

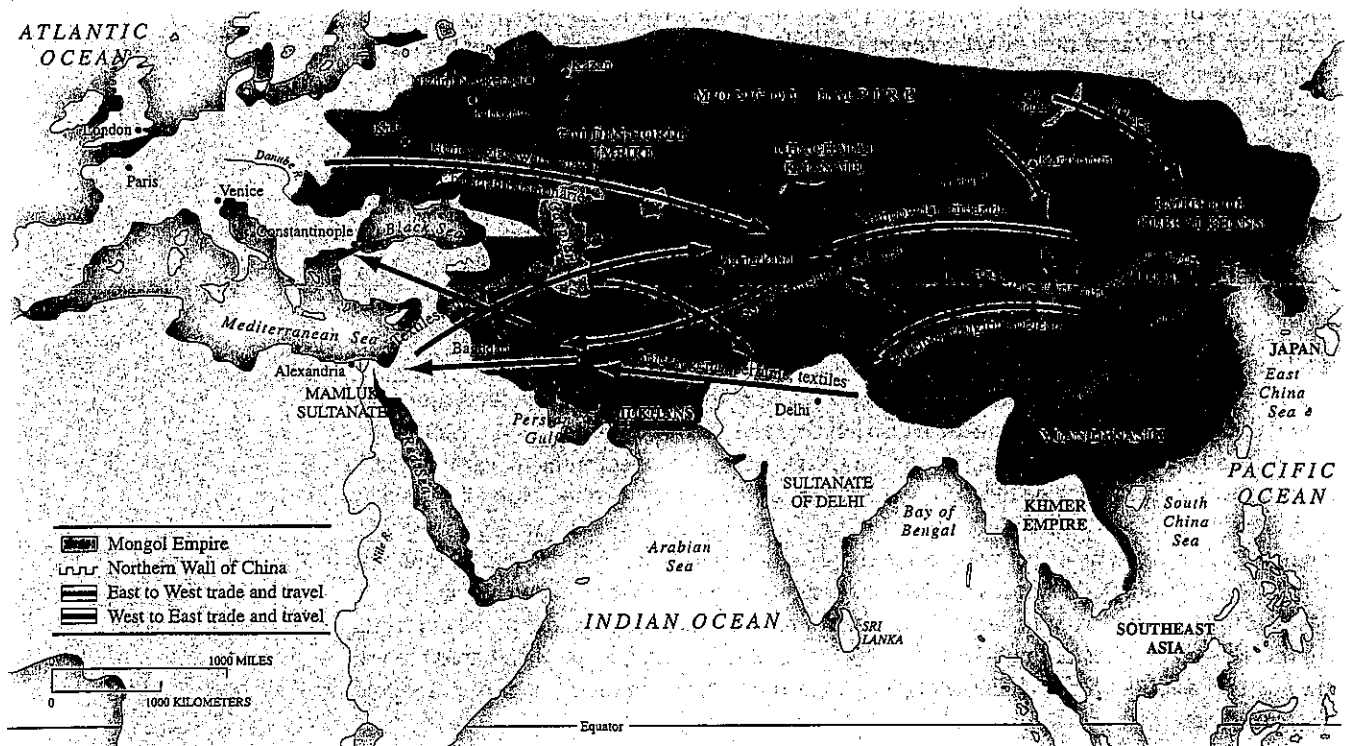
## VISUALIZING THE PAST

### The Mongol Empire as a Bridge Between Civilizations

CHINGGIS KHAN AND HIS SUCCESSORS ACTIVELY promoted the growth of trade and travelers by protecting the caravans that made their way across the ancient Asian silk routes. The Mongols also established rest stations for weary merchants and fortified outposts for those harassed by bandits. These measures transformed the Mongol imperium into a massive conduit between the civilizations of Europe, the Middle East, and the rest of Asia. The map illustrates a wide variety of marketable goods and inventions, as well as the agents and objects of several religions, between areas within the empire and along its lengthy borders. Study these patterns and then answer the questions that follow.

#### QUESTIONS

- Discuss some of the major ways in which the Mongol empire facilitated exchanges and interaction between civilizations and culture areas. What were the main centers of different kinds of products?
- What were the main directions in which ideas, goods, and new inventions flowed?
- Based on the discussions in the preceding chapters, who were some of the key agents of these exchanges?
- Why were the networks of exchange established by the Mongols so short-lived?



MAP 15.3 The Mongol Empire and the Global Exchange Network