What the Middle Ages knew

- From feudalism to nation state

Western Europe in 1000
(http://www.euratlas.com)
What the Middle Ages knew

• From feudalism to nation state
  – Hugh Capet (987) elected king of France, but most of France controlled by the dukes of Normandy, Brittany, Champagne, Anjou, Maine, Poitou, etc
  – Hugh Capet begins dynasty (his successor is his male son)
  – 327 years of Capetian kings
  – Thousand-year war with England: 1066-1815
– France in 1104
What the Middle Ages knew

• From feudalism to nation state
  – Louis VI (1108) enlarges the area controlled by the king
  – Money payments in lieu of personal service allow the king to hire mercenaries to impose order
  – Eleanor of Aquitaine, wife of the English king, protects troubadours and amour courtois at her court in Angers (1152) and then Poitiers (1170)
What the Middle Ages knew

• From feudalism to nation state
  – Philippe Auguste of France (1180)
    • quadruples the size of the royal domains,
    • expels the English from Normandy (battle of Bouvines of 1214)
    • curbs the power of barons,
    • increases the power of towns
What the Middle Ages knew

• From feudalism to nation state
  – Louis IX of France (1226)
    • Albigensian crusade,
    • Provence (by marriage),
    • Crusades (1248-1270),
    • New synthesis of church and state,
    • Patron of the arts (80 cathedrals and 500 abbeys are erected during his reign),
    • Influence of gothic spreads to the entire Christian world,
What the Middle Ages knew

• From feudalism to nation state
  – Louis IX of France (1226)
    • France becomes the wealthiest nation in the Christian world, the hegemonic power of Europe
    • Paris is the cultural center of Europe
    • Population explosion (from 6m in 1100 to 20m in 1300)
What the Middle Ages knew – France in 1259
What the Middle Ages knew

• From feudalism to nation state
  – Philippe IV of France (1285)
    • France becomes an efficient centralized state
    • Anti-papal campaign
    • No “common law” (each region has its own laws and institutions)
    • France is still less centralized than England
    • 1302: First Estates General of France (the third estate, i.e. representatives of the towns, are admitted)
What the Middle Ages knew

- From feudalism to nation state
  - Philippe VI Valois (1328)
    - Inaugurates the Valois dynasty
    - Hundred-year war (1337)
  - Decline of France
    - War (England, Nicopolis)
    - Famine (1315-22)
    - Plague (Black Death)
    - Civil wars (Etienne Marcel and Charles de Navarre, Burgundy vs Armagnacs)
- The overland routes of France are replaced by the merchant fleets of the Italian city-states
What the Middle Ages knew

- From feudalism to nation state
  - Resurgence of France
- Charles VII (1422-61)
What the Middle Ages knew

- Hundred-years War (1337-1453)
  - France has three times the population of England but loses most of the wars
  - England's centralized system of taxation vs France's financial crises
  - Salaried professional army more efficient than noble cavalry
  - English longbow decimates the French cavalry
  - England expelled from France
What the Middle Ages knew

• Hundred-years War (1337-1453)
  – Consequences of France’s victory:
    • Rise of French nationalism (the winner is the French nation, symbolically represented by Joan of Arc, not the king)
    • Unreliability of the Flanders leads England to develop its own textile industry and trade routes
What the Middle Ages knew

• From feudalism to nation state
  – England has the opposite problem of France: not a monarchy that tries to wrest power from its vassals but vassals who try to wrest power from the monarchy
What the Middle Ages knew

• From feudalism to nation state
  – 825: the Saxon king Egbert III of Wessex conquers Kent and Mercia, thus reigning over all of England
  – 871: Alfred of Wessex introduces the Anglosaxon tradition of democracy
  – 937: Wessex king Aethelstan defeats the Danes and establishes the kingdom of England
  – 1016-35: the Danish king Canute (Knut) II restores order and unity to England
  – 1042: Edward the Confessor regains the throne of England to the Anglosaxons
What the Middle Ages knew

- From feudalism to nation state
  - 1066: William of Normandy (the Conqueror) ends the Anglo-Saxon rule of England
  - 1153: Henry II creates a French-English empire, the “ Angevin empire” (England, Aquitaine, Burgundy, Anjou)
What the Middle Ages knew

• From feudalism to nation state
  – 1189: Richard I "Coeur de Lion"
  – 1203: Philippe Auguste II expels the English from France
  – 1215: John I Lackland is forced by the barons to sign the "Magna Carta" that grants rights to the nobility, the clergy and the townspeople
  – 1295: Edward I inaugurates the first representative parliament, the "Model Parliament"
  – The royal courts ("common law") gains the monopoly of justice in England
What the Middle Ages knew

