

CENTRAL ASIA

(See Note 1)

Paleolithic (70,000-55,000); Humans live in area of Uzbekistan and Turkmenistan.

35K-25K BCE; Humans appear in Central Asia during the last interglacial period.

16K - 10K BCE Ending stages of the last glaciation (Wurm III). Aurignacian culture - Upper Paleolithic. Central Asian glaciation much less severe than in Europe - Siberia below Latitude 60°N is ice-free. Paleolithic site of Malta, 28 miles NW of Irkutsk demonstrates Siberia and sub-arctic areas of Europe share the same culture.

Neolithic: People begin settling along Siberian riverbanks. The wolf is domesticated into dog. Stone tools improved. Bow and arrow made of wood. Harpoons of reindeer antler. Fishhooks out of bone. Birchbark canoes. Tepees. Greatest concentration of population around Lake Baikal. Great differentiation sets in among Asian cultures marked by tremendous technological progress and wide diversification of cultures.

5000 By this time agricultural cultures have become established at Djeitun.

2000 About this time metal tools appear - knives, needles and fishhooks cold-forged out of copper.

1300 About this time is established (perhaps) the kingdom of Chorasmia (east of the southern part of the Caspian Sea, reaching $\frac{3}{4}$ of the way to the Amu Darya).

1200 Late Bronze Age; about this time the Cimmerians begin to occupy the Southern Russian Steppe.

The present site of Merv is called "Mouru" in the *Zend-Avesta* geography.

12th century: Ch'i is the capital of Yen state in the Chou dynasty (present site of Peking).

1000 By this time in Siberia clay molds are used to cast knives and swords. Tribes of cattle breeders roam the western steppes and begin cultivation, using stone hoes and hand grinding grain. Horse cultures have developed.

By this time the great states of Bactria, Khwarezm and Sogdiana have emerged in the fertile region around Amu Darya which serves as a center of trade and cultural exchange on the Silk Road between East and West.

Bronze Age People of Minosinsk Basin (oasis in upper Yenisey River valley between Sayan and Altai mountains) gain a high degree of metalworking proficiency.

By this time 140-odd native peoples live in Siberia: Pastoral nomads in SW steppes with cattle and sheep; forest nomads hunt and fish in the taiga; reindeer nomads in the northern tundra. Elementary agriculture practiced in the Amur River valley. Primitive tribes hunt reindeer, whales, walrus and seals along the shores of the Bering and Okhotsk seas. Some of the tribes of the steppes and forest emerge from the Iron Age and trade with China and central Asia. Most natives belong to five broad ethnic, linguistic groups: Turkic, Manchu-Tungus, Finno-Ugrian, Mongol and "Paleosiberian" or mainly Mongoloid stock.

The Paleosiberians (descendants of the prehistoric inhabitants) are the Chukchi, Yukaghir, Koryak, Asiatic Eskimo and Kamchadal in the NE; Yenisey Ostyak (or Ket) on the lower Yen-isey; Gilyak (or Nivkh) on the Amur and Sakhalin; mysteriously Caucasian Ainu of southern Sakhalin and Kurile islands.

Legendary visit of Mon Wang (Mu Wang), Chou emperor, to Khotan and the oasis of Kashgar (Chinese; Chin Shufu).

8th century, last half: Cimmerians are replaced by Iran Age Scythians. They create a Central

- Asian Empire directed toward the south.
- 720-705 Cimmerian and Scythian troops fight against Assyrian king Sargon II.
- 700 About this time the Scythians replace the Cimmerians in the Steppe region.
- 7th century: Rise of Great Scythian Empire: It is an empire of nomads though with permanent settlements of various sizes that represent various degrees of civilization. There is highly developed metallurgy. Agriculturists (aroteres) who grow wheat are a class of their own. Scythian art is a sophisticated style called "animal art" and is of unsurpassed quality. It is possible they speak an Iranian language.
- 600 About this time what is now eastern modern Iran falls under the domination of the of the Medes. In Chorasmia (Bactria), Vishtapa (Greek Hypastes), a protector of Zoroaster (C 660 – C 583) is made satrap. His son becomes Darius I.
- 520-519 Darius I, having overthrown the Medes (521), brings Turkistan (including Sogdiana) under Persian sway after having cleared the Lydian empire from around the Caspian Sea. The population within Sogdiana and Bactria (now a Persian satrapy) is mainly of Iranian stock.
- The site of Merv is called "Margu" in the reign of Darius I; is also a Persian satrapy.
- 520 About this time conflict arises between the Scythians and Darius I of Persia.
- Before 500: Part of the Achaemenian empire, comprising the provinces of: Aria (Hari Rud), Bactria (Balkh), Drangiana (Seistan and the Helmund valley), Arachosia (Kandahar) and Paropamisus (Hindu Kush and Kabul). Population in the north is Iranian; in the South contains a large Indian element; in Arachosia are the (Greek) Paktyes, or Paktyike (of Herodotus) eventually the Pakhtun or Pushtun.
- 516? -513? Darius' expedition against the Scythians in southern Russia.
- 500 At this time the Sakae, north of Lake Balkhash and down to the Syr Darya, are known by the Chinese as a pastoral people of the Kashgar region.
- 5th century, end: Scythians found the vast fortified settlement of Kamenka on the Dnieper River. It becomes the center of their kingdom.
- 4th century: The Samartians begin to absorb the Scythians.
- Maracanda (Samarkand) becomes capital of Sogdiana.
- 339 Ateas, ruler of the Scythians, is killed in battle against Philip II of Macedon.
- 330 Invasion of the region of Margu by Alexander. Persian satrap Bessus murders Darius III and tries to organize a resistance. Alexander finds no town (founds one named Alexandria) but does find an area of irrigation farming.
- 329-28 Invasion of Transoxiana and capture of Samarkand (formerly Maracanda, capital of Sogdiana) and Bukhara by the Greeks under Alexander the Great, resulting in the rule of the Greek Seleucids in both Bactria and Sogdiana. Alexander has destroyed some cities and founded others, including Herat (Alexandria Arion) and Kandahar (Alexandra Arachosion). The area is inhabited by the Sakas although Sogdiana and Bactria (now provinces) are still largely Iranian.
- 323 (13 June) Death of Alexander. The Eastern provinces (including Sogdiana and Bactria) become part of the Seleucid empire. The Indian provinces and Kabul valley are taken by Chandragupta. Pharasmanes (Pharashmanaya), satrap of Chorasmia under Alexander, manages to maintain some semblance of independence.
- 301 Sogdiana becomes part of the Seleucid Empire.
- 3rd century: The Hsiung-Nu (Huns) move west from Mongolia and drive the Indo-Scythian Yueh-chi from Kansu, Kokonor and southern Gobi.

About this time Neosiberian tribes begin joining the aboriginal inhabitants; Finno-Ugrian [Nentsy, = Russian Samoyeds] Voguls [or Mansi] and Ostyaks [or Khanty] (semi-nomadic of forests and marshes of the Ob-Irtysh basin). These are the earliest known peoples, coming from the Mongolian plateau. They are Bronze Age peoples, practice irrigation and are scattered over southern Siberia. Other peoples are Samoyeds (reindeer herders of Yalmal and Taymyr peninsulas and tundra west of the Yenisey); Turkic tribes (like the Yakuts (inhabit the Lena valley with settlements along headwaters of Yana, Indigirka and Kolyma rivers) and Tartars); Manchu-Tungus (in the Yenisey valley east to the Pacific Ocean); Mongol-Buryats. Cousin to the Tungus are the Lamuts - shores of Sea of Okhotsk - the Daur in Amur River valley.

Stylistic art of Gandhara extends into Turkistan.

- 270 Construction of Antiochia Margiana at the site (mod. Bairam 'Ali) by Antiochus Soter.
- 256 Diodotus I, satrap of Bactria, declares his independence, establishing the kingdom of Bactria (founding the Graeco-Bactrian kingdom), also controlling Sogdiana. He and his successor (Diodotus II) spend their reigns battling the Seleucids.
- 250 The Parthians take Sogdiana from the Greeks, leaving the latter to rule only in Bactria.
- 238 Arsaces establishes the Parthian kingdom.
- 235 Euthydemus usurps the Bactrian throne.
- 225 About this time is the rise of the Hsiung-Nu under T'ou-man.
- 221 The capital city of Ch'I is destroyed by Shih Huang Ti.
- 212-205 Euthydemus is defeated by Antiochus III who recognizes him as Bactrian ruler.
- 210 About this time the Hsiung-nu begin forming the first Turkish Empire in Mongolia. A powerful empire, it extends from the Great Wall to the Caspian. The people are a collection of Mongol, Tungus, Turk and perhaps even Finnish hordes under a Mongol military caste; the Mongol-Tungus element is predominant.
- 209 T'ou-man is killed and succeeded by his son Mao-tun. He raises the Hsiung-nu to be a major power and menace to China. The empire is centered in Mongolia – its western limits are unknown. There is more or less constant warfare with China (to the 1st century CE).
- The Han dynasty is established in China.
- 202 Under the Han dynasty, a new city is built where Ch'I stood. It is called Yen and later becomes Yu-chow.
- 200 The Hsiung-nu (later known as Huns) surround the Chinese emperor for seven days; peace is secured by offering an imperial princess as consort (to 166).
- About this time Chorasmia (eventually Khwarazim) becomes a vassal of Parthia.
- 190 Euthydemus is defeated by the Romans. He and his son Demetrius cross the Hindu Kush and enter eastern Persia and the Indus valley. See Genealogical Chart #6 in India file.
- 185 About this time Demetrius advances into India. A general, Eucratides, declares himself king of Bactria, but there are now many petty kingdoms and chaos reigns. Attic standards of coinage and culture begin to be abandoned for native ones.
- 180 Bactria annexes a great part of northwest India. The western provinces are conquered by Parthia.
- 174-161 The Hsiung-nu attack the Yueh-chih (known in the West as the Tocharians; a nomadic tribe inhabiting the modern Chinese province of Kan-suh), driving them from Gansu. The Yueh-chih conquer the Wusun of the Ili River basin.
- 170 About this time the Sakas begin being driven southward by the Yue-Chi.

- 163 One branch of the Yue-chih, the Great Yue-chih, settle in Kashgar oasis, driving out the Sacae.
- 159 Scythians (Mongols or Yue-Chi) conquer Sogdiana.
- 155 About this time Menander becomes ruler of Bactria. At times his rule extends from Kabul to the middle Ganges. It is probable that he converts to Buddhism in which he is referred to as Malinda.
- 150± Hsiung-nu expel from western Kansu (China) a people of Iranian stock, the Yueh-chih (Greek=Tocharians). One part, the Asii, move to the Caucasus region. The other part moves southerly.
- Mid 2nd century: Turkistan is divided between Parthia (west) and Bactria (east). Parthia begins expanding eastward at Bactria's expense under Mithridates I (147-138) and Phraates II (138-128).
- 140 The Sakae, fleeing the Scythians (Yueh-chih) out of Bactria, break into two groups. The first to western Afghanistan (= Sakasthana (Pers. Seistan)) and the other to Punjab, taking Sind, Gujarat and Malwa (to 130). Their rulers are called *satrap* (*kshatrapa* or *chhatrapa*) and are subordinate to the king of Kabul and the Punjab, establishing their kingdom C 94.
- 139 The Yueh-chih (Kushans) , fleeing from the Hsiung-nu, overrun the Greco-Bactrian kingdom, attacking the Sakas and driving them into Persia and India. The Kushans rename this country between the Chu and Syr-Darya rivers Tocharistan. They keep moving.
- 138 First Chinese diplomatic mission to the Fergana Valley, led by Chang Chien. He seeks to secure help against the Hsiung-nu from the Yueh-chih who had been driven west by the Hsiung-nu into Ili: They in turn have invaded Hellenistic Bactria.
- 130 By this time Bactria is bordered on the east by China - controlling the area from Lake Balkash south to the Hindu Kush, permitting Chinese travel through Turkistan to India and bringing Buddhism to the tribes.
About this time the Scythians move into Sogdiana.
- 2nd century (end): Turkistan (the area from the Caspian Sea to the Tienshan, from the Aral Sea and Lake Balkash to Kapet Dagh and Hindu Kush) has been occupied by a mix of the Yueh-chih and Hsiung-nu.
- 121 The Chinese, under General Ho Chu-ping, defeat the Hsiung-nu, driving them north of the Gobi desert. Han emperor Wu-Ti inaugurates a limes against the steppe barbarians (the Turko-Mongol tribes, or Hsiung-nu = Huns): A continuous line of forts and military colonies from Su-chou to Tun-huang (completed 108). By this limes, China controls the "Silk Route" through the Tarim Basin which is continuously challenged by the Hsiung-nu.
- 120 About this time the Yueh-chih are attacked by the Hsiung-nu (with whom is the son of the defeated Wusun chieftan). The Yueh-chih now occupy Bactria.
- 106 Diplomatic ties are established between the Chinese and the Persians.
- 102 The Chinese with a huge army under Li Kuang-li conquer the petty states of the Tarim Basin and Fergana (Ta Yuan), including Kokand. This region speaks Indo-European languages; Tocharian and Kuchean in the northern oases; Eastern Iranian or Shaka in the south while Sogdian is the "lingua franca".
- 1st century: Appearance of the Kyrgyz peoples in the upper Yenisey River valley of central Siberia, and the Tashtyk culture (to 5th cent CE); an amalgam of Asiatic and European

peoples.

The Kushans take Bactria's holdings in Turkistan and the Huns (Hsiung-nu) are disputing the region near Lake Balkash with the Chinese. About this time, the Hsiung-nu Empire is breaking up; subsequent history becomes obscure.

By this time the Yueh-chih have penetrated Seistan and the Kabul river valley; they cross the Indus and establish (C90 BCE) the Kushan (Kusana) empire in NW India. They are known there as the Shakas or Sakas.

The Chinese conquer "Chinese" Turkistan, including Kashgar.

53 Battle of Carrhae; Parthian victors settle many Roman prisoners in Margiana (mod. Merv).

51 The Hsiung-nu split into two hordes, with the Eastern Horde subject to China. The Eastern Horde lies between Shensi and the Caspian; the Chinese begin exacting tribute from them.

50 By this time Kujula Kadphises, who has united the five Yueh-chih tribes of Bactria, has established his rule from eastern Persia to western India, establishing an Indo-Scythian empire, the Kushan, stretching from Persia to Transoxiana to the Upper Indus. The seat of this empire is in Bactria.

20 About this time the Kushans move into Sogdiana.

BCE – CE

1st century: Chinese influence wanes and the Yueh-chih reassert themselves.

20-60 Era of rule of Kujula Kadphises over Kushan. He extends the empire from the vicinity of the Aral Sea to Varanasi (Benares) and southward as far as Nashik, near Bombay (Mumbai). They control the growing caravan trade route between China and Rome.

The Scythians of the steppes of Central Asia are subsumed into the Kushan Empire.

25 The Kushans reach Kabul and Kandahar, taking over Sogdiana.

27 Chorasmia (future Khwarazim) becomes vassal to the Kushans.

48 By this time, the Hsiung-nu empire, plagued by internecine struggles, dissolves: The southern Hsiung-nu recognize Chinese suzerainty and settle in the Ordos region. Northern Hsiung-nu maintain themselves in Mongolia. Earlier, another group led by Chih-chih, brother and rival of the northern Hsiung-nu leader, moved westward. Not long after the death of Chih-chih (36) the western group disappears from the records.

50 About this time the Kushans take Taxila. Their empire now includes Sogdiana, Bactria to the Amu Darya and Aral Sea basin and into northern India (to about 240) to the Indus basin and the Ganges Basin.

70 Khotan (Ho-Tien) the oasis and city southeast of Kashgar emerges as the state of Vijayan. Under Chinese overview, it is a Buddhist regime (First dynasty) influenced by the Kushans in Ghur (to C 90).

About this time Kujula Kadphises and his son Vima have expelled the Parthians and established their dynasty of Kushan rulers.

73 Chinese generals Tou Ku and Pan Ch'ao defeat the Hsiung-nu near Lake Baikal.

74 In a Hsiung-nu counteroffensive, they conquer Kashgaria.

75 The two Chinese generals defeat the Hsiung-nu near Yar.

75-C95 Chinese are in a constant struggle to maintain control of the Silk Route through the Tarim Basin. Pan Ch'ao, through diplomacy and strategy, gains control over Turkistan, opening the silk trade with Rome.

80± About this time the Yueh-chih found the Kushan kingdom in Indian Punjab.

85 The Hsiung-nu are defeated by the southern Hsiung-nu.

- 87 The Hsiung-nu are defeated by the Mongol Sien-pi.
- 89 The Hsiung-nu are defeated by Chinese general Tou Hsien: After these defeats, the Hsiung-nu migrate westward, leaving their lands to the Sien-pi.
- 90 The Yueh-chih send tribute to China.
- 95 About this time general Pan Ch'ao is made governor-general at Kucha: Troubles with the Hsiung-nu continue.
- 97 Pan Ch'ao sends lieutenant Kan Ying to reconnoiter the borders of the Parthian empire and to collect information on Ta-Ts'in (the Roman Empire). Chinese armies reach the Caspian Sea. An army under Kan Ying penetrates to the Persian Gulf.
- 100 About this time Pan Yong, son of Pan Ch'ao, becomes governor-general at Kucha.
- 1st - 2nd centuries: Scythians on the steppes of southern Russia are absorbed by the Sarmatians who were once their vassals (to the 4th century).
- 2nd century: Vine introduced to China via Kashgar. The Yueh-chih introduce Buddhism into China and elements of Chinese civilization into India.
- 101 The Sien-pi begin raiding the frontier.
- 110 About this time the Ch'iang Tibetans begin raiding into Kansu.
- 123-153 About this time reign of Kanishka over the Kushan Empire (territory extended to include the Tarim Basin), with Buddhism as the dominant religion. Kanishka convenes a great council that settles the great canon of northern Buddhism. He is mentioned as a champion of Buddhism by Hiuen Tsang, the Chinese pilgrim. At Kanishka's death, the Kushan empire breaks up into principalities in southeastern Hindu Kush. The empire manages to sustain itself under Kanishka's successors – Huvishka and Vasudeva – then begins to decline.
- 141-4 The Ch'iang Tibetans are repulsed by Chao Chung.
- 150 About this time the Han dynasty returns to the defensive, withdrawing from their Tarim limes and making the defense against the Hsiung-nu more difficult.
About this time the Sien-pi, a Tungus-Mongol people, overcome the Hsiung-nu in the vicinity of Mongolia, becoming masters there.
- 170 About this time the Yueh-Chih are driven from Mongolia to Sogdiana and NW India.
- C175-C275 The Tungus-Mongols extend their power from the Liaotung peninsula to the Gobi Desert, driving the Hsiung-nu to the Altai mountains and upon the Great Wall in Ordos and north of the province of Shan-si.
- 184 "Yellow Hat" rising plunges the Han dynasty into anarchy.
- 200 About this time the Sakas of Bukhara (Transoxiana) are driven out by the Yueh-chih.
- 3rd century: Decline of the Kushan and Parthian Empires and the incorporation of Sogdiana and Bactria into Persia under the Sassanian dynasty.
- 3rd-7th centuries: Turkish and Mongol hordes sweep through the region of Kashgar.
- 220 End of the Han dynasty in China: Begins the Three Kingdoms period; China is unable to police the steppes: She loses eastern Turkistan to Persia who introduces Zoroastrianism.
- 224 Ardashir defeats the Parthians and gains the submission of the Kushans. Over them he places rulers called Kushanshahs. The region includes Sogdiana.
- 226 The Sassanians overthrow the Parthians in Persia. Merv becomes residence of the "Marzuban" or "Warden of the Marches", as well as seat of a Christian bishopric.
- 227 The Kushans gain control of the region of Sogdiana as the Kushanshahs.
- 265 By this time China's prestige is again on the rise.
- 275-300 Admittance of the Hsiung-nu into the Chinese empire (especially Shansi province)

- where many are admitted into the Chinese army.
- 284 The Chinese emperor receives presents from Rome via the Tarim Basin.
- 285 Indo-European princes of the Tarim Basin pay homage to China to escape conquest by the Sien-pi.
- 300 By this time the Kushan empire has declined considerably. The Arsacids have conquered Heart, Seistan and some of the Helmund valley.
About this time the Huns gain control of Astrakhan.
- 300-25± Mongol T'u-yu-hun enters the Koko Nor region.
- 303-4 A Hsiung-nu general of the Chinese army, Liu-yuan, establishes control over all Hsiung-nu federati at T'ai-yuan (Shansi capital).
- 305 Afrig, the ruler of Khwarazim (Chorasmia) asserts his independence. He is followed by Bagra, Sahhasak and Askadjamuk I.
- 311 Liu-Ts'ung, son of Liu-yuan, invades Ho-nan, sacks Lo-yang (the imperial capital) and captures emperor Chin Huai-Ti (executed in 313): Barbarians fall upon China, mainly the Hsiung-nu, Sien-pi and T'o-pa (a body of Turk or Mongol tribes). Soon the provinces of Chihli, Shansi, Shensi, Shantung and Honan are torn from China: There is a lull in barbarian attention in the west though inter-tribal conflicts arise.
- 311-350 Rise of the Juan-juan (a Mongol tribe) who make themselves masters (Empire) of Mongolia. Now they begin asserting power from the Gulf of Korea to the Altai Mountains, pushing the Hephthalites upon Sogdiana, Bactria and Bukhara.
- 320 The Guptas of India oust the Kushans, limiting them to eastern Persia where they battle the Sassanids.
- 350 About this time the Persian Kushanshahs of Bactrian Afghanistan become a dependency.
- 355 "Great Invasion of the West"; the Hsiung-nu force their way onto the Russian plain, being driven westward, unable to break the Hephthalites.
- 370 Huns appear on the southern Russian steppes north of the Caspian Sea, they are perhaps descendants of the disappeared western Hsiung-nu ousted by the Chinese. Astrakhan is taken.
- 372 Under Balamir (or Balamber) the Huns begin a westward movement and reach the Alani (or Alans) whom after a struggle they finally defeat.
- 374 With the Alans, the Huns invade the kingdom of the Ostrogoths and become involved in European affairs.
- 380-400 Emergence of the Juan-juan empire in Mongolia. They step into the place vacated by the Hsiung-nu. The Chinese consider them and describe them as being the same as the Hsiung-nu - incessant warfare continues.
- 382 About this time some of the Shen-si barbarians under Fu Chien establish rule to Karashahr and Kucha.
- 5th century: About this time the Khitans, first people known to speak a Mongol language, appear living in the forests of Manchuria and have contacts with the Turks and Uighurs.
About this time the Turkic Khakass (later Kirghiz) and Uighurs are compelled to migrate Northeastward. They subdue the Finno-Ugrians and settle on the upper Yenisei. They are iron users and learn bronze casting from the conquered. They establish the Khakass "empire" that lasts until conquered by the Mongols. Their first ruler is Manas who is followed by Semetei then Seitek (to ?).
About this time the region of Sinkiang (Xinjiang) falls more or less under the loose authority of the Eastern Gok Turks. One Ashina rules from 439 to ?

