongols. The unified empire would endure until 1260 CE when the four khanates became fully autonomous (see below). Ogedei Khan further consolidated the Mongol state apparatus by appointing members of the imperial bodyguard and ministers as regional governors
(darugachi), conducting a census and imposing a proper tax system (as opposed to the mere confiscation of property). In 1235, a capital was selected, Karakorum (Qaragorum) in Mongolia. The Yam network was expanded, wells were protected along trade routes, and travelling merchants were given military protection. In terms of conquests, Ogedei
carried right on where his predecessor had left off and, with the help of the gifted general Subutai (aka Sube'etei, 1176-1248), known as one of the 'Four Hounds' of the khan, campaigned against the Jin in 1230-1. The Jin capital of Kaifeng fell in 1233, and the campaign of 1234 brought about the suicide of the Jin emperor, Aizong (r. 1224-1234) and
the total and final collapse of the Jin state. Korea was repeatedly raided in this period, too. Mongol Warrior Reconstruction From 1235 Subutai coordinated the campaign across Central Asia, capturing such cities as Tiflis (Tbilisi). From 1236 to 1242, an army of 150,000 men organised in five separated divisions then marched through
Kazakhstan/Uzbekistan to attack Eastern Europe around the Volga river. Victories were gained against the Bulgars, Rus, Poles, and Hungarians in multiple campaigns. Seemingly coming from nowhere, the Mongol cavalry became known as the 'horsemen of the Devil.' Great cities like Kiev (1241), Buda and Pest (1241) were all sacked
and looted. It seemed that only Ogedei's death in 1241 saved Europe from further incursions as the Mongol leaders were then compelled to return to Karakorum to elect a new khan. The next two khans would be Guyuk Khan (r. 1251-1259) with regents ruling in between, but it would be Kublai, grandson of Genghis,
who showed the greatest ambition as he took the Mongol conquests to a whole new level. Kublai Khan Attacks China & Japan Kublai Khan would reign from 1260 to 1294, but he had already made an impression before that when he campaigned with Mongke Khan against Song China. Kublai had to battle with his younger brother Arig Boke (1219-
1266) for the position of Great Khan, but Kublai won and, even if the empire was now effectively split into four khanates, he had the consolation that his part remained the richest. Kublai, in any case, was ambitious for a title even more prestigious: Chinese emperor. Consequently, the Song were again attacked, but this time Kublai engaged in siege
warfare using superior catapults - knowledge acquired from western Asia. City after city fell over the next 11 years and, with the fall of the capital Lin'an on 28 March 1276, so too fell the Song Dynasty. On 19 March 1279 a great naval battle was won at Yaishan near modern-day Macao - another instance of successful adaptation in Mongol warfare
and the very last Song resistance quashed. Kublai had defeated what all steppe nomads before him had dreamed of: the mighty and immensely rich state of China and his new order the Yuan Dynasty, meaning 'origin' or 'centre.' Daidu (Beijing) was
made the new capital, with Xanadu (Shangdu) in the northeast being the emperor's summer retreat. Proving as able an administrator as he was a conqueror, Kublai organised his huge state into 12 provinces and promoted trade through beneficial taxation for merchants, the encouragement of paper money, and improving road and canal networks to
better transport goods. Kublai was not satisfied, though, and launched two attacks on Japan in 1274 and 1281. Both would fail as a result of staunch local resistance and terrible storms the Japanese would call kamikaze or 'divine winds.' Undeterred, Kublai launched attacks in South East Asia with invasions of Vietnam (1257, 1281, and 1286), Burma
(1277 and 1287) and Java (1292), all achieving only mixed results. It seemed the Mongol Empire had reached its zenith and the 13th century would now only see a decline. Four Khanates of the Mongol Empire, the central and western
