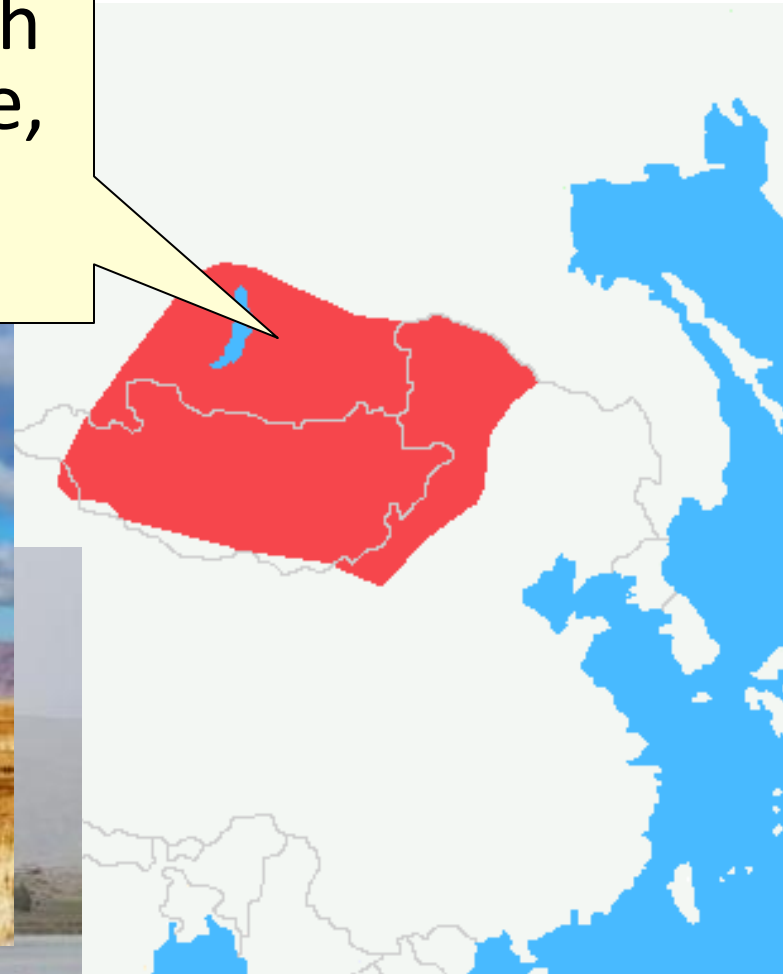


Who were the Mongols?

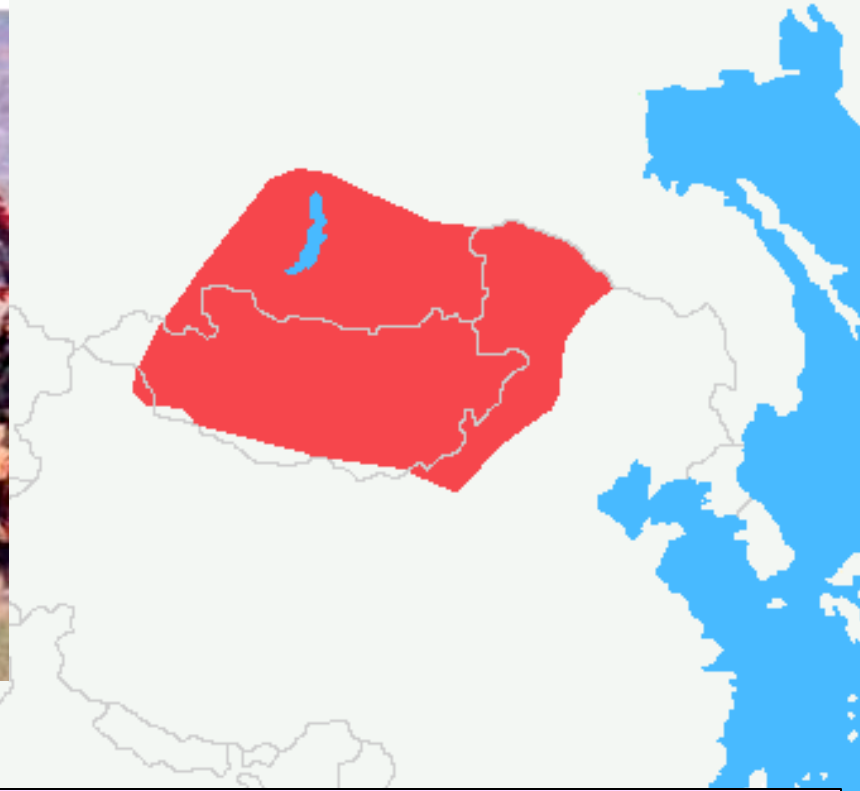
The Mongols lived in the harsh climate of the Eurasian steppe, an area with little rain & extreme temperatures



