*APWH: Ch. 14 Mongolian Empire Name\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_*

**How was a group of nomadic herders able to create the largest land empire in history?**

1. Background
2. Epitome of nomadic society and culture
3. Social structure
4. Superior warriors
5. Leadership of Chinggis Khan (formerly known as Temujin)
   1. Won over his clan with his apt leadership
   2. Created alliances with other clans
   3. Elected khagan
   4. Chinggis was a war machine
6. Similarities and differences between early conquests of Mongolians and Arabs
   1. Used to nomadic lifestyle shaped by constant feuding
   2. New sense of unity
   3. Releasing pent up energy toward other peoples in quest of financial gain
   4. Differences: unifying factors
7. Weapons of dominance
   1. Short bows
   2. Mobility
      1. Cavalry only
      2. Each man carried only what he needed
      3. Army transported a reserve of horses
   3. Tumens: cohesion, discipline, loyalty
   4. Messenger force; spies who supplied maps
   5. Brilliant tactics based on confusion and fear
   6. Momentum: continued to add conquered soldiers to Mongolian army
8. Major conquests
   1. China
   2. Russia: “side campaign”
      1. Russia was very vulnerable
      2. Mongol victory led to two and a half centuries of Mongol domination over Russia
         1. Princes became vassals and had to pay tribute
         2. Peasants were particularly hit hard
         3. Many towns benefited from the increase in trade
         4. Russia benefited from the changes they adopted in military and political structures
         5. Isolation from Western Europe protected Russia from attacks but also cut them off from developments of the Renaissance
      3. Made some headway in Europe, but conquests were interrupted and never resumed
   3. Baghdad
      1. Abbasid dynasty ended when caliph was murdered
      2. Devastated Islamic civilization, since they were left without a central authority or focal point
9. Kubilai Khan
   1. Grandson of Chinggis
   2. Defeated China
   3. Created Yuan dynasty, which ruled China for one century
   4. Kept distinctions between the Mongols and Chinese in relations, religious customs and social hierarchy; Chinese could only exercise political power as advisors
   5. Adopted Chinese intellectual developments
   6. Actors and merchants (“mean people”) gained status under the Yuan dynasty, popular entertainment flourished
   7. The scholar-gentry resented rule by “barbarians”
   8. The Yuan dynasty fell soon after Kubilai’s death
10. Ruling style
    1. Curious about the knowledge other civilizations had to offer
       1. Spared scholars (advisors), artisans from retribution
       2. Invited Confucian scholars, Muslim engineers to Karakorum
       3. Oversaw development of Mongolian script, legal code
    2. Tolerant of other religions
    3. Created relatively peaceful empire in which trade and scholarship flourished
11. Legacy
    1. Expansion of trade networks
    2. Cross-cultural exchanges among Eurasian civilizations
    3. Peace within empire
12. Limitations
    1. Black Death spread as a result of the Mongolian expansion
    2. Defeated by the Mamluks of Egypt