

We can divide Mongol expansion after Genghis Khan's death into two distinct phases: the first which spanned the years 1236-42 when the major gains were in the Russian steppes, Bulghar, Kiev, Poland and Hungary. The second phase including the years 1255- 1300 led to the conquest of all of China (1279), Iran, Iraq and Syria. The frontier of the empire stabilised after this campaign.

The Mongol military forces met with few reversals in the decades after 1203 but, quite noticeably, after the 1260s the original impetus of campaigns could not be sustained in the West. Although Vienna, and beyond its western Europe, as well as Egypt was within the grasp of Mongol forces, their retreat from the Hungarian steppes and defeat at the hands of the Egyptian forces signalled the emergence of new political trends. There were two facets to this: the first was a consequence of the internal politics of succession within the Mongol family where the descendants of Jochi and Ogodei allied to control the office of the great Khan in the first two generations. These interests were more important than the pursuit of campaigns in Europe. The second compulsion occurred as the Jochi and Ogodei lineages were marginalised by the Toluyid branch of Genghis Khanid descendants. With the accession of Mongke, a descendant of Toluy, Genghis Khan's youngest son, military campaigns were pursued energetically in Iran during the 1250s. But as Toluyid interests in the conquest of China increased during the 1260s, forces and supplies were increasingly diverted into the heartlands of the Mongol dominion. As a result, the Mongols fielded a small, understaffed force against the Egyptian military. Their defeat and the increasing preoccupation with China of the Toluyid family marked the end of western expansion of the Mongols. Concurrently, conflict between the Jochid and Toluyid descendants along the Russian-Iranian frontier diverted the Jochids away from further European campaigns.

Q.1. When was China conquered by the Mongols ?

(A) 1260 (B) 1255 (C) 1279 (D) 1300

Ans : C

Q.2. Who was Toluy ?

(A) Descendants of Jochi (B) Youngest son of Genghis Khan
(C) Father of Genghis Khan (D) Descendants of Ogodei

Ans : B

Q.3. Which mongol ruler pursued military campaign in Iran during the 1250s ?
(A) Ogodei. (B) Genghis Khan (C) Mongke (D) Toluy

Ans : D

Q.4. Which area was the heartland of mongol dominion during the toluy rule ?
(A) Western Asia (B) Eastern Asia (C) Europe. (D) Central Asia

Ans : D