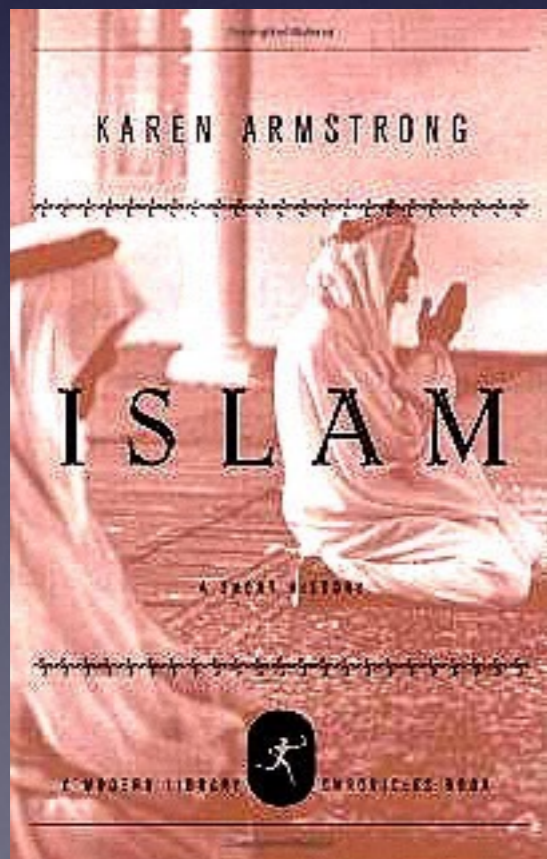


Israel - Palestine 2 studies



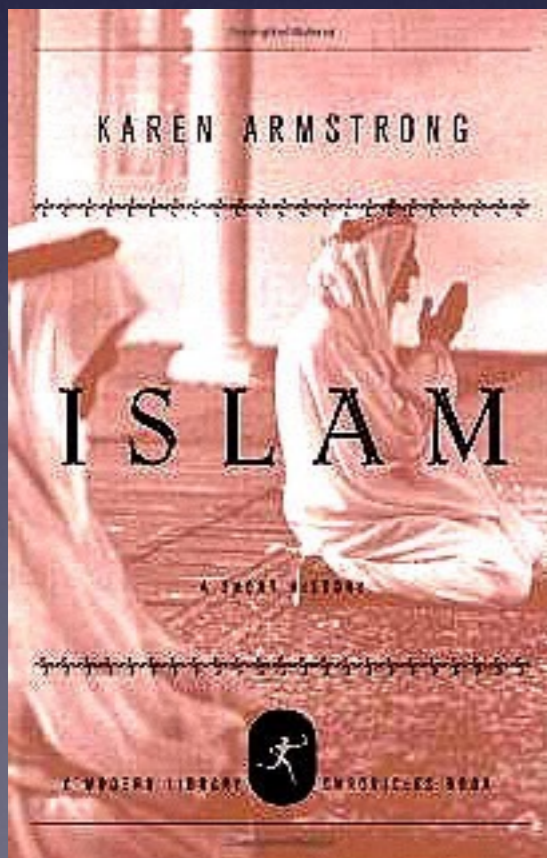
ACTS
Winter 2016

St David's United Church
Calgary

Islam: A Short History

Session # 8

- Opening
- Introductions
- Chapter Summaries
- Media
- Discussions
- Closing



Opening

Konya - Rumi



Black Sea

Istanbul

TURKEY

