



# The Byzantine Empire

MOVING ON FROM THE FALL OF ROME

# Georgia Standards of Excellence: World History

- ▶ SSWH4 - Analyze impact of the Byzantine and Mongol empires.
  - ▶ a. Describe the relationship between the Roman and Byzantine Empires, include: the importance of Justinian and Empress Theodora.
  - ▶ b. Analyze the impact Byzantium had on Kiev, Moscow, and the Russian Empire.
  - ▶ c. Explain the Great Schism (East-West Schism) of 1054 CE/AD.
  - ▶ d. Explain the decline of Byzantium and the impact of the fall of Constantinople in 1453 CE/AD.
  - ▶ e. Describe the impact of the Mongols on Russia, China, and the Middle East, include: the role of Chinggis (Genghis) Khan in developing the Mongol Empire.

# The Early Byzantine

- ▶ During the final stages of the Roman Empire, Diocletian enacted reforms
- ▶ These reforms laid the foundation for a successor to the Roman Empire
- ▶ Diocletian felt the Empire had grown too large so he split into East, Byzantine Empire, & West
  - ▶ East – Greek speaking
    - ▶ Byzantium - capital
  - ▶ West – Latin speaking





# The Early Byzantine

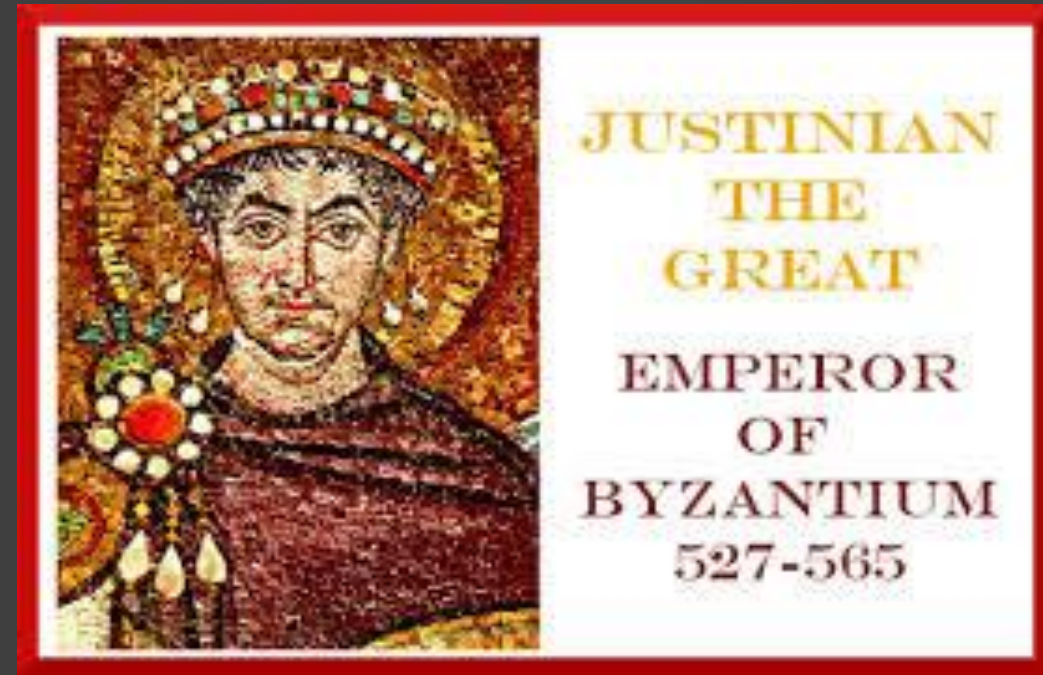
- ▶ Constantine ruled following Diocletian
  - ▶ Reunited the Empire
  - ▶ Made Byzantium capital of unified Empire
  - ▶ Renamed the capital Constantinople
- ▶ The move of the capital seen as the beginning of the new Empire

# The Byzantine Empire

- ▶ The Roman Empire (27 BCE to 476 CE) & Byzantine Empires (about 395 to 1453) intersected
  - ▶ Shared some culture but Byzantine developed into its own unique Empire with its own culture
  - ▶ Some Roman traditions still remained
    - ▶ Roman law
    - ▶ Roman government structure (Senate)

