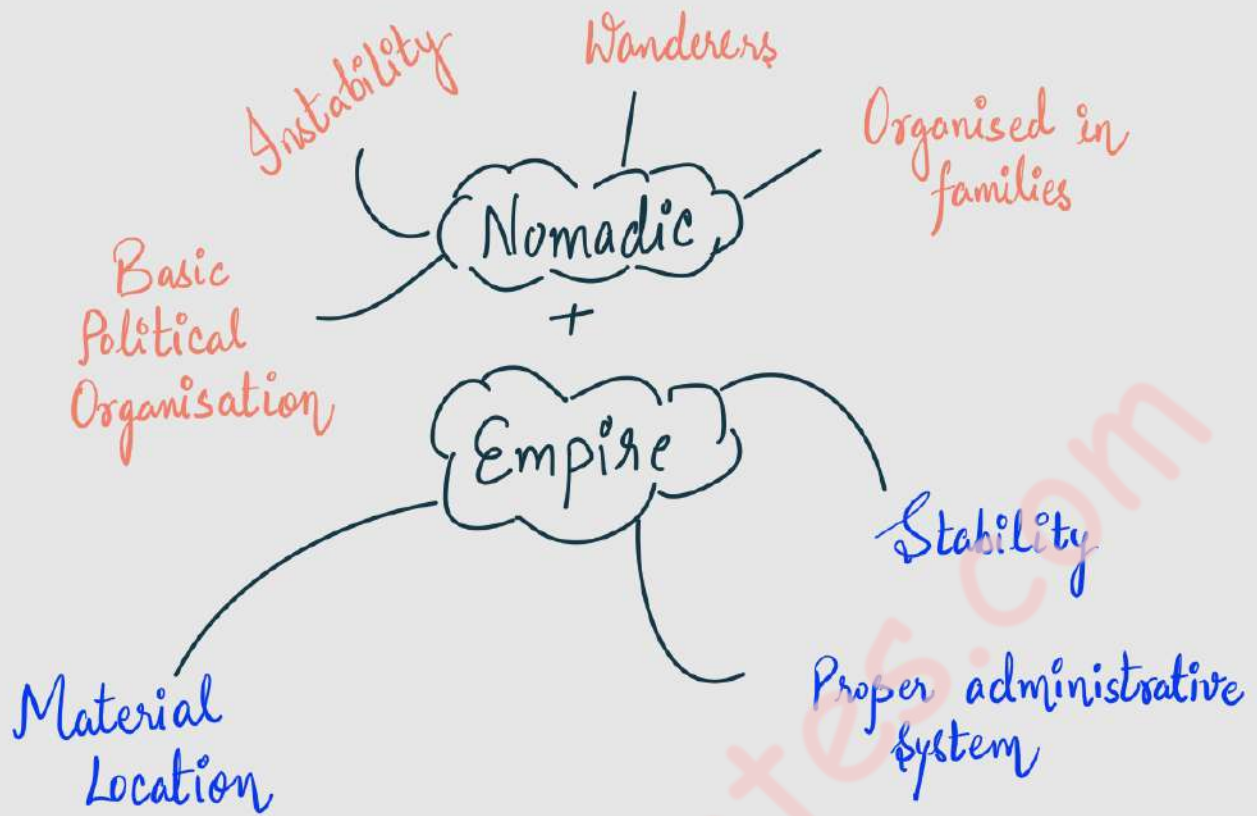
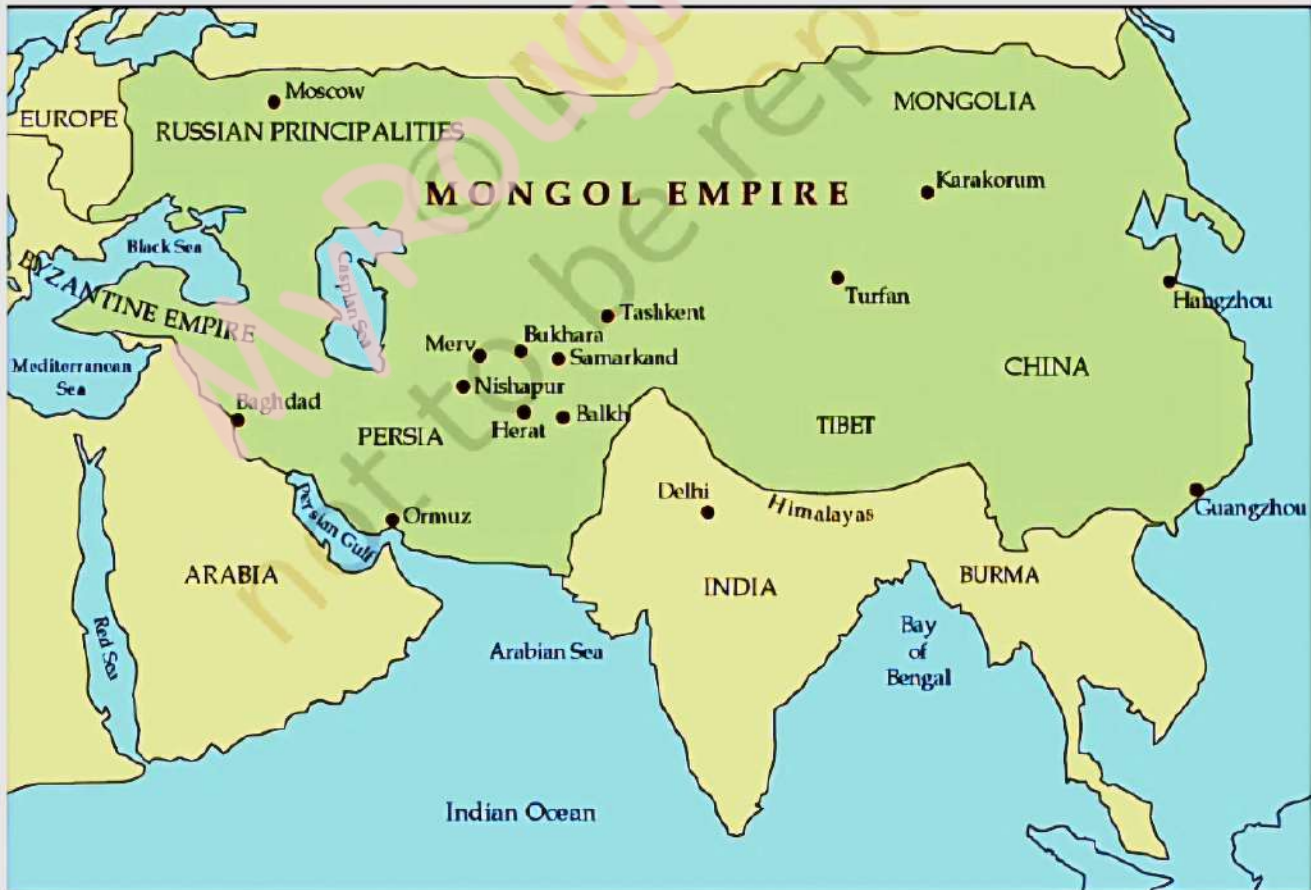


