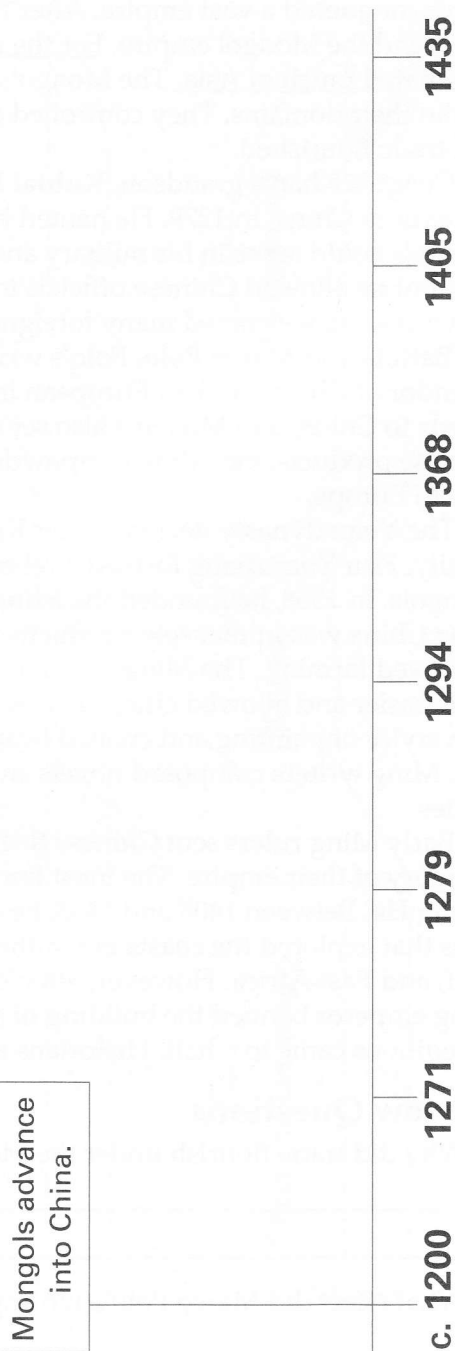


CHAPTER
12
SECTION 2

Note Taking Study Guide
THE MONGOL AND MING EMPIRES

Focus Question: What were the effects on China of the Mongol invasion and the rise of the Ming dynasty?

As you read this section, complete the timeline below to record important events during the Mongol and Ming empires.



CHAPTER

12

SECTION 2

Section Summary

THE MONGOL AND MING EMPIRES

READING CHECK

What are steppes?

VOCABULARY STRATEGY

What does the word *dominated* mean in the underlined sentence? *Dominate* comes from the Latin word *dominus*, which means "master." Use this word-origins clue to help you understand the meaning of the word *dominated*.

READING SKILL

Recognize Sequence List in correct chronological order the three Chinese dynasties mentioned in the Summary.

The Mongols were nomads who grazed their animals on the **steppes**, or treeless plains, of Central Asia. Mongol clans spent much of their time warring with one another. In the early 1200s, however, a Mongol chieftain united these clans. He took the name **Genghis Khan**, meaning "Universal Ruler." Under his leadership, Mongol forces conquered a vast empire. After his death, his heirs continued to expand the Mongol empire. For the next 150 years, they dominated much of Asia. The Mongols established peace and order within their domains. They controlled and protected the Silk Road, and trade flourished.

Genghis Khan's grandson, **Kublai Khan**, toppled the last Song emperor in China, in 1279. He named his dynasty the **Yuan**. Only Mongols could serve in his military and in the highest government jobs, but he allowed Chinese officials to continue to rule in the provinces. He welcomed many foreigners to his court, including Ibn Battuta and **Marco Polo**. Polo's writings about the wealth and splendor of China sparked European interest in Asia. The pope sent priests to China, and Muslims also set up communities there. Chinese products, including gunpowder and porcelain, made their way to Europe.

The Yuan dynasty declined after Kublai Khan's death in 1294. Finally, Zhu Yuanzhang formed a rebel army that toppled the Mongols. In 1368, he founded the **Ming**, or "brilliant," dynasty. Ming China was immensely productive. Better methods of fertilizing improved farming. The Ming repaired the canal system, which made trade easier and allowed cities to grow. Ming artists developed their own styles of painting and created beautiful blue-and-white porcelain. Ming writers composed novels and the world's first detective stories.

Early Ming rulers sent Chinese fleets into distant waters to show the glory of their empire. The most famous voyages were those of **Zheng He**. Between 1405 and 1433, he commanded seven expeditions that explored the coasts of Southeast Asia, India, the Persian Gulf, and East Africa. However, after Zheng He died in 1435, the Ming emperor banned the building of seagoing ships, and overseas expeditions came to a halt. Historians are not sure why.

Review Questions

1. Why did trade flourish under the Mongols?

2. What effect did Marco Polo's writings have in Europe?