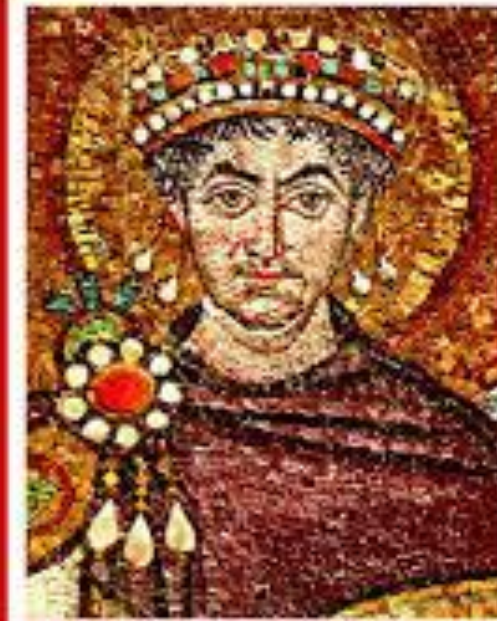
# The Byzantine Empire

- ▶ Justinian took over as emperor following Constantine (527 CE)
  - ▶ Wanted to reclaim lands lost to the Germanic tribes
    - ▶ North Africa
    - ▶ Western Europe
  - ▶ Successfully regained the majority of the territory lost
    - ▶ Hold on lands in Western Europe tenuous
      - ▶ Changed hands 6 times over 16 years



# The Byzantine Empire

- ▶ Justinian instituted major legal reforms
  - ▶ Organized, simplified, & standardized Roman law
  - ▶ Became known as Justinian's Code
    - ▶ regulated almost all aspects of Byzantine life for the next 900 years
    - ▶ served as the foundation of many law codes of Western Europe after the fall of the Empire



JUSTINIAN  
THE  
GREAT  
EMPEROR  
OF  
BYZANTIUM  
527-565

# The Byzantine Empire

▶ Justinian also completed massive infrastructure projects that transformed Constantinople into a vibrant & thriving metropolis

- ▶ 14 mile long city wall
- ▶ public baths
- ▶ aqueducts
- ▶ law courts
- ▶ schools
- ▶ hospitals
- ▶ churches







Justinian's most significant architectural legacy was the construction of the Hagia Sophia

Symbolized partnership between church & state

# The Byzantine Empire

- ▶ Justinian's wife, Theodora, was very influential as well
  - ▶ Born to a circus family
  - ▶ Law had changed in order for Justinian to marry below his status
- ▶ She met with foreign envoys, passed laws, built churches, & served as emperor's backbone during the violent Nika Riots in 532 CE
  - ▶ During the Riots, Theodora is credited with convincing Justinian not to abandon the throne





# Byzantine Culture

- ▶ Greek was the official language
- ▶ Christianity was the state religion
  - ▶ Eastern Orthodox Church
- ▶ Influenced by a variety of cultures including Persia & Islamic cultures

# Byzantine Empire on Early Russia



Самуилович С. Крестовники на Руси. Киевская Русь и ее отношения с Византией. М.: Издательство «Восток-Запад», 2004. С. 100.

# Early Interactions With Russia

- ▶ Political unity came to Russia in about 862
  - ▶ Scandinavian Vikings, called Varangians, unified Slavic peoples
  - ▶ Varangians founded the city of Novgorod
- ▶ In 880, the opportunity for trade with Byzantium (Byzantine Empire) arose
  - ▶ led the Varangian princes to move the capital south to Kiev
  - ▶ Traded along the Dnieper River
  - ▶ Led to regular cultural & economic contact between the two



# Early Interactions With Russia

- ▶ Prince Vladimir (980 to 1015) decided to seek out a new faith for his people
  - ▶ Sent out envoys to research different faiths
  - ▶ Envoys visited Orthodox Christians of the Byzantine Empire
    - ▶ returned with great stories of monumental architecture
    - ▶ made them feel that God must dwell among the Byzantines
  - ▶ Vladimir ordered mass baptism of his people in 989
    - ▶ Mass conversion ushered in a period of close cultural & economic contacts
    - ▶ Also led to adoption of Cyrillic alphabet
      - ▶ Used by Byzantine missionaries converting Slavic people



# Decline of Kiev

- ▶ Kiev's power declined after the Mongol invasion
  - ▶ led to rise of Moscow as the new center of political power
  - ▶ corresponded to the decline & collapse of the Byzantine Empire in late 1400s
  - ▶ The Russian ruler Ivan III used this to his political advantage by announcing publicly that Russia would be the "Third Rome" after reclaiming Russia from Mongols
  - ▶ Ivan III claimed the title "Czar" a slavization of the the title "Caesar"
  - ▶ This claim became an enduring form of political legitimacy in the Russian Empire.

