



SOURCE PACK #1 FOR PRESCRIBED SUBJECT 1: MILITARY LEADERS

UNIT: GENGHIS KHAN AND THE MONGOL EMPIRE

Read Sources A to D in the source booklet and answer questions 1 - 4.

The sources and questions relate to Genghis Khan and the expansion of the Mongol Empire.

SOURCE A

Title: "The Rise of Genghis Khan"

Date: c. 1206

Type: Historical Chronicle Excerpt

Source: "The Secret History of the Mongols"

Excerpt:

"Genghis Khan, born as Temujin, rose to power by uniting the scattered Mongol tribes. Through a combination of military prowess and strategic alliances, he succeeded in consolidating his authority. The unification of the tribes was marked by a grand assembly, or khuriltai, where Temujin was named Genghis Khan, the 'Universal Ruler,' in 1206. His motives were clear: to create a powerful and unified Mongol nation that could withstand external threats and internal divisions. His leadership was crucial in achieving these objectives, as he instilled a sense of loyalty and discipline among his followers. Genghis Khan's military tactics and strategies were innovative, utilizing speed and surprise to outmaneuver his enemies. His ability to adapt and learn from different cultures and military practices further strengthened his position. The formation of a loyal and efficient command structure, combined with a merit-based promotion system, ensured that the best warriors and leaders rose to the top. This approach not only unified the Mongol tribes but also created a formidable fighting force capable of conquering vast territories."

SOURCE B

Title: "Mongol Military Campaigns in China"

Date: c. 1215

Type: Historical Account

Source: "The History of the World Conqueror" by Ata-Malik Juvayni

Excerpt:

"The Mongol invasion of China began with a series of attacks on the Jin dynasty. The Mongol forces, renowned for their mobility and tactical prowess, swiftly captured Beijing in 1215. Genghis Khan's military strategy involved the use of psychological warfare, feigned retreats, and a well-organized system of intelligence. The Mongol army was equipped with advanced siege technology and a disciplined cavalry. Their success in China was a testament to Genghis Khan's strategic acumen and the effectiveness of his military reforms. The Mongol forces utilized a combination of archery, cavalry, and siege techniques to overcome the fortified cities of the Jin dynasty. The capture of Beijing marked a significant victory, demonstrating the Mongol's ability to conquer well-defended territories. Genghis Khan's leadership was characterized by his ability to inspire and motivate his troops, ensuring their loyalty and dedication to the cause. The efficient communication and coordination within the

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Mongol army allowed for rapid and decisive actions on the battlefield, often catching their enemies off guard."

SOURCE C

Title: "The Impact of Mongol Rule"

Date: c. 1227

Type: Scholarly Article

Source: "The Legacy of the Mongol Empire" by Jack Weatherford

Excerpt:

"The political impact of Genghis Khan's rule was profound. He overthrew existing ruling systems and established the Yassa, a code of laws that emphasized meritocracy and loyalty. Under his administration, the Mongol Empire saw a move towards centralized governance and efficient bureaucracy. Economically, the Mongols enhanced and protected trade routes, facilitating the exchange of goods and ideas across Asia and Europe. Socially, the Mongol conquests led to significant population displacement and the destruction of many settlements. However, Genghis Khan also promoted religious freedom and cultural exchange, contributing to the spread of technological and scientific knowledge. The Yassa code provided a legal framework that helped to unify the diverse populations within the empire, fostering stability and order. The protection of the Silk Road and other trade routes under Mongol rule allowed for increased commercial activity and cultural interactions, leading to a period of economic prosperity. The Mongol administration implemented policies that encouraged trade, improved infrastructure, and supported the arts and sciences. Despite the initial destruction and chaos caused by the conquests, the long-term impact of Mongol rule included significant advancements in various fields, including medicine, astronomy, and engineering."

SOURCE D

Title: "The Mongol Invasion of Central Asia"

Date: c. 1221

Type: Primary Source Account

Source: "Journey to the West" by Al-Idrisi

Excerpt:

"The Mongol invasion of Khwarezmia in 1219-1221 was marked by unparalleled ferocity and strategic brilliance. Genghis Khan's forces laid waste to cities, executed rulers, and instilled terror across the region. The Mongol army, with its superior organization and innovative tactics, faced little resistance as they swept through Central Asia. The destruction of Khwarezmia's urban centers led to the displacement of thousands and the collapse of the region's political structure. Despite the brutality, the Mongol invasion facilitated greater connectivity between East and West, enabling the flow of ideas, technologies, and cultures. The Mongol strategy involved the use of espionage and intelligence-gathering to identify weaknesses in the enemy's defenses. The swift and decisive nature of the Mongol attacks left little time for the Khwarezmian forces to organize an effective resistance. The psychological impact of the Mongol invasion was profound, with many cities surrendering without a fight to avoid the brutal consequences of defiance. The establishment of Mongol rule in Central Asia

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created a vast empire that served as a conduit for trade and cultural exchange, significantly influencing the development of the region."

QUESTIONS:

Q1a. According to Source A, what were the key factors in Genghis Khan's rise to power? [3 marks]

Q1b. What is the main message conveyed in Source D? [2 marks]

Q2. With reference to its origin, purpose, and content, analyze the value and limitations of Source C for historians studying the impact of Mongol rule. [4 marks]

Q3. Compare and contrast what Sources B and D reveal about Mongol military strategies and tactics. [6 marks]

Q4. Using the sources and your own knowledge, evaluate the effectiveness of Genghis Khan's leadership in the success of the Mongol Empire. [9 marks]