NEW TITLES

History

THE DEVIL'S HORSEMEN: The Mongol Invasion of Europe by James Chambers Atheneum, 1979 202 pp. \$11.95 L of C 78-22055 ISBN 0-689-10942-3

MUNICH: The Price of Peace by Telford Taylor Doubleday, 1979 1084 pp. \$17.50

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gols defeated themselves, sparing most of I3th-century Europe from Asian conquest. The very word "Munich" has come to signify not only appeasement but also willful capitulation to an aggressor. In September 1938, Neville Chamberlain, Edouard Daladier, Adolf Hitler, and Benito Mussolini met in Munich to settle German territorial claims against Czechoslovakia. The resulting agreement virtually gave the Nazis a free hand. Hitler expressed satisfaction; Chamberlain returned to Britain proclaiming that "peace with honor" had been preserved. It was a peace that would last less than a year. Win-

The Wilson Quarterly/Autumn 1979 150

The great Mongol emperor Genghis Khan first led his fierce horsemen westward out of Mongolia into what is now Turkestan in A.D. 1220. He encountered only feeble resistance. Europe lay ahead. By 1260, the Mongol Empire stretched all the way to the Carpathian Mountains, loosely encompassing what is today Russia, eastern Poland, much of Hungary, Turkey, Bulgaria, Rumania, and the Mideast before it receded. Usually outnumbered, the superb Mongol cavalry forces relied upon shock, speed, and mobility to overwhelm their European foes. They used flag and torch signals to coordinate units and set up a kind of Pony Express courier system linking their new domains. They also exploited the West's weaknesses: the rigid tactics of its feudal armies; the quarrels between Pope Gregory IX and Holy Roman Emperor Frederick II that prevented a united European front: the isolation of Poles. Hungarians, Bulgars. Yet repeatedly, as total victory loomed, the Mongols paused. Each time, the loss of momentum resulted from the death of a leader and ensuing squabbles over succession. In the end, concludes Chambers in this rich military history, the unruly Mongols defeated themselves, sparing most of

aylor] 1979 ; 750