**What Legacy Did the Mongols Leave?**

**Theft?**

**Theft:** After first stealing from the conquered, the Mongols were for a while satisfied with tribute in the form of silk, grain, precious metals, and sophisticated war machinery. These demands were gradually replaced with regular taxes, sometimes made worse by demands that greedy Mongol princes and officials made for extra payments.

**But:** Some of the wealth that flowed to the Mongols was redistributed. Only part made its way to Mongolia. Much went back to those conquered areas where Mongols settled as occupying troops, administrators, and governors.

From about 1250, the Mongols undertook reforms. The Great Khan Mongke commanded: “Make the agricultural population safe from unjustified harassment, and bring despoiled (*damaged*) provinces back to a habitable condition.” He allowed people to pay taxes based on their income; repaid debts of previous rulers said to be owed to merchants; and made it more difficult for princes and high officials to demand money from the people.

Life for some parts of the conquered population actually improved. One reason was the profits from the trade promoted and supported by the Mongols. Another was the Mongol enforcement of law and order within their territories. The Mongols also gave jobs to people based on their skills, not only birth or wealth. The poorest classes received something like government welfare assistance: food, clothes, and money.

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.