History 11B: History of China: 1000-2000

Mongol Conquest

Key Terms and Names 1/23

Song Dynasty 宋: 960 – 1279
   Northern Song 北宋: 960 - 1127 (capital at Kaifeng 开封)
   Southern Song 南宋: 1127 - 1279 (capital at Hangzhou 杭州)

Liao Dynasty 遼: 907 – 1119; hostile northern neighbor state of the Song; in 1005 the Liao sign a peace treaty with the Song.

Xi Xia (Western Xia) Dynasty 西夏: 1038 – 1227; a Chinese-style state established by the Tanguts (proto-Tibetan peoples living in the northwestern region of present-day China); establish dynasty in the Gansu region; sign a peace treaty with the Song in 1044.

Jin Dynasty 金: 1115 – 1234; also known as the Jurchen peoples; hostile neighbor state located to the north and northeast of the Liao; Song aligns with the Jin to defeat the Liao, only to later lose the northern half of Song China to the Jin.

Yuan Dynasty 元: 1234 - 1368; formed by the Mongols; the Southern Song align with the Mongols to defeat the Jin; after defeating the Jin Dynasty in the north, the Mongols begin to fight with the Southern Song. In 1279 they succeed in defeating the Southern Song and setting up a new dynasty for a now-unified China. The Mongols are also considered “raw” barbarians.

Primary capital at Xanadu (Anglicized name for Shangdu/ Shenyang/Mukden); under Khubilai Khan the primary capital is moved to Beijing.

Chinggis Khan 成吉思可汗 (ca. 1162 or 1167-1227); actual name – Temujin, launched the founding of the Mongol Empire; in 1206 names himself "universal ruler" or Chinggis Khan (alternatively written as Genghis Khan or Genghiz Khan). Son of a minor chieftain named Yesügei.

Ogodei 察合台 (r. 1229-41); Chinggis's third son; becomes the ruler of the Great Khanate covering the territory of Mongolia and northern China; launches a second wave of Mongol expansion campaigns; Jin Dynasty defeated under Ogodei’s watch in 1234.

Yelu Chucai 耶律楚材 (1190-1244); a descendent of the Liao royal household; accommodated to Chinese styles of rule; becomes a key advisor to Ogodei.

Khubilai Khan 忽必烈可汗 (1215-94), grandson of Chinggis Khan; becomes the khan of the Great Khanate in 1260; establishes the Yuan Dynasty in China; this reunifies for mer territory of Song China in the north and the south; considered more Sinified and not as ruthless as his grandfather.

Li Jing 李京, author of a travel account of the Southwest regions, which includes descriptions of the “customs of various barbarians,” written in the early 1300s.
The Four Khanates:
1) Khanate of the Great Khan (encompassing Mongolia, China, Tibet, Korea, Manchuria & Vietnam.
2) Khanate of Chagatay (located in Central Asia)
3) Khanate of Il-Khans (located in Persia)
4) Khanate of Kipchak or the Golden Horde (located in Russia)

Legal status hierarchy under the Yuan:
1) Mongols
2) Semu – Central Asians, Europeans, Khitan & Jurchen peoples.
3) Northern Chinese
4) Southern Chinese

Levirate – a kind of marriage in which a woman marries the younger brother or junior relative of her husband after his death. This was common practice among the steppe peoples, including the Jurchen Jin and the Mongols.