NOMADIC EMPIRES

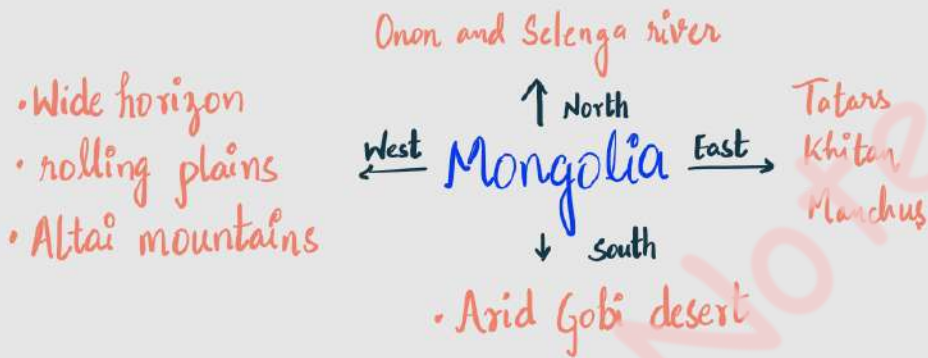


In this chapter we are going to study about 'The Mongols of Central Asia'



Social and Political Background

- The Mongols were a diverse body of people, linked by similarities of language to the Tatars, Khitan and Manchus to the east and the Turkic tribe to the west
- Mongols were pastoralists and hunter-gatherers.
↳ tended horses, sheep, cattle, goats and camels



- Hunter-gatherers traded fur for living and were humbler than pastoralists.