• From feudalism to nation state
  – Parliament: House of Lords + House of Commons (which is actually more lords than commoners)
  – The king makes the laws, parliament controls the finances
What the Middle Ages knew

• From feudalism to nation state
  – 1337: "Hundred Years' War" against France
    • Military superiority of England (the longbow), despite smaller population and smaller capital
    • The commercial and industrial towns of the Flanders side with England
    • The kingdom of Burgundy sides with England
    • But France wins because of the birth of patriotism/nationalism
    • The war also increases nationalism/patriotism in England
What the Middle Ages knew

• From feudalism to nation state
  – Germany drifting towards anarchy while France and England are united
  – 918: Heinrich I, first of the Ottonen
  – 1125: Heinrich V dies, the power of the German empire dissolves and the German emperor becomes a figurehead
  – Imperial power de facto spread among many princes
  – “Golden Bull” (1356) creates an electoral college (archbishops of Mainz, Trier, Cologne, duke of Saxony, margrave of Brandenburg, count Palatine, king of Bohemia)
What the Middle Ages knew

• From feudalism to nation state
  – Friedrich I "Barbarossa" (1152), first of the Hohenstaufen
    • Justinian law, granting the emperor absolute powers over the princes
    • Universities independent of the political or clerical power ("Costitutio Habita")
    • Italian communes defeat Friedrich Barbarossa at the battle of Legnano (1176)
    • Feudal princes have the real power
  – 1194: Heinrich VI conquers southern Italy and Sicily from the Normans
What the Middle Ages knew

- From feudalism to nation state
What the Middle Ages knew

• From feudalism to nation state
  – 1214: pope Innocent III, the claimant Friedrich II and French king Philippe Auguste defeat German emperor Otto IV and English king John at the battle of Bouvines
  – 1215 The Sicilian-born Friedrich II ascends to the throne of Germany
  – Accepted and fostered German fragmentation
  – De facto abdication of imperial authority
  – The Holy Roman Emperor becomes the puppet of the German princes
  – Excommunicated four times by the Pope
  – Permanent decoupling of Germany and Sicily
What the Middle Ages knew

- From feudalism to nation state
  - Friedrich II’s experiment in Sicily
    - Leading center of learning in Western Europe
    - Proto-Rinascimento
    - Benefactor of the arts and the sciences
    - Founds the University of Napoli for law
    - Code of laws based on Roman, Arab and Greek law
    - Establishment of trade tax: doana
    - Revives international commerce (trade agreements with Muslims)
  - Experimental farming
  - Personal zoo
  - Main beneficiary: the bourgeoisie
What the Middle Ages knew

• From feudalism to nation state
  – 1356: the electoral college for the title of emperor is limited to four secular rulers (Bohemia, Brandenburg, Rhine, Saxony) and three archbishops
  – 1438: Habsburgs
What the Middle Ages knew

• Spain
  – 1230: Castilla conquers Leon
  – 1137: Aragonia and Catalunia are united by marriage
  – Ramon Llull, missionary to Islam (13th c)
What the Middle Ages knew

• Spain
  – 1492: Castilla and Aragonia are united by marriage
  – Ramon Llull, missionary to Islam (13th c)
What the Polish knew

- Lithuania - Poland is the largest state in Europe
What the Polish knew

- Lithuania-Poland is the largest state in Europe
What the Swedish knew

- Sweden after the union of Kalmar (1397)
What the Mongols knew

• Before Genghis Khan
  – Feudal society
  – Continuous warfare for
    • Horses
    • Cattle
    • Slaves
    • Women (illegal to marry women from the same tribe)
    • but not for territorial expansion
What the Mongols knew

- Before Genghis Khan
What the Mongols knew

• Genghis Khan (Temüjin)
  – Territorial expansion under centralized command
  – 1206: unification of all Mongol tribes (Merkits, Naimans, Mongols, Keraits, Tatars, Uyghurs, etc)
  – Laws to maintain cohesion
    • Illegal to enslave Mongols
    • Death penalty for stealing cattle or kidnapping women
  – Built a nation, not a confederation
What the Mongols knew

- Genghis Khan (Temüjin)
  - The Mongol core should remain in the ancestral steppe homeland of tent villages
  - The Mongols should continue their ancient warrior way of life regardless of the lifestyle of the occupied lands
  - The Mongols should exact tribute from cities, farmers and caravans
  - Shamanist religion, but tolerant towards Christian missionaries, Muslim merchants, Buddhist/Taoist monks
What the Mongols knew

