This paper will focus on Marco Polo’s background, selective episodes of his travels through the Mongol empire, his collaboration with Rustichello of Pisa on their manuscript and address controversies that arise regarding Polo’s travel and life. The biggest controversy simply being, did Marco Polo even traveled to China? There is evidence and speculation that may make that statement seem true. There is another school of scholarly thought that even though Polo’s manuscript may contain inaccuracy, fabrications and omissions, it is still an important historical document that should not be trivialized. Another point of focus that will be examine is the logistical challenges that faced Marco Polo as a traveler in the thirteenth century. How was he able to be the first to travel to the Far East when nobody else could? What was the geopolitical landscape like that enabled him to safely travel through these lands? Why travel so far in the first place? All of these questions and more will be reviewed and address through the course of this paper. Professor’s Instructions The final paper will be 14-15 pages with correctly formatted footnotes and bibliography. The bibliography should include at least ten sources and a minimum of two sources must be primary. The final paper, footnotes and bibliography will be written in the Chicago Style.