Nomadic peoples united under Muslim leaders to conquer territories from Spain to the Middle East, becoming sedentary themselves.

- Of the many nomadic groups, perhaps the most impressive was the Great Mongol Empire which formed the largest, if not longest lasting, empire of all times.
Genghis Khan and the Rise of the Mongols

- Strong horsemen
- Yurts
- Temujin
  - Sought vengeance (father poisoned)
  - Reputation for ferocity and brutality
  - Shrewd diplomat who understood loyalty to allies
- Ruled all of the Mongol tribes; universal ruler – Genghis Khan
  - Organized troops into pyramids of officers (units)
  - Broke up alliances based on tribes or clans
  - Highest officials were family members
- Armies divided into light and heavy cavalry
  - Light moved more swiftly
- Promotion usually based on merit
Genghis Khan and the Rise of the Mongols

- Genghis took the Jin capital (Beijing) and conquered the Xi Xia
  - Mastered weapons of siege warfare, the mangonel and trebuchet that could catapult huge rocks, giant crossbows mounted no stands, and gunpowder launched in bamboo tubes
  - Faked retreats
  - Excellent with bows and arrows

- Also went west, conquering vast areas
The Mongols after Genghis Khan

- Mongols drove the Teutonic Knights of German back to Vienna (from Russia)
  - Death of the Great Khan Ogodei (Genghis’ son) spared Europe
  - Leaders in army called back to elect a new leader
- Persia and Iraq not as fortunate
  - Hulego (grandson) defeated the last Baghdad caliph
  - Caliph’s relatives fled to Egypt and continued under the protection of the Mamluk Sultanate
- Kublai completed the conquest of China (grandson)
- Empire stretched from the Pacific to Eastern Europe
  - After Genghis’ death, the vast realm divided into four regional empires
The Mongols after Genghis Khan

- Khanate of the Great Khan
  - Seen as successor to Genghis Khan
  - In China, called the Yuan Dynasty
- Khanate of Jagadai (Chagatai)
  - In central Asia
  - Leader Tamerlane
- Khanate of the Golden Horde
  - Southern Russia
  - Batu (grandson)
- Il-Khan
  - Hulegu (grandson)
  - Captured Abbasids capital
- Mongol expansion made possible by the superior bows.
  - Used enlisted men from conquered territories
The Fragmentation of the Empire

- Empire split along ethnic lines
- Distance between the capital and borders made it impossible to maintain unity for long (similar to large empires before)
  - Lands separated, weakened and divided by distance and feuds
- Mongol rulers also tended to adopt the cultural preferences of the people they conquered (Buddhism, Eastern Orthodox, Islam)
Impact of the Mongols

- After the shock of the Mongol attacks, **Pax Mongolica** was established
  - Lines of direct communication were established and people traded between east Asia and Western Europe
  - Goods, people, ideas, and diseases traveled faster than ever before
- After the empire broke up, trade along the Silk Road ended and many turned to Indian Ocean trade
- **Black Death** caused millions of deaths and in many ways brought more devastation than the Mongol attacks
  - Disruptions it caused in Eurasian societies was a factor in the breakup of the Mongol Empire
The Mongols and Islam in the Middle East

- Hulegu’s troops stormed Baghdad
  - Rolled last Abbasid caliph in rug and horses trampled (custom regarding spilling the blood on the ground)
- Muslims shocked/outraged; tension in the empire
  - Il-Khan ruler Ghazan converts to Islam and eventually the Il-Khans declare themselves protectors of Islam
    - All Mongols ordered to convert
- Supported education and scholars
  - Contributed to the Golden Age of Islam
- “Mongols civilized by the Islamic culture”
  - Illustrates the power of religion as the glue that held societies together at this time
The Mongols and Islam in the Middle East (cont.)

