

# IMPORTANT QUESTIONS CLASS – 11 HISTORY

## CHAPTER- 3 NOMADIC EMPIRES

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### **Question 1.**

**What do you understand by the term yasas? Explain.**

**Answer:**

It was actually Yasas when this code of law was promulgated by Genghis Khan at the Kuriltan of 1206. Yasas means law, decree, or order in its literary meaning. The detail on the organization of the hunt, the army, and the postal system, the David Ayalon, a researcher found as ingredients of that code of Law. By the middle of the thirteenth century, the Mongols named it as Yasa in a more general sense to mean the legal code of Genghis Khan. It was a compilation of the customary traditions of the Mongol tribes but in referring to it as Genghis Khan's Code Of Law, the Mongols people also laid a claim to a law-giver like Solomon, whose authoritative Code could be imposed on their subjects,

### **Question 2.**

**Do you understand why Genghis Khan did have an identity as a conqueror and brutal murderer of the people in spite of his being the greatest leader of all time?**

**Answer:**

Generally, the predominant virtue or vice imprints the image of the ruler in the head and heart of the common populace. Genghis Khan had ordered massacres in cities like Nishapur, Herat, Baghdad, and smaller towns like Baihaq and Tun (Kurdistan). This predominant vice has dusted on his virtues like the greatest leader of all time, convener of scattered tribal society to unite, ruler of a grand transcontinental empire, and keeper of trade routes well restored. Actually, the contrasting images are not simply a case of dissimilar perspectives, they should make us pause and reflect on how one perspective can completely erase all others.

### **Question 3.**

**What had ensured creating so vast an empire of the Mongols? Discuss?**

**Answer:**

The only thing that remained a powerful force was the inspiration of the nomadic empire i.e. Genghis Khan. Apart from that driving force, we can not understand the inspiration that led to the confederation of fragmented groups of people in the pursuit of an ambition to create an empire merely on going over the nature of documentation on the Mongols and any other nomadic regime. Presently, Mongolia is enjoying freedom from Soviet control and it has

revered Genghis Khan as a great natural hero and his achievements are recognized with pride. Thus, Genghis Khan has once again appeared as an iconic figure for the Mongol people among the populace there.

#### **Question 4.**

**Discuss the implication of the term barbarian.**

**Answer:**

This term has been derived from the Greek Barbaros i.e. non-Greek. It was the name of the person on the basis of his language sounded i.e. Barbar. Analogous to children unable to speak or reason properly, cowardly, effeminate, luxurious, cruel, slothful, greedy, and politically unable to govern themselves; were depicted as barbarians in Greek texts. This word was used in the sense of stereotype by Romans for the German tribes, the Gauls, and the Huns. Steppe barbarians were addressed with different terms but none of them carried a positive meaning.

#### **Question 5.**

**Reproduce the warning that was given by Mongke, the grandson of Genghis Khan to the French ruler Louis IX and enunciate the hidden intention thereupon.**

**Answer:**

We can reproduce said warning as under-“In heaven, there is only the Eternal sky, on Earth, there is only one lord, Genghis Khan, the son of Heaven when by the power of the eternal Heaven, the whole world from the rising of the sun to its setting shall be at one in joy and peace, then it will be made clear what we are going to do if when you have understood that the degree of the Eternal Heaven, you are unwilling to pay attention and believe it, saying, “Our country is far away, our mountains are mighty, our sea is vast,” and in this confidence, you bring an army against us, we know what we can do. He who made easy what was difficult and near, what was far off, the Eternal Heaven Knows.”

Review on the essential components of warning:

1. Genghis Khan's empire had covered and going to cover the limit of rising and setting sun throughout the world.
2. It has been stated that Genghis Khan's rule over the earth is predetermined by the Eternal Heaven.
3. It reveals a strong determination to bring peace and joy to the entire world and its inhabitants.
4. It threatens Louis IX that it is worth no use considering that the distance and inaccessible territories would defend France.
5. The last line lays emphasis on an assumption that nowhere is far or near and easy or difficult under the grace of the Eternal Heaven.

