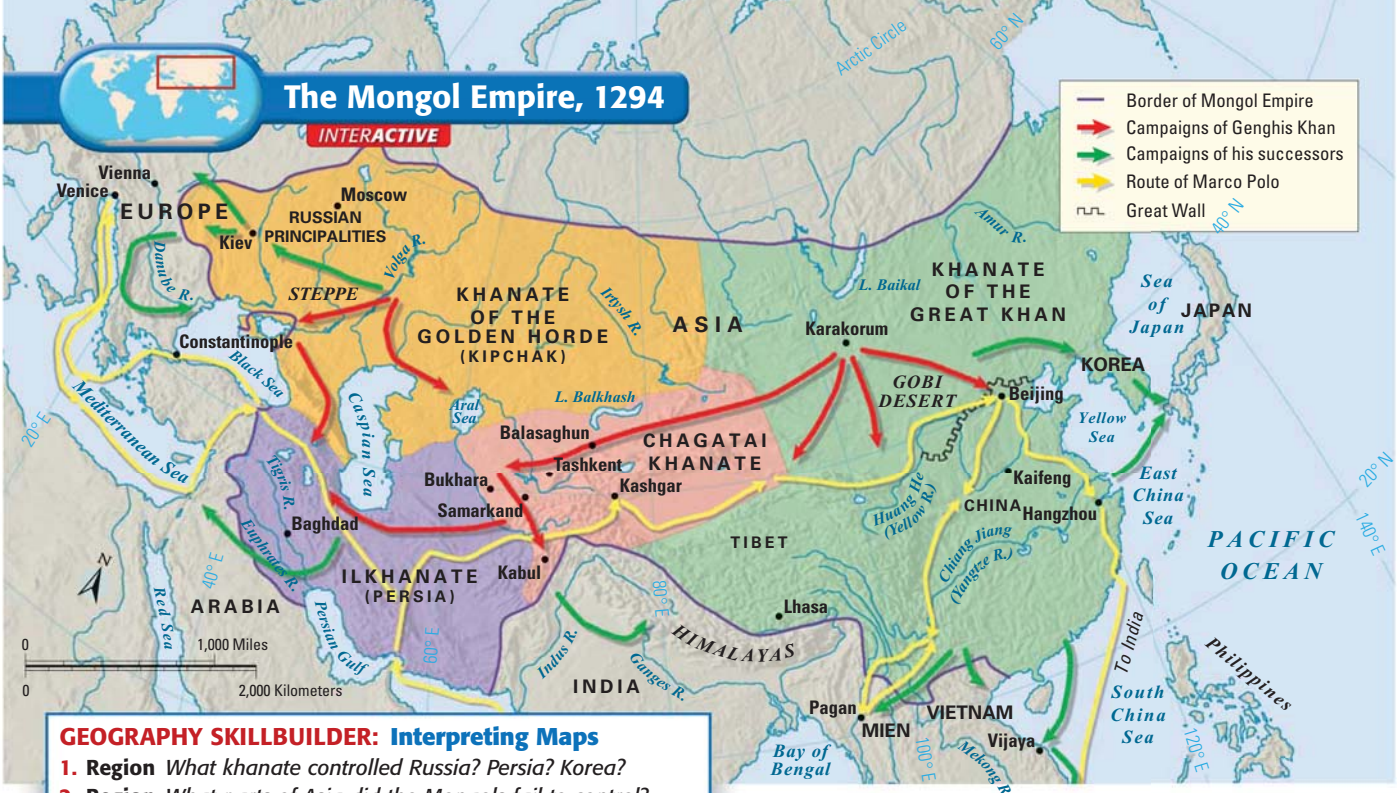


GEOGRAPHY SKILLBUILDER: Interpreting Maps

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

Trade between Europe and Asia had never been more active. Ideas and inventions traveled along with the trade goods. Many Chinese innovations, such as gunpowder, reached Europe during this period.

Other things spread along with the goods and the ideas. Some historians speculate that the epidemic of bubonic plague that devastated Europe during the 1300s was first spread by the Mongols. (See Chapter 14.) The disease might have traveled along trade routes or have been passed to others by infected Mongol troops.

For a brief period of history, the nomadic Mongols were the lords of city-based civilizations across Asia, including China. As you will read in Section 3, China continued to thrive under Mongol rule.

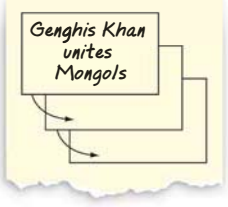
SECTION 2 ASSESSMENT

TERMS & NAMES 1. For each term or name, write a sentence explaining its significance.

- pastoralist
- clan
- Genghis Khan
- Pax Mongolica

USING YOUR NOTES

2. Which of the listed events do you think is the most important? Why?



MAIN IDEAS

3. In what ways did steppe nomads and the people of neighboring settled societies interact?
4. Why was terror an important weapon for Genghis Khan?
5. What happened to the Mongol Empire in the years after Genghis Khan's death?

CRITICAL THINKING & WRITING

6. **MAKING INFERENCES** What characteristics of their culture do you think contributed to the Mongols' military success? Explain your response.
7. **ANALYZING MOTIVES** What do you think drove Genghis Khan to conquer a great empire? Explain your answer.
8. **FORMING AND SUPPORTING OPINIONS** "The Mongols were great conquerors but poor rulers." Do you agree with this statement? Why or why not?
9. **WRITING ACTIVITY** CULTURAL INTERACTION Write a brief **essay** discussing the impact of interaction between the Mongols and the various cultures that they conquered.

INTEGRATED TECHNOLOGY **INTERNET ACTIVITY**

Today, most Mongols live in the country of Mongolia. Use the Internet to find information on Mongolian ways of life. Then create an **illustrated report** comparing ways of life today and in Genghis Khan's time.

INTERNET KEYWORD
Mongolia