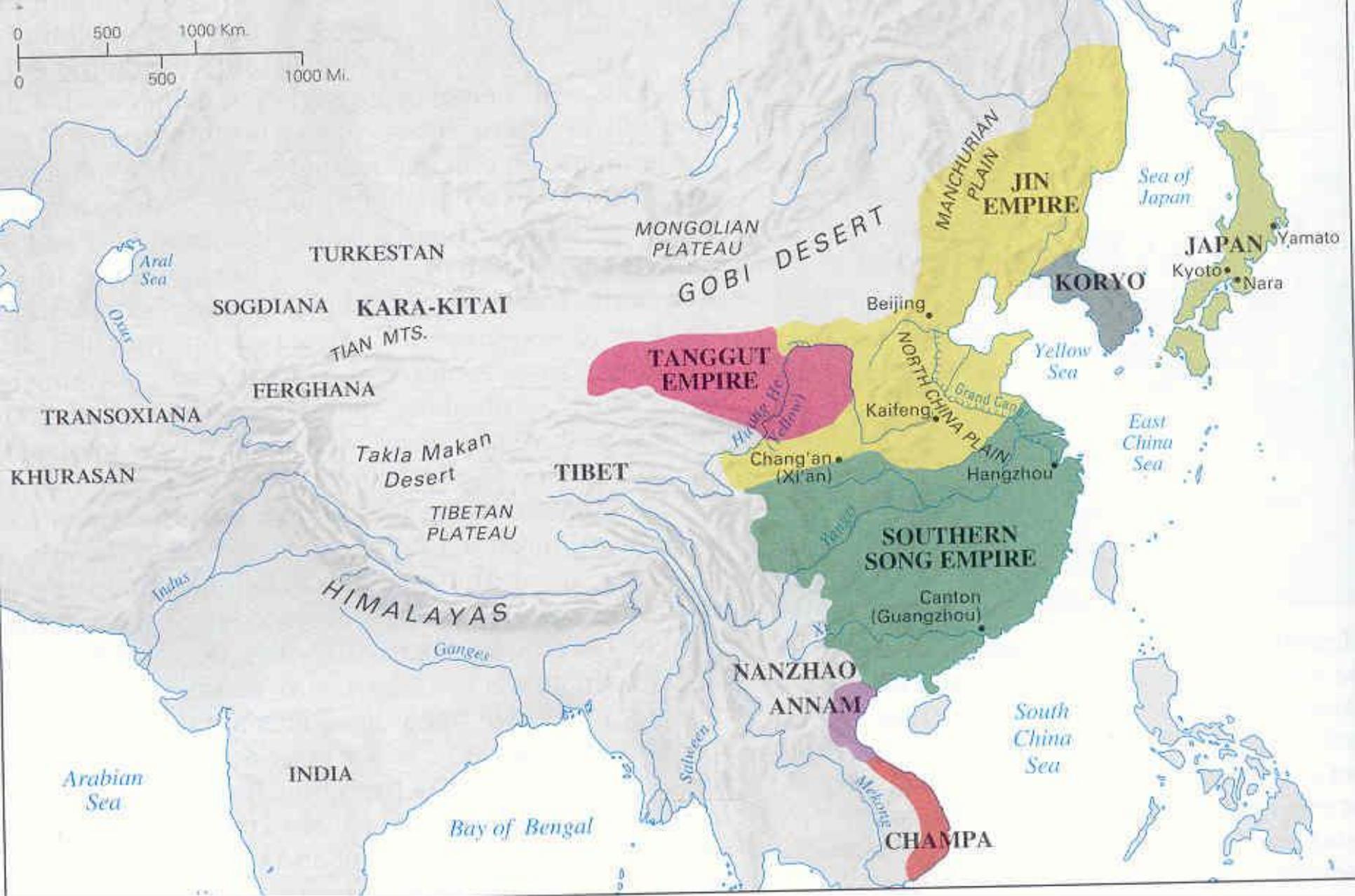
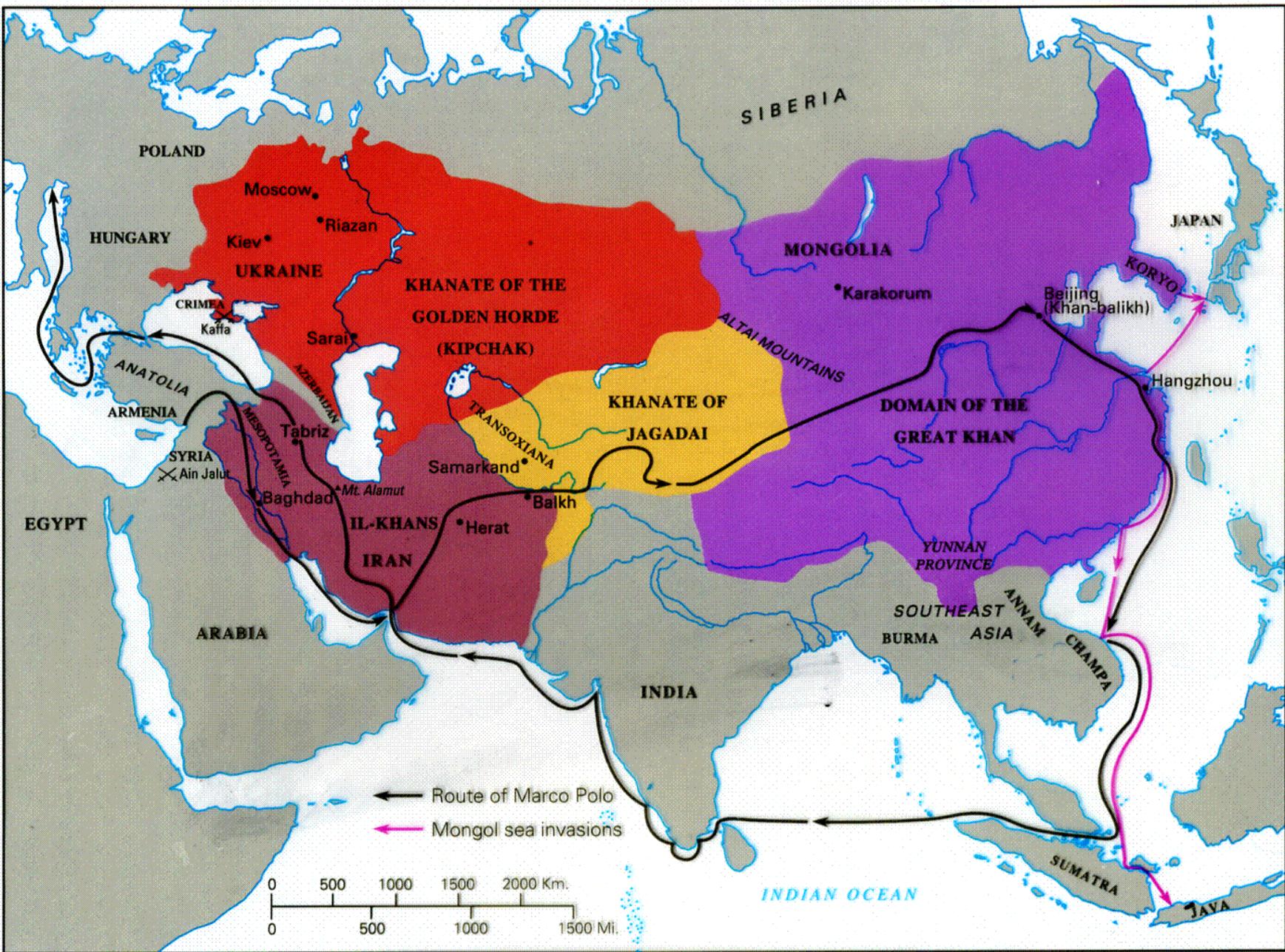


The Mongol Impact on China

Rise of the Yuan





From John K. Fairbank, et al., *East Asia: Tradition and Transformation*, Revised Edition, p. 172. Copyright © 1989 by Houghton Mifflin Company. Used by Permission. Copyright © Houghton Mifflin Company. All rights reserved.

Inquiry Questions

- What was the impact of the Mongols on the **political structure** of China?
- What was the impact of the Mongols on the **economic systems** of China?
- What was the impact of the Mongols on the **intellectual and artistic culture** of China?



Chibu Khan



Kublai Khan

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)

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

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

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)

Economic Impact

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

Many farmers suffered under Mongols:

Evictions

Brutal Tax Farming

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

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

Intellectual impact

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

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

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

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)