- 5th to 7th century: Many peoples pass through Astrakhan, including Avars, Alani and perhaps Goths.
- 410 The Hephthalites (White Huns) take over Khwarazm (and Khiva) and Badakhshan (northeastern Afghanistan).
- 440 The Hephthalites (White Huns, later known in the West as the Avars) move south from the Altai region to occupy Transoxiana, Bactria (Afghanistan), Khurasan, Gandhara and eastern Persia.
- 450 The Yueh-chi are driven out of Bukhara by the Hephthalites who occupy the Bactrian portion of Afghanistan.
- 460 About this time the Hephthalites conquer the Kushans and invade India.
- 461 The Juan-juan are driven out of central Asia. The Avars (akin to them) confederate with them; they dominate the Volga steppes and the Sinkiang (Xinjiang) region.
- 6th century: A Turkic people found an empire in Mongolia, dominated by the Uighurs - known as the Nine Clans. They spread throughout the Yenisey valley. Build great tumuli with monoliths Uighurs become fine agriculturalists with irrigation systems. At this time is the first appearance of the word "Turk", as Chinese Tu-kiu applied to a northern peoples led by two brothers. Each is called the Northern and Western Turks. Their nomadic "empire" stretches from Mongolia and the northern border of China to the Black Sea.
- 541 The region of the Uighurs comes under the domination of the Avars.
- 552 Turks (Chinese Tu-kiu), metallurgy specialists living within the Juan-juan empire, revolt, ending the Juan-juan empire, establishing their own. Turks speak a Turkic language and are first Central Asian people to leave a written record. Bumin, titled khagan, is leader founding this empire. This Turkic Khaganate, is nominally divided into Western and Eastern Khanates.
- 553 Death of Bumin. Son Muhan (to 572) rules part of the empire centered in Mongolia. Western part is ruled by other son Ishtemi (to 573) centered in Ektagh (Ili or Chu river valley?).
- 554 Persians take the region of Sogdiana, now ruled by the Ashina dynasty.
- 555 Turks defeat and almost annihilate the Avars. Uighurs, under Avar chiefs, take the name of Avar. They reach the country of the Alani, north of the Caucasus. Thereafter they become involved in European affairs.
- 560/565 Central Asian Turks (the Göks of Sogdiana) under Ishtemi, allied with the Sassanians, attack and destroy the Hephthalite Empire, defeating them near Bukhara and taking over Transoxiana (Kyrgyzstan), gaining control over part of the Silk Road between China and Byzantium. Bukhara is under the overlordship of the Western Turks. Afghanistan is under one of their tribes, the Nezak. They also control Uighuristan.
- Late 6th century: The Hephthalites move west to the Russian steppe to form the Avar Khanate.
- 573 Tardu succeeds Ishtemi (to 603) and pushes the Turkic empire westward until it reaches Byzantium. The Turks and the Byzantines ally against the Sassanians. Meanwhile, the eastern Turkic empire is suffering from internal strife and vigorous Chinese militarism (Sui dynasty).
- 576 The Turks invade the Caucasus and establish the Khazar Khanate.
- 582 The Turkic Khaganate of Transoxiana officially breaks up into Western (with capital at Urumchi) and Eastern (with capital north of Tashkent) Khanates.
- 7th century: Khazars establish an empire stretching between (the Urals?) to the Caucasus and later to the Crimea. This includes Astrakhan.

- 608 P'ei-chu (appointed 607) defeats the T'u-yu-hun.
- 609 P'ei-chu receives the submission of the T'u-yu-hun minor kingdoms.
- 610 About this time the Nezak, a Hephthalite clan, gains control of Kapisa, Kabul, Ghazni and parts of Seistan.
- 615 Provoked by the defeat of the T'u-yu-hun, the T'u-chueh invest the emperor in Yenmen.
- 616 T'e-chien Ssu-chin begins a struggle for Uighuristan's independence (gained in 619).
- 618 The T'ang dynasty is established in China. It accepts the submission of the Northern and Western Turks as their suzerain.
- 619-690 (T'ang dynasty) Earliest note of Mongols living along the courses of the Kerulen, Upper Nonni and Argun rivers. Their first chief, a semi-legendary figure, is one Budantsar who gains chieftanship over one of the tribes.
- 624 The Eastern Turks attack China.
- 625 About this time eastern Turkistan is conquered by Tibet.
- 626 The Eastern Turks again attack China.
- 630 Chinese forces (T'ang emperor T'ai T'sung) crush the Eastern Turks, occupying Mongolia (Eastern Turkic Khanate).
- 630-40 The Chinese subdue the Tarim Basin (Turkistan), establishing control over eastern Turkistan, coming into contact with the Sassanids of Persia who occupy the rest of Turkistan. In Sinkiang (Xinjiang), Chinese rule is opposed by Chebi-khan fighting from the Altai mountains. The rebellion continues under Nishu-beg (679) and Funian (680).
- 631 Chinese suzerainty begins to be acknowledged by the petty states of Western and Eastern Turkistan.
- 632 Death of Muhammad and beginning of the expansion of the Arab Muslim Empire.
- 641 Chinese divide and defeat the western Turks.
- 642 Battle of Nahavand: The Sassanian Shah Yazdigird is defeated by the Arabs.
- 642-51 Collapse of the Sassanian Empire under the pressure of Arab raids.
- 645 About this time a second Vijayan (Sinicized) dynasty accedes in Khotan.
- 646 Uighuristan comes under Chinese rule.
- 648 By this time the petty states of Turkistan (includes Kyrgyzstan) acknowledge Chinese suzerainty.
- 650 About this time the Khazars defeat the Alans and Bulgars, resulting in their domination of the Caucasus and the Volga region (Astrakhan).
- 651 Chinese displace the Gok Turks and take over Kyrgyzstan.
- 652 Arabs reach the Amu Darya River, taking over western, central and northeastern Afghanistan (Khurasan, Seistan and Badakhshan), ousting the Western Turks (Gok). Merv is made the capital of Khurasan. About this time Khwarazm asserts its independence.
- 656 Arabs invade Kabul but there is no lasting settlement.
- 657 Chinese assert authority in the region of Sogdiana; the Ashina rule in their favor.
- 657-9 Chinese disperse the western Turks (Tu-kiu); some migrate across southern Russia to Hungary; others follow Mahmud of Ghazni to India.
- 659 Chinese, claiming the territory of the Western Turks (including Tashkent), send forces under Kao Tsung that penetrate into Transoxiana (Western Turkic Khanate), reaching Bukhara and Samarkand.
- 661 Establishment of the Arabic Umayyad Caliphate in Damascus and the origin of the Sunni-Shi'ite split in Islam.

- 664 Arabs take Kabul, taking over all of Afghanistan.
- 667 Peroz, the last Sassanian shah, is defeated by the Arabs who now cross the Oxus River (Amu Darya).
- 673/74-704 Arab raids across the Oxus in an attempt to wrest Bukhara and Sogdiana from China.
- 676 A Gök Turk army under Emir Kotaiba ibn Muslim conquers Sogdiana (Bukhara). Subduance of the province around Bukhara, however, is more difficult. Queen Qabagh Khatun rules.
- 677 China retakes the region of Sogdiana.
- 680 The Arabs seize Khiva (Khorezm). Originally the Persian province of Chorasmia. Darius had placed satraps over it.
- 681 Chinese forces take over Kashghar and end the rebellion in Sinkiang (Xinjiang).
- 682/83 Revolt of the Northern Turks against the Chinese and re-establishment of the Turkic (Gök) Khanate in Mongolia under khagan Elterish (Kutlug Ilteresh-khan). The Turkic empire links China, Iran, India and Byzantium, giving their name to all Turkic-speaking peoples. Inscriptions in this independent kingdom (that includes Kyrgyzstan and Sogdiana) refer to the Oguz (name of a confederation of Turkic tribes), the Uighur (inhabitants of the basin of the Selenga river in Mongolia) and the Kirghiz (living on the Yenisey river). Gök rulers are Barsbeg (692-711) and Tardush Inanchu-Chur who flourishes about 731.
- Ashina ruler of Sogdiana revolts against the Chinese. It is suppressed but the Gok Turks move into the region, ousting the Chinese. Meanwhile, the last of the Ashinas, Suizi (693-694) "rules" at Dulu.
- 689 Arabs occupy Termez.
- 691 The Eastern Turkic Khanate is re-established in the Tarim Basin.
- 692 Elterish is succeeded by Kapghan who is succeeded (716) by Bilga; the Turkish Empire prospers.
- 699 Western Turks become dominated by the Northern Turks but later free themselves. Meanwhile, the Western Turks are involved in the Arab conquest of Transoxiana, becoming part of the Persian Abbasid (and later Samanid) dynasties.
- 7th century (end): Western Turks become involved in the Arab conquest of Transoxiana.
- 700 By this time Chinese and Muslim travelers are describing the Kyrgyz as red-haired with fair complexion and green (blue) eyes. They are viewed as a forest-dwelling "northern" people who use skis and practice shamanism.
- Era of the Orkhon inscriptions – oldest known Turkic records. These refer to the Oguz – a name of a confederation of Turkic tribes; to the Uighur as inhabitants of the basin of the Selenga River in Mongolia, and the Kirghiz as living on the Yenisey River.
- 8th century: Chinese have a garrison in Kashgar which battles the Tibetans and Arabs. It eventually succumbs to the Western Turks.
- 705 Led by Qutayba ibn Muslim, the Arabs launch a holy war against Transoxiana from Merv.
- 706 Arabs take all of Transoxiana, inhabited by the Tajiks, and call it Mavera-un-nahr (Land Beyond the River)[the Oxus].
- 709 Arabs capture Bukhara and Samarkand.
- 711 Arabs (Emir Kotaiba ibn Muslim) capture Khiva (Khorezm).
- 711-2 Maracanda is rebuilt as Samarkand by Kotaiba ibn Muslim. Later under the Samanids it becomes the seat of Arabic civilization.

- 712 Arabs subdue Khorezm (Khwarazm) and recapture Samarkand.
- 713 Arabs sack Kashgar.
- 714 The Chinese, under emperor T'ai-tsong, defeat the Turks at Lake Issuk-kul.
- 715 Death of Kotaiba; Arab conquest of Transoxiana ends.
- 719 Arabs overrun Fergana valley.
- 728 Transoxiana rises in a general revolt against the Arab's attempt to forcibly suppress Zoroastrianism and convert the region to Islam. Meanwhile, Seljuk Turks begin moving into the region; they adopt the Iranian culture.
- 730 About this time the caliphate finally defeats and disperses the Nezaks of Afghanistan.
- 734 Death of Bilga; the Turkish Empire begins to quickly disintegrate.
- 744/45 Uighurs stage a coup d'etat, taking over the Turkish Empire, establishing themselves as rulers of Mongolia. Their languages are very similar. China refers to the Uighur empire (Uighuristan) as the Nine Clans (Chiu Hsing), to Islam it is called the Tokuz Oguz. It perhaps is under dual leadership; the khagan is of one tribe, the prime minister (who holds most of the effective power) is of another. The Uighurs are less threatening to China than were the Turks. Capital is at Karabalgasun on the Orkhon, they rule from Ili to Tibet (including Kyrgyzstan and Sogdiana) and the Yellow River.
- 747 Kao Hsien-chih leads an army across the Pamirs to Hindu Kush.
- 747-9 The 'Abbasid movement begins in Merv. The city becomes a great center of Islamic learning. Silk and cotton are cultivated.
- 748 Chinese forces invade the Fergana Valley.
- 749/50 The 'Abbasids seize the Caliphate from the Umayyads and subsequently transfer the capital to Baghdad. Under the 'Abbasid caliphs, Persian influence begins to dominate the oasis cities of Transoxiana.
- 751 Battle of the Talas River; the Arabs defeat the Chinese (Kao Hsien-chih); China loses Turkistan.
- 754 Semirechye and the eastern Syr Darya come under the rule of the Qarluqs while the western Syr Darya comes under the rule of the Oghuz (Ghuzz). "Borders" among the various Turkic tribes fluxuate; i.e. Kashghar's rule reflects these variations.
- 755 Rebellion of An Lu-shan; the Uighurs aid the Chinese in this struggle. They also aid the Chinese at this time in fending off their long struggle with Tibetan aggression (618-821/2).
- 756 About this time a third Vijayan Dynasty begins rule in Khotan.
- 759 Mou-yu becomes third Uighur khagan. He visits Lo-yang in China where he is converted to Manichaeism, an Iranian religion. This brings many Sogdians into the empire, their influence is resented by Turkic Uighurs: Mou-yu is assassinated (780).
- Late 8th century: Khan Mei-yu (759-80) converts the Uighurs to Manichaeism.
- 8th-9th centuries: Fergana valley is ruled by the Samanids.
- 9th century: First Russian penetration into Siberia; Novgorod merchants cross the Urals and trade with the Finnic tribes of the Ob river country.
- Tataria comprises modern Bashkiria, Udmurtia, Mari, Chuvashia and Mordvinia.
- The Vyatichis, a Slav tribe, become established on the Oka river and pay tribute to the Khazars.
- By this time the Petchenegs are living between the Volga River and the Urals; controlling the region of Besarabia and Moldovia to the eastern Carpathians.
- By this time the Volga basin is inhabited by Finnish tribes in the north and Khazars and

- various Turkish races in the south.
- 820/21 With the decline of the caliphate, there is the rise of a Tahirid Emirate in Khurasan, extending into Transoxiana: The Governorship given to Persian named Tahir as an hereditary post. The sub-governors are Samanid. Domain includes Herat and Balkh.
- 821 Karabalghasun is visited by Muslim traveler Tamin ibn Bahr who admires a fortified town lying in a cultivated country.
- 840-46 The Turkic speaking Kyrgyz (Kirghiz), a people of Europoid ethnic stock from the upper reaches of the Yenisey, overthrow the Uighur empire in Mongolia but do not settle there; essentially remaining a people of the forest. They are able farmers and skilled handicraftsmen that includes metalwork. They have a runic system of writing. Their "rule" is called the Tiehle Dyasty, ruling the Kyrgyzstan region.
- Many Uighurs flee from the Orkhon and establish two kingdoms; one in Turfan (Tarim Basin; eastern Sinkiang - provinces of Bishbalik and Karakhoja) where they establish a Second Uighur empire. The other is in Kansu. In the former, the Turkish language extinguishes the Indo-European languages there.
- Mid 9th century: Both China's and Abbasid control of Turkistan weaken: The country is taken over by many states, one being Khorezm.
- 850 About this time the Uighur people settle on the Chinese border, Kansu province, and eastern Turkistan in the Turfan (T'u-lu-p'an) region (Sinkiang). Capital is at Kucha (K'u-ch'e). It is a complex, refined civilization in which Buddhism, Manichaeism and Christianity exist side by side, practiced by Turks as well as Tocharians, Sogdians and other Iranian peoples in the region.
- About this time (legendary) Kiev is founded by three brothers; Kiy, Shchek and Khoriv. But the city has been a trading link along the Dnieper river long before this, paying tribute to the Khazars.
- 864 About this time the brothers have died and Kiev is seized by the Varangians (Scandinavians) Askold and Dir, followers of Rurik. A great trade into the Black Sea, Byzantium (Tsargrad), the Sea of Azov and the Don and Volga rivers begins.
- 865 A Hindu dynasty, the Shah, gains control over northeastern Afghanistan (Badakhshan).
- 867-69 Rise of the native Saffarid dynasty (Shi'ite) in Persia, replacing the Tahirids and conquers Bukhara and Afghanistan.
- 872 The Samanids succeed the Tahirids of Transoxiana.
- 874 The Persian Samanid dynasty from Balkh conquers [modern] Uzbekistan.
- 874/75 The Persian Samanid dynasty (Sunni) obtains the administration of Transoxiana, with its capital in Bukhara, from the Caliph at Balkh.
- 880 By this time Kiev has become capital of the Varangian-Russian principality. Marauding expeditions against Byzantium are made.
- 880-900 The site of Archangel is visited by Norsemen (most notable; Ottar or Othere).
- 884 The Vyatichis of the Oka River recognize the rule of Rurik and are later absorbed into the principality of Chernigov.
- 892 An Arab Muslim dynasty, the Banu Farighon, is established in western Afghanistan.
- 9th century (end): Pechenegs, from the Ural-Volga area, at this time control the region embracing Besarabia and Moldavia to the eastern Carpathians.
- 900 The Samanids overthrow the Saffarids, thus extending their rule into all of Persia.
- 10th century: Arab travelers mention a place called Hovakend or Hokand, considered to be the place of Kokand.

About this time the Chinese call the area where the Kirghiz live "Kha-kia-tz" (Khakas). [Land of the Kirghiz, a Turkic people living on the Siberian steppe between Lake Baikal and the Yenisey River.]

Turkic invaders from the NE seize Maveria-un-mahr and soon many Tajiks (especially those in the valleys of the Syr Darya and Amu Darya) become Turkicized (both Moslem). They are part of the emirate of Bukhara.

10th century (beginning): The Khazars are destroyed by the Kievan Rus.

904 Samanid governor Ismail makes himself semi-independent ruler with Bukhara his capital.

906 Chinese Tang dynasty comes to an end.

907 Khitans, originally from SE Mongolia, conquer northern China (Manchuria), naming their dynasty Liao. Taking over Yu-chow, they rename it Nan-Ching (mod. Peking).

924 A-pao-chi, leader of the Khitans, defeats the Kyrgyz, driving them out of Mongolia, and offers the Uighurs resettlement in their former country. The Kyrgyz establish themselves on the upper Yenisey and later in the region called Kirghizia.

926 The Khitans defeat the P'o-hai king in Liaotung.

932 The Turkic Qarakhanid dynasty is established, with its initial center in Kashgar.

Il Khans establish themselves at Bukhara.

947 The Khitans set up their own Liao dynasty in northern China. Through their contacts with the Chinese they develop a written language.

Mid-10th century: Conversion of the Qarakhanids and Uighurs from Buddhism to Islam under Satuq Bughra Khan (d.955).

About this time the Moslem religion begins entering Chinese Turkistan.

950 About this time the Karakhanids become Muslim. They rule over the Semirechye and Tarim Basin south of the Tien Shan. Balasaghun is the residence of their principal ruler, Kashgar is the religious and cultural metropolis.

962 An autonomous city-state is founded in Afghanistan at Ghazni by Alptigin, a Samanid Turkish slave and commander under Subuktigin.

965 Kievan ruler Svyatoslav crushes Khazar political power in the Russian steppe region. The city of Astrakhan again changes hands.

977 Subuktigin founds the Ghaznavid dynasty with Ghazni its capital. Herat is taken over and city is eclipsed by the capital.

982 The Persian geography *Hudud al-'Alam* states the Kyrgyz live at the edge of the "Uninhabited Lands of the North". That is, in their secluded habitats, they remain outside the mainstream of Inner Asian history.

985 The Seljuk Turks, a ruling tribe of the Oghuz, move to the vicinity of Bukhara.

986 The Russians, in search of a religion, contact Muslim missionaries from Khorezm, but decide not to adopt Islam.

The city of Nan-Ching (mod. Peking) is rebuilt on imperial lines with walls 13 miles long and 30 feet high.

988 Conversion of the Russians to Orthodox Christianity as Prince Vladimir is baptized. The marauding against Byzantium ceases.

Late 10th century: The pro-Shi'ite Buwayhids end the political power of the Abbasid Caliphate by seizing control of Iraq and much of Iran.

992 The Karakhanids occupy Bukhara, previously the capital of the Iranian Samanid dynasty (819-1005) that had raised the cities of Transoxiana to celebrated centers of Islamic culture and learning. This includes Kashgar and Khotan.

