QUESTIONS FOR CHAPTER THIRTEEN

1. Describe some of the main features of nomad life. Why was the breeding of horses so important to this way of life? What were some of the beneficial and harmful contributions of Central Asian nomads to Eurasian civilization?

2. What accounts for the successful rise of the Mongols to power? What part did Genghis Khan played in this success? What problems arose after his death?

3. What were some of the results of their “unification” of Eurasia?
4. Why did the author mean by the “fall and rise” of Islam? What threat did Islam pose to “the Mongol mission in the Middle East?” In what ways did the conversion of the Il Khan change the relationship between church and state in the Middle East?

5. Why did the power of the Il-khans decline during the fourteenth century? What were some of the cultural achievements under the Il-khans and the Timurids?

6. How did Russia respond to the domination of the Golden Horde? What role did Alexander Nevskii play in this response? To what extent did the “Mongol yoke” affect Russian development? Why do historians argue over the effect of Mongol domination on Russia?
9. Describe some of the main features of the Yuan Empire under Khubilai Khan. How did the Chinese people respond to these changes? Why? What caused the fall of the Yuan Dynasty? Why did the Mongols remain a “continuing threat?”

10. Why does the author describe Ming dynasty as being “...on a Mongol foundation?” Why were historians so intrigued by Zhang He’s ocean expeditions during the reign of the Yongle Emperor? How did these expeditions differ from those carried out by the European powers during the next century (see chapter 16)?

TERMS TO KNOW

- Temujin
- Genghis Khan
- Nomadism
- Marco Polo
- Yurts
- Il-khan
- Tax farming
- Golden Horde
- Kiev
- Alexander Nevskii
- “the Mongol yoke
- Moscovy
- Yuan Empire
- Prince of Moscow
- Khubilai Khan
- Beijing
- Ming Empire
- Yongle Emperor
- “Forbidden City”
- Zheng He
- “The great expeditions”