

**Pax Mongolica and the Yuan Dynasty:  
The Genius That Was China, Part II**

A. Mongol Society — Steppe-Pastoralist

1. yurt (*ger*)
2. sheep and horses
3. symbiotic relationship with sedentary societies

B. Military

1. Horse archers
  - a. short stirrup
  - b. recurved bow
2. Organization
  - a. by tens, hundreds, thousands, and so forth (*tumen* = 10,000)
  - b. signaling by flags
  - c. feigned retreat
3. Long-range strategy

C. Temüjin (Chinggis Khan) (1162–1227)

1. Börte — wife
2. Four sons: Jochi, Chagatay, Ögödei, and Tolui
3. Innovation in steppe political organization

D. Expansion and Conquest

1. Inner Eurasia vs. Outer Eurasia
2. Allegiance of steppe clans
3. Trade routes
4. Khan (*qan* and *qagan*)

E. Administration

1. succession
  - a. tanistry
  - b. *Quriltai*
2. Chinese system of dual administration
  - a. Yelü Chucai (Yeh-lü Ch'u-ts'ai) (Khitan captured in northern China)
  - b. *Da-lu-hua-ch'ih* = *daruğacı* = civilian governor
  - c. *Tanma* = *bāsqaq* = *tammači* = military governor
3. *Iam* (system of posts) — use of *paiza*

4. Uighur = *lingua franca* of the Steppe
  - a. Tata Tonga (T'a-t'a-t'ung-a) (keeper of seal of Tayang [Naimans])
  - b. embryonic Mongol bureaus set up on Uighur model
  - c. Mongol language written in Uighur characters (ca. 1204)
5. Qaraqoram — capital of Mongol Empire

#### F. Qubilai Khan (1215–1294)

1. Chabi — wife and policy adviser
2. founded Yuan Dynasty (1279–1370)
3. Cities
  - a. Shangdu (Xanadu)
  - b. Dadu (Ta-tu; Khanbeliq; Beijing)
4. Policies
  - a. Production
  - b. Commerce
5. Marco Polo, *Il Milione*

#### G. Mongol Influence

1. on Russia
2. on Central Asia
3. on Persia
4. on China

#### *Recommended Reading and Viewing:*

- David Christian, *A History of Russia, Central Asia and Mongolia*, vol. 1: *Inner Eurasia from Prehistory to the Mongol Empire*, Malden, MA: Blackwell, 1998.
- David Morgan, *The Mongols*, Oxford: Blackwell, 1986.
- *The Mongol Hordes: Storm from the East*, 4 parts, BBC, 1992 (video).
- Donald Ostrowski, *Muscovy and the Mongols: Cross-Cultural Influences on the Steppe Frontier, 1304–1589*, Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 1998. “Corrections, Changes, Updates, and Commentary” <<http://hudce7.harvard.edu/~ostrowski/mm/errata2.pdf>>.
- Paul Ratchnevsky, *Genghis Khan: His Life and Legacy*, Oxford: Blackwell, 1991.
- Morris Rossabi, *Khubilai Khan: His Life and Times*, Berkeley: University of California Press, 1988.
- *The Mongol Onslaught 850–1500*, “World TV History Series,” BBC, 1986 (video).