**Chapter 11 Reading Guide**

1. What is a more commonly known name for “Chinggis Khan?” (Google it ☺)
2. What are pastoral nomads (or pastoralists)?

**I. Looking Back and Around: The Long History of Pastoral Nomads**

1. What caused people groups to become pastoralists instead of farmers?
2. Why do we not see pastoral nomadic groups in the Americas?

**A. The World of Pastoral Societies**

1. Describe some ways pastoral societies were different than agricultural societies in all of the following categories:
   1. Population size:
   2. Political organization:
   3. Treatment of women:
2. Explain why pastoralists have to be nomadic.
3. How did pastoralists interact with their agricultural neighbors?
4. Why was it difficult to organize a large unified state (government) within pastoral societies?
5. Why did pastoralist groups often have a military advantage over agriculturalists?
6. List some of the new technologies invented by pastoralist groups that agricultural societies would one day adopt as well.

**B. Before the Mongols: Pastoralists in History**

1. What is an example of a pastoralist empire that greatly affected empires in the Classical era? (Hint: think East Asia)
2. What impact did the Arabs make on world history?
3. What impact did the Turks make on world history?
4. What impact did the Berbers (Almoravids) make on world history?

**II. Breakout: The Mongol Empire**

1. What people group created the largest land-based empire in all of World History?
2. Describe the Mongol religion.
3. Why did Mongol religion not see a large number of converts within their empire?
4. Using map 11.1, describe the location of the Mongol empire (think- what world regions were included?)
5. How did the Mongols treat conquered peoples?

**A. From Temujin to Chinggis Khan: The Rise of the Mongol Empire**

1. Describe Temujin’s early life.
2. How did Temujin rise to power and become known as “Chinggis Khan- universal ruler?”
3. What caused Chinggis Khan to decide to start expanding his empire through conquest?
4. What regions of the world could the Mongols NOT conquer?

**B. Explaining the Mongol Moment**

1. What disadvantages did empires like Song China and the Abbasid Caliphate have when trying to hold off the Mongols?
2. What advantage did the Mongols have in conquest?
3. Why were Mongol military forces so loyal to their leaders and to Chinggis Khan in particular?
4. How did the Mongols use conquered peoples to their advantage?
5. How did the Mongols encourage people to surrender to them without a fight?
6. List some ways the Mongols mobilized resources within their empire.
7. How did the Mongols facilitate trade?
8. How did the Mongols treat those of different religions form their own?

**III. Encountering the Mongols: Comparing Three Cases**

**A. China and the Mongols**

1. What are some examples of Mongols adopting Chinese cultural and political practices?
2. How was Kublai Khan’s rule in China similar to that of a traditional Chinese emperor?
3. What elements of Chinese life did Mongols reject or not adopt?
4. How did the role of Mongol women differ from that of Chinese women?
5. What are some causes of the Mongol’s rule declining in China?

**B. Persia and the Mongols**

1. Why was the Mongol takeover of Persia shocking in the eyes of the Persians?
2. In what year did the Abbasid Caliphate officially collapse?
3. How did Mongol rule in Persia contribute to the Middle East’s geography becoming the desert it is today?
4. How were the Mongols in Persia influenced by Persian politically and culturally?
   1. Politically:
   2. Culturally:

**C. Russia and the Mongols**

1. Describe the political organization in Russia before the Mongol’s conquest.
2. Why did the Mongols choose to NOT occupy Russia once they conquered it, like they did in China and Persia?
3. List some ways the Russians were exploited by the Mongols.
4. What groups/organizations in Russian society benefitted from Mongol rule?
5. How were the Mongols who conquered Russian influenced by Russian culture?
6. What are some Mongol ideas that the Russians adopted?
7. Explain how the Russians were able to drive out the Mongols?

**IV. The Mongol Empire as a Eurasian Network**

**A. Toward a World Economy**

1. What incentives did the Mongols give to merchants to encourage them to trade within their empire?
2. How did Mongol control of most of Eurasia affect Silk Roads trade?

**B. Diplomacy on a Eurasian Scale**

1. What actions did the pope take to try and protect Western Europe from Mongol conquest?
2. Were the pope’s attempts successful?
3. Describe the diplomatic relationship between the Mongol courts in Persia and China.

**C. Cultural Exchange in the Mongol Realm**

1. What helped facilitate the rapid exchange of ideas, technologies, and cultures within the Mongol empire?
2. List some Chinese ideas/technologies that were spread westward into Europe and the Middle East because of Mongol rule.
3. What Muslim ideas were transferred to China? What Middle Eastern plants were transferred to China?

**D. The Plague: An Afro-Eurasian Pandemic**

1. Where did the Black Death most likely originate?
2. What caused the spread of the disease throughout the Mongol empire and beyond?
3. How were populations across Eurasia affected by the spread of the plague?
4. Using map 11.2, list some of the major regions affected by the plague.
5. How did the plague help serfs living in Western Europe?
6. How did the spread of the plague affect Silk Roads trade and the Mongol empire?
7. How did Europeans continue trading with Asia and Africa despite the decline of the Silk roads?
8. What similarities did Europeans and Mongols share in their empire-building?

**V. Reflections: Changing Images of Pastoral Peoples**

1. Why have historians for many centuries often described pastoral nomadic groups as barbaric?
2. What are some of the achievements of herding peoples?