- 994 Alptigin is succeeded by another Turk slave Subuktigin who throws off the yoke of the Samanids and annexes to his domains the Hindu kingdom of Kabul and the territory between it and the Indus River. He is rewarded with the government of Khurasan to which he appoints his elder son Mahmud.
- 995 First king of Khorezm (Khwarazm) is Mamun-ibn-Mohammed, of the Ma'munid dynasty.
- 996 Western Hsia (Hsi Hsia) kingdom (cap at Ning-hsia) of Tangut resorts to arms against China.
- 997 Death of Subuktigin. Mahmud's younger brother succeeds.
- 998 Mahmud deposes his brother and becomes head of an empire. During his reign he takes Baluchistan, Punjab, Ghor (SE of Herat) and Kandahar.
The Uighur Qarakhanids of Farghana, based at Uzgend, take over Khavakend (mod. Khokand), which up to now has been under control of various Turkic tribes.
- 999 The Ghaznavids defeat the Samanids in Khurasan as Mahmud of Ghazni (998-1030) begins taking over all Afghanistan. The Qarakhanids capture Bukhara, the Samanid capital. Bukhara, Samarkand and the country stretching as far as the Amu Darya are again under Turkic rule. The Qarakhanids (Karakhanids) are the first to embrace Islam. They push southward but are stopped at the Amu Darya (thereby becoming the border) by Mahmud of Ghazni.
The Il Khans break the power of the Tahirids, ruling over Transoxiana, Kashgar and eastern Tataria (to 1165).
- 10th-11th centuries: Russians colonize the fertile valleys of the Oka basin.
- 11th century: Turkmen, or Turkomans, arrive in Transcaucasia as Seljuk Turks - they are actually Western Turks. Nomadic, they are loosely subject to Persia, Khiva or Bukhara.
A prince of Kiev founds a fort named Pereyaslav-Ryazanskiy on the banks of a small lake.
- Early 11th century: Extension of Ghaznavid rule from Iraq to the Sind.
Seljuk Turks pass through Transoxiana; they appoint a hereditary governor at Khorezm while leaving the Qarakhanids at Samarkand.
Nan-Ching (mod. Peking) is known as Yen-ching.
- 1001-3 Western Hsia again raise arms against China.
- 1011 By this time the Ghaznavids have gained control over all Afghanistan.
- 1013 Khavakend (eastern Uzbekistan) is taken over by the Qarakhanids.
- 1017 Khorezm (Khiva) is conquered by Mahmud of Ghazni of the Seljuk Turks.
- 1020 Bokhara comes under the domination of the Qarakhanids.
- 1024 The Eastern Uighurs take over Khavakend (modern Khokand).
- 1026 The Ghaznavids take over northeastern Afghanistan (Badakhshan).
- 1030 Death of Mahmud. He had admitted Seljuk Turks into Khurasan and now they begin taking over, gradually shrinking the size of Ghazni's sphere of influence.
- 1032 Kashgar assumes rule over Khotan.
- 1039-42 Western Hsia again raise arms against China.
- 1040 Battle of Dandanqan, near Merv; Seljuks defeat the Ghaznavids and take over Khwarazm.
The Qarakhanid Empire splits in two: One rules over Western Turkistan (Transoxiana), the other over Eastern Turkistan (the Tarim Basin). Sinkiang is split into three sections: Eastern (Balasagun and Kashgar), Western (Bukhara (since 1032) and Samarkand) and Farghana (Khokand) under the Qaganates.
Turkmen enter the area of Turkmenistan about this time and come under the rule of

- the Seljuks.
- 1055 Under Tughral Beg, the Seljuks capture Baghdad, the Abbasid capital, from the Buwayhids, establish the Seljuk Sultanate, and become the official protectors of the Caliphate.
- 1060 The pagan Oghuz, known to the Byzantines as the Cumans, move into the Russian steppe.
- 1065 The Petchenegs are overrun by the Oghuz or Ghuzz. The Ghuzz then migrate from north of the Syr Darya: One branch, the Khalji, migrate to Afghanistan. Another branch, the Seljuks, head SW: They eventually (by the end of the 11th century) control an empire from the Amu Darya to the Persian Gulf and from the Indus to the Mediterranean. Another branch, the Kipchaks, migrate from the Irtysh River and head SW as far as the Syr Darya where they take over the area left by the Oghuz. They also enter Eastern Europe; the area between the Danube delta and the Carpathians, the Crimea and lower Volga. These are the Byzantine Kumans (or Cumans).
- 1068 The Cumans defeat the South Russian princes.
- 1070 The Qarakhanids, while maintaining the tribal traditions of the steppe, also combine native Turkish and Irano-Islamic culture. This year sees the completion of the Kutudgu bilig ("The Wisdom of Royal Glory") by Yusuf Khass Hajib in Kashgar. About this time also is the Diwan lughat at-Turk ("Compendium of the Turkic Dialects"), an Arabic dictionary of Khakani, the middle Turkish dialect spoken by the Qarakhanids, by Mahmud al-Kashgari.
- 1071 Battle of Manzikert; the Seljuks under Alp-Arslan, defeat Byzantine emperor Romanus IV Diogenes and establish the Turkish sultanate of Rum in Anatolia. By 1080 the Turks overrun Asia Minor.
- 1073 The Seljuks defeat the Qarakhanids; Turkish tribes invade Turkistan. Modern Kazakhstan and the region of (Bukhara) modern Uzbekistan (Turkmenistan) comes under their dominion. Eventually the Qarakhanids of Transoxiana become vassals of the Seljuks. Nevertheless, the Kara-Khitans have their hearts set on acquiring the Seljuk's loosely controlled eastern provinces.
- 1077 Khwarazm and Khiva comes under the Anushtiginids who are vassals of the Seljuks.
- 1092 Death of Seljuk sultan Malik-Shah, resulting in the division of the Sultanate into three parts: Nicaea (Anatolia), Hamadan (Persia) and Merv (Transoxiana and Khurasan), but the Seljuk empire is beginning to disintegrate.
- 1097 Governor Kutb-ud-din assumes the title king of Khiva (Khorezm) in Transoxiana. Ryazan is mentioned in the annals as a town on the Oka River. It is the chief town in the principality – in the location of the fort Pereyaslav-Ryazanskiy.
- 12th century: The Chinese know the Kirghiz as "Ki-li-ki-tz".
 Mukden is northernmost of the three capitals of the Kin Tatars (Golden Horde).
 About this time Aisia Goro (from whom descended the Manchu dynasty) has his capital in the vicinity of the Chang-pai-shan Mountains north of the Korean peninsula.
 Russians build a series of fortified towns on the Oka and Klyazma rivers.
 About this time Tajikistan (highlands of southern central Asia astride the Afghan frontier) comes under the control of the Kara Khitai.
- 1100 The Seljuk empire begins to disintegrate – to be finally destroyed by the Mongols. About this time a member of the family of Ghor called Shansabi or Shansabanigh achieves prominence. Calling themselves "fathers of kings", they begin clashing with the Ghaznavids.

- 1118 Sultan Sanjar makes Merv his capital. The city begins its zenith of glory.
- 1120 About this time Ghaznavid Bahram puts two Ghurid scions, Amir Kutb ud-Din Mohammed and Sultan Saif ud-Din Suri, to death. Their brother Sultan Ala ud-Din Jahansuz begins battling the Ghaznis with great success.
- 1122 Russians defeat the Cumans.
Yenching (mod. Peking) is captured by chief of the Tatars of the Golden Horde. The city is enlarged and beautified. It is now known as Chung-tu or the Middle Capital (of the three; Pin Ching (mod. Kai Feng) and Sheng-Ching (mod. Mukden)).
The Pechenegs are virtually extinguished by the Byzantine ruler John II Comnenus.
- 1124 Weakened by domestic dissension, floods, drought and locusts, the Khitans submit to the Jurchen Tungus tribes. Prince Ye-lu ta shih manages to escape; he and his followers flee to the west.
- 1125 The Jurchen, from Manchuria, having ousted the Khitans from China, establish their Chin (Jurchen) dynasty there.
- 1130 Ye-lu Ta-shih of the Khitan founds a new state, Kara-Khitai (Black Cathay or Western Liao) in eastern Turkistan, overthrowing the Turkish Uighurs. It extends from the Chinese boundary to the Amu Darya, including Khavakend and Kashgar (Tajikistan). Center lies in the Semirechye and Chu valley, capital is Balasaghun, inhabited by Muslim Karakhanids (Qarakhanids).
- 1137 Qarakhitai (Kara-Khitai) under Yeh-lu Ta-shih defeat the Qarakhanid (Karakhanid)(now vassals of the Seljuks) ruler Mahmud II at Khojent.
- 1140/41 Yeh-lu Ta-shih defeats the last "Great Seljuk" sultan Sanjar at the Battle of the Qatwan Steppe (near Samarkand) thus gaining power in Transoxiana. The Kara-Khitans are not Moslem. Kara-Khitai territory now extends across Central Asia, including part of modern Khazakhstan and Uzbekistan (including Bukhara, Khotan and Tajikistan), as far as the northern bank of the Amu Darya and threatens Khorezm which remains a Moslem outpost under a Seljuk shah. Later some of the Kara-Khitai become Nestorian Christians.
- 1147 Vologda is founded as a colony of Novgorod: The fur trade is at its height.
- 1150 The Ghurids destroy Ghazni, ending Ghaznavid rule.
About this time Merghus Buyuruk Khan is on the throne of the Torgod (the Keraites of Mongolia).
- 1151 Under the Ghurid king, the city of Herat begins to recover.
- 1152 Alauddin Husain, chief of Ghor, captures and burns Ghazni. Mahmud's descendant Khusrau Shah flees to Punjab.
- 1153 Overthrow of the Seljuk Sultanate of Merv by Oghuz mercenaries. They are only there for a short time.
- 1157 Death of Sultan Sanjar, resulting in the breakup of the remaining Seljuk Sultanate.
'Ala-ud-din Mohammed of Khorezm, a descendant of Kutb-ud-din, conquers Persia.
- 1162 Birth of Genghis, as his father, Yesukai, 8th in line of descent from Budantsar, is defeating Tatar chieftan Temuchin. He names his son Temuchin.
- 1169 After years of civil strife among Slav princes, Kiev is captured by Andrey Bogalyubski.
- 1175 Death of Yesukai. Genghis becomes khan. Several tribes reassert their independence. His mother, Yulun, manages to bring about half of them back into the fold, but Genghis begins almost constant warfare with the others, including the Naimans, Keraites and Merkits.
Brothers Mohammed Ghori and Ghiyas ud-Din Mohammed ibn Sam begin wide-

- ranging conquests and supplant Ghazni rule in Afghanistan.
- 1186 Muizzuddin Mohammed (Mohammed Ghor), nephew of Khusrau Shah, gains control of Ghaznavid domain establishing the dynasty of Ghor, an “Afghan” dynasty, but is actually Turkish.
- 1187 The Ghurids take Ghaznavid lands in Punjab, ending the Ghaznavid dynasty.
- 1190 About this time Temujin establishes a new Mongol empire in central Asia.
- 1194 Death of Tughril III, the last Persian Seljuk ruler, resulting in the end of Seljuk power in Iran and the rise of the Turkic Khwarezmians in Transoxiana (Turkmenistan).
- 1200 About this time Wang Khan, grandson of Merghus Buyuruk Khan, leads the Keraites. He is sometimes an ally and sometimes an enemy of Genghis. [Sometimes identified by westerners as Prester John.]
- About this time the Khwarezm have become established in Khavakend (Khokand).
- 13th century: Norse hunters reach Novaya Zemlya.
- At this time the Chinese call the Kirghiz "Ki-li-ki-tz".
- Genoese merchants set themselves up at Eupatoria, Cembalo (Balaklara), Soldaia (Sudak) and Caffa (Theodosia).
- 1203 Death of Mohammed Ghor. Afghanistan’s conquests in India are lost.
- 1206 Genghis proclaims himself ruler of an empire, taking the title Khan at Karakorum. All tribes swear allegiance except Polo of the Naiman clan. These he quickly defeats: Polo is killed (1207) and his successor, Kushlek, flees with his ally Toto of the Merkits, to the Irtysh river.
- Death of Ghiyas ud-Din Mohammed ibn Sam. The Ghurid (Afghan) “empire” begins falling to pieces which are eventually consolidated under the Shahs of Khorezm (Khiva).
- 1207 The Kyrgyz surrender to Genghis Khan's son Jochi, thus escaping the destruction of the Mongol deluge and remaining beyond the immediate reach of Islam.
- 1208 Genghis defeats Toto and Kushlek who were organizing against him on the river Irtysh. Toto is killed and Kushlek flees to the Khitan Tatars. Genghis now turns toward China.
- 1209 Mongols defeat the Kirghiz of the Yenisey, forcing them to flee SW where they occupy Tien Shan and the Pamir highlands. They never establish a state yet retain their nomadic ways. Their wilderness existence and location away from invasion routes gives them a sort to immunity to being seriously controlled.
- The Uighurs, under Barchuq, submit to Mongol rule, avoiding the destruction of their country. Uighurs become Mongol "civil servants", exerting a civilizing influence on them. Mongols adopt the Sogdian script (they pass it on to the Manchus later).
- 1209-17 Mongol conquest of the northern Chinese empire.
- 1210 Naiman chief Kushlek joins with Mohammed, shah of Khorezm, and forces the Khitan khan to abdicate. They now attack Mongol forces, but are defeated. Mohammed flees and is pursued by Genghis, setting in motion a Mongol westward movement that carries Mongol rule to the Khorezm frontier.
- 1211 The Kara-Khitan hold on although their territory is shattered through the combined actions of the Khorezm-Shah 'Ala' ad-Din Muhammad (1200-20) and Kushlek, a fugitive Naiman chieftain in flight from Genghis Khan's Mongols. Kushlek (or Gutchluk) takes over control of Khitan territory (includes Bukhara) which includes modern Uzbekistan and the Khitai portion of modern Kazakhstan. (including Khavakend and Kashgar).
- 1212 The Mongols take over Sinkiang region.
- 1215 Mongols sack and burn Peking.

The Khwarazm shahs from central and eastern Persia conquer Afghanistan, ending Ghurid rule, forcing them to withdraw to India.

- 1215-7 Naiman chief Kushlek, under the auspices of his host the Khitan khan, collects his army that had been scattered by Genghis and allies with Mohammed, shah of Khorezm. They force the Khitan khan to abdicate in favor of Kushlek. He now marches against Genghis but is defeated and taken prisoner. Genghis annexes his kingdom, holding sway to the Khorezm frontier.
- 1218 Genghis sends envoys to Mohammed, shah of Khorezm. On the way, however, they are intercepted by Ingjuk, governor of Otrar who accuses them of being spies and has them put to death. Genghis demands extradition of the governor but Mohammed has this envoy chief beheaded. Genghis sets out from Karakorum: Conquest of Balasagun and Kashgar (Tajikistan); the Naimans are overwhelmed and the Khitan empire destroyed. A small Khitan state under Haji Ghirai remains; its capital is at Solkhat (Eski Kiriwi or Sary Krym).
- Mongols under Genghis take over the region of Kyrgyzstan and Tajikistan.
- 1219 Genghis sets out toward Khorezm. Second son Jagatai marches against Kankalis, the northern defense of Khorezm; eldest son Juji marches against Jand (Jend) at Signak. The shah of Turkistan deploys his defenses along the Syr Darya but it is a "weak everywhere" defense. Mohammed's 400,000 man army loses 160,000 dead - the rest flees to Samarkand. Jagatai takes Otrar after a five month siege. A third army takes Khojent (on the Jaxartes) and a fourth (under Genghis and youngest son Tule) heads for Bukhara. Tashkent, Nur and Bukhara are taken.
- 1219-20 Genghis brings destruction and great ethnic changes to the population of Turkistan, sacking the prosperous oasis cities. The Kirghiz remain "unconquered".
- 1220 Mongols defeat the Khwarezmians, capturing Bukhara (sacked) and Samarkand. (Jan) Genghis attacks, and by using feints and other trickery manages to capture the whole region (Transoxiana) in five months. Sabutai and Chepe are dispatched westward to pursue the fleeing shah to open up a path for further conquests. The shah's son Jelaladdin holds out in the south for a time then flees across the Indus. The southern part of Khwarazm manages to maintain independence until 1231.
- 1220-23 Genghis sends a force to Russia: Raid through Georgia (1221), then (1223) Crimea, Kiev, the Bulgars, Kipchaks, Turks and return to Karakorum.
- 1221 Mongol conquest of Khurasan, Bukhara, Turkmenistan (modern Uzbekistan) and Afghanistan. Samarkand was defended by 110,000 men but Genghis destroys and pillages the city. Kandahar is taken. The town of Merv is destroyed and the dam upon which irrigation depended is demolished.
- 1222 Russians reach the mouth of the Oka and found a new Novgorod.
- 1223/24 Mongol armies cross the Caucasus.
- Mongols, in pursuit of the Khwarezmian shah, encounter a Russo-Kipchak force on the river Kalka, where they defeat them (31 May).
- 1224 Batu establishes the (Golden) Horde, capital is on the Volga. Exactions are demanded from Moscow.
- 1225 About this time Wang Khan's (who has had unfortunate fortunes in war) brother Ki Wang detaches the greater part of the Keraites and founds the Torgod chieftainship – named after the country where they settle. They are almost constantly at war with their neighbors.

- 1226 Mongols campaign into southern China. For details on the conquest of China, see China history.
- 1227 Death of Genghis Khan, resulting in the division of his empire amongst his heirs, including Batu (the “Golden Horde” of the Kipchak Khanate, on the Russian steppe) and Jagatai (or Chagatai; the Chagataid Khanate, in Transoxiana, the Tarim Basin, Kara-Khitai (includes Tajikistan), Kyrgyzstan, Semirechye and most of modern Uzbekistan); to Ogodai goes Outer Mongolia and Eastern Mongolia and Northern China go to Tului. Khazakhstan is divided between the Golden and Chagatai hordes. Creation of the Tatar Khanate of Sibir (Siberia), with capital at Tobolsk. The conquerors in Turkistan, however, are slowly becoming Turkicized. The city of Khavakend is razed, eastern Uzbekistan hasn’t a capital.
On the death of Genghis Khan, Jelal-ed-din, who had been driven into India from Khorezm, returns with the support of the sultan of Delhi. He reconquers Khorezm and takes Tiflis and Kelat.
- 1229 Accession of Ogodai. He intensifies Mongol pressure on China.
- 1231 Mongols defeat a resurrected Khwarezmian Shahdom, conquering Afghanistan.
Ogodai's Mongols conquer Korea.
- 1232 Herat, which by the time the Mongols arrived had become the wealthiest among Balkh, Merv and Nishapur, suffers a massacre this year. Only 40 persons survive.
- 1234 Ogodai's Mongols overthrow the Chin dynasty of China.
- 1235 Ogodai, with his armies returned from China, marches into Khorezm. Jelal-ed-din flees into the Kurdish mountains where he is murdered. After Khorezm, the Mongols take Diarbekr, Mesopotamia, Erbil and Kelat and advance on Azerbaijan.
Meanwhile, two other armies are sent out: One to Korea (subdued 1260), and one to Song China (subdued 1258).
- 1236 The second Mongol westward thrust begins under Batu Khan, son of Juji. They begin with a thrust into eastern Europe, destroying Tataria and founding the Golden Horde.
- 1236-7 The westward marching Mongol army reaches Bulgar.
- 1238 The westward marching Mongols reach Ryazan, Moscow, Vladimir and Yaroslavl.
- 1239-40 The westward marching Mongols reach Astrakhan, Novgorod and Kiev.
- 1239-42 The Vyatichis’ towns and villages are ravaged by the Mongols and the region (around Orel) is reduced to poverty. The Mongol invasion in the Volga region finds a well-developed agricultural population. Astrakhan is taken. The invasion is checked but it is with difficulty that the Russians begin regaining the territory.
- 1240 (Dec) Kiev falls to the Mongols and Russia comes under the Mongol yoke.
- 1241 Mongols, led by Nogai and Tulabogha, enter Poland; they reach Krakow, Legnica and Mohi. They invade Hungary, defeating the forces of Bela IV. They enter Byzantine territory.
(11 Dec) Death of Ogodai. He is succeeded by his son Kuyuk. The Mongols begin with-drawing from Hungary and Byzantine territories to southern and central Russia.
- 1242 Last of the Mongol forces are stopped in their westward advance at the gates of Vienna.
Westward Mongol forces pass north of the Black Sea and enter Kipchak (Cuman) territory.
- 1243 Battle of Kosedagh; Mongols defeat the Seljuks.
- 1244 A group of Khwarezmians, fleeing from the Mongols, capture Jerusalem from the Crusaders.

