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| **How did the Mongols gain, consolidate, and maintain power?**  **Directions:** Examine the documents below, then complete the questions that follow.  **What is a Khan?**  Khan was the name given to male rulers of the Mongols, Tartars, or Turkic/Altaic peoples of Central Asia, with female rulers called khatun or khanum. Though the term seems to have originated with the Turkic peoples of the high inner steppes, it spread to  [Pakistan](https://www.thoughtco.com/pakistan-facts-and-history-195642), [India](https://www.thoughtco.com/india-facts-and-history-195497), [Afghanistan](https://www.thoughtco.com/afghanistan-facts-and-history-195107) and [Persia](https://www.thoughtco.com/persian-history-timeline-119934) through the expansion of the Mongols and other tribes.  Many of the great [Silk Road](https://www.thoughtco.com/the-silk-road-116661) [oasis](https://www.thoughtco.com/what-is-an-oasis-195360) towns were ruled by khans during their heyday, but so were great city-states of the Mongol and Turkic empires of their age, and the rise and fall of khans subsequently have greatly shaped the history of Central, Southeast and [Eastern Asia](https://www.thoughtco.com/east-asia-history-4133322) — from the brief and violent Mongol khans to the modern rulers of Turkey.  Adapted from <https://www.thoughtco.com/what-is-a-khan-195348>    **Who were the Mongols?**  The traditional homeland of the Central Asian people known as the Mongols is a vast highland region in what are now Mongolia and northern China. The Mongols share a common language and a tradition of following a nomadic way of life herding livestock. Their origin is unknown. By the 13th century a confederation of nomadic Mongol tribes had become a powerful military force. Under the leadership of Genghis Khan and his successors, they established an empire that reached from what are now China and Korea in the east to eastern Europe and the shores of the Persian Gulf in the west. At the height of their power, they overthrew the rulers of northern and southern China and reunited China under Mongol rule, as the Yuan (or Mongol) Dynasty. The Mongols were the first foreigners to rule all of China. The western part of their empire, in Russia and eastern Europe, was known as the Golden Horde. The power of the Mongol Empire declined greatly in the 14th century.  "Mongol Empire." Britannica LaunchPacks, Encyclopædia Britannica, 6 Feb. 2018. [packs.eb.com/social-studies/208784/article/275900](https://packs.eb.com/social-studies/208784/article/275900). Accessed 14 Feb. 2018.  **Document 1: The battle of Liegnitz, 1241**  **https://lh5.googleusercontent.com/Cp3hkfeimSSgGc0J0baYTJXXZMYxPg07sXUxOkGiWRxRhvZn7vipCpG8wrm1LsooJ7swpt_ECIoyddI0b9_LqYqkSxvoYbyZLmEIETiRV1fCrjbhsbuo0RMeUunjS-XytFttuSHYWhat does this image reveal about how the Mongols gain, consolidated, and/or maintained power?**  **Circle one or more:**  *This document illustrates how the Islamic Caliphates:*  **GAINED POWER**  **CONSOLIDATED POWER**  **MAINTAINED POWER** |

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| **Document 2A: Bow and Horse**  … The Mongols had developed a composite bow made out of sinew and horn and were skilled at shooting it while riding, which gave them the upper hand against ordinary foot soldiers. With a range of more than 350 yards, the bow was superior to the contemporaneous [around during the same time] English longbow, whose range was only 250 yards. A wood-and-leather saddle, which was rubbed with sheep’s fat to prevent cracking and shrinkage, allowed the horses to bear the weight of their riders for long periods and also permitted the riders to retain a firm seat. Their saddlebags contained cooking pots, dried meat, yogurt, water bottles, and other essentials for lengthy expeditions. Finally, a sturdy stirrup enabled horsemen to be steadier and thus more accurate in shooting when mounted. A Chinese chronicler recognized the horse’s value to the Mongols, observing that “by nature they [the Mongols] are good at riding and shooting. Therefore they took possession of the world through this advantage of bow and horse.”…  Adapted from the New York State Education Department. June 2013. Global History Exam. Internet. Available [here](http://www.nysedregents.org/globalhistorygeography/613/glhg62013-examw2.pdf); accessed July 12, 2017.  https://lh4.googleusercontent.com/mB-IT09G5rlWPZAkwze1BRFB-aHJSYxd7axWb_twhXRsDpz6ugX0mNsCvZJv4JFwnPk_F1-gRb_msYFGq6OK2hp9SuIZAtv5vrFHUEDMKxz6WbuTxCoWnr6MWw2zTWigtaJlrd6u  **Document 2B: Bow and Horse - Reconstruction of a Mongol warrior**  **What do these reveal about how the Mongols gain, consolidated, and/or maintained power?**  **Circle one or more:**  *This document illustrates how the Mongol Khanates*  **GAINED POWER**  **CONSOLIDATED POWER**  **MAINTAINED POWER**  [Image](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Mongol_Empire#/media/File:Genghis_Khan_The_Exhibition_(5465078899).jpg) is courtesy of Wikimedia Commons and is public domain. |
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| **Document 3:**  All Mongols were fighters, but Chinggis [Genghis] made a reorganized army the core of the society and the carrier of many of his reforms. Under him and his successors, the Mongol army had the following characteristics:   * All males 15-70 served in the army, all as cavalry. * The army’s 95 units of 10,000 soldiers were subdivided into units of 1,000, 100, and 10. * Soldiers were promoted based on merit [their ability] not based on their family’s status in society. * Members of different tribes were mixed together in units of every size to ensure loyalty to the army above loyalty to the tribe. * Allies and levies [military men] from conquered territories were also integrated into the fighting force, the latter usually being placed in the front ranks. * Absolute obedience to orders from superiors was enforced. * Officers had tight control over their troops’ actions (plunder only with permission, no one allowed to transfer out of their unit). * No one in the army was paid, though all shared to varying degrees in the booty (items that were plundered/stolen).   Adapted from “Mongol Empire Builders: Fiends from Hell or Culture Brokers? (1200-1400 CE).” (n.d.). In san Diego State University’s *World History for All.* Retrieved July 21, 2017, from [here](http://worldhistoryforusall.ss.ucla.edu/units/five/landscape/05_landscape4.pdf). |
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**What does this document reveal about how the Mongols gain, consolidated, and/or maintained power?**