parts largely went their own way. The Golden Horde, centred on the western Eurasian steppe, was founded by Batu Khan (d. 1255), grandson of Genghis, around 1227. It would outlast all the others, officially terminating in 1480, but from the mid-14th century, the Russians and Lithuanians were resurgent in the area. The Ilkhanate, centred on Persia
was founded by Hulegu (d. 1265), another grandson of Genghis around 1260. It would be constantly threatened by its southeastern neighbour the Mamluk Sultanate (1261-1517) and disintegrated due to dynastic disputes in 1335. The Chagatai Khanate was established by Chagatai (1183-1242), the second son of Genghis and would remain the most
truly Mongol state where nomadic roots proved difficult to shake off. Again, dynastic disputes brought its collapse in 1363. All three western khanates would eventually adopt Islam as their state religion, itself yet another bone of contention between elites. The territories of the Ilkhanate and
Chagatai Khanate were eventually taken over by Timur (Tamerlane), founder of the Timurid Empire (1370-1507). Even Yuan China succumbed to the all-too-familiar civil wars from rival groups and, with a weak economy and beset by famines and localised rebellions, the Ming Dynasty was able to take over China in 1368. In the end, the Mongols had
become a part of the sedentary societies they had so easily conquered which made them just a susceptible as any other state to a takeover by those willing to embrace new ideas and technologies. The Empire of Timur the Lame, c. 1404 CE The Mongol Legacy The Mongol 
fine buildings to admire but they did leave a lasting legacy in other ways. Perhaps their greatest effect on world culture was to make the first serious connections between the East and West. The Mongol Empire, the largest contiguous land empire up to that point, stretched across one-fifth of the globe and their soldiers were obliged to fight Teutonic
knights at one end while at the other they faced samurai warriors, neither of which enemy had any notion of the other's existence. Hitherto, the Chinese and Europeans had each viewed the other's lands as a semi-mythical place of monsters. As ambassadors, missionaries, merchants, and travellers like Marco Polo (1254-1324) were encouraged to
 freely cross Asia, so contact increased, and ideas and religions were spread. Gunpowder, paper, printing, and the compass all became familiar in Europe. The Mongols spread ideas in cuisine, too, such as making their sulen (shulen) broth-come-stew a popular dish across Asia even today. There were, alas, less advantageous consequences, like the
Black Death (1347-1352), first transferred from a pocket of remote China to the Black Sea and from there to Venice and the rest of Europe. In Mongolia, though, the empire is remembered fondly as a golden era and Genghis Khan, the starter of it all, continues to be honoured with regular ceremonies in the Mongolian capital of Ulaanbaatar. Did you
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page may have different licensing terms. Add Event Visual Timeline Life of Genghis Khan, founder of the Mongol Empire. The Mongol Empire. The Mongol Empire. The Mongol conference of tribal leaders (khuriltai) awards Temujin the title of
Genghis Khan ('universal ruler'). Reign of Genghis Khan as the ruler of the Mongol Empire. The Mongols attack the Jurchen Jin state in northern China. The Mongols attack the Jurchen Jin state in northern China. The Mongols attack the Jurchen Jin state in northern China. The Mongols attack the Jurchen Jin state in northern China. The Mongols attack the Jurchen Jin state in northern China. The Mongols attack the Jurchen Jin state in northern China. The Mongols attack the Jurchen Jin state in northern China.
in northern China. The Mongols attack Song China, sacking over 90 cities. The Jurchen Jin state signs a short-lived peace treaty with the Mongols attack the Jurchen Jin state in northern China. The Mongols attack the Tangut state of Xi Xia. The Mongols attack the Tangut state of Xi Xia. The Mongols attack the Jurchen Jin state in northern China. The Mongols attack the Jurchen Jin state in northern China. The Mongols attack the Jurchen Jin state in northern China.