Ankara

Nevsehir

Kayseri

Antalya

Konya

Mediterranean
Sea

SYRIA

IRAQ



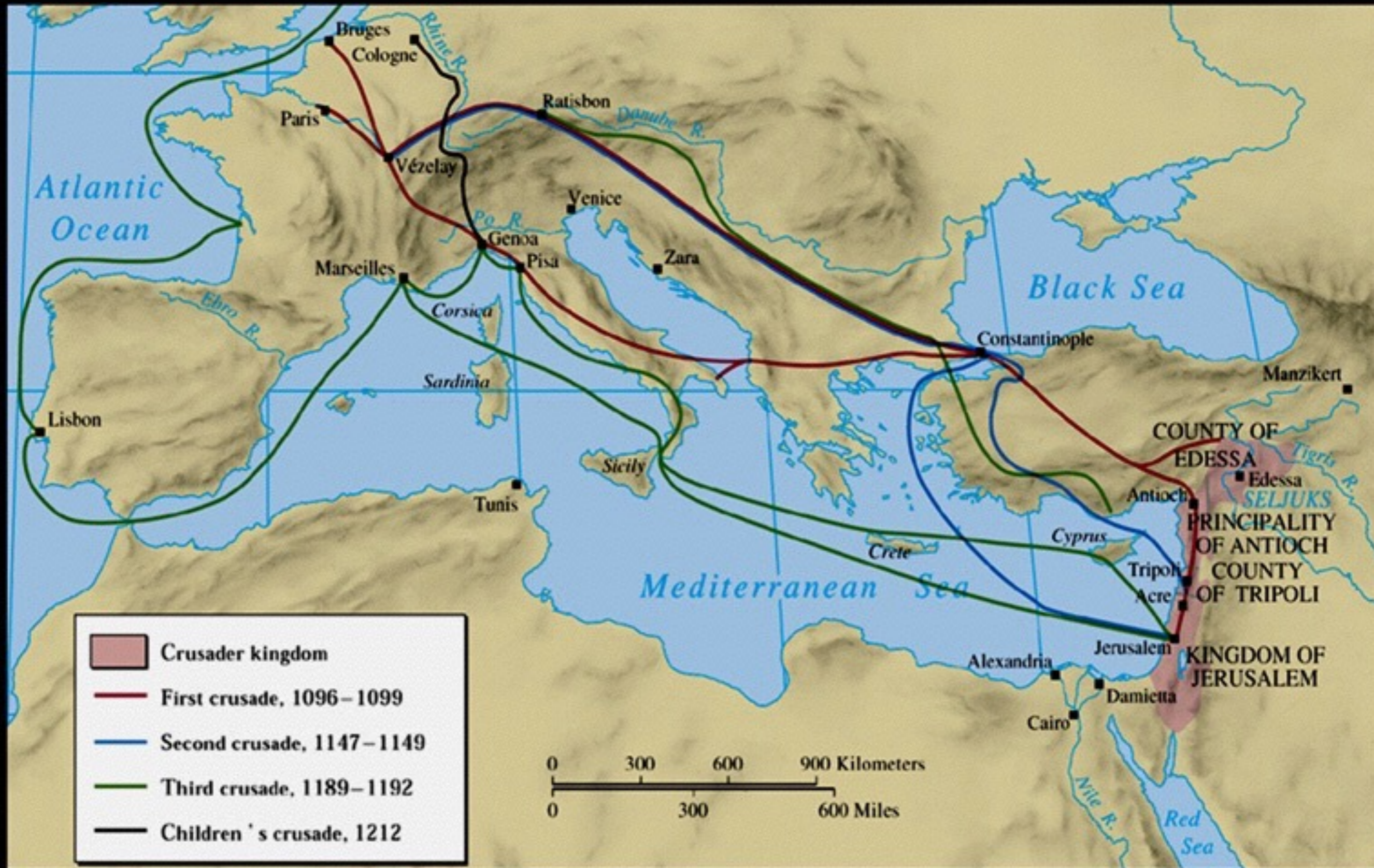




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Jaffa
Caesarea
Acra



Caesarea



Lebanon
Kiryat Shmona

Acre
Haifa

Tiberias

Netanya

Tel Aviv-Yafo

Ashdod

Ashkelon

Gaza

Jerusalem

Hebron

Be'er Sheva

Mitspe Ramon

