

GENGHIS KHAN

and the

MAKING of the MODERN WORLD

1. Does a great man make history or does history make a great man?

To answer this question, consider the manner in which Genghis Khan is presented in the beginning of the book.

(Cite evidence from the book when answering these questions)

- Is he a history maker or the right person in the right era?
- What personal qualities give him his extraordinary ability?
- Weatherford suggests that the real Genghis Khan is someone quite different from the man traditionally described in history. What evidence does he put forth to support this assertion?

2. Does having a technological advantage always mean you will win?

To answer this question, consider the technologies used by and used against Genghis Khan during his campaigns.

(Cite evidence from the book when answering these questions)

- What aids Genghis Khan in his conquest and consolidation of territory?
 - What technologies does he use?
- Given the Song dynasty's technological advantages, one would assume that they would have won. Why did they lose?
- Why did the Islamic Empires and the Europeans lose to the Mongols?

3. What are the keys to keeping an empire healthy?

To answer this question, consider the policies and practices of Ogodei and Khubilai Khan.

(Cite evidence from the book when answering these questions)

- How did they administer and expand their empires?
 - Why were they successful?
- What were their failures?
- Did they live up to Genghis' standards or were they doomed to fail?

4. What can we learn about gender roles from Mongol history? In what ways to the gender relationships of the Mongols seem different from those of the sedentary societies around them?

5. What can we learn from Genghis Khan that in a modern world we might wish to emulate?

- What can we learn from him that we might wish to avoid?

6. What was the Mongol practice of appointing successors?

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