- 1245 Malik Shams ud-Din Kurt (Jalal ud-Din) holds Ghor in alliance with or subservient to the Mongols – a revitalization of the Ghurids.
By this time the city of Kiev has almost disappeared.
- 1248 Death of Kuyuk. Warfare breaks out between the houses of Ogodai and Jagatai.
Malik Shams ud-Din Kurt is given all the provinces of Merv to the Indus including Seistan, Kabul, Tirah (including Khyber Pass) and Afghanistan by Great Khan Mangu. He rules from Herat.
- 1249/50 Establishment of the Kipchak Turkic Mamluk dynasty in Egypt.
- 13th century (mid): Russian traders from Novgorod begin crossing the Urals into Siberia to trade in furs.
- 1251 (1 July) Mangu, eldest son of Tule and Ogodai's nephew, is elected khagan. Mangu hears that dissension has broken out in Persia. An army is sent under command of his brother Hulagu to punish the Ismailites (or Assassins) there.
- 1251-6 Hulagu goes via Samarkand and Karsi, Balkh and into Kuhistan (Kohistan). Rukneddin Gurshah II, leader of the Assassins, is killed.
- 1255 Death of Batu. Brother Bereke Khan succeeds
About this time Pope Alexander IV preaches a crusade against the Tatars in Poland. It fails and the Tatars take Krakow and advance as far as Bythom (Beuthen) in Oppeln. When they retire, they take many Christian slaves with them.
- 1256 The Mongol Il-Khanid dynasty is established in Iran under Hulagu, brother of Kublai, consolidating Mongol's hold there.
- 1256-8 Hulagu crosses the mountains and attacks Baghdad, residence of the last Abbasid caliph and his Seljuk protectors.
- 1258 (15 Feb) Hulagu occupies Baghdad, ending the 'Abbasid Caliphate. The city is sacked. The foundations for an Iranian Mongol state known as the Il-Khanate which embraces the Iranian plateau, much of Iraq, Northern Syria and eastern and central Anatolia are established. A famine desolates Iraq-Arabia, Mesopotamia, Syria and Rum.
The descendants of Ogodai (died 1241) and Chagatai (died 1242) try to maintain the steppe policies of their nomad followers and increasingly oppose the policies of the great khan in China and his ally the il-khan.
- 1257 Berke, brother of Batu, accedes as ruler of the Golden Horde, headquarters at Sarai on the Volga (to 1267). He undertakes its Islamization which leads to conflict with the Il-khans but forges strong links with the Mamluks (who are Kipchak Turks) of Egypt.
- 1258-60 Aleppo is sacked, Damascus surrenders and Hulagu heads for Jerusalem when he hears of Mangu's death. He returns to Mongolia and leaves Kitboga in charge. Hulagu is recognized as ruler of the conquered provinces.
- 1259 Death of Mangke. His two younger brothers Kublai and Arikboga vie to succeed him.
- 1260 Battle of 'Ayn Jalut; Mongols are defeated by the Mamluks. The Mongols retire; Mangu's brother Kublai is elected khagan.
The Kipchak Khanate divides into the White and Golden Hordes.
Kublai Khan sends his brother Mangke (or Mangu) to China where he establishes the Mongol Yuan dynasty.
Arikboga is proclaimed khan at Karakorum but the struggle with Kublai continues.
Afghanistan becomes a province of the Mongol Il-Khanid dynasty ruling from Persia.
- 1264 Arikboga is captured and Kublai becomes khan. Central Asian heartland remains in a subservient role. Kaidu, grandson of Ogodai, supports centering the khanate in Central

- Asian heartland - he gradually extends his control over most of the Semirechye, Kashgaria and Transoxiana. Kublai moves his capital from Karakorum to Yenching (mod. Peking). The new city is rebuilt on a more magnificent scale and renamed Khanbalig (Cambaluc) "City of the Great Khan".
- 1265 Accession of Il-khans Abagha (to 1282) and Arghan (1284-91), though practically independent, they remain loyal to Mangke and Kublai.
- 1269 Kaidu assumes the title of Great Khan.
- 1270 The Uighur Kingdom is defeated by rebels.
- 1272 The Tartars convert to Islam.
- 1273 Vologda is plundered by the Tatars in alliance with the princes of Tver. It soon recovers. Now a continuous dispute between Moscow and Novgorod over its possession begins.
- 1274 A Mongol armada visits the island of Tsushima and commits great depredations (also in 1286).
- 1275 Marco Polo visits Kashgar.
- 1276 Having a fallout with Abaka, Malik Shams ud-Din Kurt is poisoned.
- 1277, 1287-8 Chagatai's descendants, enfeoffed with territories from Bishbaliq in Dzungarian Basin west to Samarkand lend Kaidu their support.
- 1278 Rukn ud-Din Kurt (Rukhan ud-Din), son of Malik Shams ud-Din Kurt, is invested with the government of Khurasan.
- 1280-1300 Mongols of the Golden Horde become power brokers in Eastern Europe: Hulagu marries a daughter of Michael Palaeologus; Toktu khan marries Maria, daughter of Andronicus II; Nogai marries Irene, daughter of Michael Palaeologus.
- 1281-4 Reign of the 3rd Il-khan; he embraces Islam.
- 1283 Rukn ud-Din Kurt, distrusting his Tatar [?'s], withdraws into Ghor (dies 1305).
- 1283-1380 Afghanistan is ruled by eight kings, sometimes aiming for independence, sometimes submissive to the Mongols.
- 1284 The Uighur Kingdom is absorbed by the Jagatai Khanate.
- 1291-1312 Years in which Toktu Khan strikes coins, the first Mongol ruler to do so.
- 1294 Death of Kublai. Son Timur Khan (or Uldsheitu Khan; Chin. Yuen-cheng) succeeds. During his reign the division between the Ogadai and Jagatai families is healed. He is succeeded by his nephew Khaissan who only has a short reign. The bishop of Murom settles in Pereyaslav-Ryazanskiy (Ryazan). The princes of Ryazan completely abandoning the old town of Ryazan.
- 1295 Accession of Il-khans Ghazan (1295-1304) and Uljaitu (1304-17); with the death of Kublai (1294) the drift toward full independence grows stronger. Ghazan decides to make Islam the state religion, gaining the confidence of the majority of his subjects and moving toward Iranian tradition instead of Mongol. Soon a conflict with the Mamluks of Egypt begins.
- 1299-1300 The Seljuk Sultanate of Anatolia breaks up into smaller principalities, to be succeeded by the Ottoman Turk Emirate, founded by Osman I (ruled 1290-1326).
- 13th-14th centuries: By this time the Buryats have established themselves around the southern end of Lake Baikal.
- 1300 By this time the Mongols of Turkistan have become Turkicized and have adopted the Turkic language, called Jagatai. By this time Mongol authority in China is unraveling. For details on the demise of Mongol China, see China history. The Chakhars, taking advantage of weakening China,

occupy the area NW of the Ordos territory (to 1600). They are eventually subjugated by the Ming dynasty (1644). There are successful expeditions by these Ordos Mongols into Tibet and even as occasional one into China. Buddhism begins spreading throughout the Mongol people. Several tribes find the Ordos territory inhospitable; the Tumeds move farther eastward (to 1600).

Congress of Russian princes is held in Ryazan (Pereyaslav-Ryazanskiy).

1301 Death of Kaidu; Jagataid khan Duwa quickly makes peace with his Mongol kin in Iran and China - the Jagataid khanate is united.

Ryazan is taken by a Russian prince. It continues, however, to be the residence of Ryazan princes (to 1517).

1303 The Mamluks stop the last Mongol invasion of Syria.

Early 14th century: The Jagatai Khanate splits in two parts: Transoxiana (West) and Mughulistan (East) (to 1330-40).

1307 An emissary of the pope Geovanni di Monte Corvina is received by the Khan. He is made archbishop of Khanbalig.

1311 (Feb) Death of Khaissou. His nephew Buyantu (Chin. Yuen-cheng) succeeds as Mongol khan.

1312 Ghiyath ad-Din Muhammad Oz Beg (Uzbek) becomes ruler of the Golden Horde - overseeing a time of prosperity. But there are problems: Antagonism between Turko-Mongol ruling class (Turkish-speaking and Muslim; "Tartars") and their Christian Russian subjects. Uzbek gives one daughter to Nasir of Egypt, another to George, Prince of Moscow. He protects Russian churches within his frontiers and marries a daughter of Greek emperor Andronicus III.

1313-41/42 Under the rule of Khan Uzbek (1282-1342), the Golden Horde converts to Islam.

1319 A Mongol princess lands at Alexandria, Egypt, in order to forge closer relations between the Mongols and other Islamic lands.

1320 Kiev is taken over by Lithuania.

Death of Buyantu. Son Gegen (Chin. Ying-tsung) succeeds as Mongol khan.

1323 A peace is concluded between Mamluk sultan al-Malik an-Nasir and Il-khan Abu Sa'id (1316-35) that weakens the Golden Horde's influence in Egypt. With the latter's death the Il-Khanate begins to disintegrate.

Gegen is assassinated. He is succeeded by Yissun Timur (Chin. Tai-ting-ti). He devotes himself to administering the empire.

1326 Conversion of the Jagataid Khan Tarmashirin to Islam.

1330-40 Death of Dua; soon the Jagataid khanate divides: Western khanate includes Transoxiana and modern Afghanistan (capital at Bukhara; espouses Islam and Muslim lifestyle); Eastern khanate includes the Semirechye and Kashgaria (maintains nomadic traditions of their ancestors; headquarters in Ili or Chu valley; close allies, the Mongol Dughlat clan, related by marriage, rule Tarim Basin from Kashgar; anarchy reigns), a son of Dua is chosen as their khan. To the western khanate, the eastern is known as Mughulistan ("Land of the Mongols") and its inhabitants known as Jats ("Robbers"). Afghanistan's rule is by a local dynasty.

The Turfan region is divided into three independent kingdoms; Turfan, Ha-mi and one other.

Meanwhile, the eastern khanate undergoes a period of political instability (to C1350) and gradual Islamization.

- 1335 Death of Il khan Abu Said.
- 1336 End of the Il-Khanid dynasty in Iran as the empire breaks up into five petty dynasties: These include the Jelairids at Baghdad (to 1400); others are at Azerbaijan and Afghanistan.
- 1340 Death of Uzbek. Son and successor Tinibeg Khan is killed after a few months by his brother Janibeg Khan.
- 1343 Kazan becomes Western Jagatai (Chagataid) khan.
- 1346 Death of Kazan. Power falls into the hands of the Amirs who continue to place a titular khan on the throne: Amir Kazgan (dies 1357) becomes khan.
- 1348 Kashgar is taken over the Jats of Mughulistan, ending the anarchy there. Sinkiang comes under the rule of the Chagataiids of Dzungaria.
- 1354 Ottomans are established on the Dardanelles, ending commercial relations between the Volga and Nile valleys. Meanwhile, rulers of the Golden Horde fail to recognize the growing opportunities of Russia and the west; they instead concentrate on lands to the south while internal and dynastic struggles threaten the Horde.
- 1355 A Buddhist priest named Chu Yuan-chang enrolls himself in a growing rebel movement in China.
The dynasty at Azerbaijan is overthrown by the Western Kipchaks.
- 1355-68 Chu Yuan-chang soon becomes leader of the rebel movement, handily defeating Mongol regulars. Meanwhile, Toghon Timur Khan is called to face a rebellion in Korea. Eventually, Toghon is defeated; he flees to the shores of Dolon-nor in Mongolia. The western provinces of China hold out against the rebels but with the flight of Toghon the Mongol troops lose heart. Toghon dies and is succeeded by Biliktu Khan.
- 1357 After several successful expeditions against Persia, Janibeg Khan is killed by his son Berdibeg, who after a short reign is killed by his son Kulpa. The fortunes of the Golden Horde begin to decline.
- 1358 Toghluk-Timur, grandson of Dua, assumes rule in Turkmenistan.
- 1359 A Mongol dynasty, the Sufid, begins rule in Khwarazm.
- 1360 Urus Khan seizes the Horde throne. He is opposed by Khan Tuli Khoja who is killed. His son, Toktamish, seeks refuge with Timur who agrees to support him. A force is sent but cannot dislodge Urus.
- 1361 Toghluk-Timur, grandson of Dua and khan of the Eastern Jagatais and Khan of Kashgar (called by the Persians Mogolistan), invades the western territory. He appoints his son Ilyas Khoja as governor of Transoxiana. Timur is selected to be his minister.
- 1361-4 Timur flees and joins his brother-in-law Amir Husain (grandson of Kazgan). They defeat Ilyas Khuja and set out to conquer Transoxiana.
About this time a Sufid dynasty, under the Mongols, takes over Khwarazm.
- 1363 Timur expels Khan Tughlug Timur and sets up a puppet Khan under his control.
- 1365 Samarkand revolts against its Mongol rulers; it quickly becomes the capital of Timur's empire. He makes the city the most important economic and cultural center in Central Asia.
- 1368 End of the Yuan dynasty in China as the ex-Buddhist priest ascends the Chinese throne as the first sovereign of the Ming dynasty as Hung-wu. The city of Khanbalig (mod. Peking) loses its imperial status: It is now called Peiping-Fu (City of the North Place), becoming a border garrison town; the capital being at Nanking.
- 1368-79 Hung-wu sends troops to Mongolia, defeating them in all confrontations.

- 1369/70 Timur (Tamerlane), who claims to be descended from a minister of Jagatai, in Persia, had allied himself with the leaders who dethroned Kazan, and after the death of Toghluq, Timur becomes by right of conquest the sole ruler of Transoxiana. Samarkand is his capital. He controls a greater part of Persia, establishing a "2nd Mongol empire" that includes Bukhara, Turkmenistan, Kyrgyzstan, Tajikistan and the region of Uzbekistan. The city of Herat begins a period of architectural preeminence.
- 14th century, late: Golden Horde enters a long period of decline.
The Turfan Uighurs accept Islam.
- 1376 Toktamish ousts all rivals and becomes khan (to 1395) of the White Horde (Eastern Kipchaks, used to be the Golden Horde) located in western Siberia and extending to the lower reaches of the Syr Darya. He is able to enlarge his power base by uniting his resources with those of the Golden Horde, of which he eventually becomes master (1377); introducing "steppe power".
- 1377 Death of Urus. His two sons rule in succession – Tuktakia for a few weeks and Timur Malik who is killed in battle by Toktamish.
- 1378 Toktamish reigns as Nasir ed-din Jetal el Mahmud Ghujas Toktamish. He demands tribute from the Russian princes; they refuse.
- 1379 Khiva (Khorezm) is conquered by Tamerlane.
Death of Biliktu Khan. He is succeeded by Ussokhal Khan. During his reign the Chinese severely defeat the Mongols whose supremacy passes to the Oirad. The Keraits, however, retain the imperial line: The Mongols, driven northward, retire to the banks of the Kerulen, their original home.
- 1380 Battle of Kulikova; Russians defeat Mamay, Khan of the Golden Horde. While a crushing defeat, it is temporary.
The Golden Horde is amalgamated with the White Horde (together called by the former name).
Timur takes Heart, carrying away king and treasure. He also raids Khwarazm, staying there until 1385. He conquers Badakhshan (northeastern Afghanistan).
- 1381 By this time Timur has cleared opposition to his rule from Persia beginning the demise of Jagataid rule in Transoxiana.
Toktamish marches an army into Russia and captures Serpukhov.
- 1382 Toktamish marches on Moscow and on 23 August he sacks and burns the city and begins slaughtering the inhabitants. The same fate descends on Vladimir, Zvenigorod, Yuriev, Mozhaik and Dimitrov. The inhabitants of Pereslavl and Kolomna escape, but their cities are razed.
- 1382-7 Timur, assisted by Turko-Mongol tribes of Transoxiana, expands into Khurasan, Seistan, Khorezm and Mughulistan, controlling all of Afghanistan. He then embarks on extensive campaigns in modern Iran and Iraq, eastern Turkey and the Caucasus region. See Note 2
- 1383 Revolt in Heart. Timur's garrison is massacred. Timur puts his captive king to death and completely subdues Herat without mercy.
- 1385 Toktamish invades Azerbaijan, taking and razing the city of Tabriz.
Khwarazm asserts independence from Timur under Sulayman, a Sufid.
- 1388 Toktamish invades Transoxiana, defeating Timur's generals.
Timur returns and retakes Khwarazm.
- 1389 First mention of the city of Kaluga.
- 1391 Timur launches an attack on Toktamish; he captures Old Urgenj, transporting its

- inhabitants to Samarkand. At Kara Saman envoys arrive from Toktamish seeking a pardon for past conduct. But Timur marches on. (18 June) Battle at Kandurcha (in Bulgar territory) Timur defeats and scatters the Kipchaks.
- 1395 In a second attack, Timur defeats Toktamish, who has raised a new army and invaded the Caucasus, at the Battle of the Kur River. He destroys the Golden Horde's capital of Sarai Berke, and briefly occupies Moscow. He destroys the city of Astrakhan and has it rebuilt in its present location. What is left of the Golden Horde begins a rapid decline.
 Usurper Edigu assumes rule of the Golden Horde, exercising an able rule.
 With Timur's destruction of the Golden/White Horde, the Crimean Tatars found a state that becomes an ally of the Russians in their wars against the declining Golden/White Horde and the Turks.
 Upon destruction of the Golden/White Horde, the Uzbeks assume an important position on the east side of the Caspian Sea.
 The area of modern Kazakhstan is taken over by the Kazakh Horde led by Koirijaq (to 1718). The horde is still under Abu'l Khayr of the Shaybanids (to 1468).
- 1398 Timur takes Herat causing the fall of the Kurt dynasty. The population is almost wiped out.
- 1398/99 Timur invades northern India, defeats the Delhi sultanate and sacks Delhi.
- 1399 Timur harries the Egyptian Mamluks in Syria.
- 1400 Timur defeats the Mamluks in Syria.
- Early 15th century: By this time Herat is flourishing; it is a center of arts and literature.
- 15th century: Eastern khanate holds its own under a series of vigorous rulers - Esen Buga, Yanus and Ahmad - though ringed by foes: Oyrats in Dzungaria; Kirghiz of the Tien Shan and Kazaks of the Semirechye. Decline, however, is relentless.
- 1401 Timur destroys Baghdad.
- 1402 Battle of Ankara; Timur defeats and captures the Ottoman sultan Bayezid I.
- 1405 Timur, leading his forces on an invasion of China, dies at Otrar on the Syr Darya. A dispute among his sons, the Timurids, over the succession, begins: The Jagataid empire again divides but this time there is a third kingdom, Fergana, ruled by the Timurids.
- 1407 Timur's fourth son Shah Rukh emerges victorious. He abandons his father's capital Samarkand for Herat in Khurasan. He is a cultured monarch.
- 1407-49 Rule of Shah Rukh's son Ulugh Beg (1394-1449) in Samarkand.
- 1408 Emirate of the Black Sheep Turks established in western Persia.
- 1409 Shah Rukh appoints his son Ulugh Beg his deputy at Samarkand. Ulugh, an enthusiastic astronomer, builds a celebrated observatory and vows Samarkand will be a major center of scientific learning. He is killed (1449) on orders from his son 'Abd al-Latif. In Merv, Shah Rukh has the irrigation dam repaired and begins building a new city.
- 1413-69 Reign of Abu al-Khayr; the Uzbeks move south to Transoxiana.
- 1419 Death of Edigu. The Golden Horde begins to disintegrate:
- 1420's Breakup of the Mongol empire begins. While the core territories of the Golden Horde on the Volga-Don steppes become the "Great Horde", outlying regions secede to form independent khanates: Khanate of Western Siber, Kazan (middle Volga), Astrakhan (also on the Volga), the Crimea and the Nogay steppe east of the lower Volga.
- 1421 Emperor Yung Lo transfers his court to the north and Peiping is given the name Peking (Northern Capital).
- 1425 The Khitan capital is moved to Bakhchisarai.

- About this time Mongol chief Togon of the Kalmuck clan establishes an empire in north-western Asia.
- 1428 Abu'l-Khayr (17 years old), a descendant of Genghis Khan, becomes Khan of the Uzbek (taking their name from the admired Muslim ruler of the Golden Horde, Oz Beg (Uzbek) Khan, 1312-41) confederation in Siberia. He supports several Timurid princes and leads the Uzbek tribes SEward to the North bank of the Syr Darya.
A local dynasty, the Shaybanid, assumes rule in northern Khwarazm.
- 1430 About this time part of the Golden Horde splits off to form the Khanate of the Crimea under Hajji Giray Khan.
About this time Ulugh Mohammed khan, an army commander, breaks away from the Golden Horde and founds an independent Tatar khanate with Kazan as capital.
- 1434 Rise of the Oyrat (Western) Mongols in Dzungaria.
- 1437 About this time a period of factional disputes erupts in Khwarazm. Local clans, the descendants of Timur and the Chagatai Hordes clash.
- 1444 Death of Togon. Son Yi-hsien succeeds as chief of the Kalmucks.
- 1445 Part of the Golden Horde, led by Ulugh Muhammad (1437-45), splits off to form the Khanate of Kazan. He bequeaths the throne to son Mahmud (or Mahmutek; 1445-62). Mahmud's brothers flee for sanctuary to Vasily II of Moscow (1425-62) who sets up a puppet khanate for one of them (Kasim) at Gorodets-on-the-Oka, named Kasimov, which becomes a thorn in the side of Kazan.
- 1447 The city of Vologda is annexed by Moscow.
Death of Shah Rukh. His eldest son Ulugh Beg succeeds. He also furthers astronomy and mathematics.
- 1449 Kalmuck chief Yi-hsien attacks China and takes emperor Ying Tsung prisoner.
- 1450 About this time Many Uzbeks claiming to be descendants of a younger brother of Batu of the Golden Horde and under Mongol auspices, break away and under Abu'l-Khayr Khan, migrate from their homeland east of the Urals to the lower Syr Darya or into what is known as Kazakhstan. There they become known as Kazak ("Independent" or "Vagabond") Uzbeks. They adopt a nomadic pastoralism, in contrast to the sedentary farming of their forebears who are weakened by this. Their presence threatens the Timurids, causing Afghanistan to enter a period of many local rulers.
- 15th century, (second half): Cultural florescence of the principalities of western Asia ruled by descendants of Timur; literature, the arts and architecture. Jagatai Turkish is the language spoken at the Karakhanid court, a flexible vehicle for sophisticated literary expression. There is, however, unceasing rivalry among these principalities, making them unable to combine against outside intruders. By the end of the century, they have passed into the hands of the Uzbeks. Timurid rule of Badakhshan fades and the region once again reverts to local tribal principaities.
- 1451/52-69 Reign of the Timurid ruler Abu Sa'id (1424-69).
- 1453 The Ottoman Turks capture Constantinople.
- 1457 Yi-hsien has suffered a series of defeats and so negotiations sees the restoration of Chinese emperor Ying Tsung. Later, Yi-hsien dies and the Kalmucks lose much of their power but still savage Russian borders.
- 1464-65 Muscovite Prince Ivan III (the Great, reigns 1462-1505) sends an embassy to Abu Sa'id.
- 1466 Part of the Golden Horde splits off to form the Khanate of Astrakhan under Qasim I.

