**II. Mongol Empire**

1. Kublai Khan

* Grandson of Genghis Khan
* Was educated by some of the best Chinese scholars
* Fulfills his grandfather’s dream by taking over China
* **1279 –**
* First era of foreign rule in Chinese history

1. New Dynasty

* **Dynasty –**
* **Yuan Dynasty –**
* First time China was united in 300 years
* Mongols increase trade of Chinese products

1. Attempt to Conquer Japan

* Mongols sent a fleet of 120,000 men to take over Japan
* Largest sea invasion until World War II
* Typhoon swept across the Sea of Japan and destroyed the Mongol ships
* Japanese see the Typhoon as divine intervention
* **Kamikaze –**

1. Marco Polo

* **1271 –**
* Met with Kublai Khan who insisted that they stayed in China
* Worked as interpreters and military advisers for 17 years

1. Homeward Bound

* **1295 –**
* Arrived in Venice 24 year after they had left
* Most of their family had given them up for dead

1. Why We Know

* **1298 –**
* In prison he began telling stories about what he saw in China
* ***Descriptions of the World***–
* Book became an instant success

1. Marco Million

* Most people liked the book but thought it was fiction
* No one believed that China was richer, more splendid, and more civilized than Europe
* **China is** -
* Nobody believed that people could live south of the Equator

1. Hundreds of Years Later

* Historians proved that Polo was correct
* **Christopher Columbus** –
* Columbus dreamed of finding the riches described in Polo’s book