



# The Mongols



# The Early Mongolians

- Began as nomadic horsemen on Mongolian Steppe
  - Primarily herders
  - Very good with shooting bows from horseback
- Mongols split between different nobles and warlords





# Social Stratification

- Mongols were hardy men and women
  - Women highly influential and respected
- Their social organization revolved around clans
  - Clan chief was a “primus inter pares” (first among equals)



# Mongol Unification

- Temüjin (“Man of Iron”)
  - In 1202, his forces defeated the Tatars
  - In 1206, he took the title of Genghis Khan (“Oceanic Ruler”)
  - Continued expansion until death in 1227





# Expansion Under Genghis Khan

- Genghis Khan invaded Northern China
- Seized Turkistan and Afghanistan
- Invaded Persia





# Genghis Khan: The Legacy

- Unknown number of Children
  - 16 million direct descendant's today
  - Rape and marriages were part of spoils of war
    - Kublai Khan had 22 documented sons
- Responsible for roughly 40 million deaths



# Expansion after Genghis Khan

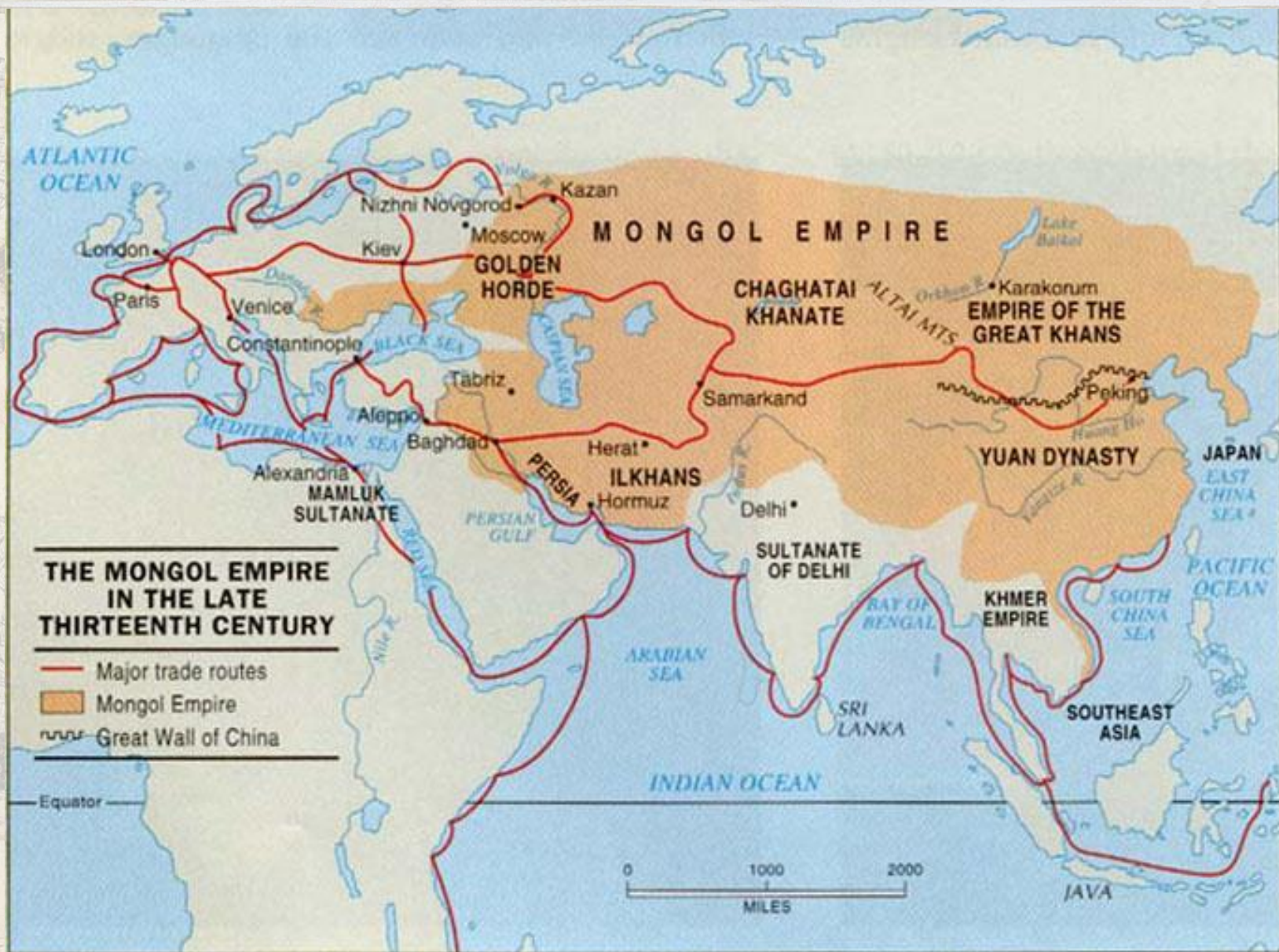
- Took advantage of troubled Empires
  - China, Korea, Vietnam, Central Asia, Burma, Caucasus, Russia, Middle East, Eastern Europe
    - Never Japan, India or South East Asia