Jordan

Egypt











Constantinople
(Istanbul)
The Ottoman Empire

The Ottoman Empire at Its Greatest Extent





Black Sea

Istanbul

TURKEY

Ankara

Nevsehir

Kayseri

Antalya

Konya

Mediterranean Sea

SYRIA

IRAQ







APR/












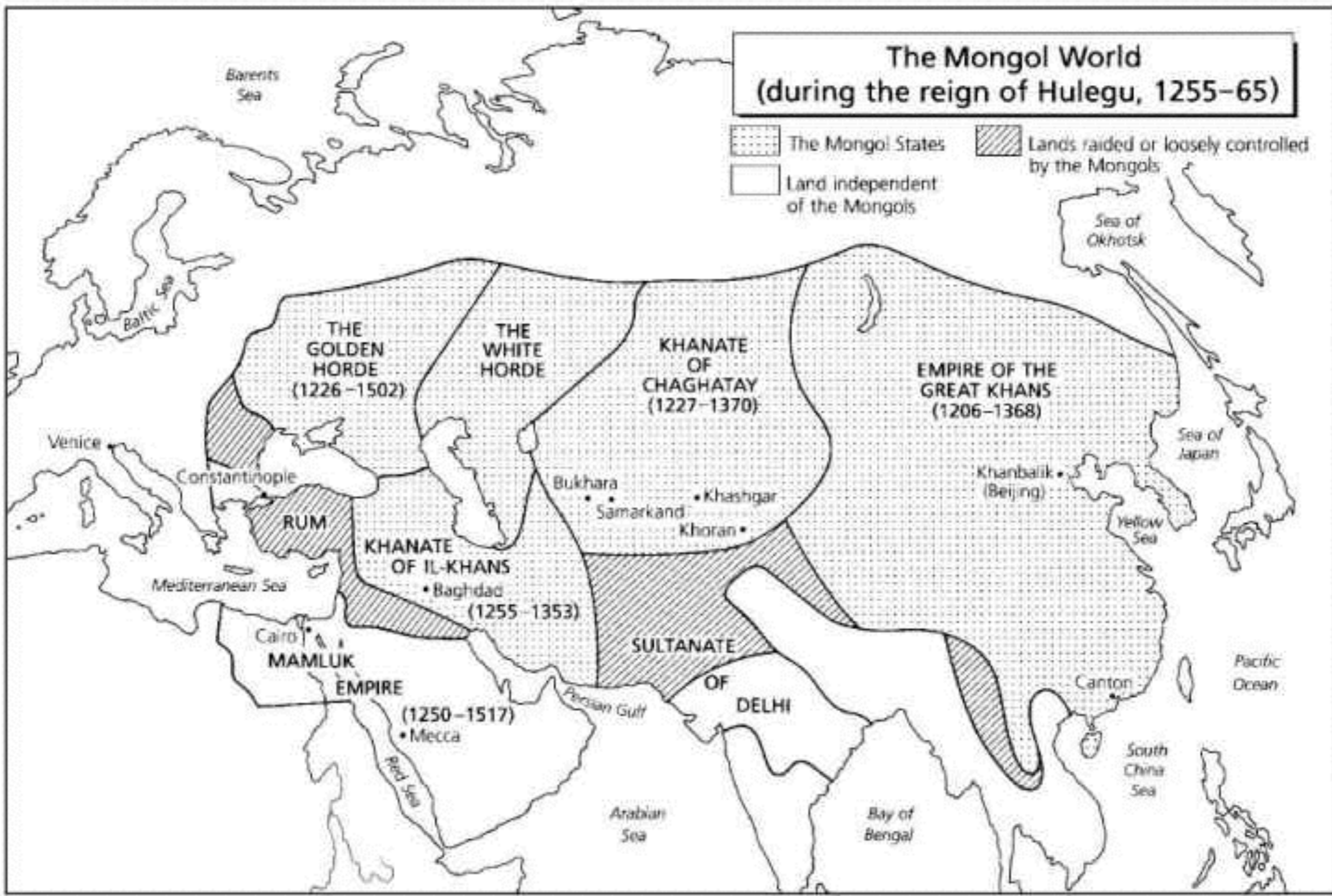
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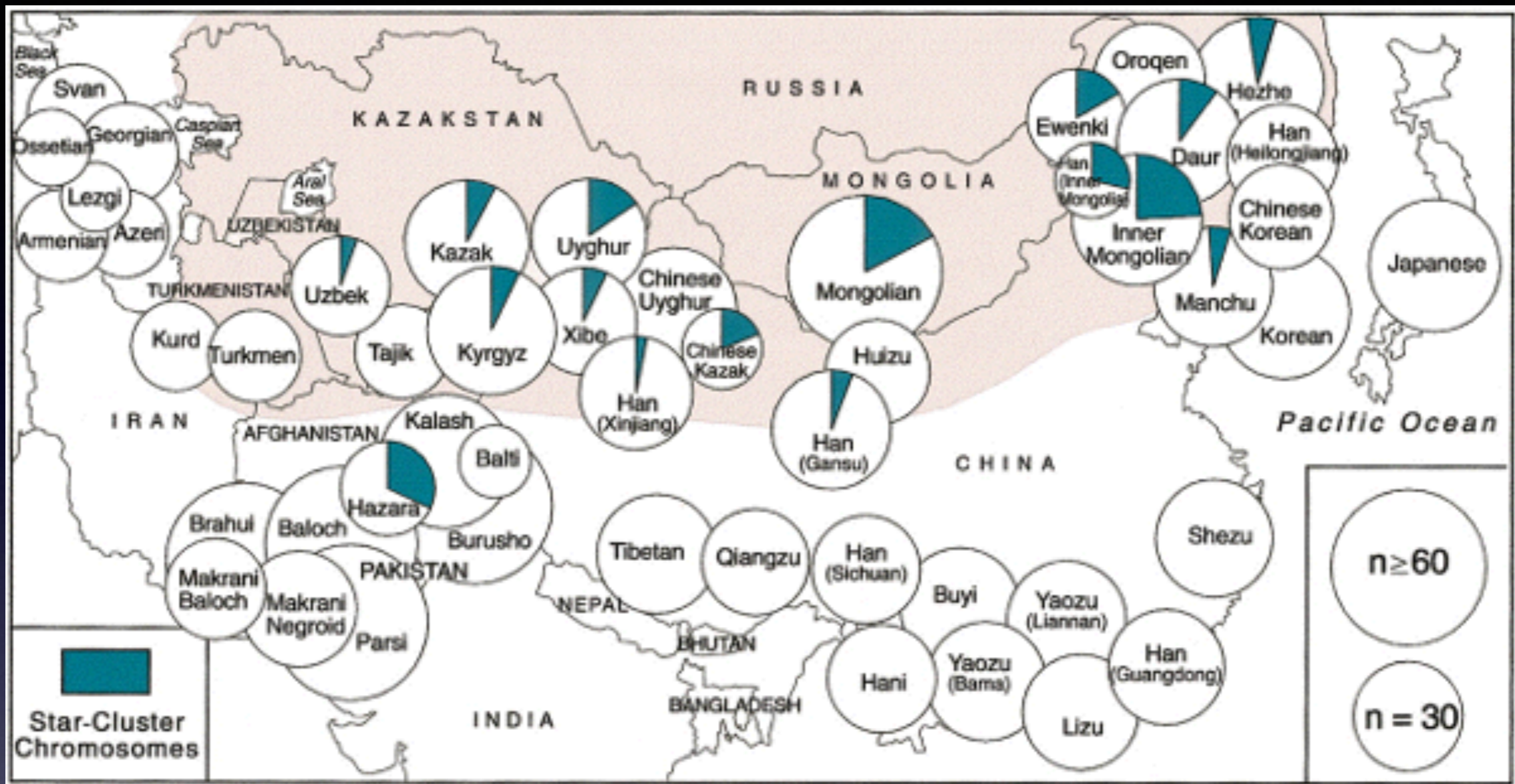


Mongols

The Mongol World (during the reign of Hulegu, 1255-65)

-  The Mongol States
-  Lands raided or loosely controlled by the Mongols
-  Land independent of the Mongols





The haplotype we're focusing on clearly tracks the boundaries of the Mongol Empire as it was at the death of Genghis Khan.

