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World Civilization

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The Mongols Crash Course Video Summary

The film notes one of the most obvious successes of the Mongols was the way they conquered more land in 25 years than the Romans had conquered in 400 years. The Mongols created the first great free trade zone and were successful in keeping their empire secure. The narrator pointed out that "a man could walk from one end of the Mongol empire to the other with a gold plate on his head without ever fearing being robbed". The other notable successes of the Mongols was that they created the yam system, a type of network with horses and riders that increased communication and facilitated travel throughout Eurasia. And the Mongols were known for their cuisine, which is the reason rice became a staple of the Persian diet.

The Mongols were successful at forcibly moving artists, musicians who were beneficial to them which created a cultural pollination. Administrators, in paticualr were used for tasks like keeping records for the Mongols. Tolerating various religions was a notable achievement for the Mongols, Muslims, Buddhists and Christians were able to prosper throughout the Empire.

The unsuccessful aspects of the Mongols were that they were brutal conquerors who destroyed cities and killed millions. The Mongol's Empire did not last, and was replaced by the Ming dynasty eighty years later. The Mongols were probably responsible for the Black Death because the trade they opened made ways for disease to travel.

An interesting fact I learned from the film was that it was rumored that the Mongols intentionally spread the Black Death by throwing plague infested bodies over the walls of Caffa in the Crimea.