

Lynette Niebla

Dr. Lyndell O'Hara

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The Mongols

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

As the video states, "The Mongols promoted trade, diversity, and tolerance, and they also promoted slaughter and senseless destruction." They had their failures but also their successes. When it came to failures, for one, their empire did not last. The video points out how within 80 years, they'd left China and been replaced by a new dynasty, the Ming. And in Persia, they blended in so completely that by the 15th century, they were unrecognizable. Another thing that the Mongols did not do very right is that they were brutal conquerors, destroying entire cities and killing millions. Genghis Khan's definition of happiness was even: "The greatest happiness is to vanquish your enemies, to chase them before you, to rob them of their wealth, to see those dear to them bathed in tears, to clasp to your bosom their wives and daughters." They also failed in their interest in artistic patronage or architecture, possibly a reason that led to their demise. Lastly, they were responsible for the Black Death. By opening up trade, they also opened up vectors for disease to travel.

Although the Mongols did have a lot of faults, they also had a lot of successes. For one, the Mongols reinvigorated cross-Eurasian trade and did a great job of keeping their empire safe. They also increased communication throughout Eurasia by developing a pony express-like system of way stations with horses and riders that could quickly relay information. It was called the Yam system. The cuisine was huge in the trade routes coming from the Mongols. For example, rice became a staple of the Persian diet because of the Mongols. The Mongols also relocated people who were useful to them, like artists and musicians and, especially administrators, finding people who held good

representation of their systems. Lastly, the Mongols were tolerant of different religions. They were shamanists but didn't expect new people to adopt it. So you could find Muslims, Buddhists, Christians, and people of any other religion you can think of prospering throughout the Mongol empire.

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

Something I found so interesting about the Mongols is how strong their military power was, although they were very small in numbers. In most cases, you see that the bigger armies are usually the more powerful, but in this case, the Mongols were smaller than a lot of their enemies and still won. With their victories, they were able to expand faster and quicker than any other empire could at the time. What I also found interesting was how one of their tactics to win was to adapt to what their enemies were experts at. For example, they built boats to fight if their enemies were on the water.