**What Legacy Did the Mongols Leave?**

**Destruction?**

**Destruction:** The Mongols often destroyed the towns they attacked, usually as a result of the battle, sometimes deliberately after their conquest. Mongols traditionally had no use for towns. Destroying them was a practical measure to prevent their use for resistance.

Irrigation channels were seriously damaged or neglected in many areas. Without them agriculture in some regions was impossible. This resulted in a set-back for agriculture over wide areas for centuries. This problem was especially severe in Persia and Iraq.

The local population, reduced by flight, massacre, famine, or disease, could not spare the labor to restore and maintain what had been destroyed.

**But:** There was a great deal of construction started and supported by the Mongols. Many of the towns the Mongols destroyed rose again a few years later with Mongol help.

Messenger services were expanded and many additional way stations were built along trade routes, where both troops and civilian travelers could get food, drink, lodging, and a change of horses. In China under Khubilai Khan, the postal relay system came to include 1400 way stations 14-40 miles apart.

Roads and bridges built originally to service the Mongol military became trade and travel routes.

The extension of the Grand Canal to Beijing by the Mongols allowed cheap transport of rice from southern to northern China.

National Center for History in the Schools at UCLA. "Landscape Teaching Unit 5.4 Mongol Empire Builders." *World History for Us All.* San Diego State University, n.d. Web. 19 June 2014.