Conclusion-The above five important points have been aptly soaked in the creation of psychological terror, a eulogy of the Mongol power and demonstration through speech a strong determination and invincible courage'. His strong faith in the Almighty has also been reflected through this warning.

#### **Question 6.**

**Discuss the rise of new political trends in Mongols after Genghis Khan?**

**Answer:**

In the period after Genghis Khan and particularly after the 1260s, the original impetus of campaigns could not be sustained in the west. Western Europe and Egypt were within the grasp of Mongol forces yet their retreat from the Hungarian Steppes and defeat at the hands of the Egyptian forces exhibited a major change in their attitude. In the first two generations, descendants of Jochi and Ogodei jointly controlled the office of Genghis Khan.

They were marginalized by the Toluyid branch of Genghis Khanid descendants. The later rulers took more interest in the conquest of China. Hence, westward expansion was ceased. Jochen and Toluyid descendants began to develop rivalry along the Russian-Iranian frontier. It also had diverted the Jochids away from further European Campaigns.

#### **Question 7.**

**What was the political set-up in the nomadic empire? Discuss.**

**Answer:**

1. There were all group members, recruited in the military consisting of the largest unit of soldiers (Turman) i.e. 10,000 soldiers. It integrated different tribes and clans with a new identity.
2. A new form of the military had to serve under Genghis Khan's four sons and captains of army units (Royan).
3. Genghis Khan's true friends were given representation in statecraft addressed as Anda.
4. A rank of Naukar was given to fourth-grade employees.
5. Four uluses were divided under the rule of Genghis Khan's four sons.
6. Genghis Khan envisaged that his sons would rule the empire collectively like a federation.
7. Military contingents (Tama) of the individual princes were placed in each ulus.
8. Quriltan was conferred with power to decide dominion share of the family members, campaigns, distribution of booty, pasture land, and succession.

#### **Question 8.**

**Why was there a conflict of interest between pastoralists and peasants? Would Genghis Khan express sentiments of this nature in a speech to his nomad commanders?**

**Answer:**

Pastoralists were used to graze the fields of peasants and occupy the area they owned. Their interest was different because peasants had turned into traders while the pastoralists had an only games, furs of animals, etc. to exchange with them. In order to gain more share of profit in trade, they sometimes looted them of foodgrains and iron utensils. During the decade of 1230, the Mongols waged their successful war against the chin dynasty in north China and committed a massacre of the peasantry and their fields were converted into pasture lands.

However, this contradiction was eased' in the decade of 1290 when Ghazan Khan, a descendant of Genghis Khan's youngest son Toluy warned family members and other generals to avoid pillaging the peasantry. No, Genghis Khan would have not expressed the sentiments as these were expressed by Ghazan Khan in the decade of 1290.

**Question 9.**

**How can you say Yasa, an extremely empowering ideology?**

**Answer:**

It is because of the following significance added to it-

1. It addressed the Mongol's ruling over urban societies with their respective histories, cultures, and laws.
2. Mongols could protect their identity and distinctiveness through their ancestral Yasa.
3. It was although a compilation of the traditions of the Mongol tribes yet referred to a GenghisKhan's Code of Law.
4. Yasa sewed Mongol people around a body of shared beliefs and acknowledged their affirming to Genghis Khan and his descendants.
5. It gave them, the confidence to return their ethnic identity and impose their law upon their defeated subjects.

**Question 10.**

**Did the meaning of Yasa alter over the four centuries separating Genghis Khan from Abdullah Khan? Why did Hafiz-i – Tanish make a reference to Genghis Khan's as in connection with Abdullah Khan's prayer at the Muslim festival ground?**

**Answer:**

No, instead of any alteration separating Genghis Khan from Abdullah Khan; it became more coherent and interwoven over the four centuries. Hafiz-i-Tanish, the chronicler had referred to Genghis Khans "as" in order to exhibit how even the tricky and extorting act of him i.e. warning rich Muslim residents at the festival ground in Bukhara to confess that they were a sinner and he would compensate for their sins by parting with their hidden wealth-had been remembered as if any noble-deed was performed at that ground. He says that Genghis Khan's distant descendant Abdullah Khan had offered his holiday prayers that place.