Mongol life centered on herding animals, especially horses

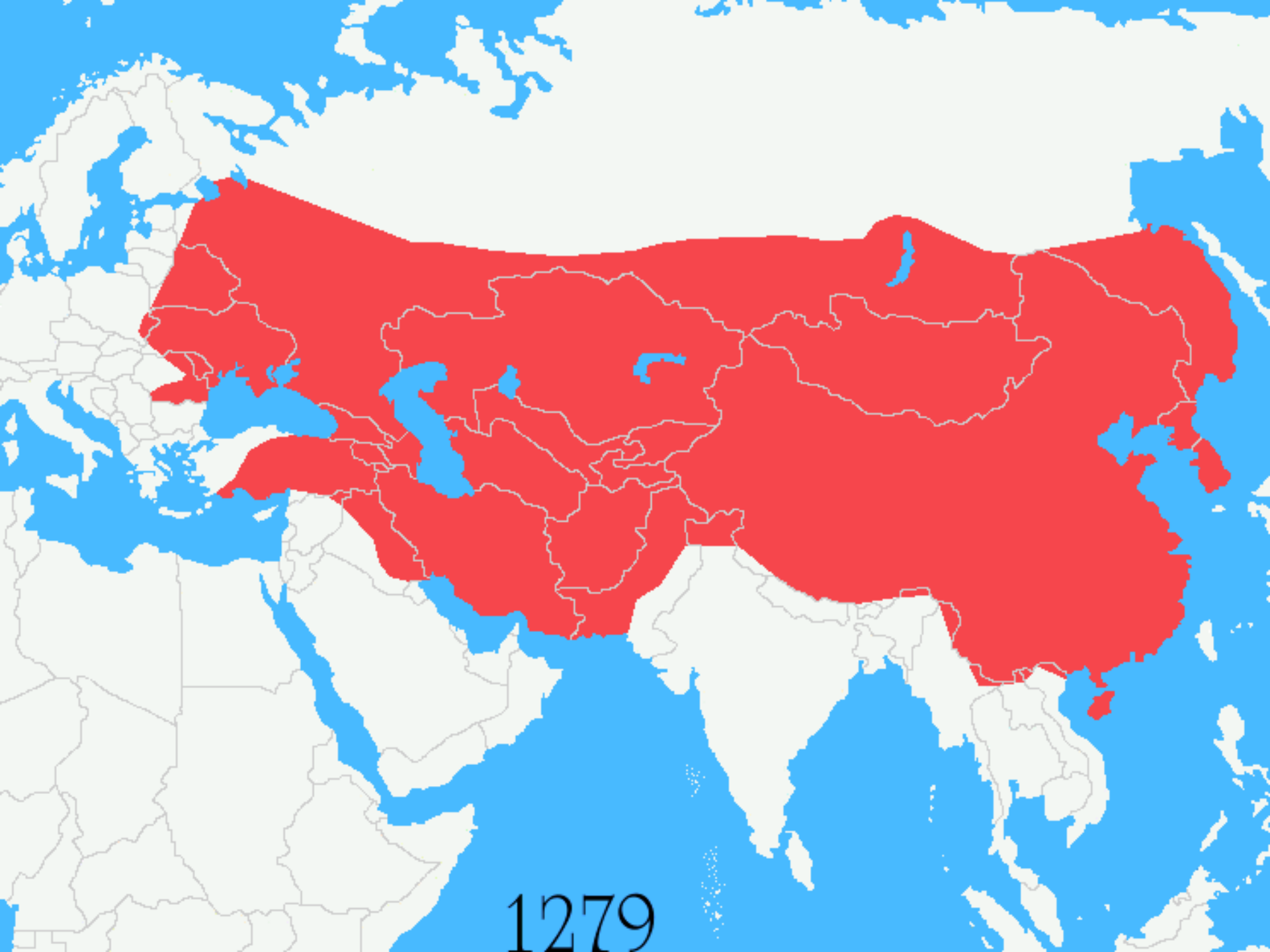
Mongols lived as nomadic clans, constantly searching for better pasture lands

As a result of their lifestyle, the Mongols were tough warriors who occasionally raided nearby settlements



From 1200 to 1206, a clan leader named Genghis Khan unified the Mongols

Genghis Khan built a powerful Mongol army & began a 21-year conquest of Eurasia



1279

Under Genghis & later khans,
the Mongols conquered...

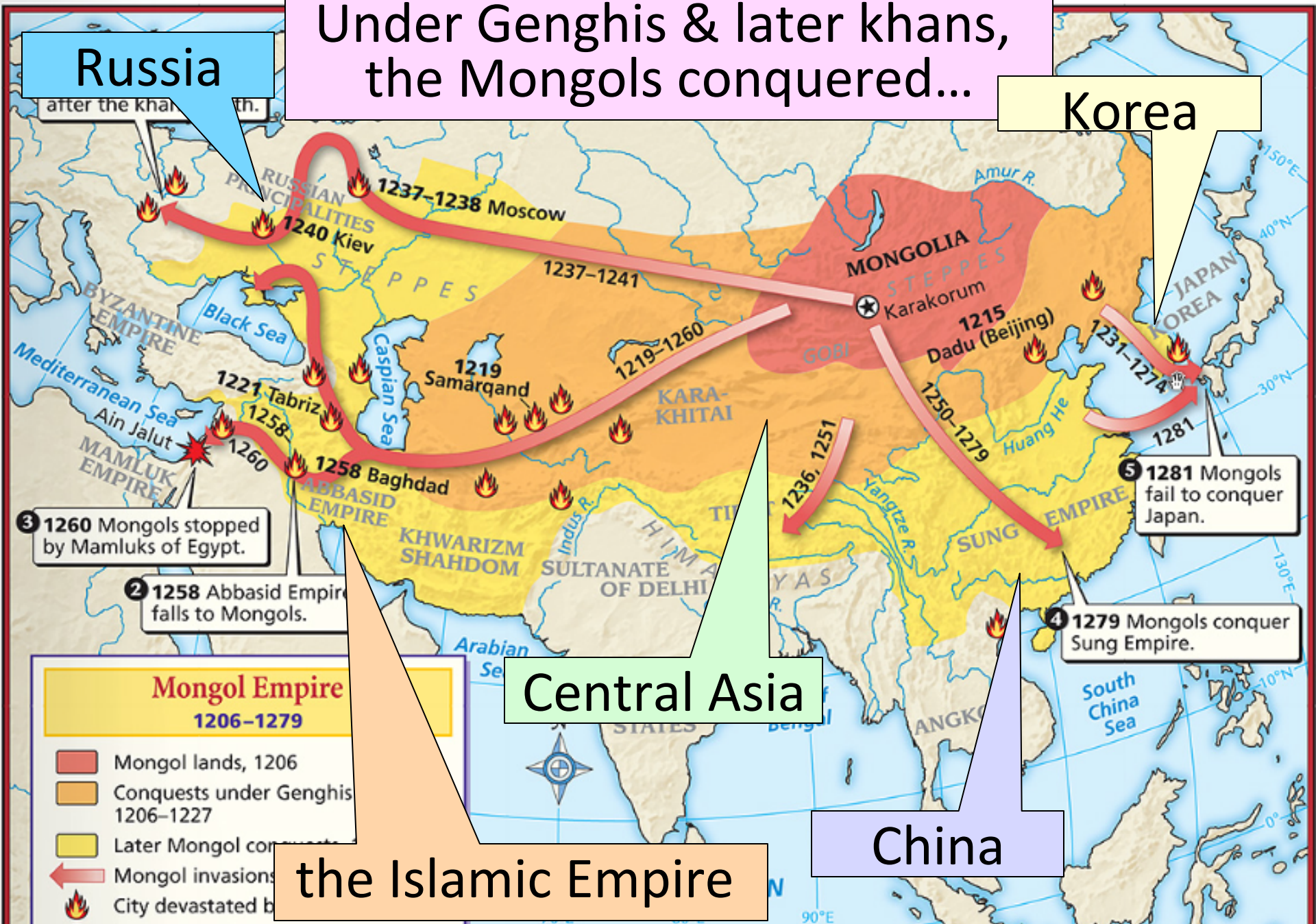
Russia

Korea

Central Asia

China

the Islamic Empire





How Big Was the Mongol Empire?