Q- Why did the Mongol region possess no cities?

Ans

Agriculture was possible in the pastoral regions during short parts of the year but the Mongols (unlike some of the Turks further west) did not take to farming. Neither the pastoral nor the hunting-gathering economies could sustain dense population settlements and as a result the region possessed no cities. The

- The Mongols lived in tents, gers, and travelled with their herds from their winter to summer pasture lands.
- Mongol society was divided into patrilineal lineages.

- Ethnic and language ties united the Mongol people.
- Conflicts in Mongol region occurred because of the periodic natural calamities (harsh winters/drought)



Attila
(Died Mar 453 AD)

Former King
of the Huns

- The size of Genghis Khan's confederation of Mongol and Turkish tribes was perhaps matched in size with that of Attila's empire in the fifth century.



- Genghis Khan had a strong political system.
- The Mongols established their control over China, Iran and eastern Europe.
- Mongols and other Central Asian nomads had trade relations with China [traded iron utensils and agricultural produce in exchange of horses, furs and game trapped]



China suffered extensively from nomad intrusion that it built forts to protect their subjects.

Great Wall of China

The Career of Genghis Khan



Birth : around 1162

Place : near Onon river (Present day Mongolia)

Childhood name : Temujin

Father's name : Yesugei

Mother's name : Oelun-eké

Spouse name : Borte

- His father was murdered at an early age and his mother raised him in great hardship. [killed by Tatars]
- Temujin was captured and enslaved and soon after his marriage, his wife, Borte, was kidnapped.
- During these years Temujin made important friends.
 - Young Boghurchu (first ally)
 - Jamuqa - his blood brother (anda)
 - Tughril/Ong Khan - ruler of the Kereyits
- Through the 1180s and 1190s, with the help of Ong Khan he defeated Jamuqa [who became hostile]
- Temujin also defeated other tribes, the Kereyits, the Tatars and finally the Naiman people.
- All these victories made Temujin a dominant personality in the politics of steppe lands.

Note: *Quriltai* was a formal meeting of Mongolian/Turkic clans

(General assembly)

that was a significant political and social event.

- *Quriltai*s were legal institutions that made decisions about: Succession to leadership, Administrative matters, Military matters and Legal cases, launching a war, selecting new khan.

- His position was recognised at an assembly of Mongol chieftains (*Quriltai*) where he was proclaimed the 'Great Khan of Mongols'

- Titles earned by Temujin
 - ↳ Genghis Khan
 - ↳ Oceanic Khan
 - ↳ Universal Ruler

- Political division of China (c. 1206)
 - ↳ Hsi Hsia people of Tibetan origin ①
 - ↳ Chin dynasty [ruled north China from Peking] ②
 - ↳ Sung dynasty [ruled south China] ③

- Hsi Hsia were defeated in 1209.
- Great Wall of China was breached in 1213.
- Peking sacked in 1215



- Satisfied with the progress of campaigns Genghis Khan decided to return to his homeland in 1216, leaving the military affairs of the region to his subordinates.
- In the campaigns between 1219 and 1221 the great cities Otrar, Bukhara, Samarqand, Balkh, Gurganj, Merv, Nishapur and Herat surrendered to the Mongol forces.

- Genghis Khan died in 1227.

Q What were the military strategies used by the Mongols?

Ans i) The horse-riding skills, which provided speed and mobility to the army.

ii) Their abilities to shoot (archers) from horseback.

iii) In winters they used frozen rivers as highways.

iv) Knowledge of siege engines and naphtha bombardment.

v) Development of light-portable equipments.