Christians in Western Europe became the *Roman Catholic Church*

Christians in Eastern Europe became the *Eastern Orthodox Church*

# The Great Schism

THE SPLIT OF THE EARLY CHRISTIAN CHURCH





# The Great Schism



## Roman Catholic Church

- ▶ Headquartered in Rome
- ▶ Pope - the leader
- ▶ Use of idols
  - ▶ Statues
  - ▶ Paintings
  - ▶ etc

## Eastern Orthodox Church

- ▶ Headquartered in Constantinople
- ▶ Patriarch of Constantinople - the leader (Emperor)
- ▶ No use of idols

# The Great Schism

- ▶ Both sides felt they were the single leader of a unified church
- ▶ Lack of communication & distance between the two capitals kept the peace for about 300 years
- ▶ In 730, differences over leadership led to conflict
  - ▶ Byzantine Emperor Leo III banned the use of icons because
  - ▶ He believed the use of icons was idolatry
  - ▶ Riots ensued & clergy rebelled
  - ▶ Pope Leo II (Roman Catholic) backed use of icons

# The Great Schism

- ▶ 751, Rome invaded & requested help from Byzantine Empire
  - ▶ Byzantine refused
- ▶ Pope received help from Franks to stop invasion
  - ▶ As thanks, Pope named Charlemagne “Holy Roman Emperor”
  - ▶ Byzantine Emperor took offense
- ▶ In 1054, the controversy led to excommunication of the Patriarch of Constantinople by Pope Leo IX
  - ▶ formally severed ties between the Christian Churches of the east & west
  - ▶ two independent churches, the Eastern Orthodox Church & Roman Catholic Church

The background is a historical painting depicting a battle scene. In the foreground, a dense group of soldiers on horseback is engaged in combat, with many spears and swords raised. In the background, a stone castle tower with battlements is visible on the left. Several flags are flying, including a prominent red and yellow flag in the center and a red flag on the right. The overall scene is set in a hazy, atmospheric environment, suggesting a significant historical event.

# The Fall of the Byzantine Empire

# Decline of the Byzantine Empire

- ▶ The fall of the Byzantine Empire began with a very slow decline
  - ▶ began in the 6th century after the Bubonic Plague struck
  - ▶ population gradually shifted away from urban areas
  - ▶ population shift led to less centralized leadership & inability to resist growing Muslim power in the region
- ▶ During the 7th century, Muslim armies took considerable territory
  - ▶ Territories taken: Alexandria, Antioch & Jerusalem
- ▶ While dealing with Arab Muslim threat, Byzantines also dealt with attacks from Slavs & Turks

# Decline of the Byzantine Empire

- ▶ 11<sup>th</sup> century - Turkic armies united under Seljuk leadership presented a serious threat to Byzantine power & inspired the Western European Crusades
  - ▶ While the declared target of the majority of Western European Crusades was the Muslim rulers of Jerusalem, the Fourth Crusade in 1204, sacked & destroyed much of the capital of the Byzantine Empire, Constantinople
  - ▶ The reasons for this Christian Crusade against Christians included a desperate need for financing & resentment over the Schism of 1054
  - ▶ Crusaders sack of Constantinople in 1204 served as the death blow to the empire

# Fall of Constantinople

- ▶ For the next 200 years, empire struggled with the loss of territory to a new regional power, the Ottoman Turks, civil war, & another outbreak of the plague
- ▶ This culminated in the final fall of Constantinople to the Ottoman Turks in 1453
- ▶ The fall of Constantinople to the Turks opened the door to Turkic Muslim expansion in the Middle East, North Africa and Southeastern Europe
- ▶ Turks now controlled Constantinople, now called Istanbul & Bosphorus Straits, an essential location for the transport of goods and people between Asia and Europe
- ▶ This strategic advantage, along with the military innovations of the Ottoman Sultans allowed the growth of a new powerful Muslim empire
- ▶ Additionally, with Constantinople under the control of Muslims, the center of Christian Orthodoxy shifted north to Russia

# Mongol Empire, A.D. 1294





# Rise of the Mongols

- ▶ Mongols were a nomadic pastoral society with a homeland on the vast Central Asian steppe
- ▶ Mongols began as a loose confederation of tribes
- ▶ Mongols became united under Ghengis Khan (Chinggis Khan) in 1206