 Mongol Empire

D The Mongol Empire stretched from the Pacific Ocean to Eastern Europe.

How did the Mongols create this massive empire?

1 1241 Mongols retreat after the khan's death.

feature

Under his armor, each cavalry warrior wore silk underwear, which arrows often did not pierce. The warriors could use the silk to help pull the arrow cleanly out of a wound.

The cavalry warrior's weapons included leather armor, a lance, a dagger, a bow and arrows, and his stout, sturdy horse.



Mongol soldiers were excellent horsemen; Used the horse saddle to shoot arrows while riding

- Later Mongol conquests, 1227–1279
- Mongol invasions
- City devastated by Mongols



©Yu Shan '2003

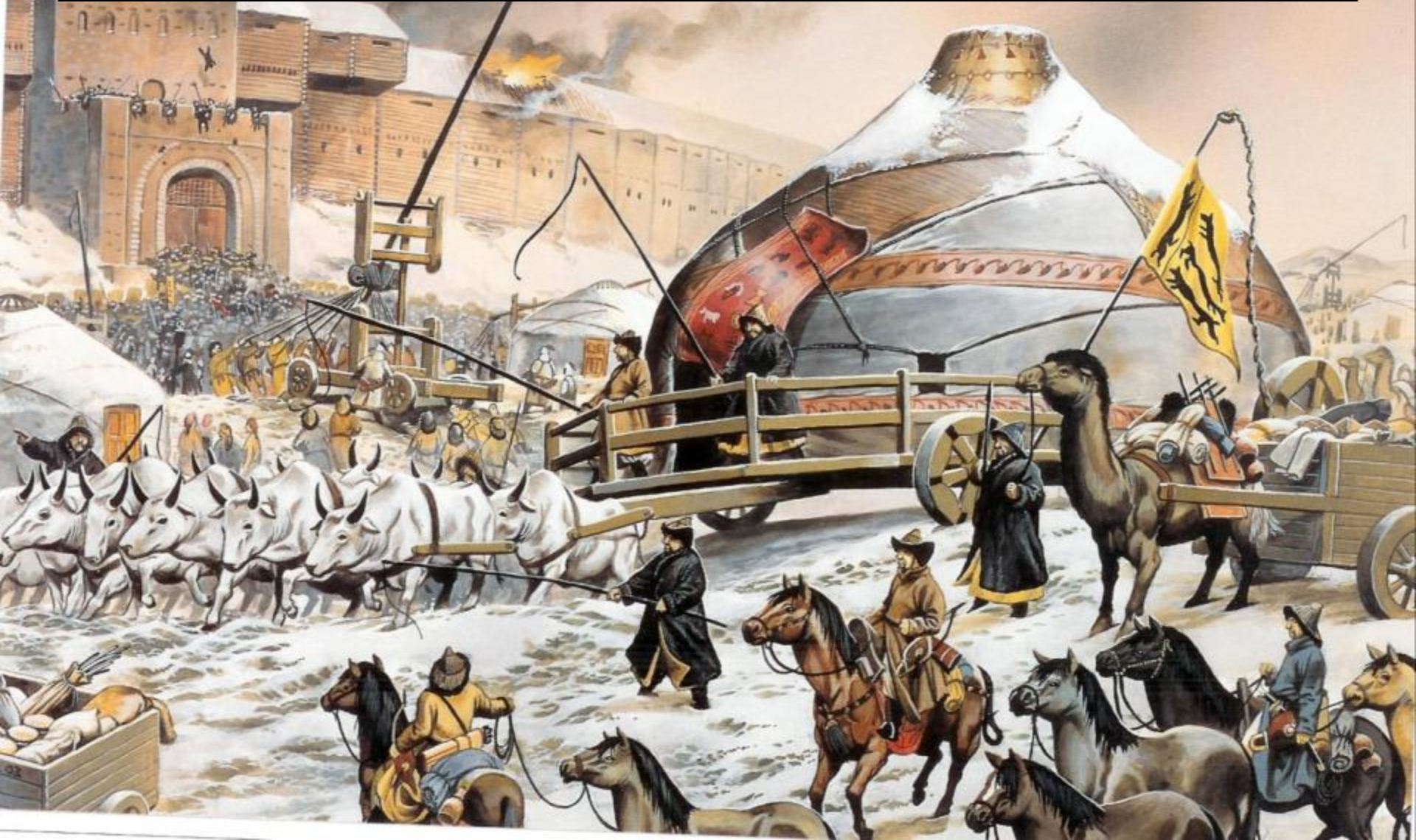
If an enemy refused to surrender, Genghis would order the death of the entire population

As the Mongol reputation spread, many towns surrendered to Genghis without a fight