# Expansion of the Mongol Empire







*The Mongols extended their hegemony over a major part of the Eurasian landmass, from the Danube to the Pacific for the better part of two centuries.*



# Expansion to Western Europe Stalled

- At the City of Liegnitz (Poland), they defeated a German army of heavily armored knights
- They threatened Vienna, the door to Western Europe
  - Lost major battle in 1260





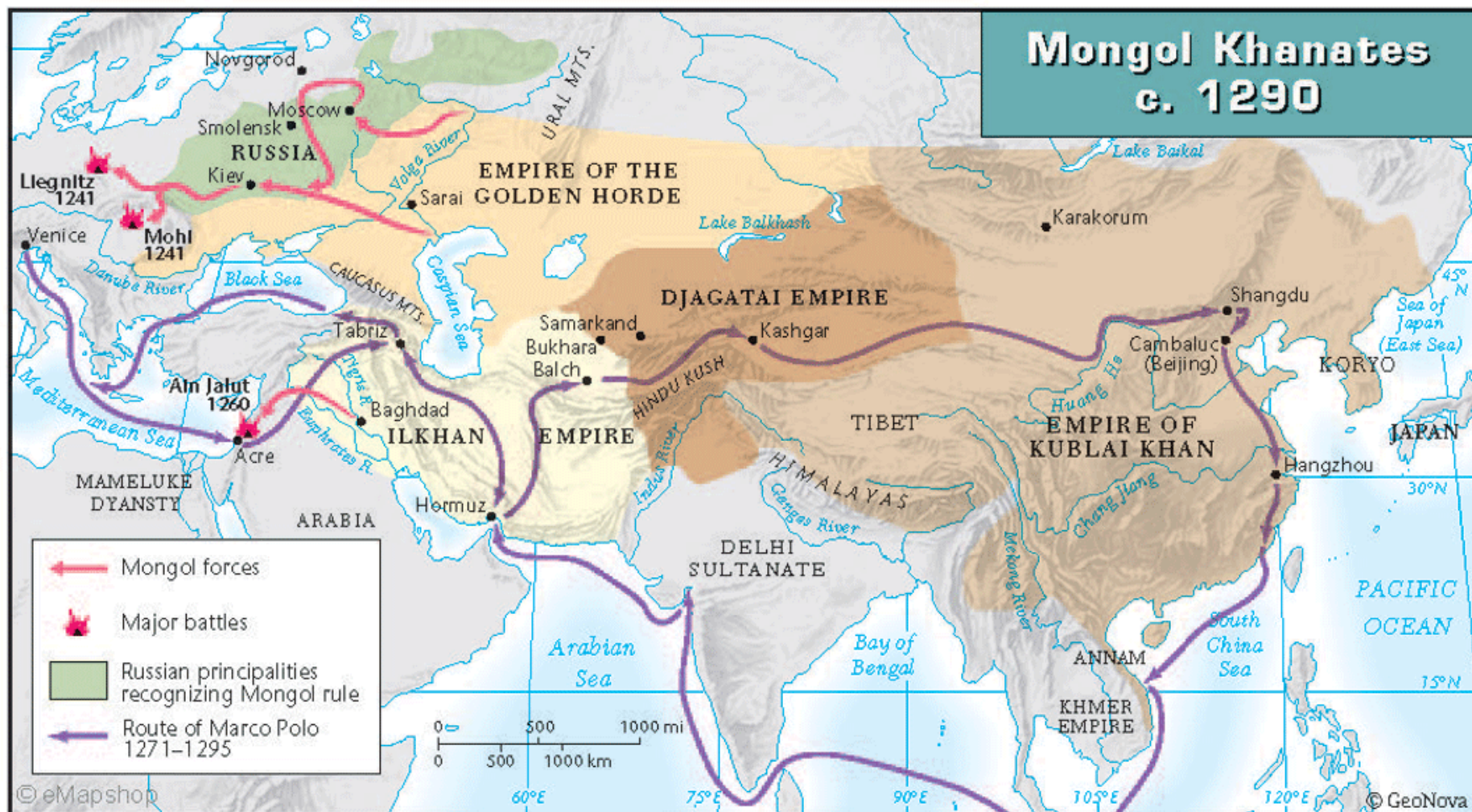
# The End of Expansion and the Division of The Mongol Empire

- Kublai Khan (1260-1294) emerged as the dominant contender to the throne
- Division of the Empire in four Khanates





# The Four Khanates





# Pax Mongolica (“Mongol Peace”)

- Peace and Progress
  - Religious Freedom
  - Artistic Golden Age
- Contacts Between East and West
  - Only one passport needed to go throughout empire
    - Ibn Battuta
- Trade between Africa, Asia and Europe was facilitated
  - So Mongols could tax it



