CONTRIBUTIONS OF TURCO-MONGOLS TO WORLD HISTORY

1. Genghis Khan’s leadership uniting tribes of Mongolia

2. Conquered most of Eurasia, a feat that had never before been attempted and have never since been repeated – if you see conquering as an accomplishment

3. Brought East and West together. Persians came to Mongolia and China. Mongols came to Russia and there were all sorts of exchanges. They facilitated cultural and technological diffusion throughout Eurasia

4. Maintained safety and order of silk road and other Eurasian trade routes not just a means of transporting goods, but a social system of interaction and exchange. Markets expanded and demand for new products grew

5. Goods brought to China from India were tea, horses, cotton musical instruments, gold and silver jewelry, glassware camels. Goods brought from China were porcelain, paper, ink, silk, fruits, peaches, apricots. Made merchants into a respected class. Medical and herbal knowledge spread

6. Transmissions of art – Stone bas-reliefs and full-figured statuary of Indian Buddhist art, Hellenic in inspiration from days of Alexander the Great, transmitted to China. Chinese art transmitted to India and Persia.

7. Transmissions of religious beliefs – Turks and Mongols alike both transmitted religious beliefs of Buddhism, Islam, and Christianity. They themselves combined these beliefs in an eclectic way fusing beliefs in Buddhist goddesses with shamanism (special individuals can get in touch with the spirit world) with worship of the heavenly sky. Mongols respected Tibetans belief in a universal Buddhist ruler bringing the world under Buddha’s control because it coincided with Mongols’ ideas on this.
8. Dominated and excluded political elites in the civilizations conquered by the Mongols went into the arts. Devoting their time to literature, poetry, drama, painting and sculpture, these elites created for example theater in China with music, dance, mime, fabulous costumes, bawdy humor and intense action. Popular novels told tales of heroes and Ming novels were more refined and developed. These elites became more nationalistic and outlines of Iran, Russia and China emerged as modern nations appeared in the aftermath of Mongol rule. In Iran the Safavid Dynasty (run by Turks) used nationalistic sentiment to unite the people and the Iranian language and religion of Sufism and Shia arose.

9. Europeans learned more about Eurasia, geography, movable type and printing, high-temperature metallurgy, Arabic numerals, math, gunpowder, cannons and compass