# Rise of the Mongols

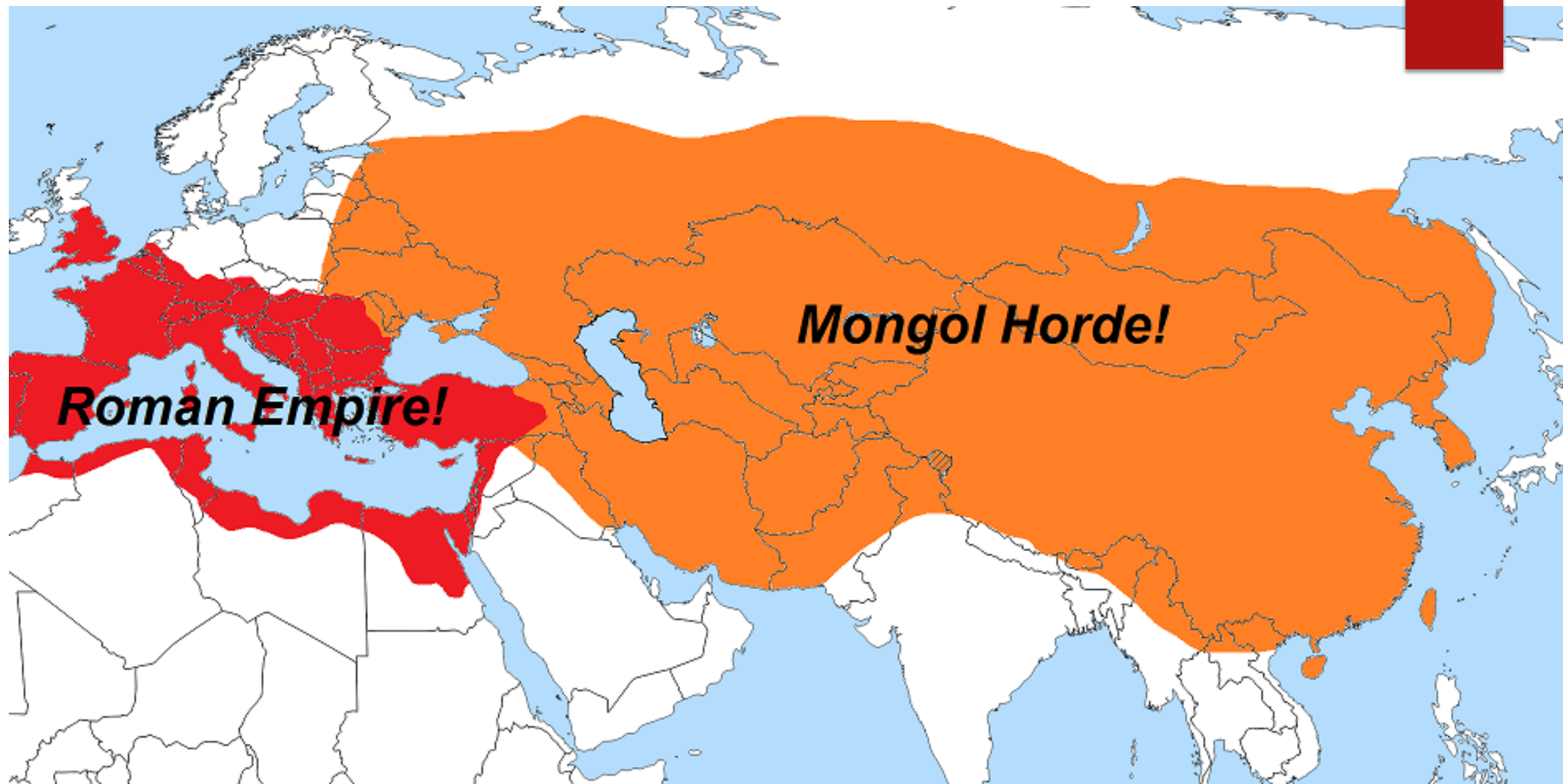
- ▶ Mongols fighting forces were virtually unstoppable once united
  - ▶ Incorporated military technologies
    - ▶ Composite bow from Central Asia
      - ▶ could shoot one-third farther than any of their rivals
    - ▶ Catapult from China
  - ▶ Lived a nomadic lifestyle
    - ▶ Traveled with virtually all they owned including food & supplies
    - ▶ Able to travel long distances
    - ▶ Able to fight for extended periods of time
    - ▶ expert horsemen

# Rise of the Mongols

- ▶ Ghengis Khan developed centralized command structure & advanced military tactics that capitalized on the greater mobility
- ▶ Mongol success was rapid
  - ▶ Within 20 years or so, by 1227, the year of Ghengis Khan's death, the Mongols controlled northern China & most of Central Asia
- ▶ After his death, his sons including Ögödei, continued the conquests
- ▶ By 1279 the Mongol Empire included Russia, China, the Middle East and Central Asia.

