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Response to Mongol Empire

Successes:

1. Reinvalidate Euro-asian trade. As a nomad society, the Mongols naturally relied heavily on Trade. They valued trade because it was taxable, and they reinvigorated the old silk road trade networks between Europe and Asia that were in disuse.

2. Communication. The speed of the mongol steed meant that information traveled fast, a drastic contrast to the "Low and Slow" model we witnessed in agrarian societies. The Yam system, as it was called, encouraged merchants and brought along ideas and products at the same time. John Green lists Rice being introduced to Persia and becoming a staple diet of Persian cuisine being a product of Mongol Trade.

3. Unprecedented tolerance on Religion. The Mongol religion was intrinsically connected to their origins on the steppe, hence they did not find the need to enforce their religion on newly conquered peoples. A high tolerance for different religions within the empire has no equivalent, even in modern times.

Failures:

1. Creating a long lasting empire. Because of their nomadic nature, the Mongols did not create any single political unit. This caused the empire to crumble after the head of state no longer lived. Although massive in size, the Mongol empire did not last long. The four successive empires or Khanates were only able to hold on longer because they adapted to local governing systems.

2. The Black Death. The Mongol trade networks were probably the backbone of the plague that devastated Europe.

What is one thing you found interesting/new about the Mongols?

Gengis Khan's descendants. Apparently there are a whopping 13 million people on earth that were descendants of the Khan, given his lifetime, as we say in Hong Kong, he didn't waste any time. I've followed Crash Course History for a while, they seem to always present the Mongols as the exception to the rule. Their history and development has always challenged the patterns and models of historical study, and that is the reason this is a fascinating subject to study.