✓ c. 1167	Birth of Temujin
1160s-70s	Years spent in slavery and struggle
1180s-90s	Period of alliance formation
1203-27	Expansion and triumph
✓ 1206	Temujin proclaimed Genghis Khan, 'Universal Ruler' of the Mongols
✓ 1227	Death of Genghis Khan

THE MONGOLS AFTER GENGHIS KHAN

- The Mongol expansion can be divided into two phases

1236-42



Russian Steppes

Bulghar

Kiev

Poland

Hungary

Major gains in



1255-1300



China

Iran

Iraq

Syria

- New political trends emerged

Internal politics of Succession

Tochi + Ogodei

v/s

Toluyid branch

- Mongol expansion came to an end because of the conflict between the Tochid and Toluyid descendants.

SOCIAL, POLITICAL AND MILITARY ORGANISATION

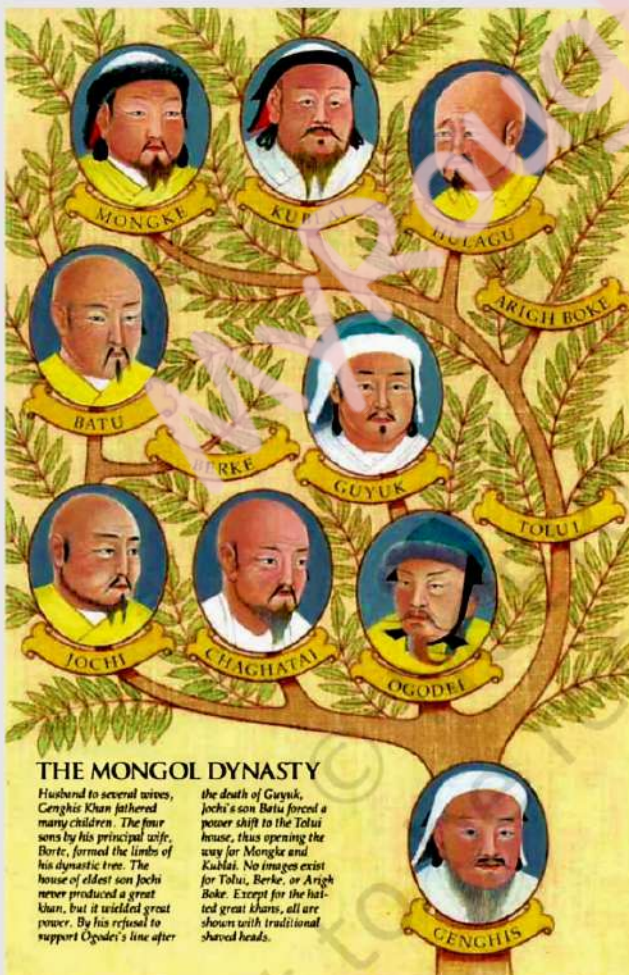
- All able-bodied, adult males were the part of army.
- Genghis Khan's army was incredibly heterogeneous.