• Genghis Khan (Temüjin)
  – Ruled over 50 nations (Muslims, Christians, Buddhists, Shamanists)
  – Muslim architects, Persian engineers, the Chinese administrator Yeh-ku Chu'tsai and the Taoist monk Qiu Chuji
  – Largest empire ever conquered by a single commander
  – First major empire to tolerate all monotheistic religions
  – Simple lifestyle of the steppe nomads (tent, 500 wives/concubines, horses, buried under a tree with no mausoleum)
What the Mongols knew

• Genghis Khan (Temüjin)
  – Military organization
    • Creative strategies
    • Detailed planning
    • Synchronized intricate maneuvers
    • Sophisticated system of communication over long distances (couriers and staging posts, signaling systems)
• Vanguard of spies in enemy territory
• Venetian merchants provide intelligence
• High mobility (horses not for chivalry rituals but to cover long distances at high speed)
What the Mongols knew

• Genghis Khan (Temüjin)
  – Military organization
    • Artillery
    • Bow (most important weapon)
    • Catapult
    • Siege warfare
    • Biological warfare (animal and human corpses)
    • Gunpowder (bronze cannon already in 1332)
What the Mongols knew

- Genghis Khan (Temüjin)
What the Mongols knew

• Successor states
  – Jochi, second khagan: west of the Aral Sea
    • Batu: Russia (Golden Horde, 1227–1502)
  – Ogodei: eastern empire and declared third khagan after the death of Jochi (new capital at Karakorum)
    • Guyuk declared fourth khagan after Ogodei dies
  – Chaghatay: Transoxania and Kara-Khitai (Jagatai, 1227–1363)
  – Tolui: Mongolia
    • Mongke declared fifth khagan after Guyuk dies
      – Kublai, sixth khagan: China (1279–1368) and new capital in Beijing
      – Hulegu: Middle East (Il-Khanate, 1256–1353)
What the Mongols knew

• Religious diversity within the dynasty
  – Ogedei's son Guyuk/Kuyuk, a baptized Christian, becomes the new gran khan (1246)
  – Batu (Shamanistic)
    • Christian son Sartak
    • Muslim brother Berke
What the Mongols knew

• Religious diversity within the dynasty
  – Mangku’s Karakorum in 1254
    • Buddhist, Taoist and Shamanistic temples
    • Two mosques, one Nestorian church
    • His brother Kublai (Buddhist) bestows privileges on Buddhist, Taoist, Nestorian and Islamic orders in China
    • His brother Hulegu (Buddhist) assembles a Christian army in Georgia and Armenia led by the Christian general Ked-Buka
  • His brother Ariq Boke sympathetic to Christians
What the Mongols knew

• Religious diversity within the dynasty
  – Kublai’s Beijing
    • All his ministers are foreigners (Christians, Muslims and Buddhists)
    • A Muslim architect designs Beijing
What the Mongols knew

Http://www.hyper-history.com
What the Mongols knew

• Successor states
  – Timujin: not only the power of terror, but also the power of knowledge (an enlightened terrorist)
  – Ogedei and Hulegu: an empire conquered on horses but that cannot be governed on horses
  – Kublai and Abaka: the Mongols are assimilated by the conquered civilizations and move to cosmopolitan cities (Beijing and Tabriz)
What the Mongols knew

- Pax Tatarica
  - For the first time, safe travel is possible from the Mediterranean to China (e.g., Polo brothers)
  - The merchants of Venice who sell exotic commodities have never been in India or China themselves until the Mongols create a free trade and free movement area from the Middle East to China
  - 1271: Marco Polo at Kublai Khan’s court
  - 1295: the Pope’s emissary Montecorvino visits the Chinese emperor in Beijing
What the Mongols knew

• Who stopped the Mongols
  – 1260: The Mamluks defeat the Mongols at Ayn Jalut and stop the Mongol expansion
  – In Europe nobody stopped them: they stopped when the khan Ogedei died
  – Geography stopped them: mounted archers struggle terrains different from their native steppes (eg failed invasions of Japan, India and Vietnam)
  – Fortifications: the Mongols are unable to take fortified towns/castles (which were more common in Europe)
  – Europe poorer and more militarized than Asia: why bother?
What the Mongols knew

• Reason for collapse
  – Elaborate process to select new khagan: Christendom is saved by the death of Ogedei (1241), Islam is saved by the death of Mangku (1259)
  – Religious diversity eventually leads to religious rivalry: Berke (Muslim) horrified by Hulegu's destruction of Baghdad
  – Mongol assimilation by the conquered civilizations dissipates their unity (Hulegu supports Kublai but Berke supports Ariq Boke)
What the Mongols knew