City devastated by Mongols

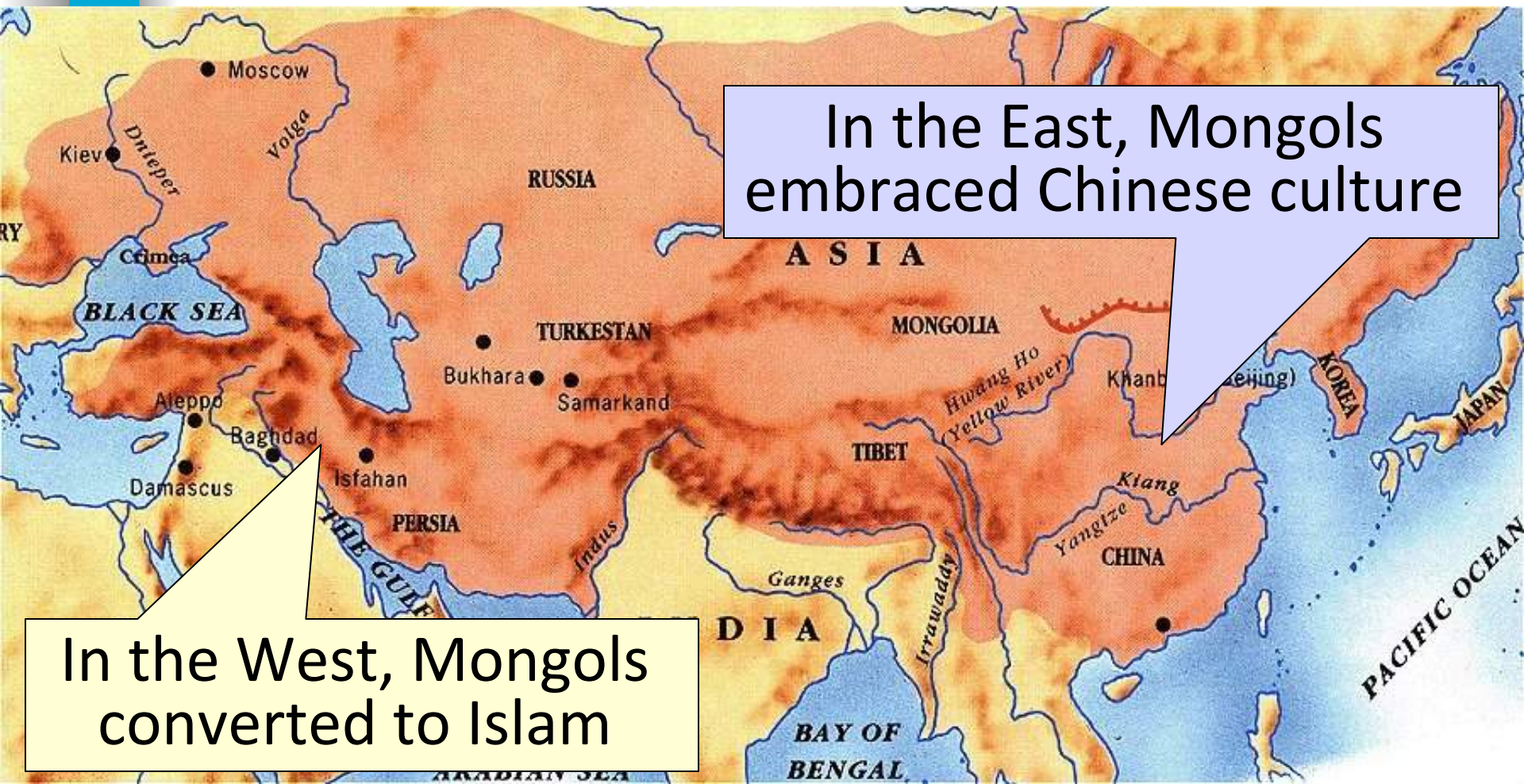
“In the countries that have not yet been overrun by them, everyone spends the night afraid that they may appear there too.” (Arab historian)



The Impact of the Mongol Empire

The Mongols were merciless in battle, but tolerant as rulers

Mongol khans (rulers) often adopted parts of the culture of the people they conquered



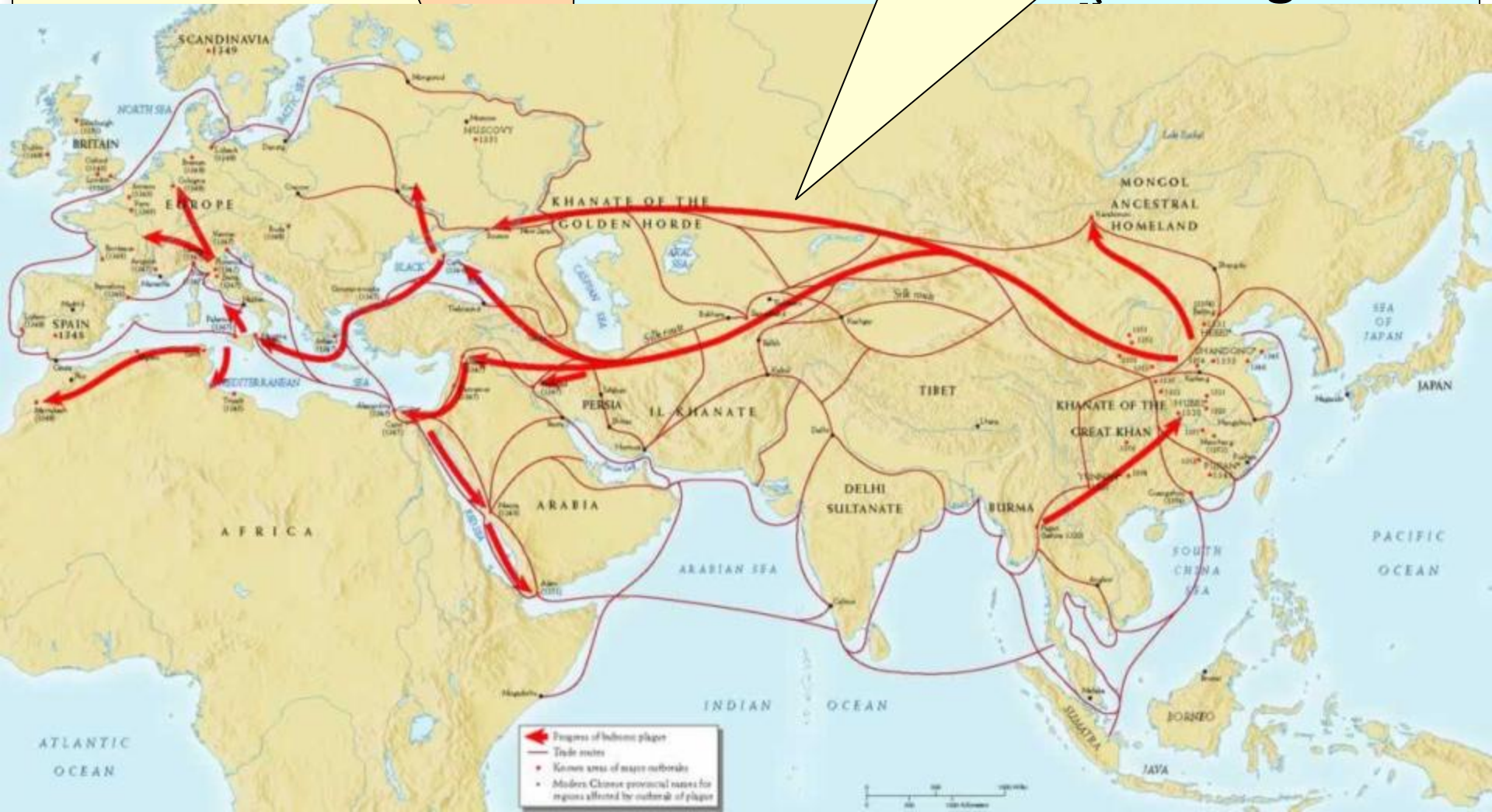
In the East, Mongols embraced Chinese culture