- 1467 The White Sheep Turks defeat the Black Sheep Turks in Persia.
- 1468 The Uzbeks are shattered in combat with invading Dzungars. Abu'l-Khayr Khan is killed by two rebellious kinsmen who had defected with their tribal followers and placed themselves under the Jagataid khan of Mughulistan (their descendants are to become the Kazak hordes later on). The Uzbeks quickly recover.
- 1468-1506 Reign of the Timurid ruler Husayn Bayqara (b.1438) in Herat.
- 1470 Under Dayan Khan (to 1543) and grandson Altan Khan (1543-83) the eastern Mongols (the Khalkha tribe) gain ascendancy.
By this time the western Mongols, or Oyrats, have become quite powerful under Esen Taiji.
- 1473 The kingdom of Ha-mi is annexed to the kingdom of Turfan.
- Late 15th century: The Kazakh Empire is established on the Central Asian steppes by the Kazak Uzbeks.
Decline of the overland trade routes, including the Silk Road, due to a new emphasis on trade by sea.
Tatar fugitives from Turkistan subdue the Mansi and Khanty tribes and found a Siberian khanate east of the Urals, capital at Kashlyk (or Sibir) on the Irtysh River.
- 1475 The Turkish sultan claims suzerainty over the Crimea as Turkish troops take Kaffa, Sudak, Balaklava and Inkerman. The Turks restore deposed khan Mengli Girai. He forms a close alliance with Grand Prince Ivan of Russia.
- 1480 Ivan III throws off the Mongol yoke by refusing to pay the onerous tribute to the Tatar khan and proclaims himself Czar of Russia.
- 1483 Kiev is reduced to ruins by the khan of Crimea.
- 1484 Russian soldiers sweep along the frontier capturing several tribal chieftains exacting tribute and acknowledgement of Russian suzerainty. The Khanate of Western Sibir comes within Muscovite political and military relations.
- 1488 By this time the Kazak Uzbeks have stretched Kazakhstan's control over the entire steppe region.
- 1490 Husayn Bayqara sends an embassy to Moscow.
- 1494-5 The Uzbeks conquer key portions of Transoxiana.
- 1497 Babur (1483-1530), ruler of Fergana, captures Samarkand.
- 1499 Kiev is given the "Magdeburg Right"; self-government, its own court of law, coinage and free trade.
- 1500 Uzbeks capture Samarkand and Herat under Muhammad Shaybani Khan (1451-1510, grandson of Abu'l-Khayr), thus taking over Transoxiana from the Timurids; ejecting the last Timurid sultans, Babur and Husayn Bayqara who flee to India. The Uzbeks occupy major cities, including Bukhara, Khiva, Samarkand and Khujand, and move their tribes permanently into Mawaraunnahr, Khurasan and adjacent lands. Shaybani Khan establishes and gives his name to the Shaybanid dynasty, ruling from Bukhara (the Khanate of). For awhile (to 1506) factional disputes wrack Bukhara.
Though renowned military commanders, the Shaybanid Khans also gain wide recognition for Sunnite religious orthodoxy and as cultured patrons of the arts; in Bukhara great, well-endowed seminaries and mosques arise under royal patronage, as do many major buildings and bridges.
About this time Tatar fugitives from Turkistan subdue the Mansi and Khanty tribes east of the Urals and establish a Siberian Khanate (capital at Kashlyk (= Sibir)) on the Irtysh

River near its junction with the Tobol. Meanwhile, by this time, Muscovy territory has reached the estuary of the Ob River in Nentsy territory, colliding with the Tatars.

By this time the Moslem Tartars are in conflict with other ethnic groups. Also, there are other tribal hostilities (between the Ostyaks and Voguls). In addition there are dynastic struggles among the Tartar nobility and the Shetlands (descendants of Genghis Khan) and the Taibugids, heirs to a local prince.

About this time as the Timurids fade, a period of prolonged struggle among the khanates of Khiva, Bukhara and Kokand and the nomadic Kirghiz, Kazakhs, Turkomens and Uzbeks ensues.

Begin 16th century: Golden Horde breaks up into several khanates; the Kazakhs remain in the steppes of Turkistan. They are divided into three confederations; the Little (or Younger), Middle and Great (or Elder) *zhuz* or hordes:

Little. Winter - shores of Caspian and Aral Seas

Summer - southern shores of the Urals

Middle. Winter - Syr Darya River

Summer - grazing grounds of upper Tobol, Ishim and Irtysh rivers

Great. Winter - south of Lake Balkash, in the Dzhety Su (Semirechye)

Summer - high valleys of the Tien Shan, Dzungarian Ala-Tau, Tarbagatai and Altai ranges.

Russian expansion eastward and northeastward in Siberia reaches the estuary of the Ob, inhabited by the Nentsy beginning a collision between the Russians and the Tatars.

16th century: Four tribes of a Mongol race; the Oyrat ("Confederation") occupy central Asia between Altai and Tien Shan and the desert of Gobi and Lake Balkash. There are internecine quarrels that eventually cause the Western Kalmucks to migrate through the Kirghiz steppe into Russian territory. Russians erect forts and establish colonies in the region of Orel.

1500-10 Shaybani Khan gains the country between the Oxus and Jaxartes, Fergana, Khorezm and Hissar and the territory of Tashkent from Kashgar to China. Babur recovers Samarkand but only holds it for a few months. Shaybani's successes anger the shah of Persia.

1502 Final collapse of the Golden Horde at the hands of the khan of the Crimean Tatar Khanate that annexes its lands.

Beginning of the Safavid dynasty in Persia.

1504 Babur (Zahir-ud-Din Muhammed Babur), after vainly struggling against his Shaybanid cousins, moves south taking over Kabul (making the city his capital) and Kandahar, establishing his kingdom in Afghanistan.

1505 Khwarazm comes under the rule of Bokhara.

1506 Uzbeks, under Muhammad Shaybani, capture Bukhara, ending that region's factional disputes (since 1500).

1507 Uzbeks, under Muhammad Shaybani, capture Herat, ending the Timurid dynasty. They also take Kandahar and Kyrgyzstan (ruling Tajikistan, Turkmenistan and Uzbekistan).

1510 Muhammad Shaybani Khan is killed in the Battle of Merv against Shah Ismail, the Safavid ruler, resulting in the establishment of the Shaybanid dynasty in Transoxiana, with the capital in Samarkand, but political power increasingly centered in Bukhara. The territory as far as Merv (including Khwarazm) is nominally included in the Persian empire (to the end of the 17th century). The Uzbeks have been driven out of Khurasan but their people

remain in Transoxiana. Ismail is unable to prevent raids by the Uzbeks from beyond the Oxus.

Early 16th century: Rise of the Khojas in Kashgar, later split into the Aq-Taghliqs (white-caps) and the Qara-Taghliqs (black-caps).

16th cent (from 1510). The Shaybani rule over the powerful and aggressive khanate from Bukhara. They feud with the Iranian Safavids (a Shi'ite-vs. -Sunnite contest) and with the Mughal dynasty in India (having driven the Timurid Babur out of Central Asia). In contrast, friendly, though sporadic, ties with the Ottomans are maintained via the Volga-Don steppes.

The Uzbeks begin a period of internecine rivalry among khans. Meanwhile, European powers begin encroaching more and more into Asia.

1511 Kasym Khan begins trying to unite the three Kazakh hordes into one confederation.

1512 Khwarazm is conquered by the Uzbeks who emplace the Arabshahid ruling dynasty.

1513 The Uzbeks expel Babur; the cities of Fergana valley each have their own Bek, or ruler (to 1770).

1514 Kashgar is destroyed by Mirza Ababakar who builds a new more massive fortress higher up the Tuman River.

1514-33 Rule of the Eastern Jagataid Khan Sayid, son of Ahmad, under whom the capital moves from Ili to Kashgar. He manages to halt the decline of the eastern khanate, but after him, it resumes.

1517 The Ottomans defeat the Mamluks, thus adding Egypt to their empire.

1518 Kaluga is incorporated with the principality of Moscow.

By this time the Kazakhstan confederacy is weakening by the tendency of the khanate to separate into smaller groups, or hordes, led by tribal chieftains and heads of clans.

1521 Mohammed Girai Khan marches an army northward, devastating all the way and arrives at Moscow. A treaty is concluded: Grand Prince Basil (Basil III (1505-33)) agrees to pay a perpetual tribute to the Krim Tatars.

1522 Babur recaptures Kandahar from the Arghuns who were ruling there.

1525 About this time Hazrat-i-Makhtum-i-'Azam establishes the Chodja "dynasty" in Kashgar. It is more a spiritual title than a ruling position.

1526 Babur invades India, defeats Ibrahim Lodi, captures Delhi and founds the Moghul Empire: Kabul is no longer his HQ.

1529 Abu Nasr Mohammed Hindal begins the Badakh dynasty's rule of Badakhshan.

1552 Altan Khan takes possession of what is left of Karakorum.

1552-6 Ivan IV (the Terrible; reign 1533-84) subjugates the Kazan Khanate (1552) and Astrakhan (taken by Boris Godunov after a stubborn resistance), taking them from the Tatars and gaining control over the Volga River, opening the way for Russian expansion into Siberia. Russian pioneers begin penetrating eastward coming into contact and conflict with China.

1523 Death of Kasym Khan. He is succeeded by Khaknazar who continues trying to unite the three Kazak hordes.

1529 The Badakh dynasty claims to rule northeastern Afghanistan (Badakhshan).

1530 Babur's son agrees to cede Kandahar to the Persians but doesn't, so the Persians besiege the city – unsuccessfully.

1538 Khwarazm is ruled by Bokhara for about a year.

1543 A new wall is built in Peking to include the southern section.

- 1547 Babur's son Humayun is ousted from India by the Afghan, Sher Khan. He goes to Shah Tahmasp of Persia who helps him recover Kandahar from his brother. He then takes Kabul from another brother.
- 1553-4 Sir Hugh Willoughby and Richard Chancellor reach the Russian shore near the mouth of the Pechora River. They also sight land that is either Novaya Zemlya or Kolguev Island. They winter on Kola Peninsula where Willoughby and his men die. The third ship under Chancellor reaches the site of modern Archangel where he builds an English factory, thus opening it as a port – the chief depot for goods for the north.
- 1554 Humayun recovers his Indian empire but dies soon afterward, leaving it to his son Akbar, true founder of the “Moghul” empire of India. Afghanistan is divided: Kabul a province of India; Herat a province of Persia; Balkh to the Uzbeks of Transoxiana and Kandahar, at first Timurid, is eventually taken by the Persians.
Astrakhan comes under Russian rule.
- 1555 Mongols recover Kazan, but Yediger, prince of Khanate of Kazan sends envoys to Moscow and agrees to pay Czar Ivan an annual tribute of 1000 sables.
- 1556 Ivan IV expels the Tatars and defeats the Astrakhan Khanate which now comes under Russian domination.
- 1557 The Bashkirs (of the Orenburg region) are brought under Russian rule. The fort at Ufa is built to protect them from Kirghiz raids.
- 1557-81 Livonian War. During this time Tsar Ivan the Terrible entrusts the defense of eastern Russia to the Stroganov family. Their domain extends from Ustyug and Vologda to Kaluga and Ryazan. They trade with the English and Dutch on the Kola Peninsula. They have commercial links with central Asia.
- 1557-98 Reign of the last and greatest Shaybanid ruler in Bukhara, Abdullah Khan II (b.1533). Shaybanid rule is expanded in Balkh, Samarkand, Tashkent and Fergana. Uzbek hegemony is extended eastward as far as Badakhstan and E Turkistan and westward to Khurasan and Khorezm.
- 1558 Ivan the Terrible authorizes Grigory Stroganov to establish a settlement on the upper Kama River.
- 1558-59 First Russian commercial contacts with Transoxiana under Anthony Jenkinson.
- 1560 By this time the Russians have gained the mouth of the river at Astrakhan.
- 1563 Yediger is deposed by Khan Kuchum (claiming descent from Genghis Khan) at the capital of Isker. Kuchum surrounds himself with palace guard of Uzbeks and tries to impose Islam on the pagan tribes.
- 1565 Dutch under Oliver Brunel and a Norwegian Philip Winterkunig establish a trade settlement on Kola Peninsula.
- 1568 Yakov Stroganov is allowed to extend Russian colonization along the Chusovaya river, a left bank tributary of the Kama.
- 1569 Kiev is taken over by Poland (to 1654).
The Turks besiege Astrakhan. The sultan also this year (?) has Krim khan Devlet Girai campaign against Moscow; he destroys all but the Kremlin.
- 1570 Height of Oyrat Mongol power in Dzungaria and Mongolia.
- 1570-80 Many adventurers escape to the Stroganov frontier settlements. The Stroganovs hire a Cossack ataman, Yermak Timofeyevich, to conquer new lands for the Tsar (actually, the Stroganovs don't want the Tsar thinking they're harboring escapees).
- 1571 The Crimean Tatars sack Moscow: Khan Kuchum renounces tribute to Moscow.

Peace between China and Tumed Mongol chief Altan Khan (Chin. Yen-ta); he is made a prince of the empire. He has also been successful in Tibet and the prisoners he brought back are spreading Lamaism throughout the Tumeds.

The area of eastern Uzbekistan comes under the control of Bukhara.

Sinkiang comes under the control of several Kalmuck clans.

1572 Collapse of the Jagatai Khan dynasty. Kashgar suffers the conflicts between the White and Black Mountaineers (Aq and Qara Taghliqs) with interventions by the Dzungarian Kalmucks.

Another invasion of Russia but the Mongols are severely defeated near Molodi.

1573 Khan Kuchum sends an expedition against the Ostyaks in Perm (west of the Urals) for their recognition of Russian suzerainty.

1574 The Stroganovs petition for a new charter "to drive a wedge between the Siberian Tartars and the Nogays" (a southern tribe): To build fortified settlements along the Tobol and Tura rivers to exploit the resources of the area and to raise an army of Cossacks and artillery against one Kuchum to make him pay tribute. Meanwhile, Russians advance through the Finnic-Bashkirian state and found Ufa.

1575 The Cossacks, at this time, are banding together under *atamans* (chieftains) into semi-militaristic confraternities along the Volga, Dnieper and Don rivers. They raid Tatar settlements, poach on Tatar land, prey on Muscovite river convoys and ambush government army patrols sent out to catch them and "hang-em high". Similar to the future American wild west, the Cossacks = the pioneer, the Tatars = Native Americans and the Russian army = the cavalry.

Late 16th century: The Kazakh Empire divides into three hordes; the Great Horde (east), the Middle Horde (center) and the Lesser Horde (west).

By this time shamanism is still flourishing among the Kyrgyz.

1577 The Tsar's army carries out a great sweep along both sides of the Volga River. The Cossacks are split into three groups; one group flees downstream to the Caspian Sea; another scatters on the steppes and the third, under one Yermak, races up the Kama river to the wilds of Perm where they are welcomed into the Stroganov's frontier guard.

1578 Brunel and Winterkunig establish a trade settlement near the site of modern Archangel. Brunel travels as far as the Ob and visits Novaya Zemlya.

1579 Khan Kuchum intercepts and kills a Muscovite envoy en route to central Asia.

1580 Exceeding the Tsar's commission, the Stroganovs secure the Kama frontier to bring a part of Siberia within their mining monopoly and gain access to Siberian furs. See Note 4

Death of Khaknazar, khan of Kazakhstan. He is succeeded by Terekkel who continues trying to unite the three hordes (dies 1598).

Yermak winters at Tyumen.

1581(1 Sept) An 840 man Cossack army - including 300 Livonian POWs, two priests and a monk forced to be the cook - assemble under Yermak on the banks of the Kama river near Orelgoroduk south of Solikamsk. It is unknown if the Stroganovs support this army in its stated aim of a "holy crusade" against the infidel "Kuchum", Khan of Sibir. Yermak captures Isker, or Sibir. Meanwhile, the Voguls, who had been rampaging through the upper Kama valley burning Russian settlements to the ground, attack Cherdyn and neighboring villages. The military governor of Perm accuses the Stroganovs of leaving the frontier undefended.

1582 Erivan (Irwan or Yerevan, Armenia) is taken by the Turks.

- (Late Oct) Yermak's forces head along the Taghil, Tura and Tobol rivers and defeat the Tatars at the confluence of the Tobol and Irtysh rivers. Some Tatars begin defecting to the Russians, but Yermak needs reinforcements and artillery to consolidate his position: He sends Ivan Koltso and 50 others to Moscow. (16 Nov) The Tsar accuses the industrialists (Stroganovs) of treason. Then Koltso arrives with spoils in excess of what the Khan Kuchum delivered. The Tsar promises reinforcements for Yermak.
- 1584 Death of Altan Khan. His son Senge Dugureng Timur succeeds as Chakhar leader.
 (Summer) By this time Yermak's jurisdiction reaches to the Ob river where he had captured Kuchum's nephew Mametkul (the Khan's Minister of War). Khan Kuchum escapes to the steppes as the Russians take his capital (Sibir).
 Badakhshan (northeastern Afghanistan) comes under the rule of local Uzbek mirs.
- 1585 A trap is set for Yermak; he and his Cossacks hasten to capture an "unescorted caravan from Bukhara nearing Irtysh". Finding this untrue, his band camps on an island in midstream where they are attacked in a counteroffensive by Khan Kuchum. All are killed and Yermak drowns in the Irtysh. The Russians abandon the country they call Siberia.
- 1585-1650 Yermak's conquests are now rapidly absorbed by private adventurers who begin thronging across the Urals. Utilizing a network of east-west tributary rivers and short portages, they rapidly advance through the forest zone, establishing contacts and trading furs with indigenous tribes: They found forts that have since become cities. Progress is more rapid in the north than in the south.
- 1586 Founding of Tyumen - consolidating Russian position on the Tura River.
 Founding of Brukhanovo by the Stroganovs.
- 1587 Founding of Tobolsk at the confluence of the Tobol and Irtysh rivers near the former capital of Kuchum.
- 1590 Abbas of Persia makes peace with the Turks in order to deal with the Uzbeks who, under Abdullah II, have taken Herat, Meshed and other towns of Khurasan.
- 1591 A campaign against Khan Kuchum fails.
 Russians extend their sway to Barabinsk steppes, founding Ufa between Tyuman and Kazan.
- 1593 Founding of Pelym and Berezov to control the Ostyaks and Samoyeds.
 Khwarzm comes under the rule of Bokhara for about a year or so.
- 1594 Voyage of Willem Barents who explores the western coast of Novaya Zemlya. Voyage of Cornelis Nay who sails into the Kara Sea reaching the western coast of Yalmal peninsula where he finds the sea open to the east.
 Founding of Tara between the Ishim and Barabinsk steppes on the Irtysh River.
- 1595 Barents and Nay try to sail east but fail.
 Uprising of the Ostyaks quickly ends; they and the Voguls remain loyal allies of the Russians.
 Another campaign against Khan Kuchum fails.
 Bokhara again gains control of Khwarzm (to 1598).
- 1596 Barents strikes north through (future) Barents Sea, discovers Bear Island and sights Spitsbergen. He rounds the north end of Novaya Zemlya and winters at Ice Haven.
 Founding of Surgut, Obdorsk and Narym (on the upper Ob River) further strengthening Russia's hold on the region.
- 1597 On his return voyage, Barents dies: Foundation of Dutch whale and seal fisheries have been laid.

Abbas defeats the Uzbeks, halting their invasion of Khurasan.

Death of Abdullah Khan, a Shaybanid ruler who united Khorezm with Bukhara. Now another branch of the Shaybanids assume power and rule from Gurganj (later Urganch). This center of rule is soon moved to Khiva.

1598 Another Russian campaign against Khan Kuchum fails. Later, the Khan turns to the Nogays to help him but they have him assassinated. Russians settle his heirs in Russia so that there will be no claims to reestablish the khanate. Kuchum's nephew Mametkul is recognized as a prince and made a general in the army: Russian conquest of the Tatar khanate is completed.

Founding of Verkhoturysk on the Tura becoming the Gateway to Siberia.

Boris Godunov opens access to Archangel to all nations.

1598/99 The Astrakhanid dynasty, related to the Shaybanids by marriage, succeeds and inherits power in Transoxiana, with their power base in the Khanate of Bukhara. The level and extent of Uzbek influence begins to decline.

16th-17th centuries: Most of the remaining Kyrgyz tribes live in the Tien Shan range as mountain nomads, divided into two wings (left and right), though the advancing Russians still encounter remnants of the Yenisey branch of the Kyrgyz.

1600 Founding of Turinsk. By this time Russia has secured a fortified route into Siberia and secured the lower Ob basin.

Early 17th century: Nurhachu, a descendant of Aisin Goro, moves his capital to the plain of the Liao-ho, towards the Chinese frontier. Mukden at this time is known as Shengking.

