

The Mongols

Rise of Central Asian Culture

What culture preceded the Mongol invasions?

- Muslim culture of central Asia more liberal, less literal than WAHABIST Islam
- Islam spread throughout trade entrepots of Silk Road
- Syncretic version of Islam adopted elements of Buddhism and local religions to form SUFISM
- Sufism exported beyond central Asia

Rise of Mongols

Economy

- Trade entrepots like Samarqand produced copper, silver lamé, other luxury items
- Trade from east-west routes brought great variety of products through
- Silk Road experiencing revival period of heavy use; trade network dominated by Muslims

Rise of Mongols

The Rise of the Mongols

- Mongols drove out Turkish nomads, who settled down in other areas of the world (e.g. West Asia w/ Seljuk Turks)
- Disunity among Mongol tribes kept them in central Asia fighting amongst themselves
- Rise of Genghis Khan brought unity and the drive of Mongols out of central Asia
- Only empire in history to get larger after death of founder
- Largest empire in history

Heavy incentives for Genghis's troops

Genghis took
10%, troops got
90%

Took skilled
inhabitants of
settled lands to
capital at
Karakorum
resulting in
depopulation of
some areas

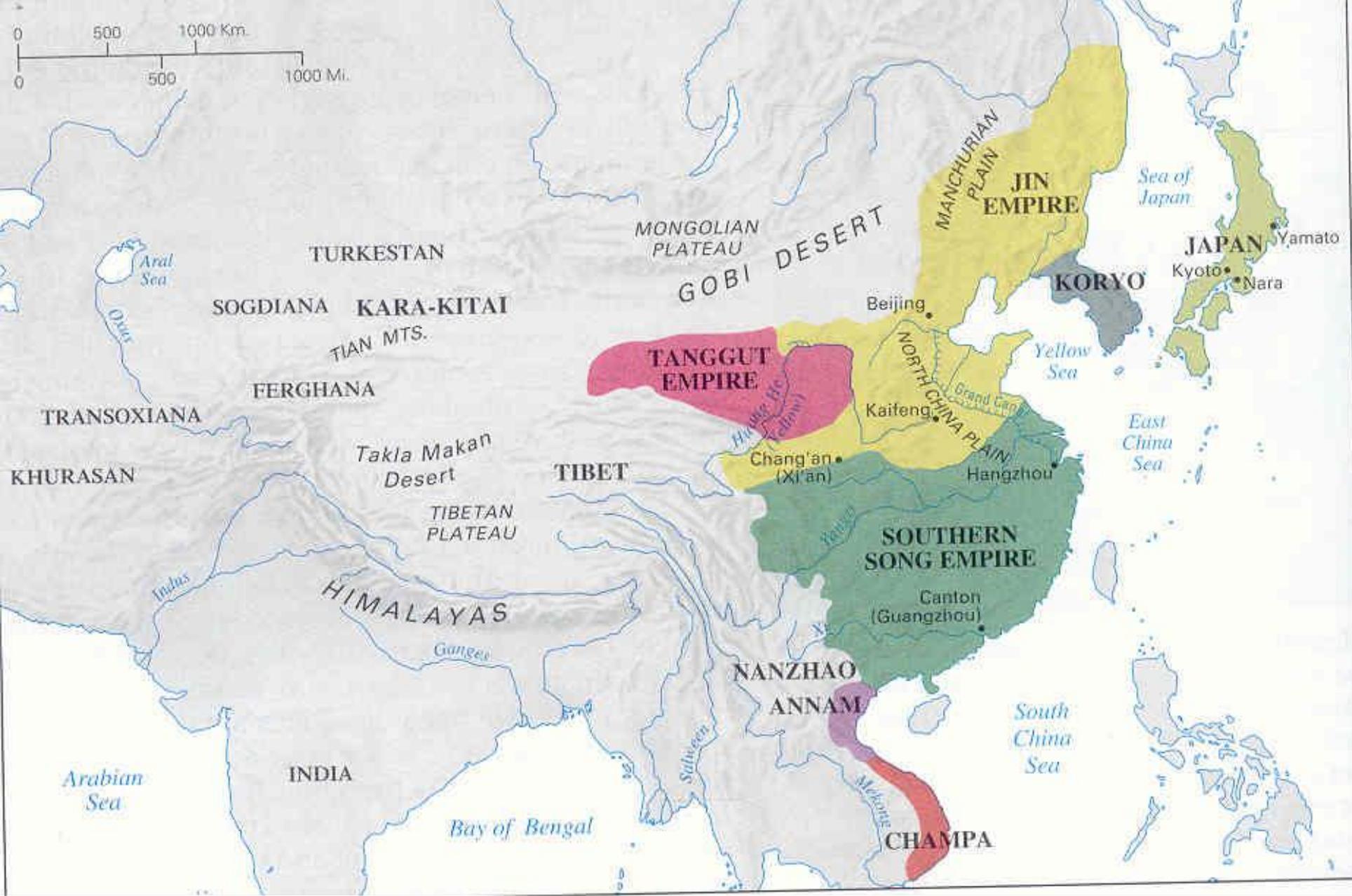


Rise of Mongols

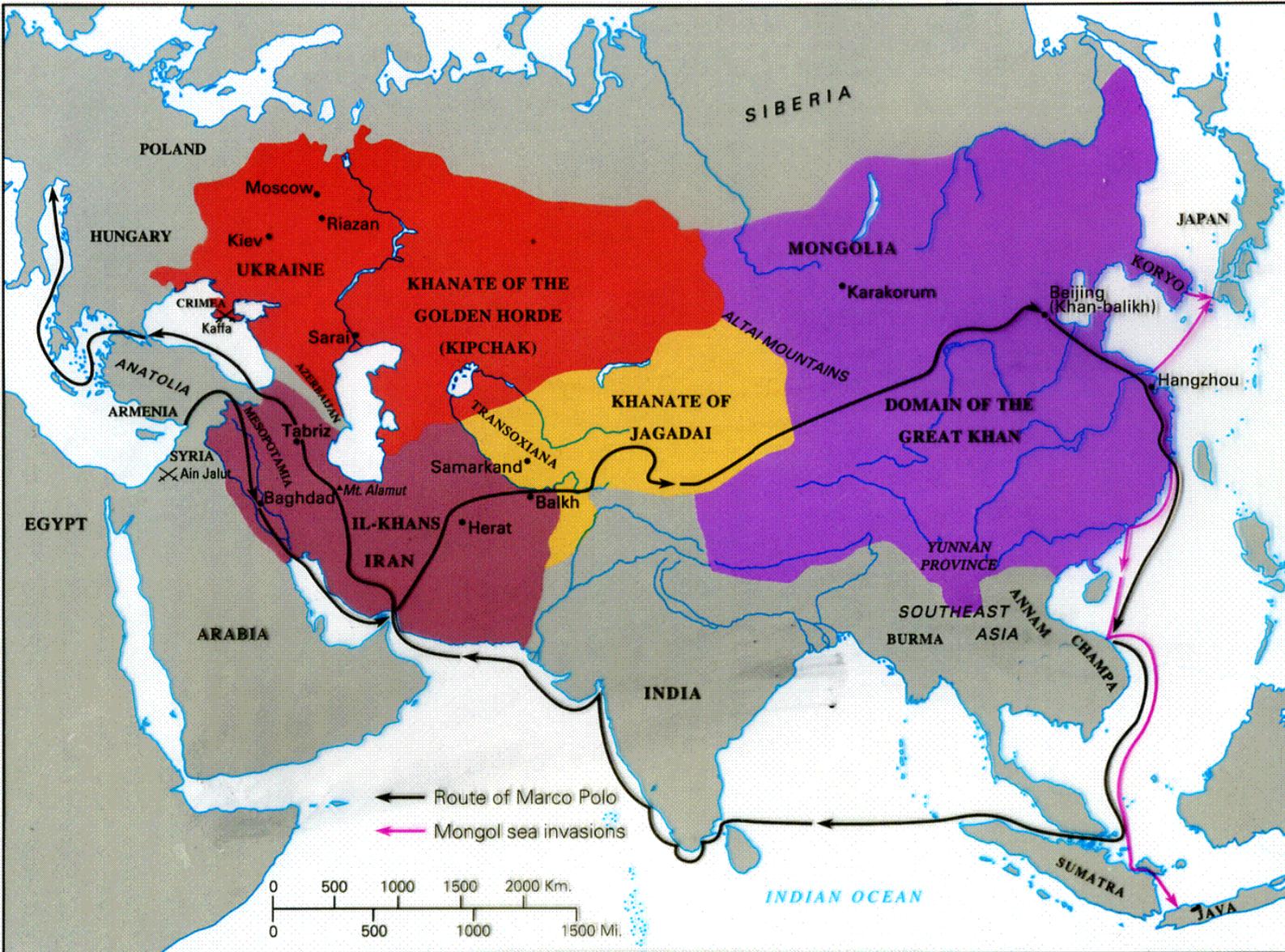
Fought against sedentary peoples as well