In the West, Mongols converted to Islam

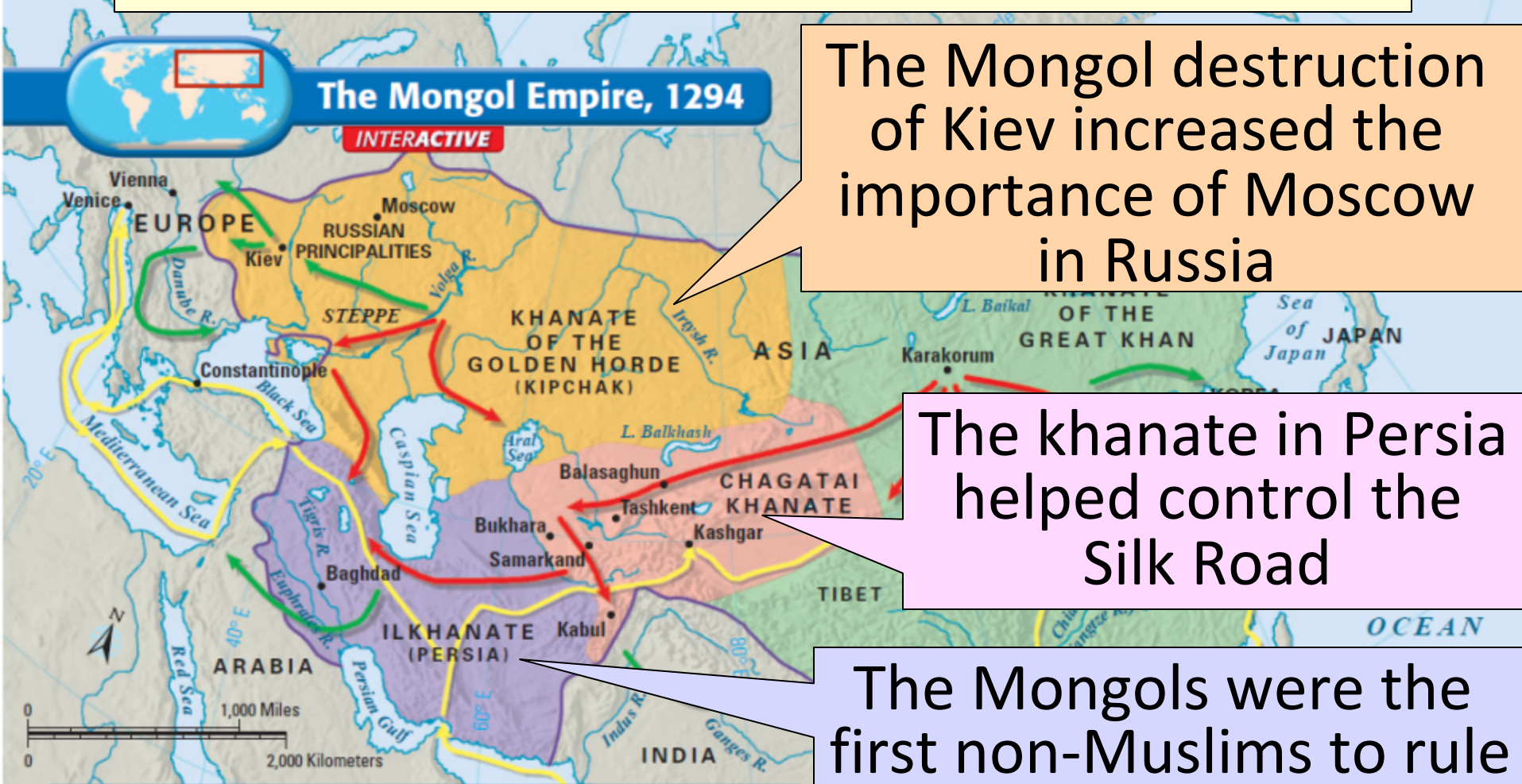
Chinese technologies like gunpowder & the magnetic compass reached Europe

The Mongol Empire

But diseases like the plague (Black Death) reached Europe too



After the death of Genghis Khan, the Mongol Empire was divided into 4 major khanates each ruled by a son or grandson of Genghis



The Mongol Empire, 1294

INTERACTIVE

The Mongol destruction of Kiev increased the importance of Moscow in Russia

The khanate in Persia helped control the Silk Road

The Mongols were the first non-Muslims to rule over the Islamic Empire

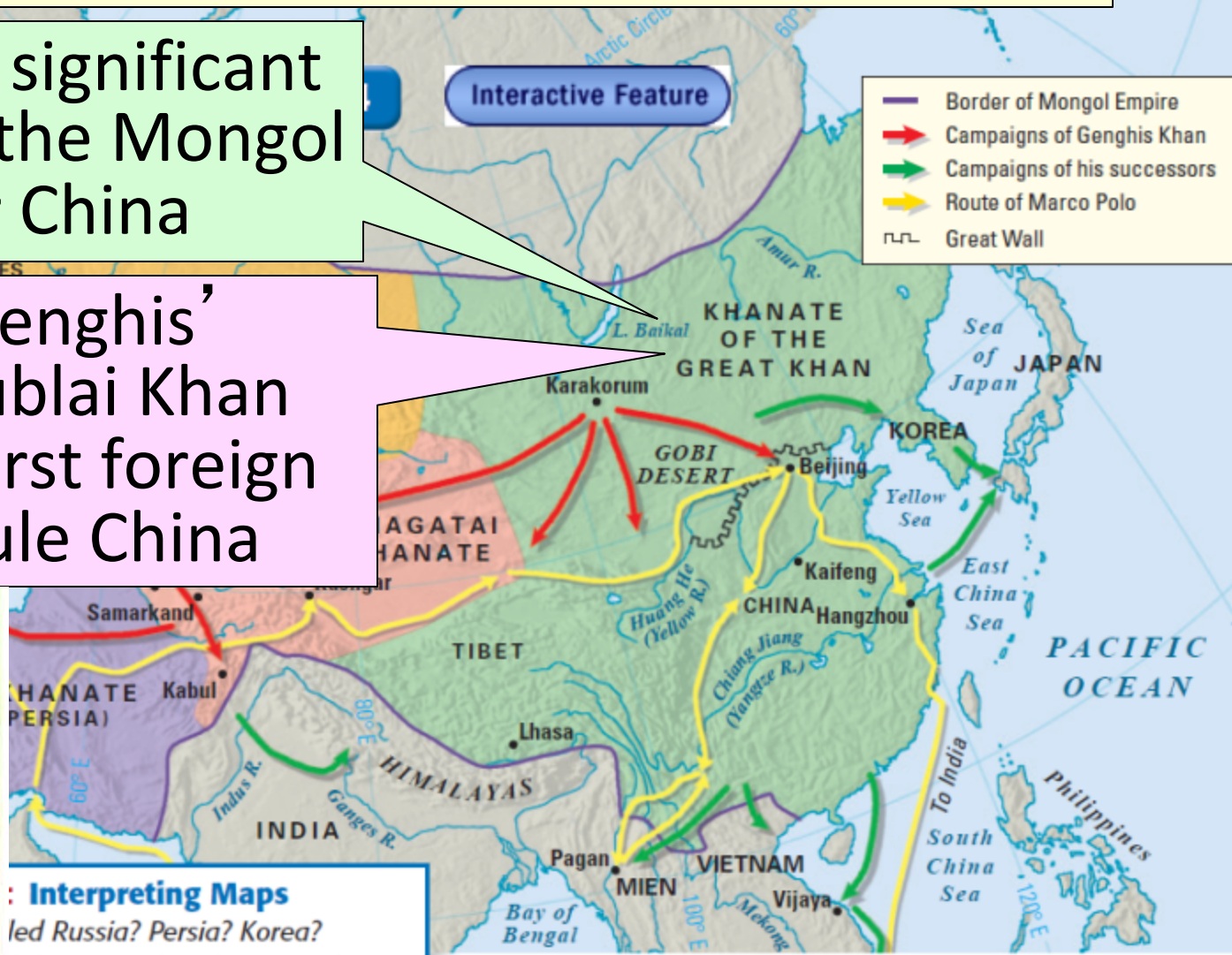
GEOGRAPHY SKILLBUILDER: Interpreting Maps