**Circle one or more:**

*This document illustrates how the Mongol Khanates*

**GAINED POWER**

**CONSOLIDATED POWER**

**MAINTAINED POWER**

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| **Document 4:**  . . .Kublai Khan [ruler of the Yuan Dynasty, the Mongol run empire in China] was a vigorous and capable ruler. He carried on large warlike hunts to show that he kept Mongol tradition, but he also showed some appreciation for Chinese culture. He acted to restore some of the devastation in North China. He began a vast renovation of the Grand Canal, which was so important to the wealth and unity of the country. He directed the building of water-control projects, such as dams and dikes, along the Yellow River. . . .  Adapted from the New York State Education Department. June 2013. Global History Exam. Internet. Available [here](http://www.nysedregents.org/globalhistorygeography/Archive/20050127exam.pdf); accessed July 12, 2017.  **Circle one or more:**  *This document illustrates how Mongol Khanates*  **GAINED POWER**  **CONSOLIDATED POWER**  **MAINTAINED POWER**  **What does this text reveal about how the Mongols gain, consolidated, and/or maintained power?** |
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| **Document 5: An Excerpt from *The Travels of Marco Polo***  Now  you  must  know  that  from  this  city  of  Cambaluc [Mongol capital in China, now Beijing]  proceed  many  roads  and  highways  leading  to  a variety  of  provinces...the  messengers  of  the  Emperor  in  travelling  from  Cambaluc...will,  find  at  every  twenty‑five  miles  of  the  journey  a  station  which  they  call  Yamb,  or,  as  we  should  say,  the  “Horse‑Post‑House.”  ….You  must  know  that  by  the  Great  Kaan’s  orders  there  has  been  established  between  those  post  houses,  at  every  interval  of  three  miles,  a  little  fort  with  some  forty  houses  round  about  it,  in  which  dwell  the  people  who  act  as  the  Emperor’s  foot‑runners.  Everyone  of  those  runners  wears  a  great  wide  belt,  set  all  over  with  bells,  so  that  as  they  run  the  three  miles  from  post  to  post  their  bells  are  heard  jingling  a long  way  off.  And  thus  on  reaching  the  post  the  runner  finds  another  man  similarly  equipt,  and  all  ready  to  take  his  place,  who  instantly  takes  over  whatsoever  he  has  in  charge...so  the  new  man  sets  off  and  runs  his  three  miles.  At  the  next  station  he  finds  his  relief  ready  in  like  manner;  and  so  the  post  proceeds,  with  a  change  at  every  three  miles.  And  in  this  way  the  Emperor...receives  despatches  with  news  from  places  ten  days’ journey  off  in  one  day  and  night;  or,  if  need  be,  news  from  a  hundred  days  off  in  ten  days  and  nights;  and  that  is  no  small  matter!  Moreover,  there  are  also  at  those  stations  other  men...who  are  employed  for  expresses  when  there  is  a  call  for  great  haste  in  sending  despatches  to  any  governor  of  a  province...and  these  men  travel  a  good  two  hundred  or  two  hundred  and  fifty  miles  in  the  day,  and  as  much  in  the  night..... They  take  a  horse  from  those  at  the  station  which  are  standing  ready  saddled,  all  fresh  and  in  wind,  and  mount  and  go  at  full speed,  as  hard  as  they  can  ride  in  fact.  And  when  those  at  the  next  post  hear  the  bells  they  get  ready  another  horse  and  a  man  equipt  in  the  same  way,  and  he  takes  over  the  letter  or  whatever  it  be,  and  is  off  full‑speed  to  the  third  station,  where  again  a  fresh  horse  is  found  all  ready, and  so  the  despatch  speeds  along  from  post  to  post,  always  at  full  gallop,  with  regular  change  of  horses.  And  the  speed  at  which  they  go  is  marvellous.  Yule, Henry. Excerpt from *The Book of Ser Marco Polo: The Venetian Concerning Kingdoms and MArvels of the East*. (n.d.). In Columbia University’s *Asian Topics in World History.* Retrieved  20:26., July 12, 2017, from [here](http://afe.easia.columbia.edu/mongols/figures/ser_xxvi.pdf).  **Circle one or more:**  *This document illustrates how the Mongol Khanates*  **GAINED POWER**  **CONSOLIDATED POWER**  **MAINTAINED POWER**  **What does this text reveal about how the Mongols gain, consolidated, and/or maintained power?** |
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