- Initially had trouble with settled peoples, e.g. China who had experience defending against nomads
- Employed the best siege engineers from Persia, China, and the Arab world
- Conquered China by destroying the countryside, reducing it to starvation
- Massive psychological effect of techniques

Rise of Mongols



Mongol Impact on China



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Mongol Impact on China



世祖皇帝后 张四男

Chibu Khan



Kublai Khan

Mongol Impact on China

Mongol impact -- Political

- 1271 – conquered China and moved capital to Beijing
 - Massive walls built around city
 - Streets made broader and wider
 - Artificial lakes and islands in closed complex (“forbidden city”)
 - Summer palace at Shangdu (Xanadu)

Mongol Impact on China

Political impact

- In southern Song period China was relatively dis-unified
- Re-united China
- Brought experts from Middle East, Central Asia to administer China
- Did a census for tax collection purposes
- Re-Districted provinces, put under control of governors, increased central control

Mongol Impact on China

Economic Impact

- Tax Farming
- Foreigners brought in to collect taxes
- Some cities prospered: esp. entrepot cities on Silk Roads
- Re-unification of China revitalized north-south trade along Grand Canal
- Ports in South China revived due to grain trade

Mongol Impact on China

TAX FARMING

- Goal: collect as much taxes as possible
- Method: **Tax Farming**
- Tax Farming: Private companies or individuals are given contracts to collect a set amount of taxes. **They get to keep anything more they collect.**
- What were some of the **advantages** and **disadvantages** of this system?

Mongol Impact on China

Effects of Tax Farming

- Short term: Huge income
- Long term effects: Major economic crisis
 - Tax reduction programs failed – too late!
 - Paper money failed – no one trusted it!

Mongol Impact on China

Economic Impact

- Businesses managed by corporations representing investors
- Paper money issued – failed (no trust)
- Copper coins came back when trade with Japan terminated, helped economy
- Gentry moved into cities
(URBANIZATION)
- Cities became cosmopolitan, catered to merchant class (like city-states of Italy)

Mongol Impact on China

Economic Impact

- Cottage industry
- New infrastructure improvements:
 - Waterwheels
 - Dams
 - Irrigation systems

Many farmers suffered under Mongols:

Evictions

Brutal Tax Farming

Mongol Impact on China

Economic Impact

- Changes to Tax Farming too late (as in Middle East)
 - Farmers forced into servitude
 - Dams and dikes broken
 - Flooding in Yellow River area severe

Mongol Impact on China

Intellectual Impact

- Muslim scholars to lead calendar making and astronomy
- Social status depended on ancestry (end of civil service exam system)
 - Highest to lowest:
 - Mongols
 - Central Asians and Middle Easterners
 - Northern Chinese
 - Southern Chinese

INVERSION of old SOCIAL STRATIFICATION

Mongol Impact on China

Intellectual impact

- Confucians alienated from Yuan, disagreed with social ranking system:
 - Merchants given too much status, esp. foreigners
 - Doctors given too much status

Mongol Impact on China

Intellectual impact

- Doctor's status increased – Chinese medicine began integrating native and foreign practices (SYNCRETISM)
- New literature in Mandarin introduced
 - Impact of Mongolian language on Chinese still present today