1. Region What khanate controlled Russia? Persia? Korea?
2. Region What parts of Asia did the Mongols fail to control?

After the death of Genghis Khan, the Mongol Empire was divided into 4 major khanates each ruled by a son or grandson of Genghis

But the most significant khanate was the Mongol rule over China

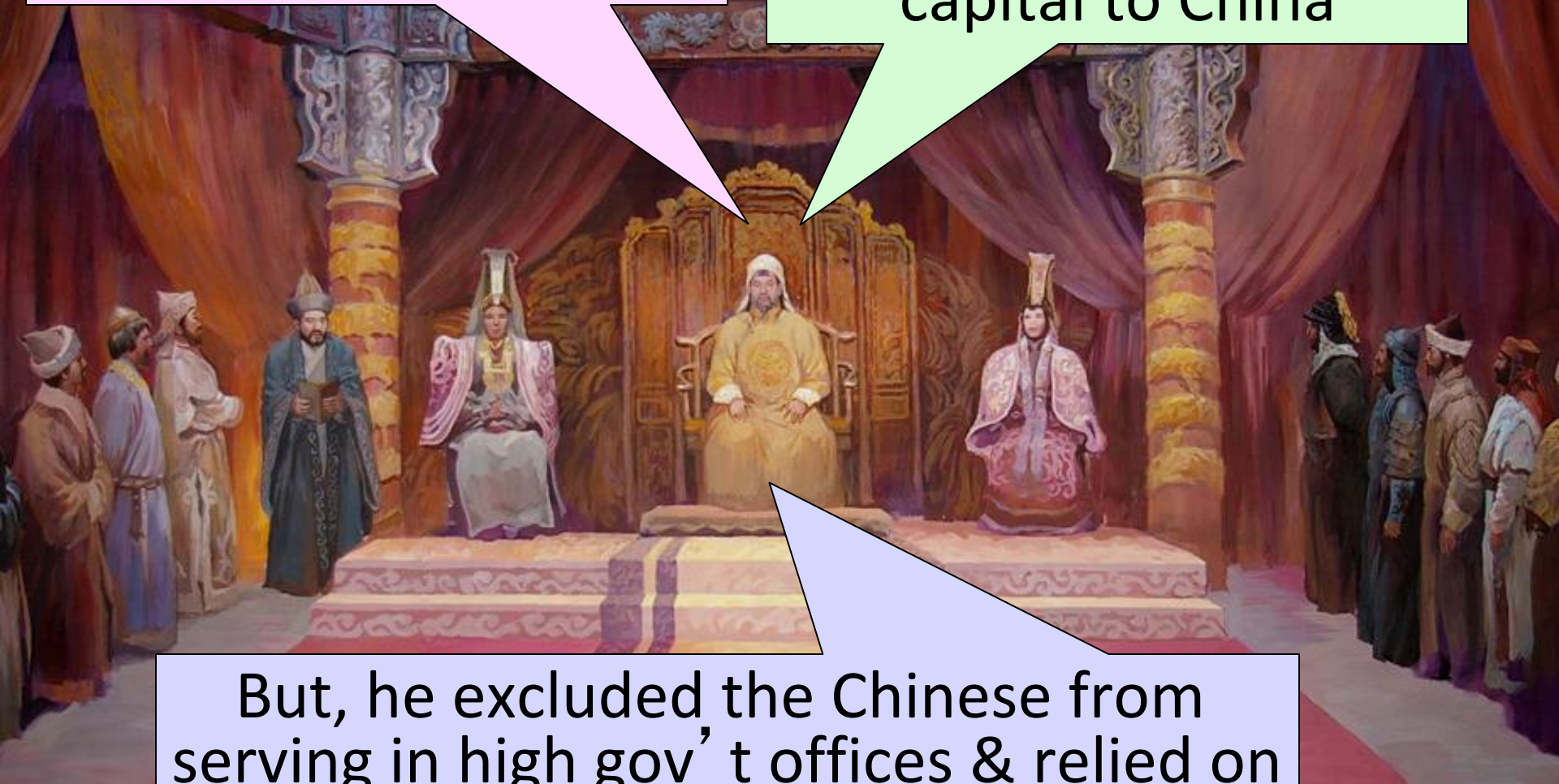
In 1279, Genghis' grandson Kublai Khan became the first foreign leader to rule China



Interpreting Maps
led Russia? Persia? Korea?
/ the Mongols fail to control?

Kublai Khan began a new era in China called the Yuan Dynasty

Kublai enjoyed Chinese culture so much that he moved the Mongolian capital to China



But, he excluded the Chinese from serving in high gov't offices & relied on foreigners to serve in his government

Kublai proved to be a good emperor for China

Under Kublai, foreign trade with China increased due to the Pax Mongolica

He built roads & extended the Grand Canal to help improve transportation in China



In 1275, a European merchant named Marco Polo visited Kublai Khan's court

Kublai was so impressed with Marco Polo that he employed him in the Yuan gov't for 17 years



PRIMARY SOURCE

[M]ore precious and costly wares are imported into Khan-balik [Beijing] than into any other city in the world. . . . All the treasures that come from India—precious stones, pearls, and other rarities—are brought here. So too are the choicest and costliest products of Cathay [China] itself and every other province.