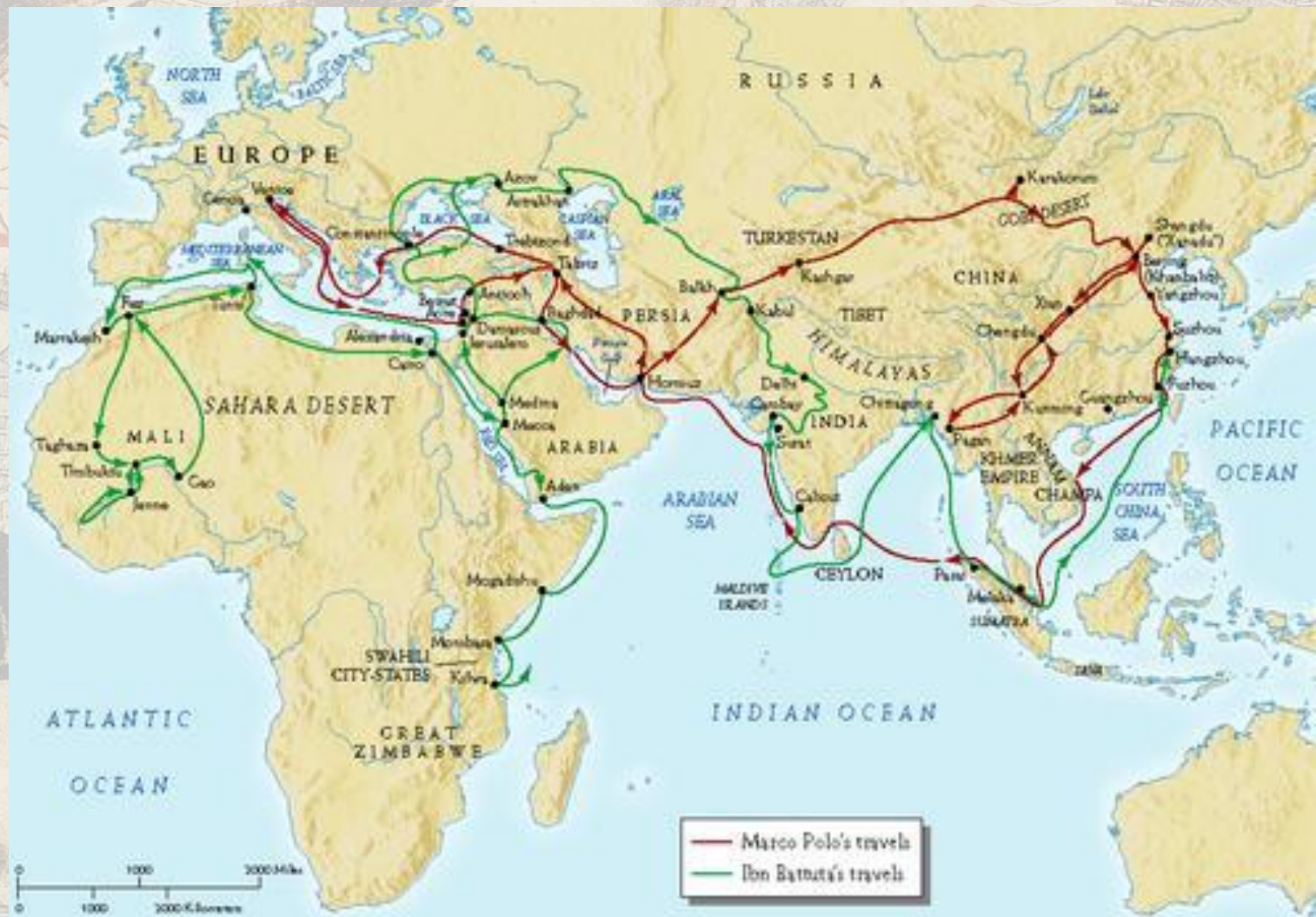
The background of the slide is a traditional Chinese-style illustration depicting a battle scene. It shows several Mongol warriors on horseback, wearing armor and carrying weapons like bows and arrows. The scene is set in a desert-like environment with some distant structures. The illustration is rendered in a faded, artistic style that serves as a backdrop for the text.

# Trade

- To encourage trade in their empire, Mongols implemented two main policies
  - They lowered tolls in the commercial cities
  - Provided special protection for merchants' goods
- Encouraged foreign traders to visit
  - Marco Polo



# Ibn Battuta and Marco Polo's Travels





# John of Plano Carpini kneeling before Mongol rulers in China (circa 1246)





# The Mongol Legacy

- However, Mongol rule promoted commercial contacts between the West and the East
- It brought to Europeans the knowledge of explosives, printing, medicine, shipbuilding, and navigation
- In the Middle East, they furthered art, architecture, and historical writing
- To China, they brought Persian astronomy, ceramics, and Sorghum (a new crop from India)