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Prof. O'Hara

World Civ 1

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Film & Responses

1. What were the failures and successes of the Mongols?

The Mongols established one of the biggest empires in history. In their long time of the conquest, the Mongols had many failures and successes. One of their biggest successes was definitely their military conquest. They were able to conquer a large area spanning from Eastern Europe to Asia with this military. They also had success in economic development. The Mongols were able to get the Eurasian trade going again, which wasn't working for a long time. They used the trading system to spread cuisine and they also invented the yam system which helped them pass information quickly through horses and riders. With this newly invented communication system, they were able to speed up and simplify communication in Eurasia. Mongols were also really successful because they used the people they had conquered for example artists, musicians, and administrators, and used them where there were helpful for the Mongols. Overall the Mongol Empire was really successful during its ruling time. One big failure mentioned in the film was that they failed to maintain their empire. Within 80 years, they left China and were replaced pretty quickly by a new dynasty. More failures weren't mentioned in the film.

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

One thing that really surprised me and that I didn't know about before was the way Genghis Khan got people to follow him in the beginning. He picked people not based on their family

status but rather on merit. That's what people really liked about him. It makes people feel seen and that makes people follow and join him. But he also got people into his own tribe from the lower classes he conquered. It's really interesting to learn about Genghis Khan's ways to get people to join him and I also think it's a more unusual way often people with a high status are wanted but with Genghis Khan, status wasn't the important thing.