Introduction to Chapter Notes

Illustrated with Tour Pictures.

1. Konya. Sufis. Rumi.
2. Jaffa/Caesarea/Acra.
3. Constantinople (Istanbul). The Ottoman Empire.
4. The Mongols. Maps - Empire and DNA.

The Caliphate Declines - Islamic Pluralism Develops

As the classic model for organizing Islamic community (ummah/caliphate) grows increasingly outmoded new forms of Islam emerge.

Diverse regional strengths surfaced in various parts of the developing Islamic worlds.

Europe/North Africa/mid-East/far-East

Education and universities flourished in various centres like Cairo/Damascus/Bagdad.

Various schools of philosophy/theosophy developed.

Noted teachers:

Avicenna - Sufi spirituality/theology/experientialist

Averroes - Greek philosophy/rationalist

Both men were well known in 'stagnating' European centres at the time. They helped preserve 'wider world' and Greek thinking during the Dark Ages of Europe

In the Muslim world, religious philosophers helped to hold societies together as political power waned.

Ghazzali of Bagdad was transformed from a political to a spiritual leader after a nervous breakdown.

He helped to develop Sufi spirituality as a positive alternative to the warring religious traditions of -

Shiite/Sunni/and Ismaili Muslims

An emerging blended "theosophy"

A balance of Sharia (behaviour)
with Sufi (inner life)

- to form the "total" Muslim human.

Note parallels in Christian tradition

Example - "pietism" follows "rationalism" in Post-Reformation Europe

Thus, there had been a religious revolution after the demise of the caliphate.

It affected the humble artisan as well as the sophisticated intellectual.

Muslims responded to what might have been a political disaster with a vast spiritual renewal.

The Crusades




A dark era in the history of Christianity and a time of religious violence still not forgotten by many modern Muslims