Manuals on farming, etc. increased yield

Mongol Impact on China

Intellectual Impact (cont)

- Syncretism under Pax Mongolica
- Mongol leaders kept in touch, exchanged new technologies and ideas
- Il-Khan science & technology exported to China
- Scholars and texts imported from China to Middle East
- Observatories set up across Central Asia
- Algebra and Trig to China; Fractions to Middle East
- Islamic and Persian medicine to China

Mongol Impact on China

Social impact

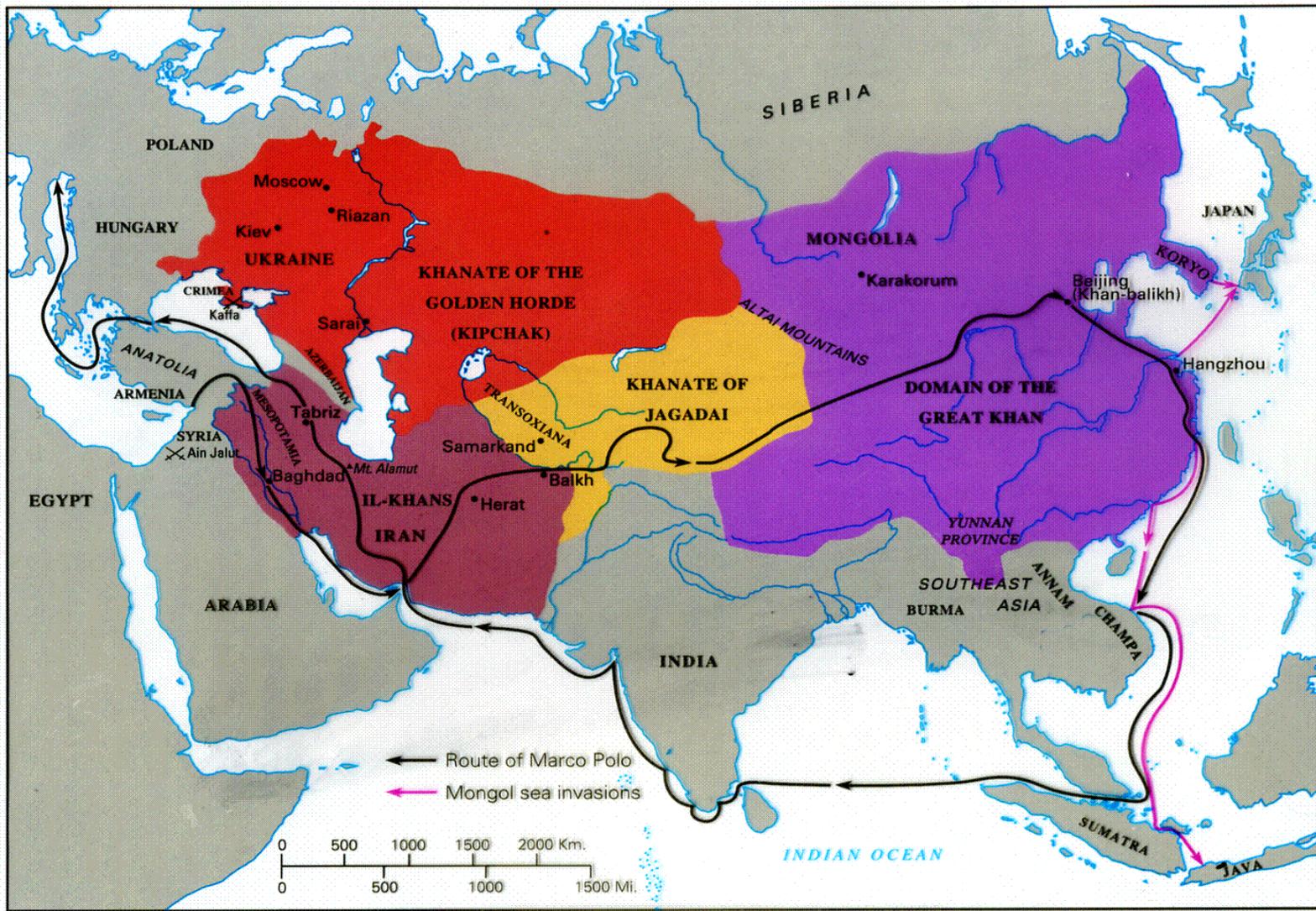
- Elevation of status of merchants meant less opportunities for traditional Confucian elite
 - Gentry families went into business instead
 - In countryside, population declined:
 - Bubonic plague
 - Migrations South to avoid the Mongols and flooding
- 40% of population lost during Yuan (1279-1368)

