**Chapter 17: Nomadic Empires and Eurasian Integration**

**Chapter Outline**

1. **Turkish migrations and imperial expansion**
   1. Nomadic economy and society
      1. Turkish peoples were nomadic herders; organized into clans with related languages
      2. Central Asia's steppes: good for grazing, little rain, few rivers
      3. Nomads and their animals; few settlements
         1. Nomads drove their herds in migratory cycles
         2. Lived mostly on animal products
         3. Also produced limited amounts of millet, pottery, leather goods, iron
      4. Nomads and settled peoples sought trade, were prominent on caravan routes
      5. Fluidity of classes in nomadic society
         1. Two social classes: nobles and commoners
         2. Autonomous clans and tribes
      6. Religions: shamans, Buddhism, Nestorian Christianity; by tenth century, Islam
      7. Military organization
         1. Khan ("ruler") organized vast confederation of individual tribes for expansion
         2. Outstanding cavalry forces, formidable military power
   2. Turkish empires in Persia, Anatolia, and India
      1. Saljuq Turks and the Abbasid empire
         1. Lived on borders of the Abbasid realm, mid-eighth to mid-tenth centuries
         2. Moved further in and served in Abbasid armies thereafter
         3. Overshadowed the Abbasid caliphs by the mid-eleventh century
         4. Extended Turkish rule to Syria, Palestine, and other parts of the realm
      2. Saljuq Turks and the Byzantine empire
         1. Migrated in large numbers to Anatolia, early eleventh century
         2. Defeated Byzantine army at Manzikert in 1071
         3. Transformed Anatolia into an Islamic society
      3. Ghaznavid Turks dominated northern India through sultanate of Delhi
2. **The Mongol empires**
   1. Chinggis Khan and the making of the Mongol empire
      1. Chinggis Khan ("universal ruler") unified Mongol tribes through alliance and conquests
      2. Mongol political organization
         1. Organized new military units and broke up tribal affiliations
         2. Chose high officials based on talent and loyalty
         3. Established capital at Karakorum
      3. Mongol strategy: horsemanship, archers, mobility, psychological warfare
      4. Mongol conquest of northern China
         1. Chinggis Khan, Mongols raided the Jurchen in north China beginning in 1211
         2. Controlled north China by 1220
         3. South China was still ruled by the Song dynasty
      5. Mongol conquest of Persia
         1. Chinggis Khan tried to open trade anddiplomatic relations with Saljuq leader Khwarazm shah, the ruler of Persia, 1218
         2. Upon being rejected, Chinggis Khan led force to pursue the Khwarazm
         3. Mongol forces destroyed Persian cities and *qanat*
         4. Chinggis died in 1227, laid foundation for a mighty empire
   2. The Mongol empires after Chinggis Khan
      1. Division of the Mongol empires: heirs divide into four regional empires
      2. Khubilai Khan
         1. Chinggis Khan's grandson, consolidated Mongol rule in China
         2. Promoted Buddhism, supported Daoists, Muslims, and Christians
      3. Conquest of southern China
         1. Khubilai extended Mongol rule to all of China
         2. Song capital at Hangzhou fell in 1276,Yuan Dynasty founded in 1279
         3. Unsuccessful conquests of Vietnam, Burma, Java, and Japan
      4. The Golden Horde
         1. Group of Mongols overran Russia between 1237 and 1241
         2. Further overran Poland, Hungary, and eastern Germany, 1241-1242
         3. Maintained hegemony in Russia until the mid-fifteenth century
      5. The ilkhanate of Persia: Khubilai's brother, Hülegü, captured Baghdad in 1258
      6. Mongol rule in Persia
         1. Persians served as ministers, governors, and local officials
         2. Mongols only cared about taxes and order
         3. Ilkhan Ghazan converted to Islam, 1295; massacres of Christians and Jewsfollowed
      7. Mongol rule in China
         1. Outlawed intermarriage between Mongols and Chinese
         2. Forbade Chinese from learning the Mongol language
         3. Brought foreign administrators into China and put them in charge
         4. Dismissed Confucian scholars; dismantled civil service examination
         5. Tolerated all cultural and religious traditions in China
      8. Mongol ruling elite became enchanted with the Lamaist Buddhism of Tibet
   3. The Mongols and Eurasian integration
      1. The Mongols and trade
         1. Mongols worked to secure trade routes and ensure safety of merchants
         2. Elaborate courier network with relay stations
         3. Maintained good order for traveling merchants, ambassadors, and missionaries
      2. Diplomatic missions
         1. The four Mongol empires maintained close diplomatic communications
         2. Established diplomatic relations with Korea, Vietnam, India, Europe
      3. Resettlement
         1. Mongols needed skilled artisans and educated individuals from other places
         2. Often resettled them in different locations to provide services
         3. Uighur Turks served as clerks, secretaries, and administrators
         4. Arab and Persian Muslims also served Mongols far from their homelands
         5. Skilled artisans were often sent to Karakorum; became permanent residents
   4. Decline of the Mongols in Persia and China
      1. Collapse of the ilkhanate
         1. In Persia, excessive spending and overexploitation led to reduced revenues
         2. Failure of the ilkhan's paper money
         3. Factional struggle plagued the Mongol leadership
         4. The last ruler died without an heir; the ilkhanate collapsed
      2. Decline of the Yuan dynasty
         1. Paper money issued by the Mongol rulers lost value
         2. Power struggles, assassinations, and civil war weakened Mongols after 1320s
      3. Bubonic plague in southwest China in 1330s, spread through Asia and Europe
         1. Depopulation and labor shortage undermined the Mongol regime
         2. By 1368, the Chinese drove the Mongols back to the steppes
      4. Surviving Mongol khanates
         1. The khanate of Chaghatai continued in central Asia
         2. The Golden Horde survived until the mid-sixteenth century
3. **After the Mongols**
   1. Tamerlane the Whirlwind (1336-1404) built central Asian empire
      1. The lame conqueror, Timur was self-made; rose to power in 1360s; established capital in Samarkand
      2. Tamerlane's conquests
         1. First conquered Persia and Afghanistan
         2. Next attacked the Golden Horde
         3. At the end of the fourteenth century, invaded northern India
         4. Ruled the empire through tribal leaders who relied on existing bureaucrats to collect taxes
      3. Tamerlane's heirs struggled and divided empire into four regions
   2. The foundation of the Ottoman empire
      1. Osman
         1. Large numbers of nomadic Turks migrated to Persia and Anatolia
         2. Osman, a charismatic leader, carved out a small state in northwest Anatolia
         3. Claimed independence from the Saljuq sultan in 1299
      2. Ottoman conquests in the Balkans in 1350s
         1. Sultan Mehmed II sacked Constantinople in 1453, renamed it Istanbul
         2. Absorbed the remainder of the Byzantine empire
         3. During the sixteenth century, extended to southwest Asia, southeast Europe, and north Africa