

Dynasties of China

Timeline Cards



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Subject Matter Expert

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Chapter 3, Card 1 China: Emperor Taizong (Tang Lishimin), 2nd ruler of the Tang Dynasty (r. 626–649). / Pictures from History / Bridgeman Images

Chapter 3, Card 2 China: Wu Zetian (Empress Wu), 624–705, Empress Regnant of the Zhou Dynasty (r. 690–705). / Pictures from History / Bridgeman Images

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Chapter 5 Emperor Hui Tsung (r. 1100–26) taking part in a festival in which he drinks from a cup made of precious stone, from a history of Chinese emperors (colour on silk), Chinese School, (17th century) / Bibliothèque Nationale, Paris, France / Bridgeman Images

Chapter 7 Genghis Khan in battle, preceded by Gebe, one of his generals (colour litho) / Private Collection / Bridgeman Images

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Chapter 9, Card 1 China: Emperor Hongwu, 1st ruler of the Ming Dynasty (r. 1368–1398) / Pictures from History / Bridgeman Images

Chapter 9, Card 2 China: A Ming Dynasty painting of the Forbidden City (Gugong) in Beijing, c. mid-15th century. / Pictures from History / Bridgeman Images

Chapter 10, Card 1 China: The Qianlong Emperor in Armor on Horseback, by Italian Jesuit Giuseppe Castiglione. / Pictures from History / Bridgeman Images

Chapter 10, Card 2 British ships destroying an enemy fleet in Canton, 1841. First Opium War, China, 19th century. / National Maritime Museum, London, UK / De Agostini Picture Library / Bridgeman Images

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CHAPTER 1: The First Emperor



Shihuangdi, the first emperor of the Qin dynasty (221–210 BCE), was buried with these terracotta soldiers for protection in the afterlife.

Big Question: What were some of the things the first emperor did to unite China?

CHAPTER 1: The First Emperor



Shi Huangdi wanted to build the Great Wall of China to keep out invaders.

Big Question: What were some of the things the first emperor did to unite China?

CHAPTER 2: The Han Dynasty



202 BCE: Liu Bang was the first emperor of the Han dynasty.

Big Question: Why might the Chinese have wanted to protect their silk industry?

CHAPTER 2: The Han Dynasty



Both the invention of paper and the start of the Silk Road happened during the Han dynasty (206 BCE–220 CE).

Big Question: Why might the Chinese have wanted to protect their silk industry?

CHAPTER 3: Wu Zhao

Emperor Taizong, who ruled from 626 to 649 CE, was one of the co-founders of the Tang dynasty.



Big Question: Why might it be said that Wu Zhao's rise to power was an extraordinary achievement?

CHAPTER 3: Wu Zhao



Wu Zhao, who ruled from 690 to 705 CE, became the only woman to ever rule China as an emperor, after forcing her son to resign.

Big Question: Why might it be said that Wu Zhao's rise to power was an extraordinary achievement?

CHAPTER 4: The Tang Dynasty



During the Tang dynasty (618–907 CE), gunpowder, paper money, and the first book printed with a woodblock were created.

Big Question: What great advances happened during the Tang Dynasty?