Empire in Central Asia. A Goryeo army allies with the Mongols defeat an army of the Kievan Rus at Kalka. Reign of Chagatai Khanate named after him. The Mongol Chagatai Khanate rules in Central Asia. Death of
Genghis Khan from illness. Composition of the Secret History of the Mongols. Reign of Ogedei Khan as the ruler of the Mongols attack the Jurchen Jin State, falls after a lengthy siege by the Mongols. Ogedei Khan orders a census to be
conducted for tax purposes across northern China. The Mongols attack and conquer the Jurchen Jin State in northern China. Ogedei Khan orders the construction of a new capital of the Mongol Empire at Karakorum, Mongolia. The Mongol Empire at Karakorum, Mongolia armies
attack western Asia, Russia, Poland, and Hungary. The city of Ryazan (Riazan) is besieged and capture the city of Vladimir. The Mongols capture the city of Torshok. The Mongols capture Kiev. The Mongols defeat an army led by
Henry the Pious, the Duke of Silesia, near Liegnitz (Legnica). The Mongols defeat an army led by Bela IV, king of Hungary, at the Battle of Mohi. The Mongols capture Buda and Pest. The Mongols capture the great city of Gran (Esztergom) in Hungary, at the Battle of Mohi. The Mongols capture buda and Pest. The Mongols capture buda and Pest. The Mongols capture the great city of Gran (Esztergom) in Hungary, at the Battle of Mohi. The Mongols capture buda and Pest. The Mongols capture the great city of Gran (Esztergom) in Hungary, at the Battle of Mohi. The Mongols capture buda and Pest. The Mongols capture the great city of Gran (Esztergom) in Hungary, at the Battle of Mohi. The Mongols capture buda and Pest. The Mongols capture the great city of Gran (Esztergom) in Hungary, at the Battle of Mohi. The Mongols capture buda and Pest. The Mongols capture the great city of Gran (Esztergom) in Hungary, at the Battle of Mohi. The Mongols capture buda and Pest. The Mongols capture the great city of Gran (Esztergom) in Hungary (E
the Chagatai Khanate. Reign of Guyuk Khan as ruler of the Mongol Empire. Batu Khan and the Jochid-Toluid kurultai declare Mongol Empire. The Franciscan missionary and chronicler William of Rubruck visits the Mongol Empire, including the capital Karakorum. A Mongol
army led by Hulegu invades Persia and the Mongols conquer the Dali kingdom in southern China. An uprising restores the monarchy in Korea and makes peace with the Mongols conquer the Abbasid Caliphate. During
this campaign there is the infamous sacking of Baghdad and murder of the Mongol Empire. The Mongol Empire. Hulegu rules the Ilkhanate. Reign of Kublai Khan, ruler of the Mongol Empire. The Mongol Empire. The Mongol Empire.
Empire. The Mongol Ilkhanate rules in Iran and neighbouring territories. Kublai Khan captures Karakorum after his rival nAriq Boke (1219-1266 CE) used it as his base. Xanadu is the capital of the Mongol Empire. Abaqa rules the Ilkhanate, defeats Baraq
ruler of the Chagatai Khanate, at the battle of Herat. Part of northern Korea is conquered by the Mongol Empire. The Ilkhanate signs a trade agreement with Venice. The Mongol Yuan Dynasty, founded by Kublai Khan, rules China. The Mongol Empire. The Ilkhanate signs a trade agreement with Venice. The Mongol Empire. The Mongol Empire. The Ilkhanate signs a trade agreement with Venice. The Mongol Empire. The Ilkhanate signs a trade agreement with Venice. The Mongol Yuan Dynasty, founded by Kublai Khan, rules China. The Mongol Empire. The Ilkhanate signs a trade agreement with Venice. The Mongol Empire. The Ilkhanate signs a trade agreement with Venice. The Mongol Yuan Dynasty, founded by Kublai Khan, rules China. The Mongol Empire. The Ilkhanate signs a trade agreement with Venice. The Mongol Empire. The Ilkhanate signs a trade agreement with Venice. The Mongol Empire. The Ilkhanate signs a trade agreement with Venice. The Mongol Empire. The Ilkhanate signs a trade agreement with Venice. The Ilkhanate signs a trade agreement with Venice. The Mongol Empire. The Ilkhanate signs a trade agreement with Venice and Ilkhanate signs a trade agreement with Venice agreement with Venice and Ilkhanate signs a trade agreement with Venice agreement with Venice agreement with Venice agreement w
the Ilkhanate, sacks the city of Bukhara in the Chaqatai Khanate. Xiangyang falls into Mongol hands. Xanadu is the summer capital of the Mongol hands. Xanadu is the summer capital of the Mongol hands. Xanadu is the summer capital of the Mongol hands. Xanadu is the summer capital of the Mongol hands. Xanadu is the summer capital of the Mongol hands. Xanadu is the summer capital of the Mongol hands. Xanadu is the summer capital of the Mongol hands. Xanadu is the summer capital of the Mongol hands. Xanadu is the summer capital of the Mongol hands. Xanadu is the summer capital of the Mongol hands. Xanadu is the summer capital of the Mongol hands. Xanadu is the summer capital of the Mongol hands. Xanadu is the summer capital of the Mongol hands. Xanadu is the summer capital of the Mongol hands. Xanadu is the summer capital of the Mongol hands. Xanadu is the summer capital of the Mongol hands. Xanadu is the summer capital of the Mongol hands. Xanadu is the summer capital of the Mongol hands. Xanadu is the summer capital of the Mongol hands. Xanadu is the summer capital of the Mongol hands. Xanadu is the summer capital of the Mongol hands. Xanadu is the summer capital of the Mongol hands. Xanadu is the summer capital of the Mongol hands. Xanadu is the summer capital of the Mongol hands. Xanadu is the summer capital of the Mongol hands.
