

## Week 1: Wednesday: Mongol life and legacy of the Mongol Empire

### I. Constants of Mongolian Life

#### A. Nomadism: What is it and why?

1. Cyclical use of pastures through the year
2. Because not enough grass produced in any one place (cold and dry)

#### B. Pastoralism: What is it and why?

1. Depending on animals (horse, cattle, camels, sheep, goats)
  - a. Meat, milk, skins, wool, felt, transportation, dung for fuel
2. Because too cold and dry for successful agriculture
3. Other needs fulfilled by trading animals, products
  - a. Non-Mongol peddlars, caravaneers valued > need protection

#### C. Patrilineal, exogamous clans: what are they and why?

1. Groups formed through male ancestry, holding common clan lands
  - a. Nobles use writing, long ancestry; commoners less clear
  - b. Landscape, camp grounds linked to ancestors, patri-group
  - c. Since Chinggis, integrated into larger empire, not independent
2. These groups seek wives outside the group: exogamy

### II. From the Mongol World Empire to the Yuan Dynasty

#### A. Chinggis (Genghis) Khan, 1206 on: founded empire centered in Mongolia

1. He and sons conquered N. China, Central Asian oases, Middle East
2. Mongols migrated: Outer Mongolia >> Inner Mongolia, N. China

#### B. Grandson Qubilai (Kubla), 1260: Moved empire's center to IM, N. China

1. Declared his empire: Yuan Dynasty (1271), conquered S. China

#### C. World Empire breaks apart under Qubilai, 1260

1. Chinggis's grandsons in west become independent
  - a. Yuan's neighbor: Chaghatayid Khanate
  - b. Golden Horde: Kazakhstan, southern Russia, Ukraine
2. Major opposition among those in Outer Mongolia itself, suppressed
3. Outer Mongolia: Lingbei Province (backwater/opposition base)

### III. Black Death, fall of the Mongol successor states: 1335 on

#### A. Continent-wide catastrophe; trade breaks down, finances collapse

#### B. Non-Chinggisid *noyan* (nobles) often ruling through puppet khans

1. Power via *keshig* (imperial guard) and *quda* (marriage relations)
2. Dynasty breaks up when rival nobles set up rival candidates

#### C. Chaghatayid Khanate breaks up 1347

- i. In east: Moghulistan (Xinjiang): Muslim, Mongol, Chinggisid D.

#### Golden Horde cracks up 1360:

- i. Spawns horde of Muslim, Turkic, Chinggisid peoples

#### E. Yuan Dynasty: Buddhist sectarian rebellions, 1351

1. Yuan fights back, loses S. China 1355, expelled from China, 1368