Russians send an embassy to the khan seeking Khalkha allegiance to the tsar. It is lightly sworn.

Russian expansion reaches the Yenisey, east of which live the Tunguses (Evenki) scattered between the Yenisey and Lena rivers.

17th century: The Kazak khanate is further weakened by wars with the Oyrat. Russian advances from the north are at first seen to be an aid against the Oyrats.

The Astrakhanids (or Ashtarkhanids, Tuquy-Timurids or Janids) succeed the Shaybanids. Central Asia experiences a decline in prosperity, due mainly to the decline of transcontinental caravan trade following the opening of new oceanic trade routes.

Cossacks of the Yaik (= Ural river) make several plundering raids into Khiva.

Brukhanovo is renamed Perm.

By this time the Jagataid khans in the east have become figureheads, with towns under quasi-theocratic rule of the Khwajahs of Bukhara while the countryside is dominated by rival Kyrgyz confederations. The Jagataid line dies out by 1700.

1602 Founding of Ketsk.

Reign of Arab Mohammed I of Khwarazm (to 1623). He moves the capital from Urgench to Khiva as a result of water sources drying up in the Urgench region.

1603 The Kalmuck empire comes to dominate large areas of central Asia.

1604 Founding of Tomsk on the Tom River to guard the Ob basin from Central Asian nomads raiding across the borders from the south.

Ligdan Khan (to 1634) tries to unite the various Mongol tribes but fails due to internal dissensions and rising Manchu power, to whom he is forced to surrender.

The Persians under Shah Abbas take Erivan, capital of Armenia.

1604-34 Linddan Khan, last of the Eastern Mongol line, oversees the final disintegration of the line.

- 1607 Kaluga is held by the second false Demetrius for four months as it was besieged by Shuisky.
- 1608 Henry Hudson examines the edge of the ice pack between Spitsbergen and Novaya Zemlya in his search for the NE passage.
- 1609 Henry Hudson makes another attempt in behalf of the Dutch East India Company but his way is barred.
- 1610 Cossacks reach the mouth of the Yenisei River.
Orel (known as Ukrayna or Ukraine (“border region”)) is the scene of civil war under the false Demetrius.
- 1612 With H. Hudson's Spitsbergen exploration having engendered the development of fisheries there, the Muscovy company is given a fishing monopoly there.
- 1613 Benjamin Joseph fits out a large Muscovy fleet but the Dutch and Danes secure the best fishing grounds on Spitsbergen's northern shores.
The Poles devastate Vologda.
- 1615 Erivan, capital of Armenia, is taken by the Turks after a four month siege.
- 1618 Founding of the fort of Yeniseisk.
- 1619 Russians (Cossack bands) reach the Yenisei River. They come from the Ob via the portage between the Ket tributary (of the Ob) and the Kaz tributary (of the Yenisei). They meet much opposition from the Tungus and Buriat tribes.
Kaluga falls into the hands of the chief of the Zaporozhian Cossacks.
- 1620 About this time 2/3 of the inhabitants of Kaluga die of the plague.
- 1622 The whole of Kaluga is laid waste by a conflagration.
- 1625 Toba, a son of Bushuktu Khan, goes to the Dalai Lama and brings a copy of the *Tanjur* back to the Mongols.
- 1626 The region of eastern Uzbekistan (Sinkiang), Tajikistan and Kyrgyzstan comes under the domination of the Kalmucks.
- 1627 Death of Jahangir. Son Shah Jahan to the Moghul throne.
- 1628 Founding of Krasnoyarsk by the Cossacks as a fort.
By this time the Russians have reached the middle Lena river, an area occupied by the Yakuts, a Turkic tribe.
- 1629 Kandahar is captured by Shah Abbas.
- 1630 Founding of the fort of Kirensk on the upper Lena river.
1632 Founding of Yatutsk on the middle Lena river. Later, the town becomes a center for trade in furs, mammoth ivory, reindeer hides and cattle.
- 1636 Cossacks reach the mouths of the Lena and Yana rivers.
- 1637 Delta of the Lena river is discovered by the Cossack Elisei Busa who sailed down the river and wintered at the Olenek river.
- 1638 Shah Jahan recovers Balkh and surrounding territory but is faced with Uzbek pressure.
- 1640 By this time the Cossacks reach the Sea of Okhotsk and soon collide with the Chinese.
- 1641-2 Russians subjugate the area west and east of Lake Baikal, populated by the Buryats (Mongols).
- 1643-6 Russian Vasily Poyarkhov explores from Yakutsk to the Amur and returns via the Sea of Okhotsk and Aldan river (right bank tributary of the Lena).
- 1644 Cossacks reach the mouth of the Kolyma River.
The Manchus replace the Mings. Capital is moved from Shengking/Mukden to Peking. But Mukden remains the royal treasury and tombs of the earlier emperors. Most Chinese

- are expelled to the southern section of Peking, now called the “Chinese City”.
- 1648 Cossack Simon Dezhnev leads an expedition from the Kolyma River through Bering Strait into the Gulf of Anadyr. Other Cossacks cross from the Kolyma river by land along the Anyui and join him in the Anadir region. Dezhnev disappears about 1654.
- Uzbek pressure forces Shah Jahan to relinquish all lands beyond the Hindu Kush to them.
- The city of Vologda is devastated by the plague.
- Russians reach Lake Baikal via the Angara river.
- 1649 Aurangzeb tries with 5,000 men to retake Kandahar but is unsuccessful.
- Pressed by other enemies, Russia agrees to pay an annual subsidy to the Krim Tatars.
- 1651 Khabarov builds a fort at Albazin.
- 1651-3 Yerovey Khabarov occupies the banks of the Amur river and so-called Daur land north of it.
- 1652 Aurangzeb tries again to take Kandahar but is unsuccessful.
- Merchant and explorer Khabarovsk erects a fort of the same name.
- Founding of Irkutsk by Ivan Pokhabov for collection of fur tax from the Buriats. By this time the entire Siberian forest domain of fur-trading tribes have been opened up by the Russians. In the southern reaches, their advance is slowed by the Mongol and Turkic nomad herders of the steppes and by China's outposts on the Amur river. There, they enter China's sphere of interest.
- About this time the Russians found Anadyrsk on the shores of the Bering Sea.
- 1654 Founding of a fort at Nerchinsk.
- 1655-85 Continued Cossack inroads along the Amur are increasingly opposed by the Chinese.
- 1657 Uzbeks establish the Khanate of Badakhshan (northeastern Afghanistan).
- 1658 Establishment of the provincial government of Fengtien, and the city of Mukden becomes known by that name.
- Founding of the town of Nerchinsk by Pashkov. This opens direct communication between Russian settlements in Transbaikalia and those on the Amur river.
- 1660 About this time Galdan manages to restore some of Kalmuck authority: Taking advantage of a quarrel between the Black and White Mountaineers of Kashgar, he overruns Little Bukhara, leaving a viceroy there with capital at Yarkand.
- 1662-1723 Reign of Sheng-tsu in China: Kalmucks menace the Khalkhas who claim Chinese protection. The emperor invites all Khalkhin chiefs to meet him on the plain of Dolon-nor. The ensuing ceremony results in the absorption of the Khalkhas into the Chinese race.
- 1664 Willem de Vlamingh, searching for new whaling grounds, rounds the northern end of Novaya Zemlya and sails east to 82°10' Long.
- 1665 About this time Galdan makes an alliance with China and attacks the Khalkhas. But emperor Sheng-tsu decides to support the Khalkhas. The Chinese defeat Galdan and his Mongols at Chao-modo.
- 1667 Rule of Kiev comes under a *hetman* or elected ruler.
- 1668-84 Tatar prisoners construct the bazaar and trading hall at Archangel.
- 1670 Astrakhan is captured by Stenka Razin.
- 1672 Torgod Ayuka Khan opens relations with the Russians.
- Accession of Peter the Great. Fortunes of the Krim Tatars begin to decline.
- 1673-1721 Frequent invasions of Torgod territory from the north. The Tsar's government

complains and friendly relations are established with the Krim Khan. Ayuka fights his way to Kazan, achieving vengeance.

1676 Spatar Miliescu maps Siberia.

Galdan (Dga'-ldan; to 1697), leader of an Oyrat tribe, creates a powerful state, the Dzungars, that is a serious menace to China.

1678 The Kalmuks take over Kashgar.

1681 Extinction of the Kasimov khanate, as the last khan abandons Islam for Christianity.

1686 Kiev is incorporated into Russia.

1688 The Olot (western Mongol) Jungars under Galdan, attack the four Khalkha states of central Mongolia.

The Khanate of Khiva becomes a vassal of Persia.

1689 Treaty of Nerchinsk between Russia and China ends Russian claims to the Northern side of the Amur river, abandoning the area known as the Far Eastern Territory (Daur land) to China. Russia abandons Albazin and military pressure for commercial penetration of China ceases for 200 years. The city of Nerchinsk becomes the chief center for trade with China.

1690 The four Khalkha states are defended by the Chinese emperor.

1695 About this time is the last Mongol invasion of Kazakhstan – the Kalmucks, a remnant of the Oirat Mongol confederacy – comes from China across the Dzungarian gates.

1696 Chinese regain control of Eastern Turkestan, crushing Galdan near Urga. Galdan poisons himself (1697).

Vladimir Atlasov reaches Cape Lupatka from Anadir and establishes a fort at Verkhne-Kamchatka. His successors – Kobelev and Zinovev – establish a settlement at Nijne-Kamchatka.

Peter the Great with a large Cossack force under Mazeppa campaigns against Selim Girai Khan who is forced to cede Azov to the Russians.

About this time Astrakhan is made a center for Peter the Great's campaign against Persia.

1697 Death of Galdan. He is succeeded as leader of the Kalmucks by Tsi-wang Arabtan who weakens his position by disputing with the Russians. He tries to oppose the forces of Peter the Great.

1700 By this time Russia has annexed the Kamchatka peninsula.

At this time the Uzbek emirs and khans rule central Turkestan; the wide steppes of the north are homeland of the Kazakhs; in the west (between the Caspian and Aral seas, north of Kapet Dagh) live the nomadic Turkmens; in the east in the valleys of the Tien-shan, live the Kirghiz; in the south east in the highlands north of the Hindu Kush live the Persian-speaking Tajiks.

Early 18th century: The khans of Kokand try to extend their rule over the Kirghiz but fail.

18th century: Russia extends holding into the steppe, notably the upper reaches of the Ob and Irtysh rivers. Meanwhile, they also begin exiling convicts to the newly acquired inhospitable lands. The Russians also erect a line of forts and blockhouses in the Ural and Sakmara rivers which are later extended southwestward toward the Caspian and eastward toward Omsk: Chkalov becomes central point of these military lines.

East of the Pamirs, Kashgaria is torn apart by the rivalries of Khwajahs and Kyrgyz; in the Semirechye the Kazaks are locked in conflict with Mongol Oyrats and Dzungars; Turkmens roam northern Iran between the Caspian and Aral seas, enslaving sedentary

peoples and sending them to Bukhara to labor in the oases.

Erivan is reconquered by the Turks under Nadir Shah. The Persians also plunder Astrakhan.

The Khans of Khwarazm become nominal, with real power held by the Inak (Kungrat) tribe.

By this time Samarkand is noticeably declining.

1702 Construction of St Petersburg; Archangel begins to decline. Vologda also begins to decline as trade now goes through the Baltic.

1703 Under pressure from the Dzungars (a tribe of western Mongols), the Yenisey Kyrgyz move to the Semirechye, but hostilities between the two peoples continue.

1706 Kamchatkan natives burn the settlements and drive the Russians away.

Mir Vais leads a revolt in Kandahar.

1707 One Atlasov, who had been imprisoned, is released. He returns to Kamchatka and restores the Russian forts.

1708 Kandahar is taken by the Afghans. Afghanistan comes under the rule of the Gilzai dynasty.

1710 Peter the Great sends the first political prisoners to Siberia, beginning a practice that is to last a long time.

The Uzbek Ming tribe founds a new dynasty in Kokand.

1711 Persians march against Mir Vais at Kandahar but are defeated: Afghanistan is independent. By this time the Afghans have taken all of Tajikistan, including Balkh.

By treaty, the Azov is restored to the Krim Tatars.

1714 Authorities at Yakutsk send an expedition to find a shorter route to Kamchatka than the Anadir. They discover the Aldan-Maya-Okhotsk route, opening quicker communication with Russia.

1715 Mir Vais is succeeded by Mir Abdullah.

1716 Russians establish a fort at Omsk to protect Russian settlers from Kirghiz raids.

1717 First Russian incursion (from 1714) into Turkmenistan against Khiva is unsuccessful: Sent by Peter the Great who had heard of gold-bearing sands in the Oxus; wanting to open trade with India through Turan and wanting to release some Russian subjects from slavery. 100 miles from the capital a three day battle is fought that the Russians win. The Khivans convince the Russians to break their army up into small units and they are annihilated piecemeal. Three small fortresses, however, are built (including Krasnovodsk) on the eastern Caspian coast as Russia begins penetrating Kazakhstan (to 1853).

Mir Abdullah attempts to make peace based on Persian suzerainty over Kandahar; he is overthrown. Mir Mahmud succeeds. Abdalis of Herat revolts and establishes another Afghan state.

1720 Survey of the Kamchatka peninsula begins.

About this time Samarkand is uninhabited.

1722 Mir Mahmud with an army of Afghans invades Persia. At the Battle of Gulnabad, the Persians are defeated and the Afghans take Isfahan.

The Torgod obtain peace with the Russians at a conference with Peter the Great at Astrakhan.

1723 Chinese emperor Shih Tsung accedes. He wars against the Mongols and other western tribes.

- A copper works is founded near Perm.
- 1723-68 Ayuka is succeeded by his son Cheven Donduk who has a patent to the throne from the Dalai Lama. But his nephew Donduk Ombo who drives Cheven to St. Petersburg and seizes the throne. Danduk, having been a wise and successful ruler, is succeeded by Danduk Taishi who attends the coronation of Russian empress Elizabeth (1741). He swears fealty to the Russians. He is succeeded by his son Ubasha.
- 1724-5 Mahmud carries out a reign of terror in Isfahan, massacring Persian nobility and Safavid princes.
- 1725 Peter the Great sends Vitus Bering to explore the waters of northeastern Siberia.
Ashraf succeeds Mahmud as shah of Afghanistan.
- 1725-30 Kamchatka is visited by the Bering expedition.
- 1726 Ashraf defeats the Turks advancing on Isfahan.
- 1726-8 Tahmasp, supported by Nadir Kul of the Afshar tribe of Khorasan, conquers Meshed and Herat. He defeats the Afghans and takes Isfahan.
- 1727 Treaty of Kiakhta fixes the Russian - Chinese frontier. It is concluded by Sava Vladislavich after his mission to Peking (1726-7). See Note 5
Peace concluded: The sultan cedes conquered territory to the Afghans.
- 1728 Urga opens a western trade route through Mongolia and establishes a customs house at Kiakhta – trade begins to bypass Nerchinsk.
- 1728-41 V. Bering discovers Bering Strait and explores eastward.
- 1729 Large scale Chinese operations against the Jungars.
Persia reasserts her rule over Afghanistan.
- 1730 Tahmasp defeats the Afghans near Shiraz and heads for Kandahar. Ashraf is murdered and his followers flee from Persia.
- 1731 Abul Khair, khan of the Little Horde, submits to Russia who had already built three fortresses on the Irtysh river. Further Russian penetration is aided by the bitter fighting between the Kazakhs and Kalmucks.
- 1732 Founding of Kokand (fort) by Abd-ur-Rahim. Kokand (or Khokand) was formerly the Hovakend (or Hokand or Khavakend) mentioned by 10th century Arab travelers.
- 1732-43 Russian government sponsors a Great Survey of the whole Siberian coast.
- 1733-45 Kamchatka is visited by Krasheninnikov and Steller.
- 1735 Russians construct fortress of Orenburg at the confluence of the Ob and Ural rivers as an outpost against the Bashkirs and Kirghiz. Later it is renamed Orsk.
Russians invade the Crimea and capture Perekop and ravage the capital, Bakchi-sarai.
- 1737 Prontschischev and his wife attempt to sail from the Lena delta to the Yenisei but die of scurvy.
- 1737 and 1742 Dmitri Laptiev makes a series of voyages completing the survey of the coast east from the mouth of the Lena River to Cape Baranov.
- 1737-8 Kandahar is besieged and taken by Nadir Shah.
- 1737-40 Nadir Shah of Persia subjugates all of Afghanistan and much of northwest India.
- 1738 Two Russian officers voyage from Archangel to the mouths of the Ob and Yenisei Rivers:
- 1738-9 To find a passage from the Yenisei to the Lena, a journey eastward past Taimyr Bay to Cape Sterlegov. Ice blocks several attempts to round the northernmost point of Siberia.
- 1739 Laptev attempts to sail from the Lena delta to the Yenisei river.
- 1740 Iran's Afsharid ruler, Nadir Shah, defeats Bukhara and Khiva, decapitating the Uzbek Ashtarkhanid dynasty. Nadir has reestablished Persian rule as far as the Amu Darya

including Turkmenistan and modern Uzbekistan. This also includes the Azeris of Transcaucasia.

- 1740-3 The fortress of Orenburg is moved 120 miles down the Ural river (present location). The former Orenburg is now named Orsk.
- 1742 Kaluga is again laid waste by a conflagration.
- 1743 S. Chelyuskin makes the trip to the northern point of Siberia by sledge.
- 1747 Assassination of Nadir Shah. Ahmad Shah (Abdali), one of Nadir's Afghan generals, seizes his treasury at Kandahar, proclaims himself king with the consent of the Afghans, Hazaras and Baluchis. He founds the Afghan kingdom, establishing the Durani dynasty, with the city of Kandahar in its present location. He undertakes expeditions into India. The khanate of Khiva recovers its independence.
- Mid-18th century: The Kyrgyz nominally become part of the Ch'ing (Manchu) empire of China.
- 1752 The Afghans take Lohore.
- 1753 Construction of the fortress of Petropavlovsk on the Ishim river. The Ashtarkhanids of Bukhara are replaced by the Manghyts (an Uzbek house).
- 1754 Kaluga is again laid waste by a conflagration.
- 1755 Amursana succeeds Tsi-wang and is appointed by emperor Kao Tsung khan of the Kalmucks and chief of Dzungaria (the Jungars). Real power, however, rests with the Chinese commissioners, so Amursana revolts, dispersing the Ili garrisons and taking Palikun. Kao Tsung sends a large force against him driving Amursana into Siberia (1757) where he dies of smallpox. China retakes Ili (Kulja) and absorbs the Kalmucks (1758) eliminating that hostility with the Kyrgyz. The Afghans take and plunder Delhi.
- 1756 The Mangyt dynasty, independent from Persia, gains rule in Bokhara, and over modern Uzbekistan.
- 1758-9 Kokand becomes independent from the emirate of Bukhara. Conquest of Kashgaria (eastern Turkestan (Chin. Sinkiang)) and Dzungaria by China from the Turkish Khoja dynasty. The begs (rulers) of Ferghana (Sinkiang) recognize Chinese suzerainty. The Chinese begin settling emigrants in Kashgar (Tajikistan; Chin. Shufu) and establish a garrison there. The Chinese have gained control of the region of Kyrgyzstan.
- 1760 Kamchatka becomes governed by a naval officer from Okhotsk.
- 1761 Battle of Panipat: Ahmad Shah defeats the Marathas.
- 1762 Ahmad Shah defeats the Sikhs near Lahore. Equal trading facilities are granted to both Archangel and St. Petersburg; Archangel begins to recover.
- 1769-70 War between Russia and [China?]. Torgod chief Ubasha assists the Russians.
- 1770 Ferghana valley falls under the khans of Kokand.
- 1770-73 Russian fur merchant Liakhov discovers three of the New Siberian Islands.
- 1771 The Torgod - who fled beyond the Volga to escape the Jungars - now accept an invitation by T'u-li-ch'en to migrate back to Ili. (5 Jan) Ubasha begins to move 70,000 Torgod families eastward. The Russians try to stop this but are unsuccessful. The Torgod settle (Aug) in the province of Ili where they are welcomed by the Chinese. They are soon absorbed into the Chinese race. Meanwhile, some of the Kalmucks cross the lower Volga while the rest move back to China. Ablai, ruler of the "Middle Horde" of Kazaks located west of Lake Balkhash, is confirmed Kazak ruler by both China and Russia.