Mongol Impact on China

Impact of the Mongols on Dar-al-Islam

Dar al-Islam is a term used by Muslim scholars to refer to those countries where Muslims can practice their religion freely. These are usually Islamic cultures wherein Muslims represent the majority of the population, and so the government promises them protection. Most Dar al-Islam areas are surrounded by other Islamic societies to ensure public protection.

Mongol Impact on Islamic World



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Mongol Impact on Islamic World

Mongol Rivalry

- By 1620's the Il-Khans dominated Armenia, Azerbaijan, Mesopotamia, and Iran (parts of the Middle East)
- Egypt independent – Mamluks drove Mongols out

Mongol Impact on Islamic World

Mongol Rivalry

- Il-Khan Mongols adopted Buddhism (possibly from Tibetans)
- Murder of last Abbasid Caliph by Il-Khan brought conflict between:

The Il-Khan and

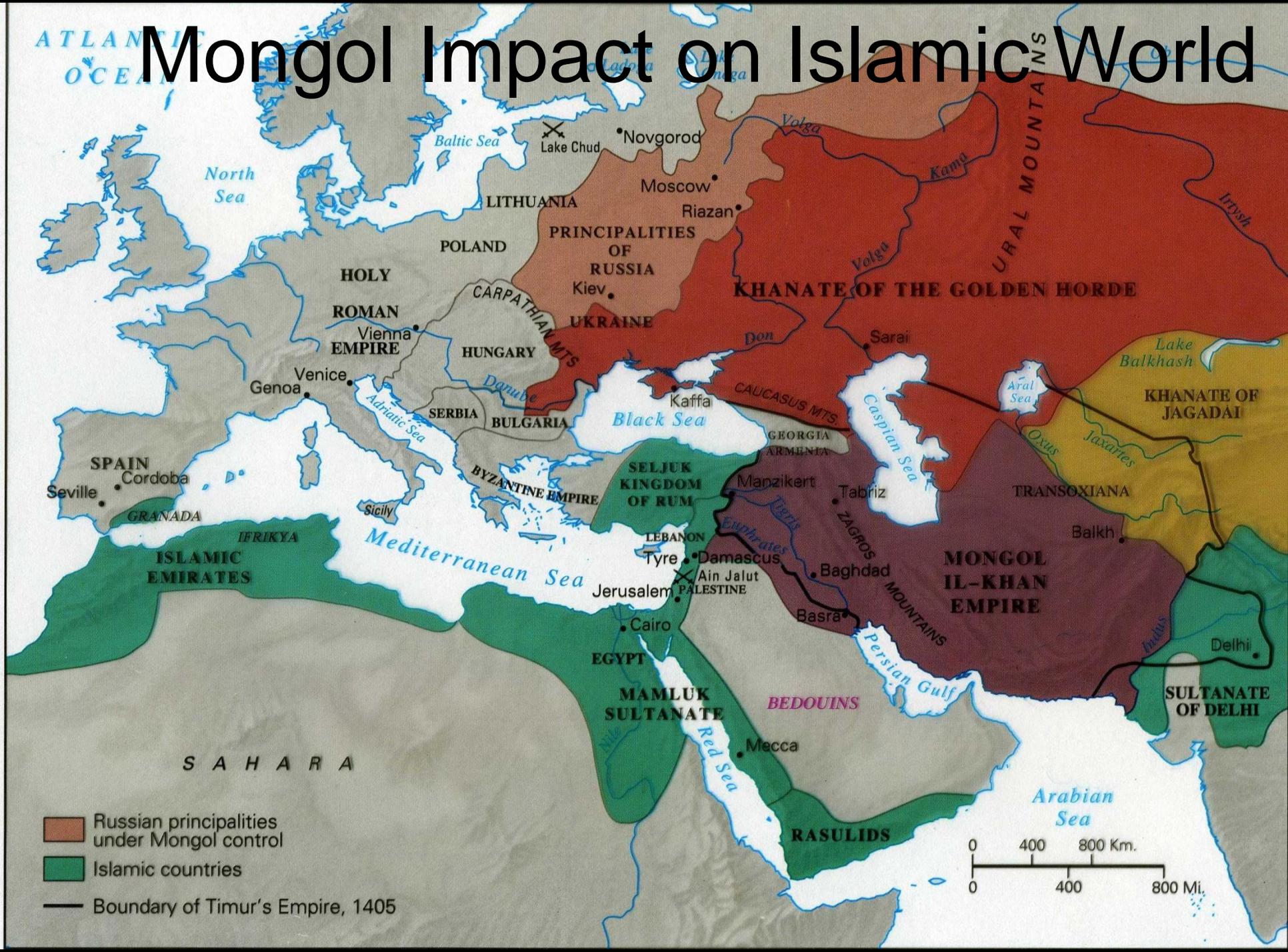
The “Golden Horde” (Occupied Russia, were Muslim)