captured by a Mongol army. The Ilkhanate defeats a Mamluk army in Lesser Armenia. The Mongols/Yuan Dynasty China with victory at the naval battle at Yaishan. The Mongols complete their conguest of Song Dynasty China with victory at the naval battle at Yaishan. The Mongols/Yuan Dynasty China with victory at the naval battle at Yaishan. The Mongols complete their conguest of Song Dynasty China with victory at the naval battle at Yaishan.
rules the Ilkhanate. The Mongols/Yuan Dynasty China re-invade Vietnam. The Mongols/Yuan Dynasty China re-invade Burma. The Ilkhanate agrees a trade deal with Genoa. Gaikhatu rules the Ilkhanate, converts to Islam. Ghazan rules the
Ilkhanate. The Ilkhanate briefly captures Mamluk-controlled Aleppo and Damascus. The Mamluk Sultanate army in Syria at Marj al-Suffar. Oljeitu rules the Ilkhanate disintegrates into smaller states following dynastic disputes. Tughlugh
Timur rules as the last Khan of the Chagatai Khanade. Upon his death, the state disintegrates. The last Yuan Dynasty emperor, Toghon Temur (r. 1333-1368 CE), dies at Karakorum. The city of Xanadu, once the capital of the Mongolian Empire, is definitively abandoned. The Mongolian Empire has a well-deserved reputation for its brutality (it did, after
all, kill 40 million in the 12th century, enough people to alter planetary climate conditions). But it's positive legacies are nearly as profound, if less well known. The first aspect is art. While the Mongolian empire didn't produce much literature or fine art during the Mongol Empire, they appreciated and cultivated the arts of the sedentary peoples
around them. The Mongol Khans became great patrons of the arts, supporting artists and artisans of all kinds. While not artists themselves in the Empire, all the Khans and sub-khans protected and patronized the arts. Under Genghis Khan, textile workers, architects, stone carvers and
jewelers were relocated from the Middle East and Central Asia to Mongolia to create the magnificent works of art desired by the Mongols. The second factor is trade, Genghis offered a higher status for merchants than that allowed by the Chinese or
Persians who despised trade and traders. During the Mongolian Empire, the East-West trade routes became the fabled Silk Road which for the first time linked Europe to Asia, allowing the free flow of ideas,
technologies and goods. Valuable spices, tea, Asian artworks and silk headed west to waiting merchants in the Middle East and Europe. Gold, medical manuscripts, astronomical tomes and porcelain headed east to Asia. Ideas and new technologies also flowed in both directions along the Silk Road. The third aspect is religious tolerance. Many in the
Mongolian empire were shamanists at the same time they practiced other religious. Genghis' sons married Nestorian Christian women, for example, although they also held shamanist beliefs. As the Mongols swiftly began conquering the lands around them, Genghis' sons married Nestorian Christian women, for example, although they also held shamanist beliefs.
conquered peoples by suppressing their religion, the Mongols exempted religious leaders from taxation and allowed free practice of religion whether it be Buddhism, Nestorian Christianity, Manichaeism, Daoism or Islam. This policy ensured an easier governance of conquered territories. This article is part of our larger selection of posts about the
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