- 1773 Death of Ahmad Shah Abdali. His son Timur Shah moves the Afghan capital from Kandahar to Kabul. The Afghan empire includes Baluchistan, Kashmir and the Punjab. Timur is a weak and ineffectual ruler and begins losing Indian territory. His authority begins to disintegrate.
- 1775 About this time people begin inhabiting Samarkand.
- 1777 The Crimean Tatars become dependent upon Russia.
- 1778 Captain James Cook sails from Kamchatka through Bering Strait - seeking a northeast or northwest passage - sails east then sails west to Cape North.
- 1780 Erivan is successfully defended against Heraclius II, king of Georgia.
- 1781 Perm (mod Molotov) becomes an administrative center.
- 1783 Annexation of the khanate of the Crimea (capital at Bakhchisaray) by Catherine the Great (26 April): The Krim (Crimean Tatars) are absorbed into the Russian province of Taurida. It is about this time also that Catherine gives Astrakhan special trading privileges.
- 1783-97 Kasaks of the Little Horde rise against Russia, led by Srym Datov. Nur Ali Khan, son of Abulkhair is pro-Russian.
- 1785 The Uzbek Ashtarkhanid dynasty is extinguished. By this time, power in southern Central Asia has already shifted to three energetic tribal formations: The khanates of Bukhara (includes the cities of Bukhara and Samarkand), Khiva (northwest of Bukhara on the Amu Darya) and Kokand (centered in the Fergana Valley in the east). Bukhara becomes the dominant Central Asian power under the Manghit tribal chieftains, mainly under Emir Ma'sum (or Shah Murad, 1785-1800). Khiva is under the Qonghirat tribe and lasts until 1920; it is a museum capital of architectural, cultural and literary monuments. Kokand, under the Uzbek Ming tribe, seeks imperial ambition, establishing an elegant civilization, giving the Kokand khanate an high culture and expansionist foreign policy.
- 1787 Shah Murad, amir of Bukhara, conquers the oasis (of Merv) which is defended by local chief Bairam 'Ali Khan. Shah Murad destroys the dam and disperses most of the inhabitants.
- 1793 Death of Timur. Succeeded in Kandahar by his son Zaman Shah who is deposed by his half- brother Mahmud who is deposed by Shah Shuja, brother of Zaman.
- 1795-1818 Shah Shuja is forced to abdicate by the rising power of Fateh Khan, a Barakzai chief. Shah Shuja takes refuge with Ranjit Singh, ruler of Punjab and obtains the protection of Britain. Afghanistan is dismembered as a period of dynastic conflict and tribal strife begins. Mahmud is reinstated by Fateh Khan whom he appoints vizier and whose nephews Dost Mohammed Khan and Kohn dil Khan are given the governments of Kabul and Kandahar.
- 1798 Alim establishes the khanate of Khokand (Farghana; Khavakend, or eastern Uzbekistan), independent of Chinese rule.
- 1799 The Russian-American trading firm begins development of the Kamchatka district.
- 1800 By this time the states of Khiva, Kokand and Bukhara have become weakened by internecine warfare. See Note 3
- 1801 Afghanistan comes under the control of the Barakzai clan.
- 1803 Kamchatka becomes a separate province.
Afghanistan rule reverts to the Durrani clan.
- 1804 Iltuzer to the throne of Khwarazm. He is a Kungrat, whose clan now seizes full authority.
- 1804-13 Russian war with Persia: Russia annexes Georgia. Persia also cedes Daghestan and

- Shemakha to Russia.
- 1805-12 Russian expansion in North America; construction of forts in Alaska and down into northern California.
- 1807/8 Alim, son of Narbuta, brings all the begs of Ferghana under his authority and conquers Tashkent and Chimkent. He attacks the Bukharan fortress of Ura-Tyube but is unsuccessful.
- 1809 (17 June) First agreement with the British East India Company: Britain induces Afghanistan (now back under the control of the Barakzai clan) to oppose a Persian or French attack on India which they fear.
- 1809-22 Reign of Uzbek Ming ruler 'Umar Khan at Kokand gives the Kokand khanate a reputation for high culture as well as an expansionist foreign policy.
- 1810 About this time Merv comes under the rule of Khiva.
- 1813 Partition of Azerbaijan between Russia and Persia.
- 1816 Persians capture Herat but are driven out.
- 1817 Alim is killed by followers of his brother Omar who continues to enlarge his kingdom; he takes Azret and builds fortresses on the Syr-darya to protect Ferghana from Kirghiz raids. These are also used to launch raids into Kirghiz land, originating conflicts with Russia.
- 1818 Muhmud Shah (ruled from 1810) dismisses his vizier Fath Ali Khan who is murdered by Kamran (Mahmud's son). The tribes revolt. Mahmud is driven out of all territory except Herat (to 1829). The rest of Afghanistan falls to the brothers of Fath Ali into independent khanates; Kabul, Kandahar (a sort of independent chieftanship under two or three brothers), Ghazni, etc, though the Barakzai clan claims to be "sovereign".
- 1819 Taking advantage of Afghan confusion, Ranjit Singh wrests Kashmir away.
- 1822 Death of Omar. The Khanate of Kokand is the seat of continuous wars between the settled Sarts and nomad Kipchaks 9to 1867).
Badakhshan (northeastern Afghanistan) becomes tributary to the city of Qonduz (Kunduz or Konduz, in northwest Afghanistan).
- 1822-42 Reign of Uzbek Ming ruler Muhammad 'Ali Khan (or Madali Khan) who continues the Kokand khanate's reputation for high culture and expansionist foreign policy. Many Kazak and Kyrgyz tribes are dominated and Russian expansionist aggression is resisted.
- 1823 Krasnoyarsk becomes chief town of the Yenisei province.
- 1824 The importance of Tomsk increases with the discovery of gold nearby.
- 1824-30 Led by sultan Habaydulla Valikhanov, the Middle Horde rises against the Russians.
- 1825 Decemberist Revolution: By this time the exile practice gains momentum. Major places of exile are Nerchinsk, Sretensk, Yakutsk, Vilyuisk, Krasnoyarsk and Turukhansk.
- Early 19th century: The Turkmens fall under the rule of the Khanate of Khiva.
- 1825-30 The Kyrgyz of the Semirechye are conquered by Muhammad Ali, the khan of Kokand; Bishkek (Pishpek), the future capital city of the Kyrgyz, is built by the khanate. Islam begins touching the people but its influence is not deep.
- 1826 Dost Mohammed, brother of Fath Ali and ruler of Ghazni, takes Kabul and begins to dominate the rest of Afghanistan.
- 1826-28 Russo-Persian war: Paskevich takes Erivan fortress by storm (1827) Treaty of Turkmanchai (1828): Russia gains part of Armenia with Erivan. Persia recognizes Russian right to have a navy on the Caspian Sea.
- 1829-45 Russian conquest of the Kirghiz Steppe, preparing for an advance into Turkestan.
- 1830 Russians construct a fortress at Akmalinsk, and settle Russian and Ukrainian peasants on

Kazakh land.

Astrakhan is decimated by cholera.

- 1834 Dost Mohammed takes Kandahar. Meanwhile, Ranjit Singh conquers Peshawar.
- 1835 Dost Mohammed becomes ruler of all Afghanistan; the Barakzai dynasty.
- 1835-58 Two Tien Shan Kyrgyz tribes, the Sarybagysh and the Bugu, engage in a fratricidal war in which both sides alternately seek and obtain Kokandian or Russian help.
- 1836-38 Led by Isatay Taymanov and Mukhambet Utemisov, the Little Horde rises against the Russian program of settling peasants on Kazakh land. They name their own khan, Janghir.
- 1837 Kazak sultan Kinesary (Kine Sari, son of Kasym Khan) of the Great Horde, puts up spirited resistance (to 1847) to Russian expansion. He is slain by the Kirghiz near Issyk-kul lake. The Russians reach the Syr Darya (C 1850).
Persia, supported by Russia, attacks Herat.
- 1838 (25 July) Tripartite treaty among the British East India Company, Ranjit Singh and Shah Shuja: Shah Shuja is restored to the Afghan throne and the Persian/Russian advance is blocked
- 1839 Russian force under General Perovsky moves from Orenburg (= Chkalov) across the Ust-Urt plateau to the Khivan frontier to occupy the khanate, liberate captives and open the way for trade. The expedition ends in a disaster.
The cause of Shah Shuja is supported by the British. Kandahar is occupied and Shah Shuja (Shoja) is placed on the throne of Afghanistan. The British army occupies southern Afghanistan (to 1842): There is much discontent with British influence in the country.
- 1839-42 First Afghan War: British advance to Kandahar then Ghazni and Kabul; Dost Mohammed is captured, deposed and sent to India. The Barakzai clan is again in "control".
- 1840± Bukhara becomes an object of rivalry between Russia and Great Britain.
- 1841 Rising against the British in Afghanistan. British envoys are killed.
Bokhara seizes the Kokand khanate (to 1842).
- 1842 Death of Muhammad 'Ali Khan; the Kokand khanate begins failing to sustain either the cultural or political standards of before.
Amir Nasrullah of Bukhara puts English envoys Col. C. Stoddart and Capt. A. Conolly to death. Relations between Britain and the Uzbeks are now strained.
General William Nott marches on Kabul to meet Pollock's advance from Jalalbad. Kandahar's defences are repaired. (Jan) The British fall back from Kabul. They are attacked by Akbar Khan (son of Dost Mohammed); almost all of the 3,000 man force are killed. Shah Shuja is murdered. (14 Sept) British forces under General Sir George Pollock reoccupies Kabul and punishes the guilty. (Oct) British government insists on withdrawing from an exposed position. Dost Mohammed again ascends the throne.
- 1844 Abandonment of Russian settlements in California.
- 1847 Nicholas Muraviev becomes governor-general of Siberia.
Russians found a fort at the mouth of the Juxartes (Syr-Darya), depriving Khiva of territory and a large number of tax-paying Kirghiz. Russian attention, however, is directed elsewhere; fighting in Kokand.
- 1847-66 Several wars with Russia result in Russian destruction of Kokand forts, possession of the Ili (and so Dzungaria) and of the Syr-Darya region.

- 1848 By this time Russia has gained domination of Kazakstan and has abolished the Kazak hordes. Russian and other Europeans begin flooding into Kazakstan.
- 1848-9 Russia conquers the Kirghiz steppe, preparing to advance into Turkestan.
- Mid-19th century: Periodic revolts of the southern Kyrgyz against the Kokand khanate receives no Russian support. The real threat, however, to Kyrgyz ethnicity is Russian immigration into Kyrgyz territories: Poor Russian peasants escaping from servitude and famine are appropriating Kyrgyz winter pasturelands, forcing them to move into the mountains. See Note 6
- About this time Moslems try to set up their own government in Chinese Turkestan.
- By this time the Russians have established a chain of fortresses along the Ural (Yaik) river, the most important being Orenburg (later Chkalov).
- 1850 Russians establish a settlement at the mouth of the Amur river.
- Petropavlovsk becomes a center for the Russian Pacific naval squadron.
- 1852 Bokhara seizes the Khokand khanate (to 1853).
- 1853 Russians capture the Kazakh town of Ak-Mechet ("White Mosque"/ Perovsk/ Kzyl Orda) on the Syr-Darya river: All of Khazakhstan has been absorbed by Russia.
- A wealthy Siberian, Sidoroff, agitates to establish links between Europe and the mouths of the Arctic rivers of Siberia.
- 1854 Russians found the fort of Verny (later Alma-Ata). The country is divided into four provinces; Uralsk, Turga, Steppe (later divided into Akmolinsk and Semipalatinsk) and Semirechinsk.
- 1855 The Bugu voluntarily submit to the Russians.
- French and English forces attack Petropavlovsk but are defeated.
- Dost Mohammed manages to secure Kandahar. (30 March) Treaty of Peshawar between Dost Mohammed and the British: It is directed against Persian designs on Herat.
- 1856 Death of the local ruler of Herat; Persians sieze the city. Britain declares war on Persia.
- The Tekke Turkomens drive the Khivans out of Merv.
- 1857 (4 March) Treaty of Paris: Persia gives up its claim to Herat where the British set up a local khan. Persia recognizes the independence of Afghanistan.
- 1858 Russia again attempts to take the Amur river area: The treaty of Aigun (26-9 June) is concluded that makes the river and its right bank tributary the Ussuri the border between the two empires: China cedes the Far Eastern Territory (the Amur lands on the left bank) to Russia for two years. The treaty is concluded by Count N. N. Muraviev-Amursky, governor-general of eastern Siberia with local Chinese authorities. Muraviev selects Vladivostok to be the site where the Chinese cession takes place.
- 1858-66 Kokand falls under the suzerainty of Bukhara that supports Khudayar Khan of the Kipchak party.
- 1859 Badakhshan becomes tributary to Afghanistan.
- 1859-70 ShamyI, the Lesghian chief, is exiled in Kaluga.
- 1860 Treaty of Peking (Treaty of Aigun is recognized): China cedes the Ussuri region to Russia, allowing Russian territory to extend southward to the coast (2 Nov).
- Founding of Khabarovsk. Construction of Vladivostok; first settlers arrive (July).
- Alim Kul, representing the Sarts, proclaims a holy war against the Russians.
- Russia's Pacific Naval Squadron is transferred to Nikolaievsk.
- As a reprisal for the mistreatment of British negotiators, 17,000 British and French troops occupy and burn the Summer Palace in Peking. Meanwhile, the only ice-free port

- on the Manchurian coast is given the name of Port Arthur by British admiral Seymour. It is the chief Chinese naval arsenal.
- 1861 Russia attempts to obtain a foothold on the island of Tsushima.
- 1862 Rising of Chinese Mohammedans (Tungans, or “Dungani”) brings the region of the Tarim Basin under the rule of Yakub Beg, a general of the army of Buzurg Khan of Kokand.
- 1863 At the Bugu's request, the Russians build the fort of Aksu. The Kyrgyz tribes are now harassed by Russians and Kokandians alike.
After a 10-month siege, Dost Mohammed takes Herat. Dost later dies.
- 1863-70 Civil war in Afghanistan: Dost Mohammed's third son Sher Ali is supported by the British against his brothers.
- 1864 Sinkiang comes under the domination of Kashgar. Yaqub Beg rules (1864 – 1877).
Khotan asserts its independence under Khabib'ullah.
- 1865 Russians under Gen. M.G. Chernyayev, invade the Khanate of Kokand and capture Tashkent (29 June), a walled city of some 70,000 and already a leading center of trade with Russia. It is made the administrative center of the government of Russian Turkestan. Alim Kul is killed. Russians return to Khiva. Buzurg Khan declares himself King of Kashgar and independent of China.
- 1865-76 Russians complete the conquest of the Khanates of Kokand, Bokhara and Khiva.
- 1866 Buzurg Khan is an incapable ruler so Yakub Beg usurps the Kashgar throne and secures recognition from many countries including Russia and Great Britain.
Russians occupy Ura-tyube and Jizakh; the khanate of Kokand is separated from Bukhara.
- 1867 Tashkent is made an administrative center (29 July) of the governate-general of Turkistan with General C.P. Kaufmann, a German Balt, appointed as governor-general.
Cession of Alaska to the United States.
After a two year organization and march, a Chinese army under Gen. Tso Tsung-t'ang reconquers the Kashgar region. The conquered are treated with marked restraint and the region remains loyal to China.
- 1868 Russians under General. Kaufmann take Samarkand (14 May) and move into Bukhara, making it a Russian protectorate; forcing the emir of Bukhara and khan of Khiva to accept vassalage. The emir, Mozaffar ed-Din, signs a treaty (5 July) making his country a vassal state with much reduced territory. They are to protect Russian trade. Khudayar Khan of Bukhara concludes a commercial treaty with Russia. Russia gains control of Tajikistan and region of Uzbekistan.
Russian fortresses are built at Naryn and Karakul (renamed Przhevalsk). They begin colonization of the low-lying fertile lands in the north around Pishpek (Frunze) and in the west in the Kirghiz part of the Ferghana valley.
- 1869 Russians establish a foothold in Turkmenistan, founding Krasnovodsk on the eastern shore of the Caspian and beginning the conquest of the Turkomans.
- 1870 Sher Ali becomes amir of Afghanistan. He leans on Russia as a counterweight to the British. Tension with India grows.
- 1871 Russians occupy Ili.
- 1871-2 Russians thoroughly survey country leading to Khiva from different parts of Russian Turkistan.
- 1872 The Russian Pacific Naval Squadron is transferred to Vladivostok.
- 1872-76 Under king Yakub Beg Chinese Turkestan is almost an independent state. At his death

- Kiva (Khwarazm) becomes a Russian protectorate as Khan Mohammed Rakhim Kuli becomes a Russian vassal. Kaufmann becomes the first governor-general.
- Afghanistan absorbs, Badakhshan, the northeastern region it held in tribute.
- 1874 An English vessel reaches the mouth of the Ob river.
- 1875 Khudayar Khan is forced to flee when a new holy war is declared against Russia. It ends as the fort of Makhram is taken, Kokand and Marghelan are occupied and Russian superiority is recognized by the emir of Bukhara who concedes all territory north of the Naryn river.
- Cession of the Kurile islands to Japan in exchange for the southern part of Sakhalin.
- Swedish explorer Nordenskjöld enters the mouth of the Yenisei river.
- 19th century, last quarter: Russian conquest of the Turkmens defines Russia's (or Turkmenistan's) southern frontier with Iran and Afghanistan
- 1875-6 Tso Tsung-t'an puts down the Tungan revolt.
- 1876 War with Russia breaks out again and (Feb) ends with the capture of Andijan, Kyrgyzstan and Kokand: The Kokand khanate is annexed (3 March), completing the Russian conquest of Uzbek territory; it becomes part of Russian Turkistan as the province of Ferghana (in later Uzbek SSR).
- An English vessel reaches Kureika on the Yenisei river.
- 1877 Russian forces capture the Turkmen city of Kyzyl Arvat.
- Sidoroff reaches the delta of the Yenisei river from Yeniseisk and sails to [Leningrad].
- Chinese take over Sinkiang and end the Muslim "Kingdom of Kashgaria".
- 1877-8 Tso Tsung-t'an reconquers Kashgaria.
- 1878 Establishment of the Cossack Brigade, a force trained by Russian officers for the spread of Russian influence.
- China reasserts its authority at Khotan, ousting the successor of Khabib'ullah, Niyaz Beg.
- (June) a Russian mission arrives at Kabul. (Aug) Russian-Afghan treaty of mutual support. The Indian government insists on the reception of a British mission; Sher Ali refuses.
- Nordenskjöld on the Vega expedition on the "Lena" (commanded by Johansen) sails from the arctic up the Lena river to Yakutsk. Meanwhile, Nordenskjöld's other two ships, the *Fraser* and *Express* sail up the Yenisei. A company is formed to establish trade via this route.
- 1878-9 Second Afghan War: Death of Sher Ali (Feb, 1879).
- 1879 Yakub, son of Sher Ali, becomes amir. The British overrun much of the country including Kandahar. (16 May) Treaty of Gandamak; British occupy Khyber pass but pay the amir an annual subsidy of £60,000. The amir must conduct his foreign relations only through the Indian government. British trade has full freedom. (3 Sept) Native outbreak against the British. Sir Louis Cavagnari and his escort are murdered.
- (15 Sept) Treaty of Livadia gives Russia much of Ili, strategic passes and indemnity. The treaty is unratified; China threatens war.
- (12 Oct) British advance and take Kabul. (19 Oct) Yakub abdicates and surrenders to the British.
- Many public buildings are destroyed by a fire in Irkutsk.
- Russians storm the fortress of Gok-Tepe but are defeated. The command is given to Lieutenant General M.D. Skobelev.

- 1880 Abd ar-Rahman, nephew and opponent of Sher Ali, emir. He had been retired in Russia. He accepts the treaty of Gandamak. Begins playing off the British and Russians, protecting Afghanistan. Begins subduing the tribes and establishing his authority. Manages to eventually fix the frontiers (to 1901). Kabul begins great improvements.
- 1881 Battle of Gok-Tepe. Began in Dec. 1880, 6,000 Russian troops under Gen Skobelev take the city after a 23 day siege (24 Jan). No quarter is given the defenders and about 8,000 men, women and children are slaughtered. (27 Jan) Ashkhabad is taken. (March) Leaders of the Turkmen tribes declare their submission. The Russians have broken Turkmen resistance and gained complete control of Turkmenistan, annexing the entire Trans-Caspian region.
Anglo-Russian treaty sets the southern limits of Russian rule in Turkestan.
(24 Feb) Treaty of St. Petersburg: Most of Ili valley and the passes are returned to China in return for more money.
An American, deLong, his steamer *Jeanette* is wrecked north of the New Siberian islands. His party breaks into three groups; one boat under Chipp is lost. Two other boats under Melville and deLong are separated. Melville reaches the Lena delta and at Bulum meet to of deLong's party searching for food and help. Melville, reaching deLong, is too late – deLong and party are dead from starvation.
- 1882-1915 Period in which frequent revolts break out in Turkestan against harsh Russian rule. They are put down.
- 1882 Russian political agent and a bank set up in Bukhara; it is becoming part of Russian Turkestan.
- 1883 Founding of Ashkhabad (old Poltoratsk) at the Akkal oasis.
- 1884 Russians begin absorbing the central Asian khanates. (Feb) They conquer Merv where they repair the irrigation dam and the city begins real progress toward recovery. Their conquest of Turkmenistan is completed, bringing Russia to the frontiers of Persia and Afghanistan. The Transcaspian province (oblast) of Russian Turkistan is formed (18 March).
- 1885 Penjdeh incident (April): Clash of Russian and Afghan troops bring Russia and Great Britain to the verge of war.
- 1886 (18 June) Russian-Afghan crisis settled by negotiations.
- 1887 Samarkand is made a provincial capital of the Russian Empire.
An Anglo-Russian commission determines the boundary between Afghanistan and Russian Turkestan. Ancient eastern Turkestan remains under Chinese rule.
- 1888 By this time the Trans-Caspian Railroad has reached Samarkand.
- 1889 The Transcaspian oblast becomes part of the governate general of Russian Turkestan. Periodic revolts occur (to 1917).
- 1891 Construction of the Trans-Siberian railway begins, starting from Chelyabinsk. A rush of settlers from European Russia will begin - 100's of 1000's of peasants establish themselves in the newly opened lands (to C1910).
- 1893 (12 Nov) Durand agreement with Britain: The frontier with India from Chita to Baluchistan is fixed (the Durand Line).
First dairy farm at Tyumen is started by the English wife of a Russian.
- 1894 Port Arthur falls to Japan but she is soon forced to cede it along with the whole Liao-tung peninsula back to China (Treaty of Shimonoseki).
By this time the Trans-Siberian railway Vladivostok-Khabarovsk line is built.