• Legacy
  – The Mongols absorbed religion, philosophy, art, architecture, science and technology from the nations they conquered, but contributed none of their own
  – The Mongol’s main legacy was in the art of war
What the Mongols knew

• Legacy
  – The Mongols crushed Russia, China and the Islamic world but not Europe: Russia, China and the Islamic world will never catch up again with the pace of European progress
What the Russians knew

• The Rus Slave Trade (8th-10th c)
  – The most extensive slave trading network is run by the Rus
  – The Rus sell Slavic people ("slaves") to the Khazars (Jews), to Byzantium (Christians) and to the Muslim world via the Dniepr and Volga river systems
What the Russians knew

• The Rus Slave Trade (8th-10th c)
  – Slavs sold at the capital of the Volga Bulgars (east of what is today Moscow) and the capital of the Khazars, Khamlij/ Atil (where the Volga flows into the Caspian Sea, today's Kazakhstan) and Byzantium (Byzantine Empire)
What the Russians knew

• The Rus Slave Trade (8th-10th c)
  – Ibn Ḥawqal: "The country [of the Saqaliba] is long and wide… Half of their country… is raided by the Khurasanis [Khorezm] who take prisoners from it, while its northern half is raided by the Andalusians who buy them in Galicia, in France, in Lombardy and in Calabria so as to make them eunuchs, and thereafter they ferry them over to Egypt and Africa. All the Saqaliba eunuchs in the world come from Andalusia… They are castrated near this country. The operation is performed by Jewish merchants."
What the Russians knew

• The Rus Slave Trade (8th-10th c)
  – Ibn Khurrazad ibn al-Hubbah (early 10th c) about the slave trade run by Jewish merchants (Radhanites):
    "These merchants speak Arabic, Persian, Greek, Latin, Frankish, Andalusian and Slavic. They journey from west to east, from east to west, traveling by land and by sea. From the west they export eunuchs, young girls and boys, brocade, beaver pelts, marten and other furs and also swords. They set sail from Firanj [France] on the western sea and then head for Farama [Pelusium] in Egypt. There they transfer their merchandise to the backs of camels and travel to Qulzum [Clyasma, Suez] on the Red Sea, a distance of 25 farsakhs. They sail down the Red Sea to al-Jar, the port of Medina, and to Jeddah, the port of Mecca. Then they continue on to Sindh, India and China."
What the Russians knew

• The Rus Slave Trade (8th-10th c)
  – Ibn Khurradadhbih (early 10th c): "They return from China with musk, aloe wood, camphor, cinnamon and other eastern products, docking again at Qulzum, then proceed to Farama, from where they again set sail on the western sea... These different journeys can also be made by land. The merchants that start from Spain or France go to Sus al-Aksa [near Tangier] and then to Tangier, whence they walk to Kairouan and the capital of Egypt. Thence they go to ar-Ramiah, visit Damascus, al-Kufa, Baghdad, and al-Basra, cross Ahvez, Fars, Kerman, Sindh, Hind, and arrive in China. Sometimes, also, they take the route behind Rome and, passing through the country of the Slavs, arrive at Khamlij, the capital of the Khazars. They embark on the Jorjan Sea [Caspian], arrive at Balkh, betake themselves from there across the Oxus, and continue their journey toward Yurt, Toghuzghuz [Turkic lands in Central Asia], and from there to China."
What the Russians knew

• Kiev
  – Kiev founded by Varangian Rus (Vikings) in 8th c near the confluence of the Dnieper and Desna
  – The Dnieper becomes the standard route between Scandinavia and Byzantium
  – The Desna connects to the Don and Oka-Volga basins
  – Khazar empire
  – 863: Cyril and Methodius from Byzantium write the Slavic bible
  – 882: Oleg of Novgorod (Helgi of Holmgard), a Varangian Rurikid, conquers Kiev from the Khazars
What the Russians knew

• Kiev
  – 921: Igor Rurik moves his capital to Kiev
  – 964-8: Kiev destroys the Khazar empire leaving Kiev with the entire Volga-Caspian trade route
  – 980: Vladimir I seizes power in Kiev
  – 988: Vladimir I marries a Christian and converts Kiev to Christianity
  – 1051: First native head of Kiev’s church
  – 1054: Yaroslav dies after marrying his sister to the Polish king, three of his sons to European princesses and three of his daughters to European kings
What the Russians knew

