# The Mongols Video Questions

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1.	Where did the Mongols originate, and what was the climate and terrain of this region?
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2.	What early events shaped Temujin's (Genghis Khan's) life?
3.	What does Genghis Khan mean?
4.	Why did the Song Dynasty see the Mongols as possible allies at first?
5.	Why did Genghis retreat from his first assault on China?
6.	What happened when Genghis sent an envoy and trade caravan to open trade with the eastern Islamic world?
7.	What was Genghis planning to do right before he died? Where is he buried?
8.	When and where did Timur (Tamerlane) rise to power?

10. How did Timur's attack on the Ottoman Empire in the late 14<sup>th</sup> century affect Europe?

9. What areas did Timur invade beginning in 1385?

#### CHAPTER 14: THE LAST GREAT NOMADIC CHALLENGES: FROM CHINGGIS KHAN TO TIMUR Pages 314 – 337



#### I. SUMMARY

## A. The Mongol Empire of Chinggis Khan

The Mongols intervened periodically in Chinese history. But tribal divisions and rivalries with neighboring ethnic groups, particularly Turkic peoples, had long blunted the expansive potential of Mongol warrior culture. Within the first decades of the 13<sup>th</sup> century, because of the political strategies and military accomplishments of Chinggis Khan, the Mongols and allies nomadic groups built an empire that stretched from the Middle East to the East China Sea.

#### B. The Mongol Drive to the West

While pursuing a fleeing Persian ruler, the Mongols made their first contacts with the kingdoms to the west of Chinggis Khan's Empire. Subjugating these regions became the projects of the armies of the Golden Horde, the Mongol khanate, which ruled the western lands. After the death of Chinggis Khan, the empire was divided into four khanates. The khanate to the south, called the Ilkhan Empire, attempted to conquer the Muslim world. Although neither Europe nor the Islamic lands were subdued, Mongol successes affected the regions' history.

## C. The Mongol Interlude in Chinese History

Of all the areas the Mongols conquered, perhaps none was more closely administered than China. The Mongol interlude in Chinese history lasted only about a century. Although the Chinese attempted to assimilate the Mongols from the start, the Mongols managed to retain a distinct culture and social separateness until they were driven back beyond the Great Wall in the late 1360s. They also opened China to influences from Arab and Persian lands, and even to contacts with Europe, which came to full fruition in the centuries of indigenous Chinese revival that followed under the Ming Dynasty.

#### D. Conclusion: The Mongol Legacy

The Mongol impact on the many areas they raided and conquered varied greatly. The sedentary peoples on the farms and in the cities, who suffered the fury of their assaults and the burden of their demands, understandably emphasized the destructive side of the Mongol legacy. But the Mongol campaigns also influenced the course of human history, especially through disrupting the political map. The Mongol empire promoted trade and other important exchanges between civilizations. Mongol rule also brought stable, often effective government and religious toleration to peoples over much of Asia.