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Failures of the Mongols:

- Inability to conquer Japan despite multiple attempts.
- Failure to conquer Southeast Asia due to challenging terrain and resistance from local populations.
- Difficulty in maintaining control over conquered territories due to the decentralized nature of their empire and reliance on local rulers.

Successes of the Mongols:

- Creation of the largest contiguous empire in history.
- Development of a highly effective military organization and tactics, such as their use of horseback archers and siege warfare.
- Promotion of cultural exchange and trade along the Silk Road.
- Establishment of a unified legal system under the Yassa code.

One thing I found interesting about the Mongols is their emphasis on meritocracy and tolerance towards different religions and cultures. Despite their reputation for brutality, the Mongols were also known for promoting intellectual pursuits and supporting the arts, such as the creation of the famous illustrated manuscript, the "Jami' al-tawarikh" (Compendium of Chronicles).