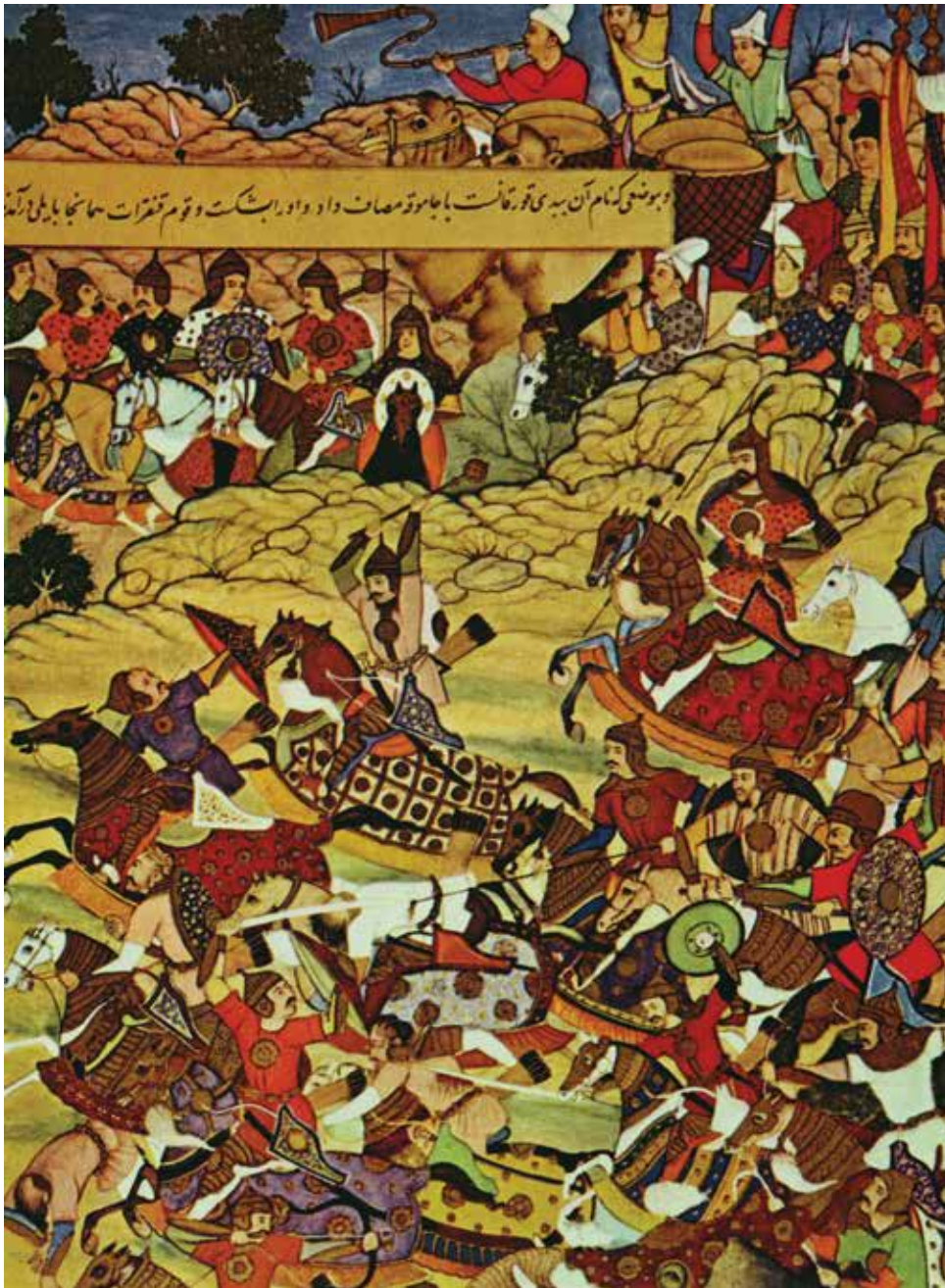
CHAPTER 5: The Peddler's Curse



Emperor Hui Zong of the Song dynasty, who ruled from 1100 to 1126 CE, was a great lover of art.

Big Question: How did Emperor Hui Zong fall from power?

CHAPTER 7: The Mongol Invasions



In 1211, Mongol leader Chinggis Khan attacked and destroyed cities in northern China.

Big Question: What made the Mongols such fearsome warriors?

