

ABOUT PAX MONGOLICA

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Upon becoming director of the Institute² of International Affairs at the Mongolian Academy of Sciences, I began to think about the title to give to the main journal of our institute. My staff and I decided to name it *Pax Mongolica* in reference to the world the Mongols help foster from the thirteenth fifteenth centuries when the Mongols conquered half of the known world and ruled it under their order.

This paper discusses the creation of the term “Pax Mongolica” and the benefits it carries to readers of our journal.

Birth of “PAX MONGOLICA”

It is not know precisely when the term *Pax Mongolica* was created, but most likely it occurred at the beginning of the nineteenth century when international relations were fully developed in Europe.³ Few empires or nations made such an impact on in world history that the era is eponymous with them, as in the case of Pax Romana, Pax Britannica, Pax Hispanica, Pax Americana and Pax Mongolica.⁴ The rein called “Pax Mongolica” lasted from 1206 until 1480 and is well known among scholars and widely described by foreign works and publications. As a scholar of early Mongol-

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³ Kegley, Charles W. World Politics: Trends and Transformation 10th edition. Chapter11: The Face of 21st century Armed Conflict, part IV: Managing Global Conflict. 2005. p.524

⁴ “Great Mongolian State”.UB.,2007,pp.117.,201,254

Chinese relations, I authored a piece titled “Days of Pax Mongolica.” In that article I noted: In the thirteenth century, Mongolia was the Great Power and so it tried to impose its own system, the Pax Mongolica, so to say, or “Mongol Peace”, much like Pax Britannica later, or Pax Americana today. The process was initiated by Chinggis Khaan who created the Great Mongol State, and then made its borders secure and peaceful. Ugudei Khaan continued with the policy, following up Chinggis Khaan’s westwards thrusts with those to the south. As the Southern Song diplomat’s writing show, the Mongolian Empire was in a win-win situation and imposed their writ on everybody else. The world in the thirteenth century was unipolar, and Mongols dictated the terms [other].⁵

Days of PAX MONGOLICA

Between the thirteenth and fifteenth centuries, the Mongols were not only an unrivalled military power, but also a tremendous force in the economic and cultural spheres of Eurasia. The mainstay Mongol power was its nomadic way of life that guaranteed the stability of its main source of prosperity -animal husbandry. In those pre-industrial times, economies were of two types, sedentary or nomadic, or, in other words, based on agriculture or animal husbandry. The second type, as practiced in Mongol lands and across parts of Central Asia proved to be more dynamic, competent, and effective in terms of military strength and it influenced all aspects of life in the empire. After decades of fighting, Chinggis Khaan finally consolidated all Mongols under his leadership in 1206, establishing the Great Mongol State. Remnants lasted well into the middle of the eighteenth century, when finally the Manchu in northeast China succeeded in subjugating all Mongol lands.

The Great Mongol State generally pursued a strong and hard foreign policy toward neighboring countries and their ruling dynasties, like Tangut (Xi Xia), Khara Kitan (Western Liao), Khorezm (Sartahul), and the Jurjens Jin (Altan). Mongols fought and won wars against the Tanguts in 1207-

⁵ Ж.Баясах. Гадаад бодлого хийгээд аюулгүй байдал (Foreign Policy and Security). Улаанбаатар. 2010. 63-р тал

1209, and the Jurjens in 1211-1215, both of whom had had great influence over Mongolia. These victories were extremely important for a newly established state and they largely contributed to the Great Khaan's power spreading fast. Total Mongol rule was established over them in 1227 and 1234 respectively. These two states submitted to the Great Mongol State in a manner that could also be called soft. Force was used only and after persuasion failed. Neighbors who refused to accept the overwhelming power of the Great Mongol State and submit peacefully soon found Mongol power unleashed against them and lost their independence.

After securing safe boundaries for this extended Great Mongol State, Chinggis Khaan began to pay more attention to domestic affairs. However, the Naimans occupied the Khara Kitan and Khorezm Sultanates and thus posed a real threat to the Mongols. The Great Khaan declared war on them and destroyed the Khara Kitan in 1218 and the Khorezm Sultanate the following year in 1219.

These wars against the southern and western neighbors could not be avoided as the Great Mongol State had to protect itself against external threats. Later, however, Mongols followed a deliberate policy of expansionism and invaded Ajeri, Georgia, Armenia, and Southern Russia, all of which were forced to submit by 1225. There still were pockets of resistance. The Tanguts started to ally with the Jurjens to form a large anti-Mongolian coalition and the Khan dealt with them ruthlessly in order to bring them to heel. In 1227, the alliance collapsed under the Mongol pressure. In the same year, the Great Khaan fell from his horse and passed away on his way home from his campaigns.

