**“How Shall We Rule China?”**

You are going to pretend that you are back in China around the year 1270. You are participating in a high-level conference the Mongols are holding in which they are trying to decide what advice to give Kublai Khan about how he should rule China. Some of you are invading Mongols, while others are Chinese advisors whom the Mongols have allowed to participate in the conference. You are all trying to figure out how to rule China.

Consider the various issues (see below) and what advice you would offer on those issues. Which answers do you as a group care strongly about and on which issues might you be willing to compromise?

Issues to be discussed in debate:

1. What shall be our relationship with the Chinese?
   1. Should we stay away from them?
   2. Should we socialize with them?
   3. Inter-marry?
   4. Learn Chinese?
   5. Should we make them work for us or leave them be?
   6. Shall we have a census to determine who is in the empire and who can pay taxes?
   7. Should we use the Chinese in government posts? If so, in what jobs? In lower positions only?
   8. Should we use them only as advisors? Can we really ever trust them? What if they do not want to help us rule, how shall we get them into the government?
2. How shall we govern?
   1. Do we want to appear to be just like the Chinese?
   2. What kind of bureaucracy shall we create? Should we keep the Chinese bureaucracy in place? If so, do we use the Chinese bureaucrats? Can we trust them? Should we use our own people?
   3. Should our military leaders govern certain areas?
   4. Would it be better to use Mongol warriors or Muslim traders?
   5. How shall we elect the bureaucrats? Should we use some form of an exam system like the Chinese?
3. What should we do about the land?
   1. Should we give it to our own tribal warriors in reward for their loyalty and courage?
   2. Should we allow the Chinese farmers to stay on the land and farm it?
   3. Should we turn the land into grazing and hunting areas?
   4. Should we set a standard tax rate and keep an eye on the people who are collecting taxes or should we leave them alone and let them squeeze as much out of the peasants as they can?
   5. Should we support trade and make it easier for merchants by improving communication or creating money?
4. Where shall we have as our political center?
   1. Should we keep our nomadic way of life and have the capital wherever the leader is located?
   2. Should we build a permanent capital in the steppe land so that we can maintain our nomadic lifestyle and keep good contact with other Mongol groups?
   3. Should we build a permanent capital in the agricultural area so we can control the Chinese people more effectively?
   4. Should we have two capitals, one outside the wall and one inside the wall?