

The Mongol Invasions of Japan – Part 2

Based on an article by [Kallie Szczepanski](#) at [Thoughtco](#)



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Website: Encyclopedia Britannica

Link: <https://www.britannica.com/place/Mongol-empire/media/389325/235959>

3 Geographic Expansion of the Mongols

a Use a ruler and the map scale to estimate the width of the Mongolian empire at the death of Kublai Khan. Write your estimate below:

b Locate the following elements on the map above:

- A natural defence that would have made it difficult to conquer India:
- A human-made defence that still stands in China today:
- A sea in the far west with a name meaning “centre of the earth”:
- The names of 5 countries that formed part of Empire:

4 The Mongols as Conquerors

<https://www.britannica.com/place/Mongol-empire#ref341051>

Read the source above about the military practices of the Mongolians. Write 5 dot points that might serve to explain their terrifying success as conquerors.

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5 Crash Course History: The Mongols – Watch and Discuss

The First Invasion in 1274

From a port in southern Korea, the Mongols launched an attack on Japan in 1274. Hundreds of large ships and small boats set out into the Sea of Japan.

First, the invaders seized the islands of Tsushima and Iki about halfway between the tip of the Korean peninsula and the main islands of Japan. Quickly overcoming desperate resistance from the islands' approximately 300 Japanese residents, the Mongol troops slaughtered them all and sailed on to the east.



Japan's Military Weaknesses

The samurai army set out to fight according to their code of **bushido**; a warrior would step out, announce his name and lineage, and prepare for one-on-one combat with a foe. Of course, the Mongols were not familiar with this code. When a lone samurai stepped forward to challenge them, the Mongols would simply attack him as a group, much like ants swarming a beetle.

To make matters worse for the Japanese, the Yuan forces also used poison-tipped arrows, catapult-launched explosive shells, and a shorter bow that was accurate at twice the range of the samurai's longbows. In addition, the Mongols fought in units, rather than each man for himself. Drumbeats relayed the orders guiding their precisely coordinated attacks. All of this was new to the samurai—often fatally so.

The desperate defence of the samurai seemed doomed to fail.

6 a Refer to [this site](#) and summarise the concept of the code of bushido briefly below.

b Fill in this table with the details of the combatants' fighting styles and equipment.

Fighting Methods and Equipment of the Samurai	Fighting Methods and Equipment of the Mongols