• Kiev
  – 1147: Moscow is founded
  – 1169: Rus’ capital moves to Vladimir
  – 12th century: Russian, German, and Georgian masons erect Vladimir's cathedrals, monasteries, towers, and palaces (Dormition Cathedral, Cathedral of Saint Demetrius, Golden Gate)
  – 1238-40: The Mongols conquer Kiev and Vladimir
  – 1252: The Mongols appoint Alexander “Nevsky” as prince of both Kiev and Vladimir
What the Russians knew

• Moscow
  – 1283: The grand duchy of Moscow is established by Nevsky’s youngest son
  – 1319: Yuriy of Moscow marries a sister of the Mongol khan and is appointed grand prince of Vladimir
  – 1320s: Moscow becomes richer than Vladimir
  – 1328: The Metropolitan moves the capital of the Russian church from Vladimir to Moscow
  – The Mongols strengthen Moscow to counterbalance Lithuania’s expansion
What the Russians Knew
What the Russians knew

- Moscow
  - 1380: Dmitry Donskoy of Moscow leads Russian princes to defeat the Mongols (Battle of Kulikovo)
  - Moscow as the third Rome after the fall of Byzantium (1452: it declares its own patriarch, no longer subject to Byzantium)
  - 1480: Ivan III expels the Mongols from Russia and calls himself “czar”
  - Ivan III hires architects from Italy to design the new Kremlin (Pietro Antonio Solari, Marco Ruffo, Aleviz Fryazin)
  - 1500: When he dies, Ivan III has expanded Moscow’s territory by almost 700% (2,800,000 square kms)
Center of an empire

S

opy, in some ironic contrast to the 1917 Revolution, the ancient empire known as the Kremlin declined far behind Russia: the city's history has been the triumph of Russian culture for more than 600 years. For the provence of Moscow, the Muscovites who ruled here (and elsewhere) increased their domain and power at the expense of their neighbors. By 1480, when Ivan IV (the Terrible) had himself crowned first Tsar of all the Russias, Moscow had emerged as a European power, whose territory would soon stretch from Ukraine to the Urals. Until Peter the Great made the capital of St. Petersburg, new Moscow was the heart of Russia, a bustling community filled with the houses of nobility and the workshops of artisans. For the last two centuries before the narcotics brought by Napoleon's armies in 1812, Moscow was a city of grandeur, a turreted world of architecture, dominated by the Kremlin, a fort within the city's own walls.
What the Russians Knew

- Muscovite Russia (1380-1480)
  - Muscovy in 1462
What the Russians Knew

- Russia
  - An empire influenced by China (administration), ancient steppes empires (expansion), European states (culture), Byzantium (religion) and never a crusading Christian state (because of its Muslim minorities)
  - Wood (huts, utensils, carriages, no windows, no nails) because of abundance of timber (exception: the stove, critical to survival)
  - Grain
  - Fish (abundance of rivers and lakes)
  - Vodka (invented by monks)
What the Russians Knew

• Muscovite Russia (1380-1480)
  – Local agrarian economy
  – Minimal role of traders
  – Rise of the Church (25% of all agricultural land, 1589 split from Byzantium)
  – St Sergius (14<sup>th</sup> c) monasticism
  – The Church is based in Moscow and Moscow becomes the most important city
  – Moscow as the “third Rome”
  – Absolutism (first czar) instead of Kiev’s feudalism
What the Russians Knew

- Muscovite Russia (1380-1480)
  - Wooden churches in Kizhi
The Growth of Russia: 1300 - 1796

- Muscovite Russia (1380 - 1480)
- Eastern Europe in 1550
What the Russians Knew

- Muscovite Russia (1380-1480)
- Eastern Europe in 1550
What the Russians Knew

• Voynich Manuscript (made between 1404 and 1438)
  – Script and language unknown
  – Purchased by Emperor Rudolf II (early 17th century)
  – Donated to Jacobus Horcicky de Tepenecz, head of Rudolf's botanical gardens
  – Purchased by Georg Baresch, alchemist in Prague
  – Bequeathed to Jan Marek (Johannes Marcus) Marci, rector of Charles University in Prague
  – Donated to Athanasius Kircher at the Collegio Romano in 1666
  – Stored in the library of the Collegio Romano
  – Book dealer Wilfrid Voynich purchased it in 1912
  – Donated to Yale University in 1969
What the Russians Knew

- Voynich Manuscript
What the Russians Knew

Muscovite Russia (1380 - 1480)

Russian expansion

Russian Expansion 1533 - 1894
Africa

- Empire of Mali
- Empire of Ethiopia
- Empire of Zimbabwe
- Empire of Morocco
Africa

- Empire of Mali

Mansa Musa, King of Mali, the richest man on Earth
(The Catalan Atlas, 1379)

Mali 1100-1400
(DeYoung Museum, San Francisco)