

NOMADIC EMPIRES

Multiple Choice Type Questions

1. During Genghis Khan's attempt to conquer China, North China was ruled by
 - a) His Hsia.
 - b) Jurchen.
 - c) Sung dynasty.
 - d) Ogodei
2. Timur, a barlas Turk who rose to power between 1370-1405 CE, claimed descent from Genghis Khan through the lineage of claimed descent from Genghis Khan, through the lineage of
 - a) Chaghtay
 - b) Toluy
 - c) Jochi
 - d) Ogedei
3. Through the 1180s and 1190s, Temujin (Genghis Khan) remained an ally of
 - a) Boghurchu
 - b) Jamuqa
 - c) Kereyits
 - d) Ong Khan
4. What was known as the 'yam'?
 - a) Courier system
 - b) Army system
 - c) Cavalry system
 - d) Administration system
5. In 3rd century BCE in China, the fortifications started to be integrated into a common defensive outwork, known as the
 - a) 'Great Wall of China;
 - b) 'Humen Weiyuan Fort of China;
 - c) 'Taku Forts of China;
 - d) Wanping Castle of China;

Answer

1. (a) 2. (a) 3. (d) 4. (a) 5. (a)

SHORT ANSWER QUESTIONS

1. What do you understand by the term yasa? Explain.

Answer: It was actually Yasaq when this code of law was promulgated by Genghis Khan at the Quriltan of 1206. Yasaq means law, decree, or order in its literary meaning. The detail on the organization of the hunt, the army, and the postal system, the David Ayalon, a researcher found as ingredients of that code of Law. By the middle of the thirteenth century, the Mongols named it as Yasa in a more general sense to mean the

legal code of Genghis Khan. It was a compilation of the customary traditions of the Mongol tribes but in referring to it as Genghis Khan's Code Of Law, the Mongols people also laid a claim to a law-giver like Solomon, whose authoritative Code could be imposed on their subjects,

2. Do you understand why Genghis Khan did have an identity as a conqueror and brutal murderer of the people in spite of his being the greatest leader of all time?

Answer: Generally, the predominant virtue or vice imprints the image of the ruler in the head and heart of the common populace. Genghis Khan had ordered massacres in cities like Nishapur, Herat, Baghdad, and smaller towns like Baihaq and Tun (Kurdistan). This predominant vice has dusted on his virtues like the greatest leader of all time, convener of scattered tribal society to unite, ruler of a grand transcontinental empire, and keeper of trade routes well restored. Actually, the contrasting images are not simply a case of dissimilar perspectives, they should make us pause and reflect on how one perspective can completely erase all others.

3. What had ensured creating so vast an empire of the Mongols? Discuss?

Answer: The only thing that remained a powerful force was the inspiration of the nomadic empire i.e. Genghis Khan. Apart from that driving force, we cannot understand the inspiration that led to the confederation of fragmented groups of people in the pursuit of an ambition to create an empire merely on going over the nature of documentation on the Mongols and any other nomadic regime. Presently, Mongolia is enjoying freedom from Soviet control and it has revered Genghis Khan as a great natural hero and his achievements are recognized with pride. Thus, Genghis Khan has once again appeared as an iconic figure for the Mongol people among the populace there.

4. Discuss the implication of the term barbarian?

Answer: This term has been derived from the Greek Barbaros i.e. non-Greek, It was the name of the person on the basis of his language sounded i.e. Barbar. Analogous to children unable to speak or reason properly, cowardly, effeminate, luxurious, cruel, slothful, greedy, and politically unable to govern themselves; were depicted as barbarians in Greek texts. This word was used in the sense of stereotype by Romans for the German tribes, the Gauls, and the Huns. Steppe barbarians were addressed with different terms but none of them carried a positive meaning.

5. Discuss the rise of new political trends in Mongols after Genghis Khan?

Answer: In the period after Genghis Khan and particularly after the 1260s, the original impetus of campaigns could not be sustained in the west. Western Europe and Egypt were within the grasp of Mongol forces yet their retreat from the Hungarian Steppes and defeat at the hands of the Egyptian forces exhibited a major change in their attitude. In the first two generations, descendants of Jochi and Ogodei jointly controlled the office of Genghis Khan.

They were marginalized by the Toluid branch of Genghis Khanid descendants. The later rulers took more interest in the conquest of China. Hence, westward expansion was ceased. Jochi and Toluid descendants began to develop rivalry along the Russian-Iranian frontier. It also had diverted the Jochids away from further European Campaigns.

LONG ANSWER QUESTION

1. Speeches activate motors in the human mind so far as the audience set-on on the action immediately. Why does it happen? Reproduce the extract of the warning given by Mongke, the grandson of Genghis Khan to the French Ruler.

Answer: Perhaps it takes place owing to the skill of oration. A speech could be made effective when observation, experiments are done, generalization made and the conclusion arrived at; with the determination of action thereupon. These stages naturally make the man bold enough and he renders both touchy and catchy speech. That speech with its echoes activates motor nerves immediately into; the conscience of the audience and with the same pace, the action is decided. Sometimes, the speeches are fumed into crusades which result in undue troubles to the populace and the nation simultaneously.

Reproduction of vital part of the speech cum warning-“In heaven, there is only the eternal sky, On Earth, there is only one lord, Genghis Khan, the son of Heaven-When by the power of the Eternal Heaven the whole world from the rising of the sun to its setting shall be at one in joy and peace, then it will be made clear what we are going to do.”

