The Trial of Genghis Khan

Due to recent advances in historical and scientific technology, we have been able to bring Genghis Khan and several others back to life to stand trial on behalf of the Mongol Empire that he created. The prosecution has brought the following charges against Genghis Khan:

Genghis Khan and his descendants were uncivilized conquerors and rulers.

Every person in class will participate in the trial (see roles below). If you are absent the day of the trial, you will complete a five paragraph essay supporting or refuting the charges.

Roles for the Trial of Genghis Khan

Possible Defense Roles:
- Prince of Moscow
- Merchant
- Chinese Scholar
- Possible Prosecution Roles:
  - A Prisoner of war
  - Russian Peasant
  - Caliph of Baghdad
  - Prince of Kiev
  - Chinese peasant

How the Trial will Work

1. Prosecution and Defense make opening statements (2 minutes each side)
2. Prosecution calls witnesses
   a. Prosecution has 3 minutes of Direct Examination
   b. Defense has 2 minutes of Cross-Examination
3. Defense calls witnesses
   a. Defense has 3 minutes of Direct Examination
   b. Prosecution has 2 minutes of Cross-Examination
4. Closing statements for Prosecution and Defense (2 minutes each side)
5. Jury Deliberation and Verdict

Preparation

- Prosecution and defense teams will meet to plan strategy, divide up responsibilities, prepare questions for each witness
- Witnesses will prepare for parts by taking notes from textbooks, primary sources, and other secondary sources and be prepared to answer questions during the trial
- Jury members will take notes to be familiar with all issues and witnesses.
- On the day of the trial, all students will be prepared to act out their role.
For the Day of the Trial

**Attorney**
- Prepare opening or closing statement for your side
- Assist team with preparation of three questions for each witness you intend to call
- Assist team with preparation of three cross-examination questions for each opposition witness
- **To be turned in:** written copy of your opening/closing statement, Questions for witnesses.

**Witness**
- Research your role and understand how you fit into the larger picture of the trial
- Anticipate two questions each side may ask you
- **To be turned in:** Role Biography, Anticipated Questions and Answers

**Jury Member**
- Prepare research for your Verdict Paper
- Predict how each witness will be used during the trial
- **To be turned in:** Trial Predictions

On the Day of the Trial

**Attorney**
- Deliver opening/closing statement
- Call and cross-examine witnesses
- **To be turned in:** Point of View Sheet

**Witness**
- Track the points of view presented by witnesses
- Answer questions when called to testify
- **To be turned in:** Point of View Sheet

**Jury Member**
- Track the points of view presented by witnesses
- Deliberate and deliver a verdict
- **To be turned in:** Reflection Questions, Point of View Sheet
- **For next class:** complete Verdict Paper
Witness Role Biography

**ROLE:** ____________________________

As a witness, you must research your role and be able to answer any questions that the attorneys ask you. Before the trial, complete your role biography below. This will be turned in on the day of the trial (you will be able to use these notes during your testimony). In addition, anticipate two questions that each side may ask you, and prepare your responses.

Briefly describe the significance of your role. (In other words, why were you invited to testify?)

What was your life like during the time of the Mongol Empire?

Where are you from? What social class are you a part of? What things are important to you?

How did you interact with the Mongols? If you did not directly encounter the Mongols, how could you have heard of them?

How did your role’s life change because of the Mongols? Was it positive or negative, and why?

Do you feel the Mongols were civilized or uncivilized?
Prosecution Questions

Predict two questions the prosecution may ask you, and prepare your responses.

Defense Questions

Predict two questions the defense may ask you, and prepare your responses.
Point of View Sheet

Record the testimony of each witness, highlighting their point of view. This sheet will be submitted at the end of the trial.

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Did any witnesses contradict each other? If so, which ones? How could that happen?

Which witnesses did you think had the most convincing testimony? Why?
Jury Member Instructions

As a jury member, you will need to complete the point of view sheet during the trial, where you will take very detailed notes on each witness’ testimony. You will also complete reflection questions at the end of class. After the trial is over, you will need to complete the verdict sheet and write up your decision. This, along with your notes, will be due the next block.

**Verdict Sheet**

Answer the following questions after the trial. Answer these questions in complete sentences.

1. Before beginning the trial, do you believe that the Mongols and Genghis Khan are civilized or uncivilized? Defend your answer.

2. After listening to both opening statements, which one was more convincing? Why?

3. Which defense witness had the most convincing or compelling testimony? Why?

4. Which defense witness had the least convincing or uninformative testimony? Why?
5. Which prosecution witness had the most convincing or compelling testimony? Why?

6. Which prosecution witness had the least convincing or uninformative testimony? Why?

7. After listening to both closing statements, which one was more convincing? Why?

8. Based on the testimony of both the defense and the prosecution, do you find the Mongols and Genghis Khan civilized or uncivilized?

Now, you need to write a brief essay defending your verdict with 3 main reasons why the Mongols are civilized or uncivilized. You should highlight the evidence that was given to you during the trial.

Write this like a traditional expository essay, not an AP World Comparative essay. Have an introduction, a paragraph for each of the three main reasons for your verdict, and a conclusion.

This sheet, your notes, and your essay are due next class. I prefer your essay to be typed, but it is not required.
Attorney Responsibilities

As an attorney you are working as a team, you must take rotate speaking order. You are responsible for creating both an opening statement and a closing statement, you must also generate a list of questions to ask your witnesses and a list of possible questions to ask your opponent’s witnesses. See the attached witness list and use the graph below to plan your questions. You will also be responsible for completing the POV worksheet.

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