- 1895 Russian intervention after the Sino-Japanese War.
Krasnovodsk becomes the western terminus of Ashkhabad (was Central Asiatic) railway built in 1880. Meanwhile Omsk is linked with the Trans-Siberian railway.
(11 March) Settlement of the Pamir boundary: An Anglo-Russian commission fixes the northern boundary of Afghanistan on the Ryandj river and separates the Russian and Indian empires with an Afghan corridor of Vakhn-Darya extending to the Chinese frontier.
- 1896 Treaty with China and Russian penetration of northern Manchuria
Krasnoyarsk is reached by the Trans-Siberian railway. The town begins to prosper.
- 1897 Germany captures Kiaochau. Russians occupy Port Arthur and Talienwan (Dairen). Russia makes it a closed military port.
Vladivostok is linked with Chita by the Trans-Siberian railway via Manchuria.
- 1898 Russian interference in Korea. Russia acquires a 25 year lease of Port Arthur and Liaotung peninsula from China and the right to build a branch railway from Harbin to Port Arthur and Talieninan.
Dukchi Ishan leads the Kirghiz in a revolt against the Russians. It fails.
Completion of the railway from Moscow to Archangel. Volgodna's fortunes begin to improve.
- 1899 The Transcaspian oblast becomes part of the governorate-general of Turkistan. Turkmen retain their nomadic lifestyle.
The Trans-Siberian railway reaches Irkutsk.
By this time Russia has fortified Port Arthur that now holds 20,000 Russians.
- 1899-1905 Construction of the Orenburg-Tashkent Railroad.
- 1900 The Yenisei Trading company has failed and is dissolved.
(20 June – 14 Aug) During the Boxer Rebellion, the foreign legation (legation headquarters) in Peking is besieged. The imperial family flees the city.
By this time reformers, calling themselves the Jadids - inspired and assisted by the Crimean Tatar reformers such as Ismail Bey Gaspirali - push for modernization of Uzbek educational, religious, economic and governmental institutions. They enjoy sporadic protection by czarist governors in Turkistan.
By this time about 110,700,000 acres of arable land of Kazakstan is declared state property and used for a planned peasant colonization.
- 1901 Boxer Protocol: The imperial family returns to Peking.
- 1903 The Trans-Siberian railway is completed through Manchuria.
Russians occupy Manchuria after the Boxer Rebellion.
- 1904 (8 Feb) Russo-Japanese War begins: (July) Japanese besiege Port Arthur; (25 Aug – 2 Sept) Battle of Liaoyang; a narrow Japanese victory; (11-13 Oct) Battle of Sha-ho, Manchuria; Only battle of the war in which the Russians take the offensive. They are eventually forced to abandon the effort after heavy losses.
- 1905 Kazakh deputies are elected to the Duma.
(Jan) Fall of Port Arthur to the Japanese; (19 Feb - 10 March) Battle of Mukden; the city falls to the Japanese. (27-28 May) Battle of Tsushima; Russian fleet under admiral Rozhdestvenski is defeated by the Japanese fleet under admiral Togo. (9 Aug) Peace negotiations are opened at Portsmouth, New Hampshire, USA. (5 Sept) Treaty of Portsmouth: Russia cedes ½ of Sakhalin (annexed in 1875); surrenders her lease of the Kwangtung peninsula and Port Arthur; evacuates Manchuria; recognizes Japan's sphere

- of influence in Korea.
- 1905 By this time telegraph, telephone, the press and railroads have reached Samarkand and Tashkent.
- 1907 (31 Aug) Anglo-Russian entente. Russia agrees to abstain in Afghanistan.
- 1910 First Kazakh newspaper *Aikan* appears.
- 1911 Chinese Revolution. The imperial office is abolished, but Peking continues as capital of the new Republic (1912)
- 1912 The Taoyin of Kashgar acknowledges the authority of the new Chinese republic.
- 1913 Second Kazakh newspaper *Kazakh* appears.
- 1915 As part of the 21 Demands, Japanese lease of Kwangtung and the railway as far as Changchun is extended for a period of 99 years.
- 1916 The Tsarist government orders the mobilization of all males 19 – 43 for auxiliary service. Kazakhs rise under Abdulghaffar and Amangheldy Amanov. The Gov-Gen of Turkestan sends troops against them.
- Kyrgyz, reacting to the Tsar's order, revolt, which is met with brutal and prolonged repression (that continues after 1917), 150,000 die. The Kyrgyz manage to kill many Russians during the revolt but are forced to flee into China to escape Russian revenge.
- (Oct) Turkmen, reacting to the Tsar's order, led by Aziz Chapykov, revolt.
- 1917 All Russian route of the Trans-Siberian railway completed.
- Kazaks are not major participants in the civil wars that follow the fall of the Russian monarchy.
- With the collapse of the Russian imperial government, there is fighting throughout Siberia between Czarist groups and Bolsheviks. Omsk becomes a center of political activity. There is heavy fighting in Orenburg.
- Fighting breaks out between the Transcaspian provincial government and Bolshevik troops.
- Kazan, which before 1914 was a center of Moslem culture, becomes headquarters of Bolshevik command after the fall of Simbirsk (= Ulianovsk).
- With Russian repression and Kyrgyz flight, Kirghizia has become a no-man's land.
- Tajikistan is included in the Turkestan Autonomous Republic of the Russian Federation.
- In Khiva, Khan Asfendiar Bahadur is assassinated and succeeded by his son while Junaid Khan, a Turkmen revolutionary leader, assumes power.
- (March) Revolution in Russia. Nationalists ask for full autonomy for Kazakhstan.
- Confusion in Turkestan; rise of a Moslem Turkic movement: Shuru-i-Islamiya and a Young-Turkestan or Jaddidi (Revolution) parties. The latter seeks full political autonomy for Turkestan and abolition of the emirate of Bokhara and Khanate of Khiva.
- (July) The city of Krasnoyarsk has a Communist city council.
- (Nov) After an armed uprising, Soviet rule in Tashkent is established there by Russian colonists.
- In Kazakstan, the Communist revolution creates chaos and famine.
- (24 Nov/ 7 Dec) Council of People's advisors (Turkestan) claim right of all Moslems in Russia to build a national life freely and unhindered.
- (Dec) National Congress is convoked in Kokand and an autonomous government is formed under Mustafa Chokayev.
- (9 Dec) Revolt of the Don Cossacks led by generals Kornilov and Kaledin begins the

Great Civil War.

(30 Dec) Japanese forces land Vladivostok.

1917-18 The name of the city of Perm is changed to Molotov.

1917-20 Orel is the scene of civil struggle.

1918 Under Soviet rule the Kyrgyz (who are beginning to return from China) find it difficult to assert themselves as a separate national entity. Outsiders confuse their name because under the Tsars the Kyrgyz were wrongly labeled Kara-Kirgiz in order to distinguish them from the Kazaks, whom the Russians call Kirgiz to distinguish them from the Cossacks (Russian: Kazaky). The Kyrgyz continue fighting the establishment of Bolshevik control (to 1921).

A counter-revolutionary government is set up at Omsk by Admiral Alexander V. Kolchak who declares himself Dictator of Siberia.

International forces of Japan, Great Britain, France and the USA land at Vladivostok.

Czechoslovak POWs, marching to join allied forces in Europe disagree with Russia, this leads to armed conflict.

Turkish army under Nuri Pasha, aiding Azerbaijan, takes Baku from the Red Army. The British send a force into Turkmenistan and Merv is occupied under Gen Sir Wilfred Molleson. This is to stop a German-Turkish thrust toward Afghanistan.

(Feb) The independent government at Kokand is liquidated by Red Army forces sent from Tashkent. This action provokes a resistance movement known as the Basmachi (Qorbashi) Revolt. Meanwhile, Kolchak's army is in control of Orenburg, cutting Turkestan off from Russia.

(13 Feb) Defeat of general Kaledin who commits suicide.

(13 April) General Kornilov is killed in battle.

(22 April) Establishment of the Republic of Transcaucasia.

(1 May) Turkestan Autonomous SSR is proclaimed as a "Turk Republic" in Uzbek territory.

(11 May) Cossack command taken over by General Anton Denikin supported by General Peter Krasnov.

(June) The Czechs seize the Trans-Siberian Railway, allying with anti-Bolshevik forces and begin suppressing Bolshevik revolutionary centers along the railway. Meanwhile an autonomous Siberian government is set up at Omsk by Admiral Alexander V. Kolchak.

(18 June) Krasnoyarsk is occupied by the Czechoslovak legion and submits to rule of "White Russian" Siberian government of Kolchak.

(26 July) Czechs extend their operation to the Volga region, taking Ekaterinburg.

(Aug) Kazan is captured by the Czech army. (Sept) Recaptured by Trotsky.

(17 Sept) Local Socialist Revolutionary administration of Krasnovodsk arrests 26 Soviet commissars who had escaped from Baku. (20 Sept) They are shot.

(Oct) The Red army begins operations against Kolchak's forces east of the Urals.

(18 Nov) Military and conservatives oust the socialists in a coup at Omsk. Admiral Kolchak becomes Supreme Ruler of Russia. His White Army marches westward.

(24 Dec) The White Army seizes Perm and Ufa.

1919 Kazan is attacked by Kolchak's army. Much of the town has been damaged or destroyed.

(25,27 Jan) Socialists begin pushing Kolchak back into Siberia, taking Orenburg and Ekaterinburg.

(19 Feb) Assassination of Habibullah near Jalalabad. His brother Nasrullah is

proclaimed amir but yields to Amanullah who becomes amir on a wave of anti-British sentiment. Afghans begin invading India but are pushed back. Now Afghanistan is faced with invasion; a settlement is negotiated. (8 Aug) Treaty of Rawalpindi: Britain recognizes the independence of Afghanistan. British subsidies are discontinued.

(Spring) A red army group defeats Kolchak.

(Summer) The Soviet government firmly establishes itself and the native dynasty at Khiva is expelled.

The Musburo (Bureau of Turkistan Moslem Communist Organizations) is formed in Moscow. Its opinion is that the Uzbeks, Kazaks, Kirghiz and Turkmens as well as the Bashkirs, Tatars and other Turkic peoples of Russia are members of one Turkish nation and should form one republic within a Soviet federation.

(July) The Red Army takes Ashkhabad.

(Autumn) The Khan of Khiva is deposed and a People's Soviet Republic takes the place of the khanate.

(Sept) Commander MV Frunze of the Red army arrives Tashkent with VV Kuibyshev as political commissar.

(14 Nov) The Red Army recaptures Omsk, driving the White Army to Irkutsk.

(17 Dec) Kolchak is succeeded by General Nicholas Semenev.

1919-20 The Red Army defeats "White Russian" forces and occupies Kazakstan.

1920 Kazakstan becomes part of the Kirgiz Autonomous Republic. Meanwhile, anti-Russian "Basmachi" guerrilla warfare begins; the Kirghiz participate.

Russian forces gain control of Siberia east of Lake Baikal.

Slavic and European troops and colonists controlling Tashkent successfully move to depose the khan of Khiva (Junaid flees to Afghanistan). New leaders come from the ranks of the Jadids. Russians set up the Khorezem (Khiva) Soviet Republic. The "Turkirepublic" is proclaimed part of the RSFSR.

Bolsheviks remove the state gold treasure from Leningrad to Irkutsk. Admiral Kolchak is executed here.

White Russians under "Mad Baron" Ungern-Sternberg occupy Urga [Urga = Ulan Bator; holy city of the Mongols and residence of the "Living Buddha"; metropolitan of the Kalka tribes]

(16 Jan) The Red Army takes Krasnoyarsk.

(30 Jan) Bolsheviks attempt to take Vladivostok but are foiled by the Japanese.

(6 Feb) The Red Army takes Krasnovodsk.

(7 Feb) Bolsheviks capture and execute Kolchak.

(6 April) Soviet government sets up a pro-Bolshevik buffer state between Russia and Japan - Far Eastern Republic, capital at Chita.

(26 Aug) Kazakh Autonomous SSR organized. Capital is Orenburg.

(Sept) Khiva concludes a treaty of alliance with the Russian SFSR.

(14 Sept) After having organized a Young Bukhara movement, Faizullah Khajayev proclaims the dethronement of Emir Mir Alim who flees to Afghanistan. Bukhara is made a Soviet People's Republic.

(Dec) Bolsheviks establish control over the Transcaspian province (oblast).

1920-21 Severe famine sees a large drop in population in Orenburg.

1920-23 A Turkistan ASSR is formed within the Russian federation but JV Stalin does not want a single Turkish nation.

- 1921 Famine is rather severe in Kazan, especially in the Tatar Republic.
 Astrakhan is decimated by famine.
 (28 Feb) Afghanistan concludes a treaty of friendship with Russia. Amanullah sees Russia as protection against the British.
 (March) Bukhara concludes a treaty of alliance with the Russian RFSR. Anti-soviet Pan-Turanian movement under one Enver Pasha breaks out in Bukhara.
 (1 March) Afghanistan concludes a treaty of friendship with Turkey.
 (22 June) Afghanistan concludes a non-aggression treaty with Persia.
 (Oct) Former leader of the Young Turks, Enver Pasha, appears in Bukhara and assumes command of the Basmachi (“bandit” in Turkic, “patriot” for anti-soviet nationals) movement.
 (Nov) Enver Pasha contacts the amir in Afghanistan and becomes Commander in Chief. The aim is to establish a Pan-Turanian empire of Persia, Bukhara, Afghanistan and eventually Turkey.
 (end) By this time communist-dominated politicians hold power in both Bukhara and Khiva.
 Bolsheviks rename the Transcaspian oblast the Turkmen oblast.
- 1921-22 Famine strikes the Kyrgyz, from the devastation of their war with the Bolsheviks; 500,000 die.
- 1922 By this time virtually the entire Siberian mainland is under Soviet control. The Far Eastern Republic joins the Russian Soviet Federated Socialist Republic.
 The Turkmen oblast becomes part of Turkistan Autonomous SSR.
 (Jan) Enver Pasha demands Moscow abandon Turkestan.
 (Aug) The Red Army invades and breaks the movement. Enver Pasha is forced to retreat into Tajikistan. (4 Aug) Battle near Baljuran; Enver is killed. Khiva and Bukhara become People's Independent Soviet Republics.
 (30 Dec) Establishment of the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics (U.S.S.R.), formed of Russia, Ukraine, White Russia and Transcaucasia. See Note 7
- 1923 Russia gains control of Kamchatka.
 JV Stalin proclaims the time has come – due to its importance – to transform the “Turkpublic”, stating (23 April) that each Turkic nation should be on its own.
 (April) Promulgation of a constitution (the “Fundamental Law”) in Afghanistan, modeled after that of Turkey.
- 1924 Autonomous Kirgiz oblast created within the Russian Soviet Federated Socialist Republic.
 Turkmen oblast made the Turkmen SSR; assembled from the Turkmen oblast and the Turkmen districts of the former Khorezmian and Bukharan republics.
 Soviet Turkestan is divided into five separate states: Uzbek SSR (includes Uzbek lands and rest of Bukhara; cap Samarkand), Turkmen SSR (of Khiva and western Bukhara khanate; capital is Ashkhabad), Tadzhik SSR, Kirghiz Autonomous oblast and the Kara-Kalpak Autonomous oblast. Northern Turkestan is included in Kazakh SSR.
 Autonomous Tadzhik SSR (capital is Stalinabad) is within Uzbek SSR - created for that area where Iranian languages are spoken.
 Samarkand made capital of Uzbek SSR (to 1936).
 Soviets declare the Basmachi rebellion ended but chief Ibrahim Beg Lakai fights on.
 Death of the Living Buddha. Since reincarnation is not permitted, that palace at Urga (Ulan Bator) is turned into a museum.

- (18 Sept) The Uzbek and Turkmen peoples are authorized to form SSRs on their own. The Kazakhs, Kirghiz and Tajiks are authorized to form autonomous SSRs.
- (14 Oct) Kirghizia becomes an autonomous region in the Russian SFSR with the name Kara-Kirghiz because Russians erroneously call the Kazakhs Kirghiz.
- (27 Oct) Turkmenistan becomes an SSR.
Official constitution of the Uzbek and Turkmen SSR.
- 1924-25 Politicians directed by the Russian Communist Party (Bolsheviks) redraw the Central Asian map according to a monoethnic principle for each major entity and its people: Karakalpakstan and Uzbekistan appear as ethnically designated territories within the U.S.S.R. Uzbekistan is soon granted the status of a constituent republic as Uzbek SSR.
- 1925 Russia gains control of Sakhalin.
Turkmen SSR becomes part of the Soviet Union.
(15 Jan) Uzbekistan becomes an SSR (it includes also a Tajik ASSR) and Turkmen SSR become members of the USSR.
(29 Jan) Turkmenistan is accepted as a member of the USSR.
(15 March) Formal organization of the Tajik ASSR.
(12 May) New republics (Autonomous Soviet Socialist Republics) are added to the Soviet Federation; Uzbekistan, Turkmenistan, Kazakhstan (Kazakh A.S.S.R.), etc. The Kazakh capital is moved to Kzyl Orda.
- 1926 (1 Feb) The Kirgiz oblast is transformed into the Kirghiz ASSR of the RSFSR.
(10 June) Amanulla assumes title of king of Afghanistan.
- 1927 The Soviet government begins forcing the nomadic Kazaks to settle on collective and state farms. They also continue the czarist policy of encouraging large numbers of Russians and other Slavs to settle in the region.
- 1928 With the advance of nationalist armies northward, Nanking is proclaimed capital of the New China. Peking is known again as Peiping.
Era of the Warlords begins in Sinkiang. The Muslim insurgent Ma chung-Ying rules (to 1937). Mahushan raises the independence of Khotan.
Kara Sea expedition: Three British and five Norwegian vessels (1 Aug) leave Hamburg, transit the North Sea, then Barents Sea, through the Novaya Zemlya Islands and Kara Sea to the mouths of the Ob and Yenisei rivers.
(Nov) Outbreak of Great Revolt against the king of Afghanistan and his modernizing reforms.
- 1929 Tadzhikistan is made a separate republic out of Uzbek SSR.
Capital of Kazakh moved farther east to Verny and renamed Alma-Ata.
Soviets defeat the White Russians to remain in control of Urga and Outer Mongolia, although Chinese suzerainty is recognized. Urga is renamed Ulan Bator.
(14 Jan) Amanullah abdicates the Afghan throne in favor of his older brother Inaya Tullah. (17 Jan) Bandit leader Bacha-i-Saquao captures Kabul and has himself proclaimed Habibullah Ghazi. (Feb- Sept) Habibullah defeat Amanullah. Gen Mohammed Nadir Khan collects an army and (8 Oct) takes Kabul and is (16 Oct) proclaimed Mohammed Nadir Shah. H Ghazi is executed.
(16 Oct) Proclamation of a Tajik SSR.
(5 Dec) The Tajik SSR is formally accepted as the seventh republic of the Union. Uzbekistan transfers to it part of the Fergana valley with Khojent (Leninabad).
- 1930's Revolt of Gen Ma in Kashgar is put down by the Chinese.

- 1930 The capital of Uzbek SSR is transferred from Samarkand to Tashkent.
- 1931 In Uzbekistan, Ibrahim Beg Lakai is caught and killed. Also the Jaddidi leader Munavar Kary is executed.
 (18 Sept) The Mukden Incident: An explosion on the railway track near the city gives the signal for the Japanese occupation of Manchuria.
 (24 Sept) By this time the Japanese have set up in Mukden a puppet organization: "Committee for Preservation of Local Peace and Order".
- 1932 (Feb) A new constitution is proclaimed in Afghanistan.
- 1933 Ma Chung-Ying's rule in Sinkiang is opposed by Uighuristan (to 1934) the Soviet client Sheng Xueliang (to 1944). Uighuristan takes over Khotan, ending its independence.
 (8 Nov) Assassination of Nadir Shah. Son Mohammed Nadir Shah succeeds and continues his father's modernization policies for Afghanistan.
- 1934 In Moscow, the Musburo of 1919 is disbanded.
 Sheng Shih-Tsai assumes rule in Kashgar as a Soviet client.
 Mahushan is restored; Khotan regains its independence.
- 1936 (5 Dec.) Adoption of Democratic Constitution: Some of the new union states are Turkmenistan, Uzbekistan, Tadjikistan, Kazakhstan and Kirghistan. Also, Kara-Kalpak ASSR is removed from Kazakhstan and incorporated into Uzbekistan.
 The autonomous Kirgiz republic is made a full union republic, the Kirgiz Soviet Socialist Republic; Kirgiziya.
 Khotan becomes part of Nationalist China.
- 1937 (9 July) Afghanistan joins with Turkey, Iraq and Iran in the Oriental Entente to resist pressure from the great European powers.
 (28 July) Peiping falls to the Japanese.
- 1938 (20-24 June) Revolt of Shami Pir in Afghanistan. It fails and he flees to India.
- 1944 Sinkiang falls to the rule of Nationalist China.
- 1945 The Chinese Nationalist government regains Peiping.
- 1949 (22 Jan) Peiping is taken by the Communist government.
 (1 Oct) Peiping is renamed Peking (modern Beijing).
- 1949-50 Border dispute between Afghanistan and Pakistan: Afghanistan demands autonomy for the Pathan border tribes on Pakistan's side of the Durand Line (1893).

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