MARCO POLO, *The Travels of Marco Polo*

When Marco Polo returned to Italy in 1292, his stories of China increased European demand for Asian trade

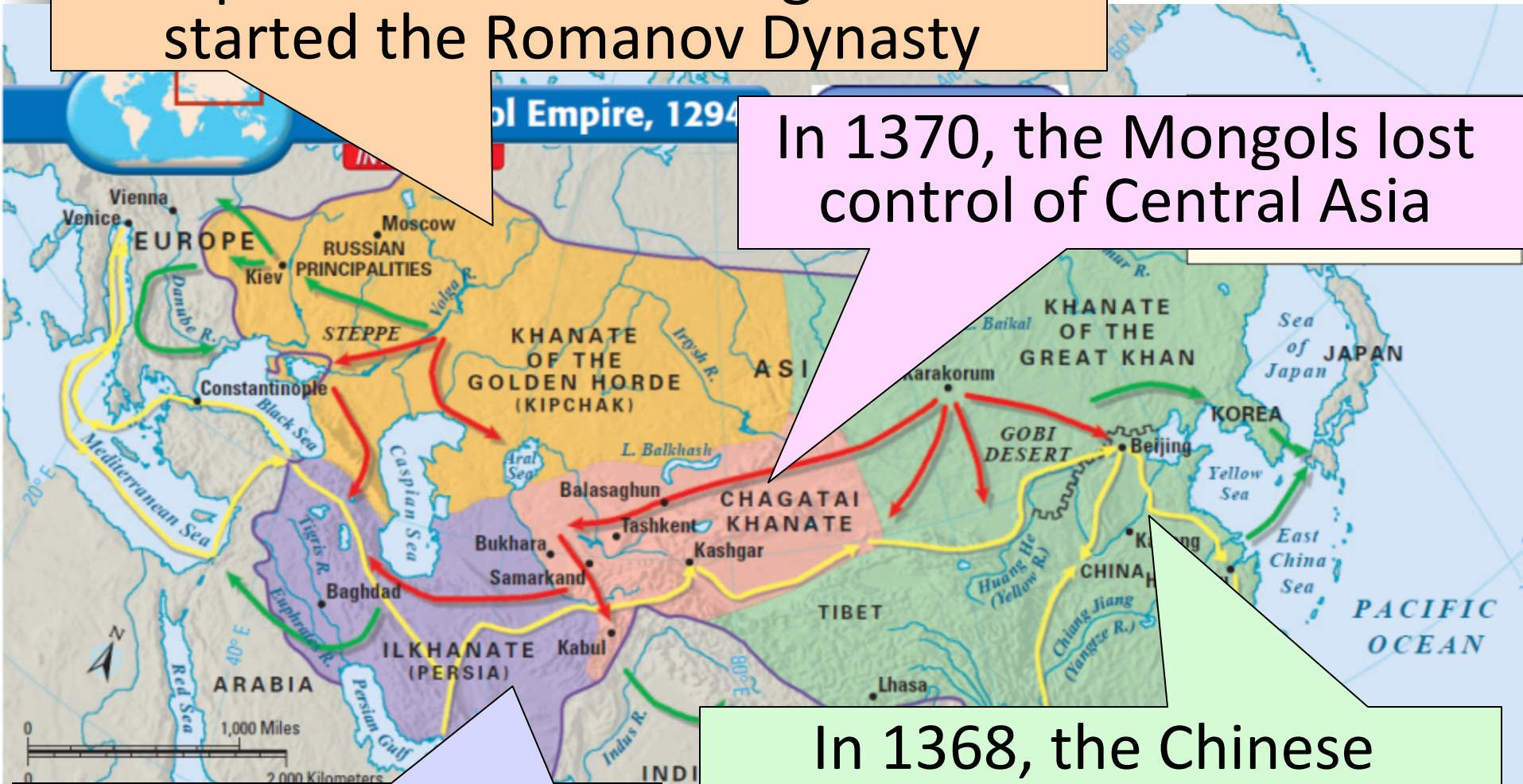


By the time of Kublai's death in 1294, the Mongol Empire was beginning to weaken. In 1480, under Ivan III Russia gained independence from Mongol rule & started the Romanov Dynasty

In 1370, the Mongols lost control of Central Asia

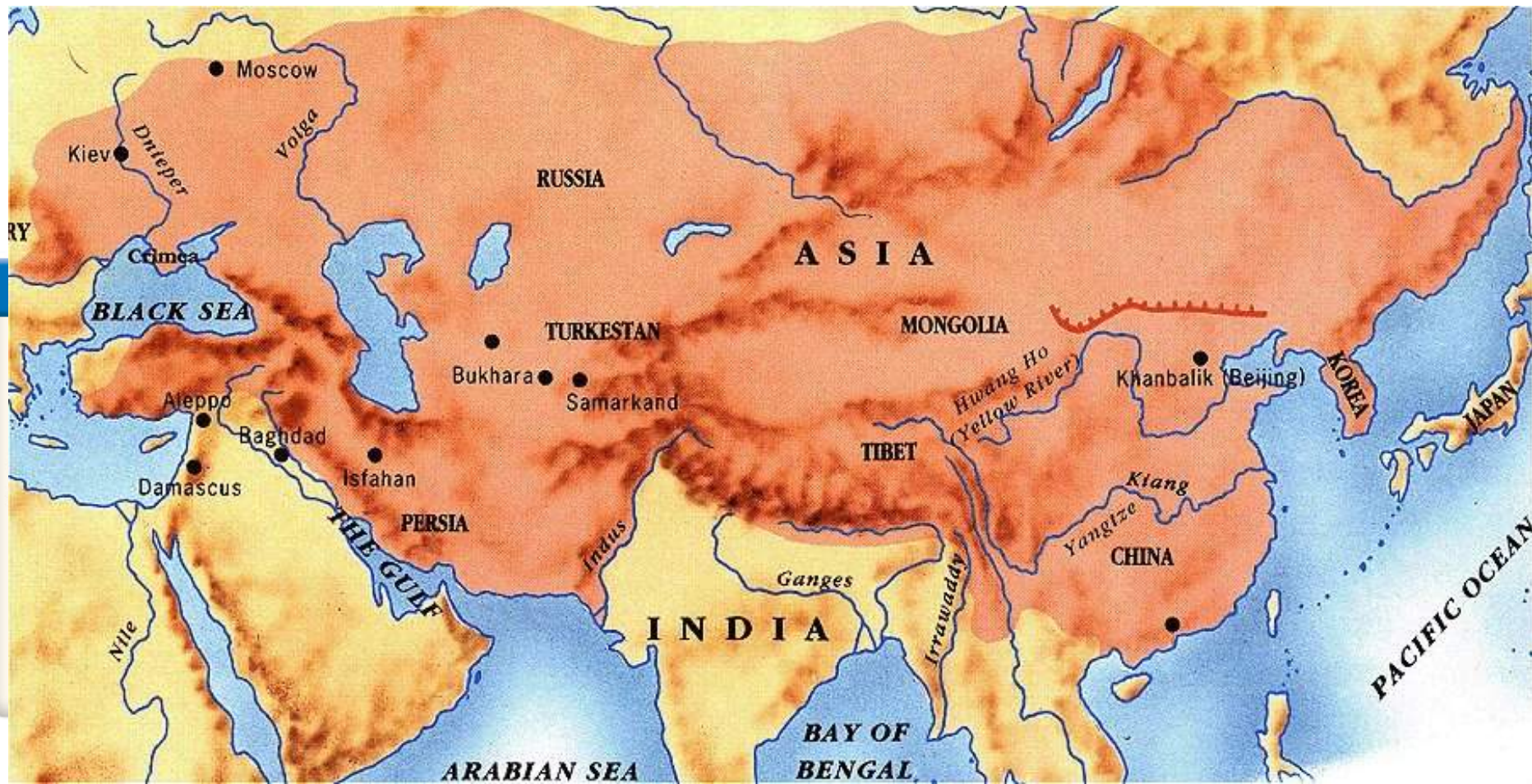
In 1330, the Mongols lost control of Persia