Mongol Impact on Islamic World

Europeans tried to take advantage of the rift

- Pope tried to make alliance with Buddhist Il-Khans against the Golden Horde (who were Muslim)
 - Il-Khans wanted to use Europeans to drive Golden Horde out of border area (Caucasus)
 - Mongol vs. Mongol war immanent (!!!)
 - RESOLUTION: The Il-Khan converted to Islam, pacifying the Golden Horde
- ## Mongol Impact on Islamic World

Mongol Impact on Islamic World



How the Il-Khan governed

- Goal: collect as much taxes as possible
 - Method: **Tax Farming**
- Tax Farming: Private companies or individuals are given contracts to collect a set amount of taxes. **They get to keep anything more they collect.**
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Mongol Impact on Islamic World

Effects of Tax Farming

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 - no one trusted it!

And in the
end...

The Golden Horde
attacked and
dismembered the Il-Khan
empire.

What is the following children's song about?

Ring around the rosie
Pocket full of posies
Ashes, Ashes
We all fall down

The Black Plague

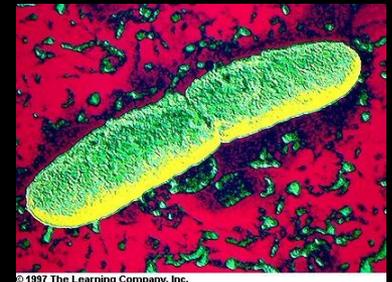
Micro-predators and human history

- From the first human ancestors, disease has been a primary threat to life
- Micro-predators (diseases) undergo a process of **natural selection** whereby mutations change their infectiousness
- Most disease start with other species and spread to humans
- The Avian Flu going around today (a virus limited to birds) has scientists worried



Plague Tic

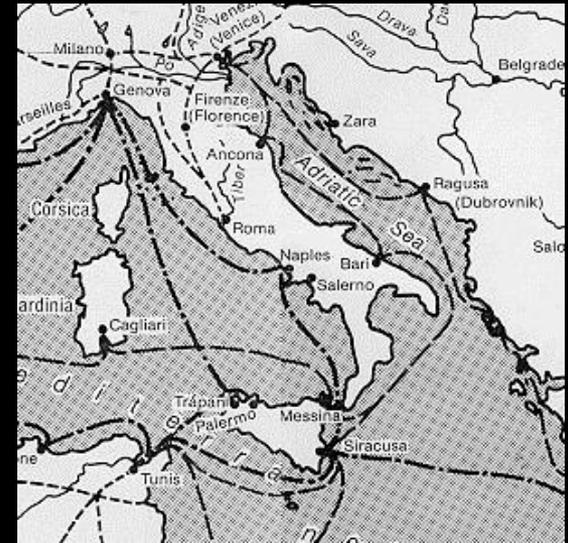
Y. Pestis
– The
Plague



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The Black Plague – the worst medical disaster in history