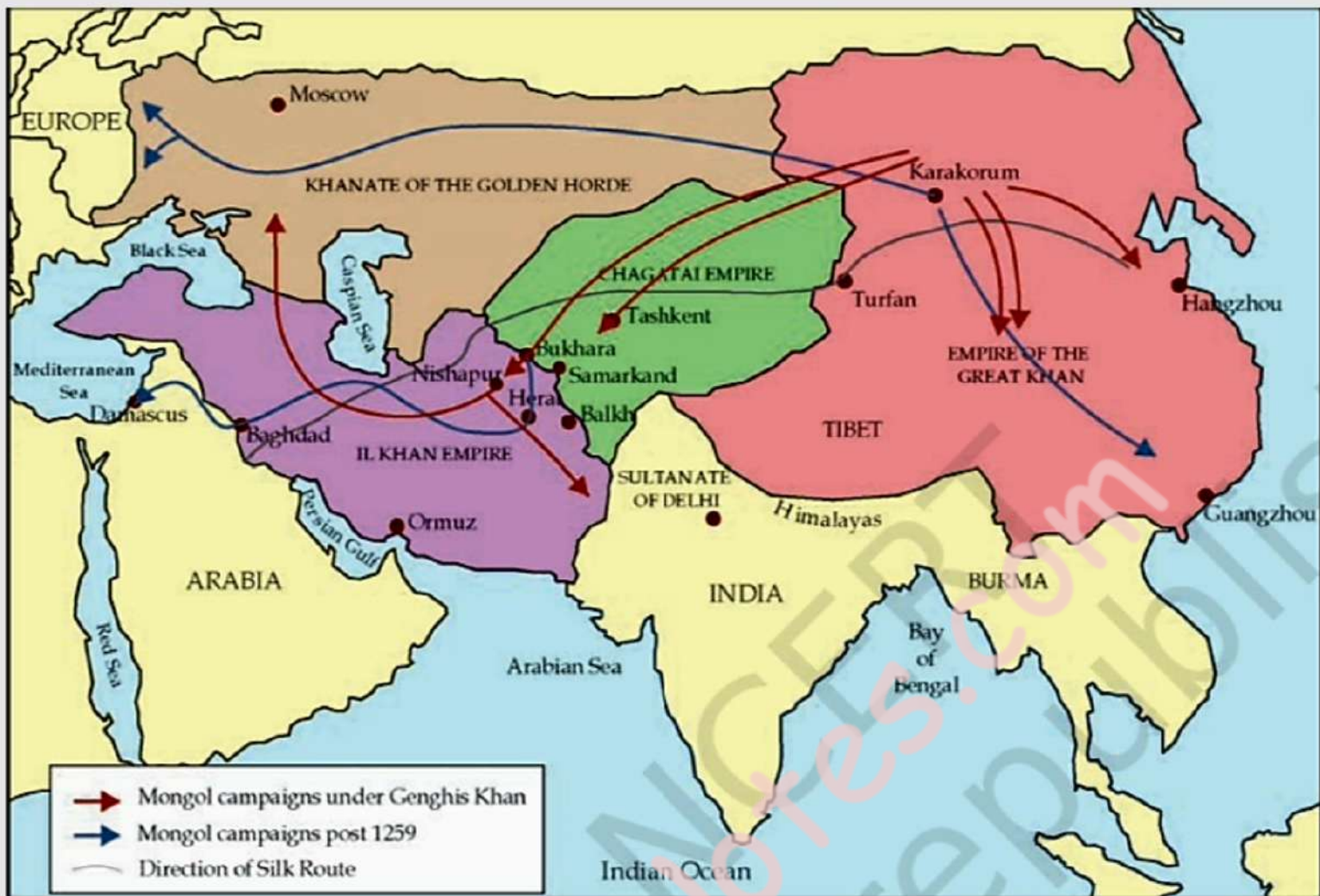
- Genghis Khan systematically erased the old tribal identities of the different groups who joined his confederacy.
- Genghis Khan changed the old system where the clan and the tribe would have coexisted within the decimal units.
- He divided the old tribal groupings and distributed their members into new military units.
- No one can change the allotted group without

permission. This way, Genghis Khan provided them with a **new identity**.

- The new military contingents served under his four sons and **noyan** [specially chosen captains].
- He recognised the loyalty of his followers by publicly honouring them with titles and special ranks such as blood-brothers (*anda*) and his bondsmen (*naikar*) respectively.
- The new aristocracy derived its status from a close relationship with the Great Khan of the Mongols.
- He divided the empire into four **ulus** [a term that did not originally mean fixed territories], an ulus for each son.



- Rapid **courier system** ^(Yam) was also an achievement for Mongol Empire. It was supported by **qubcur tax** 
- The **Silk Route** reached its peak under the Mongols.
- Traders paid the **baj tax** in order to use the trading route.



- The contradictions between the nomadic and sedentary elements within the Mongol empire eased through the thirteenth century.
- As the 13th century progressed, the Mongols began to distinguish between the obedient peasantry and the rebels.
- Mongol ruler recruited civil administrators from conquered society.

CONCLUSION: SITUATING GENGHIS KHAN AND

THE MONGOL IN WORLD HISTORY

- Today we remember Genghis Khan as a conqueror,

destroyer of cities, and an individual who was responsible for the death of thousands of people.

- But for Mongols, Genghis Khan was the greatest leader of all time
- He united them, freed them and brought them prosperity, fashioned a grand transcontinental empire and restored trade routes and markets.
- Mongol khans belonged to a variety of different faiths - Shaman, Buddhist, Christian and eventually Islam.
- They had multiethnic, multilingual, multi-religious regime.
- Today, after decades of Soviet control, Mongolia is recreating its identity as an independent nation.



The End

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