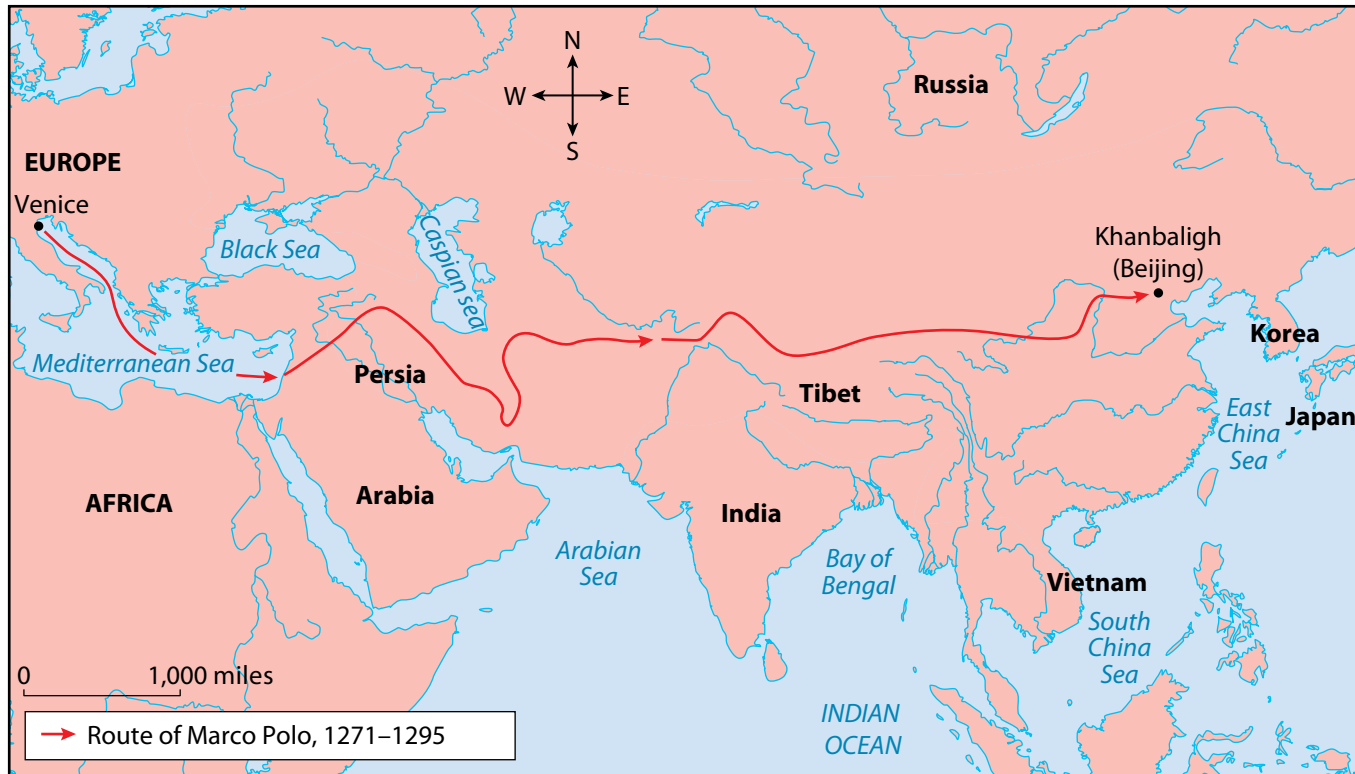
CHAPTER 8: Kublai Khan and Marco Polo

Kublai Khan, who ruled from 1260 to 1294, built a city on the site of what is now Beijing.



Big Question: Why might the development of the postal service have been considered one of Kublai Khan's greatest achievements?

CHAPTER 8: Kublai Khan and Marco Polo



From 1271–1295, Marco Polo traveled throughout Asia.

Big Question: Why might the development of the postal service have been considered one of Kublai Khan's greatest achievements?

CHAPTER 9: The Forbidden City



In 1368, Zhu Yuanzhang defeated the Mongols and began the Ming dynasty.

Big Question: How did the Manchu gain control of China?

CHAPTER 9: The Forbidden City



During his rule (1402–1424), Ming Emperor Zhu Di built the Forbidden City.

Big Question: How did the Manchu gain control of China?

CHAPTER 10: The Last Dynasty



Qianlong was the fourth emperor of the Qing dynasty, which lasted from 1644–1912.

Big Question: What brought about an end to two thousand years of rule by emperors in China?

CHAPTER 10: The Last Dynasty



1839–1842 and 1856–1860:
The British sent warships
to force the Chinese to buy
opium and other goods.

Big Question: What brought about an end to two thousand years of rule by emperors in China?