Vital elements-

- The Heaven is touched beautifully while the mission is that of wielding on worldwide earth.
 - In order to intimidate each individual not only Louis IX, but it is also sufficient here to give a glimpse of one's sound aim or mission and that too keeping the entire world with joy and peace under a single umbrella.
 - The tone of provocation, the fine blending of material with that of meta-physical, presentation of Genghis Khan as deputy of God himself to rule over the world-are really amazing and heart-touching.
2. How does the following account enlarge upon the character of the Pax Mongolica created by the Mongols by the middle of the thirteenth century?

The Franciscan monk, William of Rubruck, was sent by Louis IX of France on an embassy to the great Khan Mongke's court. He reached Karakorum, the capital of Mongke, in 1254 and came upon a woman from Lorraine (in France) called Paquette, who had been brought from Hungary and was in the service of one of the prince's wives who was a Nestorian Christian. At the court he came across a Parisian goldsmith named Guillaume Boucher, 'whose brother dwelt on the Grand Pont in Paris'. This man was first employed by the Queen Sorghaqtani and then by Mongke's younger brother. Rubruck found that at the great court festivals the Nestorian priests were admitted first, with their regalia, to bless the Grand Khan's cup, and were followed by the Muslim clergy and Buddhist and Taoist monks.

Answer: The above account depicts the character of the Pax Mongolica by the middle of the 13th century:

- It became clear from the above incident that the French Monarch Louis IX had sent his ambassador William of Rubruck to Karakorum, the capital of Mongke in 1254. This depicts that Mongol rulers had established a well-knit relation with their neighbors.
 - Guillaume Boucher proved that Mongol rulers lived with great pomp and show and they had brought servants to serve them from different parts of the world. They were paid good salaries. That is why they reached to serve Mongol court from far away.
 - Mongol rulers were not fanatics and anxious to get the blessings of all the people. They recruited administrators and armed forces from people of all ethnic groups and religions. There was a multilingual, multi-religious regime that did not feel threatened by its pluralistic constitution. The above descriptions display the best aspect of Pax-Mongolica. It is said that in a vast empire, the Mongols had established such a rule that one could walk freely without the fear of robbery.
3. Discuss the rules and regulations of the Yasa as evolved by Genghis Khan.

Answer: Rules and regulations of the Yasa:

- People should believe in one God, because He gives us life and death, riches and poverty.
- All religions are equal. They must be respected. The priests should be exempted from all kinds of taxes, transcending all religious barriers.
- Any person, who proclaimed himself to be a Khan without the recognition of Quriltai, should be awarded death penalty.
- Do not indulge into adultery. People doing so will be given death penalty.
- Do not tell a lie.
- Always respect the aged and the poor and not deceive anyone.
- It was mandatory for all able-bodied persons to serve in the army.
- On the opening of hostilities, the soldiers on leave were asked to resume their duties immediately.
- Passion involved in spying, giving the false information/evidence/witness should be punished with death penalty.
- No one in his empire can employ a Mongol as his slave or servant.
- If a soldier indulges into loot and plunder without the prior permission of the commander, he should be awarded death penalty.
- All the Mongol princesses should preserve this Yasa, and at the time of need, they should take help from it.
- The armed forces are to be organized into units numbering 10,100, 1000 and 10000. This makes it easier for the army commander to control over military. Yasa played a remarkable role in unifying the Mongols and kept their tribal identity intact. Without any hesitation, we can say that Yasa played a remarkable role in making of global Mongol empire.

4. Why did Genghis Khan become unpopular? Explain.

Or

describe the causes of the unpopularity of Genghis Khan.

Answer: No doubt, Genghis Khan had established a vast empire. The newly vanquished people had no inclination towards their new ruler. Several causes were responsible for this.

The main causes were:

- The Mongols during the course of their expedition destroyed several beautiful cities and towns. Most of these cities lost their glory after his attack.
- Their invasion also badly affected the agriculture, because when the huge forces passed away they destroyed standing crops.
- During war year or the time of invasion trade and commerce was badly affected.
- A large number of people lost their lives due to their invasion. Many became handicapped and helpless.
- A number of people were slaves.
- As a result of their invasion, the timely repair to the underground rivers in the arid region was not carried out.
- All his invasions resulted in rapid desertification of newly conquered areas.
- People from all walks of life had to face hardships.

5. Which favorable conditions encouraged Genghis Khan to launch an expedition against the Muhammad Shah of Khwarazm?

Answer: Following favorable conditions encouraged, Genghis Khan to launch an expedition against the Shah of Khwarazm:

- Shah had established a vast empire, but nothing had been done to consolidate it.

- Shah also refused to recognize the Khalifa of Baghdad. This mistake resulted in the hostility of Muslim community against him.
- By annexation of a number of regions to his vast empire, Shah antagonized a large number of people.
- The mutual relations between Turkish and Iranian officers were not cordial. They never missed a chance to let down each other.
- He had also imposed many taxes on the farmers and general public but did care a little about their grievances. So the people wanted to get rid of such tyrannical regime.
- There was also a fear of loot and plunders. So there was restlessness among the traders as well as the common people.
- There was lack of discipline in his army.
- The continued intrigues of his mother further eroded his position. She wanted him to overthrow.