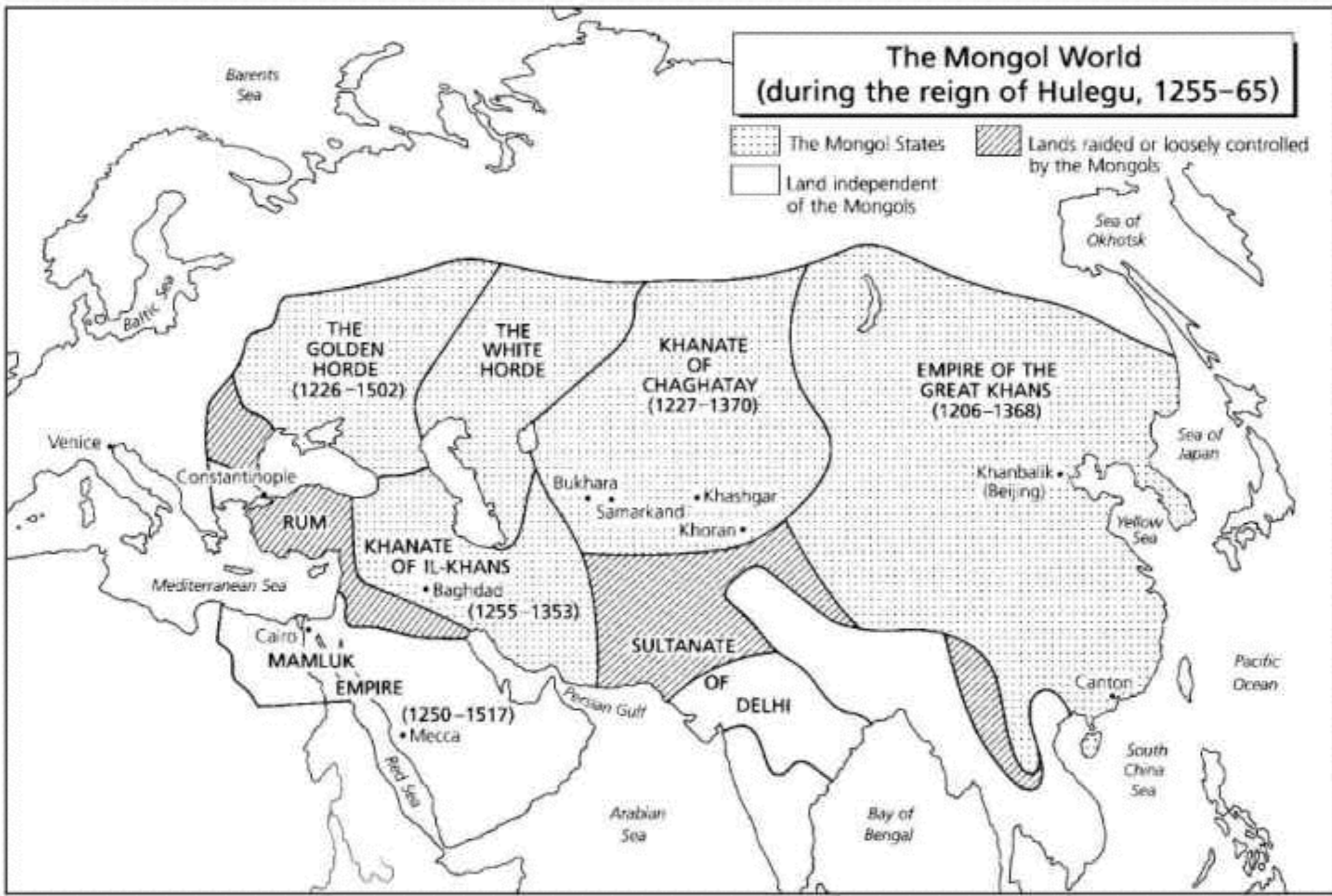
The Crusades were disgraceful but they were also formative events in Western history.

Note: parallels to the modern crusades of Western political and economic domination

Mongols

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The resilience of Islam

The world they had known was coming to an end
but an entirely new global order was possible.

Konya - Rumi

Konya -spiritual centre and capital of the sultanate of Rum (Rome) in Central Turkey.

Rumi taught about "spiritual homelessness". We must divest ourselves of egoism and selfishness to find God in all that remains. We must learn to live "beyond ourselves" to find the unlimited potential of human life.

Why do you think Rumi is popular with many beyond Islam in our own time?

Rumi also founded the Whirling Dervishes. Theirs is a stately, spinning dance, which induces a trance state of transcendence.

Here is a short video on Konya, Rumi and the Whirling Dervish Dance.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=I26QqEtcW-o>
2m40s



Planet
DOC

Planet
DOC

Islamic reformation - can follow two directions requiring personal and communal change:

1. return to the basics, the original truth
2. anticipate the great future in store for us.

Both forces were at work in this era of change following the devastating Mongrel invasions.

Still, because of these invasions from the East
new Islamic empires would take root in India,
Azerbaijan and Anatolia

Emergence of the Ottomans

Old Islamic empires were in disarray.

The Ottomans brought order, and a revived economy that ultimately lasted for half a millennium and into the pre-modern era.

Muslim traders were expanding into East Africa, Arabia, India and South-east Asia.

As with western colonialism, trade preceded empire.

The stage was being set for a global rise of eastern and western powers competing with each other as they entered into early modern times.

Discussion Questions

1. Why has Islam proven to be so resilient over time?
2. What parallels to Sufi mysticism do you see in other faiths? Suggest some mystical interfaith parallels to help all humans today.
3. Reflect on the parallels between the Mongol invasion of Islamic states and the Barbarian invasions of Rome and other Christian states.

Break

Closing

Islam

Next Readings

Ch 4. Islam Triumphant

Study Website

<http://chosen.stdavidscalgary.net>

