**What Legacy Did the Mongols Leave?**

**Displacement?**

**Displacement:** During the Mongol campaigns of conquest and later, there was large-scale enslavement and forced movement of populations.

Many fled in terror when news reached them of an approaching Mongol army.

Within the Mongol army, peoples of different backgrounds were mixed together. They and their families, who often accompanied Mongol armies, moved long distances on campaigns and spent long periods in far-away places as occupying armies.

In conquered territories, the Mongols usually rounded up the craftspeople, and assigned them to Mongol princes and commanders. These captives, who could number tens of thousands in a single city, were carried off to Mongolia or other parts of the growing empire. This led to large population exchanges between Russia, Central Asia, Persia/Afghanistan, Mongolia, and China.

**But:** The movement of peoples resulted in the exchange of goods, ideas and styles. It also resulted in frequent and widespread contact between peoples of very different cultural, religious, and language backgrounds. From the Mongol period on, then, we can see a global history where developments in Europe would have an impact in Asia, with the same being true for Asia. When Christopher Columbus landed in the Americas he was actually looking for a new route to Asia – and one of the few books he had with him was Marco Polo’s account of his travels in Asia. So, strange as it sounds, the often brutal Mongols, in their own way, brought the world together. Even after the Mongol Empire declined, the world would never again be disconnected.

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