

## ATL Skills: Research

### Mongol Conquest: Causes – Ideology

One factor for the cause of the Conquests under Genghis Khan is ideology. **Read** the excerpts below and answer all questions:

[1]

Genghis Khan enforced or induced unity over almost the entire steppeland. A single ideology came to animate, or perhaps reflect, his program: the God-given right of the Mongols to conquer the world. Mongol-inspired sources constantly insist on an analogy between the overarching unity of the sky and God's desire for the Earth to echo that unity through submission to one ruler. This imperial vision probably grew on Genghis Khan gradually, as he felt his way from raiding, tribute gathering, and exacting ransom to constructing an empire, with permanent institutions of rule.

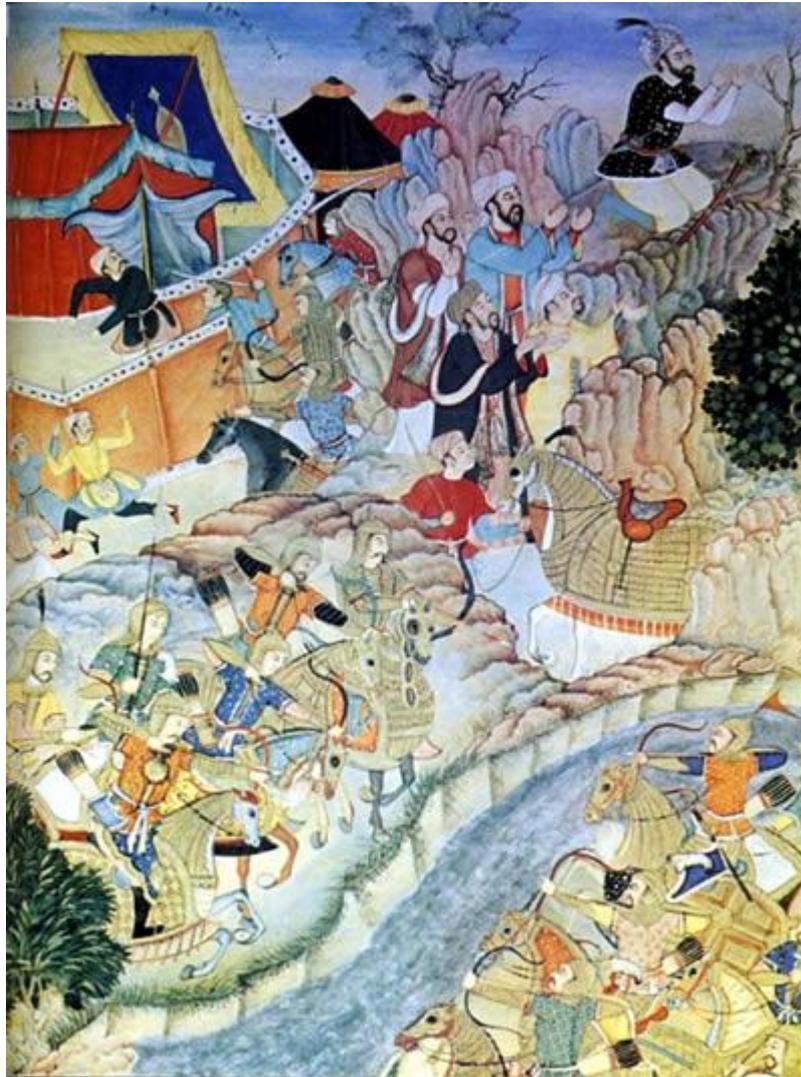
[2]

A third explanation has to do with Chinggis Khan himself, in particular his shamanic beliefs. It is said that Tenggeri the sky god of the Mongols, gave Chinggis the mission of bringing the rest of the world under one sword — that is, bringing the rest of the world under the shamanic umbrella — a mission that may have motivated Chinggis to begin his conquests.

(source: <http://afe.easia.columbia.edu/mongols/conquests/conquests.htm>)



[3]



[Genghis Khan Praying to Tenggeri, the Sky God, in the Midst of Battle - This is a 17<sup>th</sup> century Indian miniature showing Genghis Khan, portrayed with clear Persian features and wearing Persian clothing, praying to Tenggeri, the Mongols' sky deity. According to Mongol mythology, Tenggeri entrusted Genghis with the mission of uniting the world under Mongol control].

**Questions:**

1. What does source 3 tell us about Genghis Khan? Mention three points (3).

2. In your own words, **outline** the ideological cause for the Mongol conquest under Genghis Khan (4).
3. How different would the Mongol invasion be to modern states that invade for broader ideological reasons? **Discuss** your answer.

