

WHAT'S THE SIGNIFICANCE?

Almoravid Empire: Emerging out of an Islamic reform movement among the Sanhaja Berber pastoralists in the eleventh century, the Almoravid Empire incorporated a large part of northwestern Africa with its capital in Marrakesh. In 1086 it crossed into southern Spain where it offered vigorous opposition to Christian efforts to conquer the region. The empire had collapsed by the mid-twelfth century. (*pron.* al-muh-RAH-vid)

Black Death: Name later given to the massive plague pandemic that swept through Eurasia beginning in 1331; it is usually regarded as an outbreak of bubonic plague.

Chinggis Khan: Title meaning “universal ruler” that was given to the Mongol leader Temujin in 1206 after he united the Mongols. (*pron.* CHENG-iz KAHN)

Hulegu Khan: Grandson of Chinggis Khan (ca. 1217–1265) who became the first il-khan (subordinate khan) of Persia and sacked Baghdad in 1258. (*pron.* hoo-LAY-goo KAHN)

Khubilai Khan: Grandson of Chinggis Khan who ruled China from 1271 to 1294. (*pron.* KOO-bihlie KAHN)

Khutulun: A Mongol princess (ca. 1260–1306) whose exploits in battle and wrestling, along with her choice of husbands, provide insight into the relative freedom and influence of elite Mongol women in their societies. (*pron.* hoo-TE-yun)

Kipchak Khanate: Name given to Russia by the Mongols after they conquered it and incorporated it into the Mongol Empire in the mid-thirteenth century; known to Russians as the “Khanate of the Golden Horde.” (*pron.* KIP-chak KAHN-ate)

Modun: Great ruler of the Xiongnu Empire (r. 210–174 B.C.E.) who created a centralized and hierarchical political system. (*pron.* moe-DOON)

Mongol world war, the: Term used to describe half a century of military campaigns, massive killing, and empire building pursued by Chinggis Khan and his successors in Eurasia after 1209.

pastoralism: Way of life in which people depend on the herding of domesticated animals for their food.

Pastoralism: an alternative kind of food-producing economy focused on the raising of livestock. Pastoralism emerged only in the Afro-Eurasian world, for in the Americas the absence of large animals that could be domesticated precluded a herding economy.

Temujin: Birth name of the Mongol leader better known as Chinggis Khan (1162–1227). (*pron.* TEM-uh-jin)

Turks: Turkic speakers from Central Asia, originally pastoralists, who spread westward into the Near East and into India; they created a series of pastoralist empires between 552 and 965 C.E. but had a more lasting impact on world history when they became dominant in the Islamic heartland and founded a series of states and empires there.

Xiongnu: People of the Mongolian steppe lands north of China who formed a large-scale pastoralist empire in the third and second centuries B.C.E. (*pron.* SHE-OONG-noo)

Yuan dynasty: Mongol dynasty that ruled China from 1271 to 1368; its name means “great beginnings.” (*pron.* yu-wen)