# Mongol Empire, A.D. 1294





***Roman Empire!***

***Mongol Horde!***

# The Mongol Empire: Russia

- ▶ When the Mongols invaded Russia, it was ruled by a loosely unified group of princes with most of the power concentrated in the city of Kiev
  - ▶ The Princes did not unify under the threat
  - ▶ Princes in the south put up most resistance but were ultimately defeated
  - ▶ Princes in the north cooperated & Russian power shifted to Novgorod & Moscow
    - ▶ Princes became agents of the Mongol Khanate of the Golden Horde that now ruled Russia
    - ▶ The Mongol rulers of Russia were mostly concerned with extracting tribute & profiting from trade along the Silk Road so they left much of the administration of the Khanate to Muscovite princes who served as local administrators, tax collectors & census takers

# The Mongol Empire: Russia

- ▶ The Mongol tax burden was severe & led to an economic downturn
  - ▶ made worse by introduction of paper money to the economy by the Mongol overlords
- ▶ To reinforce the power of the Mongols & their agents, Russian princes, the leaders of the Golden Horde provided generous support for the Russian Orthodox Church
- ▶ The support of the Russian princes secured Orthodoxy as the dominant faith of Russia
  - ▶ also served to centralize political power in the hands of Muscovite princes, which had been divided in the Russian state
- ▶ With the centralized power in Moscow, much of the Russian population moved north to Moscow

# The Mongol Empire: China

- ▶ The Mongols of China thoroughly integrated themselves into Chinese society
- ▶ Led to a short lived but impactful dynasty, the Yuan
- ▶ The Mongols of China adopted many Chinese cultural traditions including Confucianism & Buddhism, but left a unique cultural imprint as well
  - ▶ The best example of this is Mandarin, the dominant spoken language of Northern China is a mix of Mongolian & Chinese
  - ▶ Mongol power acted to finally unify China into the state it is today, breaking down old cultural differences & laying the foundations for the modern Chinese Nation-State



# The Mongol Empire: China



- ▶ Beijing became the capital under the Yuan dynasty & construction on the Forbidden City began
- ▶ The Mongols also facilitated intellectual & economic diversification
  - ▶ Under Mongol rule the government was largely controlled by Mongol overlords aided by a bureaucracy of Central Asian & Middle Eastern administrators
  - ▶ This brought foreign expertise into China aiding scientific advances
  - ▶ The exclusion of Chinese nobility from their traditional role as bureaucrats forced many families to become merchants.
  - ▶ This facilitated the development of corporate business arrangements & urbanization

# The Mongol Empire: China

- ▶ The decline of the Mongols in China was caused by harsh, repressive taxes which was made worse by the introduction paper money, like other parts of the Empire



# The Mongol Empire: Middle East

- ▶ Mongols of the Il Khan that dominated the Middle East preferred to rule from afar, similar to The Golden Horde of Russia
- ▶ The Il Khan still had a significant cultural impact on the region
- ▶ Mongolian armies tended to assume power by killing much of the local nobility
  - ▶ included the execution of the last Abbasid Caliph
  - ▶ A major blow to Muslim power in the region

# The Mongol Empire: Middle East

- ▶ Mongol rule placed Baghdad at the heart of an empire spanning almost all of Asia
  - ▶ intellectuals from all over Asia concentrated in the city which led to major developments in the disciplines of history, painting, algebra, trigonometry, & astronomy that led to advances in calendars, predicting eclipses, & navigation
- ▶ over taxation made worse by the introduction of paper money led to economic decline



# The Mongol Empire: Silk Road

- ▶ All of the regions controlled by the Mongols benefited from a massive expansion in Eurasian trade along the Silk Road
- ▶ Facilitated the diffusion of profoundly important technologies like gunpowder, paper, & movable type.
- ▶ Facilitated the spread of religions like Christianity, Islam & Buddhism
- ▶ Vastly improved interregional understanding by facilitating the travels of people like Marco Polo & Ibn Battuta
- ▶ Profoundly transformed the demography of Afro-Eurasia with the spread of the Bubonic Plague.