- *Y. Pestis* bacterium transferred from rodents in central Asia along Silk Road
- Mongols facilitated trade, which aided the spread of disease
- Mongols used biological warfare against residents of Kaffa, a Genoese trade entrepot
- Genoese merchants fled the city into the ports of Italy and France, setting off an epidemic



Disease has greatly influenced history

- Major empires were limited or brought down in part by disease:
 - Alexander the Great's armies decided to pass on India because of the threat of smallpox and malaria
 - Classical era Athens suffered from a horrible plague that killed 30% of the population, marking the end of Athenian dominance
 - Imperial Rome and Han China suffered from disease epidemics, contributing to their downfall

Plague
Art –
The
Burials

Plague Art:
Death



- GRAPHIC IMAGE
WARNING – Next
slide



Diseases have impacted the modern era as well

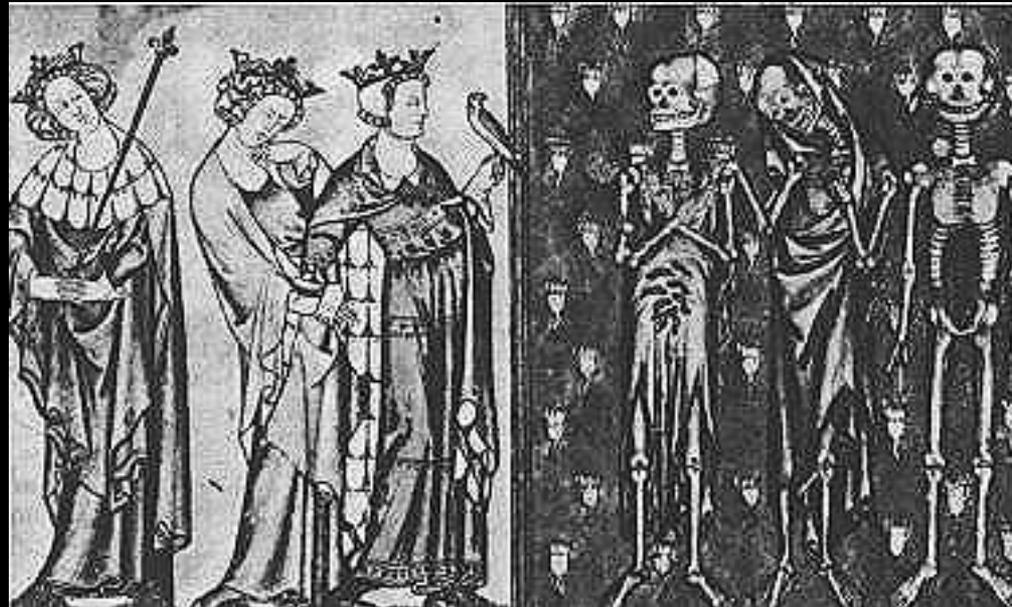


• GRAPHIC IMAGE WARNING

- After WWI **30 Million** died when soldiers returned from the front (20 million Indians)
- Until very recently, epidemic diseases were a predictable cause of mortality
- Recent outbreaks of the Ebola Virus in Africa and SARS in Asia have scientists and physicians worried
- HIV/AIDS in Africa and elsewhere
- Known diseases develop resistance to antibiotics (as they mutate and adapt); old cures don't always work (e.g. Gonorrhea)

Biological warfare has emerged as a threat

- Smallpox and Anthrax virus specimens exist and can be made into weapons



Plague Art: Life and Death

Questions:

- What is Tax Farming, what are its advantages and disadvantages?
- What was the nature of the conflict between the Il-Khan and Golden Horde? How was the conflict initially resolved?
- What lessons about how to run an economy can we take from the Il-Khan failure?
- What was the impact of the Il-Khan on the Middle East?
- How do you think the Plague effects Europe, it kills ?