**Document 1**

Source: Excerpts compiled from Mongol oral traditions, 13th century CE

Genghis Khan set out to fight the people of Northern China. ... When Jebe [one of Genghis Khan’s generals] saw the Chinese fortress of Chu-yung Kuan was well-defended, he said to his troops: “I’ll trick them and make them come out in the open. I’ll pretend to retreat and when they come out I’ll attack them.”

So Jebe retreated and the Chinese army cried: “Let’s go after them!”

The Chinese poured out of the fortress. ...Jebe retreated and then he turned his cavalry around to attack as the enemy rushed toward him in waves. ...

The Mongols killed the finest and most courageous soldiers of Northern China. Their bodies were piled up like rotten logs.

**Document 2**

Source: Pope Innocent IV, excerpt from a letter to the Mongol Khan, 1245 CE

It is not without cause that we are driven to express in strong terms our amazement that you, according to what we have heard, have invaded many countries belong both to Christians and to others and are laying waste in a horrible desolation and with a fury still unabated you do not cease from breaking the bonds of natural ties, sparing neither sex nor age, you rage against all indiscriminately with the sword of chastisement.

**Document 3**

Source: Excerpt of a letter from Genghis Khan to Pope Innocent IV

Those whom you speak showed themselves to be highly arrogant and slew your ambassadors. Therefore, in accordance with the commands of the Eternal Heaven, the inhabitants of the aforesaid countries have been slain and annihilated. If not by the command of Heaven, how can anyone slay or conquer out of his own strength?

Thanks to the power of the Eternal Heaven, all lands have been given to us from sunrise to sunset. How could anyone act other than in accordance with the commands of Heaven? Now your own upright heart must tell you: “We will become subject to you, and will place our powers at your disposal.” You in person, at the head of the monarchs, all of you, without exception, must come to tender us service and pay us homage, then only will we recognize your submission. But if you do not obey the commands of Heaven, and run counter to our orders, we shall know you are our foe.”