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Most Remarkable Conquest in All History.

THE WONDERFUL STORY OF THE MONGOLIAN EMPIRE.

Most people know that the Chinese empire was at one time ruled by a different race—the Mongols—but it is not until you read the story of the Mongol Empire under the great Genghis Khan that you realize the magnitude of the conquest. He was born in the year 1162, and at one time was fighting in Hungary, which they occupied. This is the story of the fascinating conquests told in Part 15 of the History. The career of conquest of Genghis Khan and his immediate successors, Mr. Wells, astounded the world, and probably astounded no one more than these Mongol Khans themselves.

What a Horde of Horsemen did.

The Mongols were, in the twelfth century, a tribe subject to those Kin who had conquered North-east China. They were a horde of nomadic horsemen living in tents, and subsisting mainly upon mare's milk products and meat. Their occupations were pasturing and hunting, varied by war. They drifted northward as the snows melted for summer pasture, and southward to winter pasture, after the custom of the steppes. Their military education began with a successful insurrection against the Kin. The empire of Kin had the resources of half China behind it, and in the struggle the Mongols learnt very much of the military science of the Chinese. By the end of the twelfth century they were already a fighting tribe of exceptional quality. Mr. Wells goes on to describe how the Mongols, under Genghis Khan, swept over the Pamirs in 1218, probably

equipped with guns and gun-powder. A Great Statesman.

They swept westward to the Caspian and southward as far as Lahore. To the north of the Caspian a Mongol army encountered a Russian force from Kiev. There was a series of battles, in which the Russian armies were finally defeated, and the Grand Duke of Kiev taken prisoner. So it was the Mongols appeared on the northern shores of the Black Sea. A panic swept Constantinople, which set itself to reconstruct its fortifications. Meanwhile other armies were engaged in the conquest of the empire of the Hala in China. This was annexed, and only the southern part of the Kin empire remained unsubdued. In 1227 Genghis Khan died in the midst of a career of triumph. His empire reached already from the Pacific to the Dnieper. And it was an empire still vigorously expanding.

Like all the empires founded by nomads, it was, to be begun with, purely a military and administrative empire, a framework rather than a rule. It centred on the personality of the monarch, and its relations with the masses of the populations over which it ruled was simply one of taxation for the maintenance of the horde. But Genghis Khan had called to his aid a very able and experienced administrator of the Kin empire, who

was learned in all the traditions and science of the Chinese. This statesman, Yelü Chutsai, was able to carry on the affairs of the Mongols long after the death of Genghis Khan, and there can be little doubt that he is one of the great political heroes of history. He tempered the barbaric ferocity of his masters, and saved innumerable cities and works of art from destruction. He collected archives and inscriptions, and when he was accused of corruption, his sole wealth was found to consist of documents and a few musical instruments. To him perhaps quite as much as to Genghis is the efficiency of the Mongol military machine to be ascribed. Under Genghis, we may note further, we find the completest religious toleration established across the entire breadth of Asia.

An Amazing March.
At the death of Genghis, the capital of the new empire was still in the great barbaric town of Karakorum in Mongolia. There an assembly of Mongol leaders elected Ögödei Khan, the son of Genghis, as his successor. The war against the vestiges of the Kin empire was prosecuted until Kin was altogether subdued (1234). The Chinese empire to the south under the Sung dynasty helped the Mongols in this task, so destroying their own bulwark against the universal conquerors. The Mongol hosts then swept right across Asia to Russia (1235), an amazing march. Kiev was destroyed in 1240, and nearly all Russia became tributary to the Mongols. Poland was ravaged, and a mixed army of Poles and Germans was annihilated at the battle of Liegnitz in Lower Silesia in 1241. The Emperor Frederick II. does not seem to have made any great efforts to stay the advancing tide.

Strategy and a Spy-System.
"It is only recently," says Bury, in his notes to Gibbon's "Decline and Fall of the Roman Empire," "that European history has begun to understand that the successes of the Mongol army which overran Poland and occupied Hungary in the spring of A. D. 1241 were not due to a mere overwhelming superiority of numbers."

"It was wonderful how quickly and effectually the arrangements of the commander from the Lower Vistula to Transylvania. Such a campaign was quite beyond the power of any European army of the time, and it was beyond the vision of any European commander. There was no general in Europe, from Frederick II. downward, who was not a tyro in strategy compared to Subutai. It should also be noticed that the Mongols embarked upon the enterprise with full knowledge of the political situation of Hungary and the condition of Poland—they had taken care to inform themselves by a well-organized system of spies; on the other hand, the Hungarians and Christian powers, like child-like barbarians, knew hardly anything

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about their enemies. . . . Thereafter the Mongol story is one of division and decay.—John O'London's Weekly. All prices are marked in plain figures at Smallwood's Big Shoe Sale.—aug. 17