In 1368, the Chinese overthrew the Mongols & started the Ming Dynasty



The End of the Golden Age

- Despite the wealth & culture during under the Tang & Song Dynasties, the Chinese were briefly overthrown by the Mongols



In 1368, the Chinese overthrew the Mongols & established the Ming Dynasty



The Ming emperors encourage overseas trade...



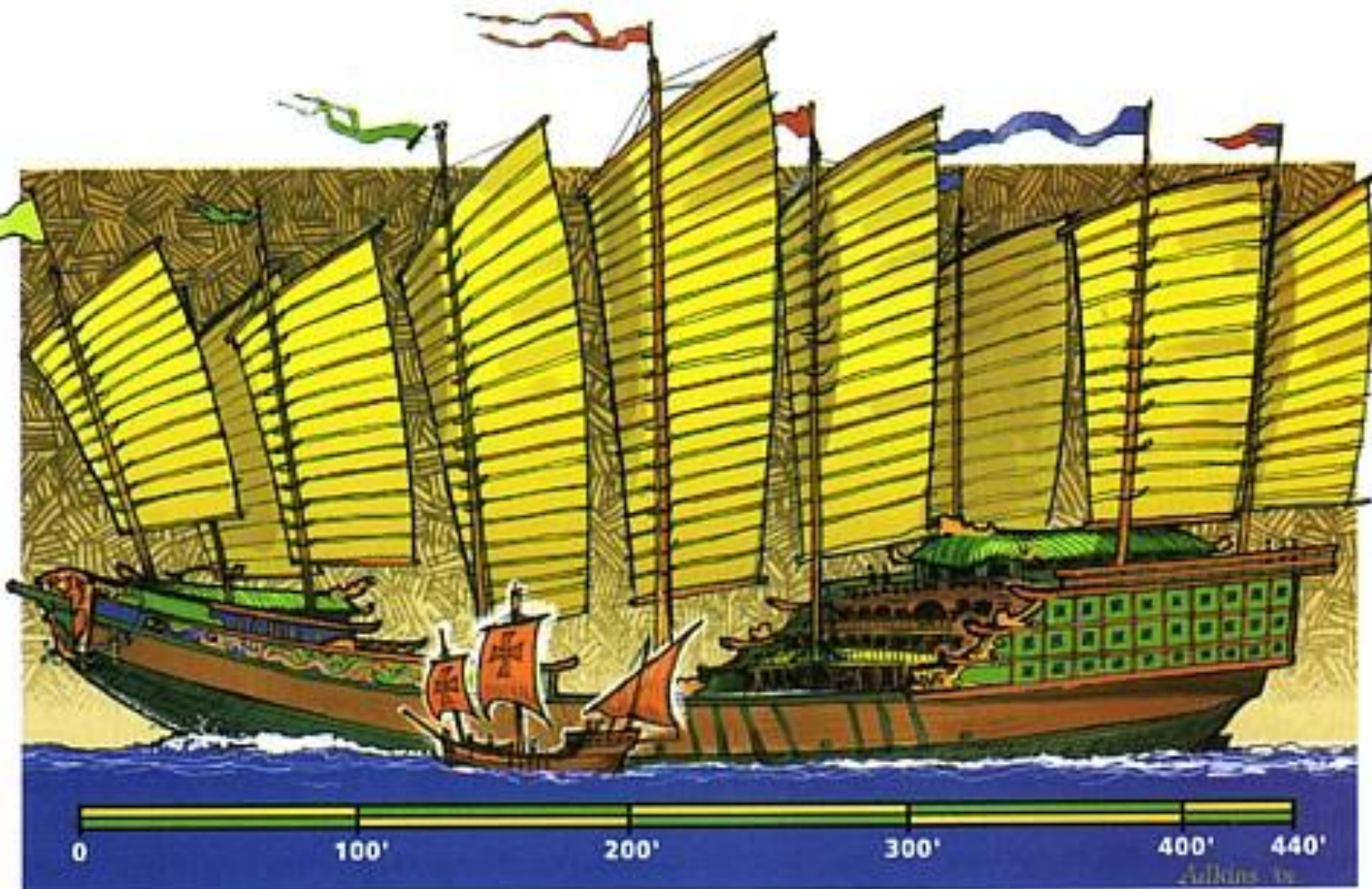
Early Expl

...and began a series of explorations led by Zheng He to demonstrate Chinese superiority

ENGLAND
London

NETHERL
Amsterda

ATLANTIC OCEAN EUROPE



Beijing
INDIA

Cape of Good Hope

0 500 1000 Kilometers
Winkel II Projection

Zheng He had better ships & traveled farther than any European explorers would for 100 years

Zheng He led 7 different expeditions



Zheng He explored areas along the Indian Ocean & Africa, expand trade, & collected tribute from foreigners

Chinese Isolation

- After the 7th treasure fleet voyage in 1433, Chinese leaders unexpectedly ended the expeditions & retreated into isolationism
 - Scholar-officials complained that Zheng He's voyages used valuable resources that were needed to defend China
 - China's official trade policy was to keep the influence of outsiders to a minimum
 - China's geography & gov't policies kept it relatively isolated for the next 300 years until European merchants in the 1800s demanded access to Chinese trade