- Timur (aka Tamerlane) from the Khanate of Jagadai broke the peace
- Attacked area between India and Moscow
- Ruled from Samarkand
  - Ruled through tribal leaders
- Turk; opened the door for more Turkish migrations
- Osman migrated and settled in Anatolia
  - Gathered a following
  - Ottoman Turks
  - His successors captured Constantinople
The Mongol Impact on Russia

- Area divided into kingdoms who didn’t cooperate
  - Easy to defeat
  - Kiev in decline
- Novgorod agreed to pay tribute and survived
- Mongols dominate; Russian princes as vassals of the Golden Horde
  - Peasants sought protection of nobles and bound themselves to the land
- Russians benefitted from the Pax Mongolica through trade
- Moscow became tribute collector and spread control over towns who didn’t pay dues; grew wealthier and more powerful
  - As Mongol power declined, the Moscow princes stepped in to claim power
Russia already shaped by Orthodox Christianity when the Mongols arrived

Cut Russia off from Christian lands to the west, cementing Russian isolation
  - Europe entering Renaissance Era

Mongols did protect Russia from the Teutonic Knights (military crusading Christian order)
  - Believed Orthodox Christianity to be heresy
China under Mongol Control

- China (Southern Song) militarily and politically weaker than during the Tang
  - Song paying tribute to Jin Empire of the Jurchens
  - Song held off the Mongols until Kublai Khan came to power and established the Yuan Dynasty
- Never conquered Vietnam or other SE Asian kingdoms
- Kublai failed twice trying to attack Japan
  - Kamikaze (divine winds)
- China very ethnically diverse
- Confucian scholars saw Mongols as intruders
  - Kublai kept Mongols as top officials
  - Dismantled examination system
  - Scholar gentry greatly reduced in status
- Confucians resented Mongols and reasserted their power when Mongols weakened
  - Many in the Yuan Dynasty were Buddhist and threatened deep Confucian roots of China (similar to Tang breakup)
China under Mongol Control (cont.)

- Yuan favored merchants
  - Confucians saw them as inferior
- Yuan elevated status of physicians
  - Confucians saw them as technicians
- Yuan encouraged the sharing of Chinese medical and herbal knowledge
- Kublai passed laws keeping the Mongol and Chinese identities separate
  - Chinese forbidden from learning Mongol script
  - Mongols not allowed to marry ethnic Chinese
Kublai was fascinated by Chinese civilization
- Retained Chinese rituals and music in his court
- Used Chinese calendar
- Sacrifices to ancestors
- Expanded Forbidden City
- Confucianism tolerated
- Welcomed emissaries from many lands, including Marco Polo
The Decline of the Yuan and the Rise of the Ming

- Failure to defeat Vietnam and Japan undermined strength of Mongols
  - Successors were weak and bureaucracies characterized by greed and corruption
- Scholar-gentry encouraged rebellion against ‘barbarian’ oppressors
  - Banditry widespread in countryside
  - Piracy in the open seas
- China fell into chaos
Rise of the Ming

- Ju Yuanzhang (peasant) founded Ming (brilliant) Dynasty
  - Renamed Hongwu, the first Ming emperor
- Established government model of traditional Chinese dynasties
  - Revived Confucian educational system and examinations system
  - Centralized authority at Nanjing
  - Ming emperors suspicious of non-Chinese
  - Insisted on absolute obedience
  - Relied on mandarins and eunuchs
Rise of the Ming (cont.)

- Belief that contact with others weakened China and were cautious in trade with outsiders
  - Trade products included porcelain
- Focus on rebuilding the empire to be independent
  - Repaired irrigation system
  - Great Wall
  - Internal trade connections
  - Promoted Chinese culture
  - Education
- Built a strong China that kept intruders out
Comparison: Customs and attitudes of Mongol and Chinese Women

- Mongol
  - Patriarchal
  - More freedom and independence
  - Wouldn’t bind feet
  - Formed hunting parties
  - Wrestled
  - Advisers to husbands
  - Politically savvy

- Chinese
  - Patriarchal
  - Foot binding