Ugudei, the third son of Chinggis Khaan, succeeded his father. The second Khaan of the Great Mongol State ruled from 1227 to 1241, and pursued the policy of "Mongol Peace." He paid more attention to domestic affairs, consolidating the imperial strength in the occupied countries. Ugudei clearly redrew the boundaries of Tumen and Myngan and made them inviolate and secure. He also gave its final shape to the taxation regulations within the state in 1229-1233. By 1232-1233, a system of operating horse relay stations all over the empire had been put in place.

He set up irrigation systems in dry areas. With no need to divert his energy to external campaigns, he devoted his attention to organizing construction works in the new capital Khara Khorum.

But things can rarely be quiet for long in such a vast empire. Whenever there were reports of uprising and resistance in the occupied territories, Ugudei Khaan demonstrated the power of his reign. He sent the army to the Inner Caucasian countries. Accompanied by his young brother Tului, he led a campaign in northern China and used the Southern Song Chinese against the Jurchen Jin dynasty in 1233 and, a year later in 1234, overthrew the Jin and their lands became part of the empire. Later he also organized several expeditions against Korea and tried to establish 'darugachi' or military rule there.

I have done some research on the Southern Song dynasty diplomatic references to the Great Mongol State in the first half of the thirteenth century. Zhao Hong visited the Mongolian-occupied Northern China in 1220-1221 and wrote an account called "Meda beilu", purporting to be a "full description" of Mongols and Tartars. Peng Daya and Xui Ting were in Mongolia in 1233 and again in 1235-1236 as envoys of the Southern Song dynasty to the Great Mongol State. Their account of their travels and stay is called "Heida Shilue", meaning "short notes" on Black Tartars. These give a first-hand picture of Mongolia in the first half of thirteenth century and complement the information available in other early annals, namely "The Secret History of Mongols", accounts by Plano Carpini and W. Rubruck, Marco Polo's travelogue, and the History of the World Conqueror, by Ata-Malik Juvaini. The special value of all these is that they are first-person accounts by people who wrote only what they saw. This makes them invaluable as a source of credible information.

Some other envoys also visited Mongolia, but they either did not leave behind any writing or what they wrote has not survived. Among them, Zhou Shenzhi visited Mongolia in 1232 to confirm with Mongols the joint campaign against the Jurjens. The other members of the mission included Fi Fuli, Qiao Shian, Lu Pu, and one of the co-authors of Heida Shilue, Peng Daya.

Chen Fu was the chief of a mission with Cong Yilan and Wang Quan among deputy chiefs who came to Mongolia to establish “Friendly relations” in 1235. Zhou Shenzhi, mentioned earlier, returned to Mongolia in 1236 on a similar mission of “friendship.” Xui Ting, the other co-author of the *Heida Shilue*, was a member of this mission. Another man who came in 1238 on a mission of “friendship” was Zhou Cishuo. These regular and frequent visits lead me to conclude that relations between the Great Mongol State and the Southern Song dynasty were strong and friendly, as exemplified by their joint campaign against the Jurchens throughout the 1230s. After the Mongols had overthrown the Jin dynasty, the Chinese of South Song continued to give importance to maintaining friendly relations with the new great power to their north. It will be clear even from this brief account that the basic principles of international relations do not change with the passage of centuries, or a change in the identity of the main players.

Also we have” Khubilai Khan Letter To The Blue Sky *Emperor Khubilai Khan's Letter To The Everlasting Blue Sky*: “Myself Emperor of the Universe reporting to your highness: I am from the bottom [of my heart] trying to fulfill the dream to move southward for searching for the better life, so first of all, I tried to expand the territories which you conquered during your rule to the four cardinal directions and myself entered to the Central Plain of China and established our domination and settlements which you ordered in the world. We punished those who were against our rule and made them understand how it is ruled by our presence and finally we stood up our will and educated them and explained how we should live in the harmony in our Peace. I am to expand the territories to the north and reach to the periphery of desert of Arabia in the West and conquer the territories which lay in the Liao [dong] peninsula also we reached the Annam and the territories beyond.

We are now owners of the world and people under our rule have a joyful life. Our sons and grandsons will have a joy and worth living in their livelihood forever.

The Ninth Month Of The Twenty-Ninth Year (1293) Of Zhiyuan Rule⁶

From that credential to the Blue Sky written by Khubilai Khaan, we understood that "Pax Mongolica" lasted over the rule of the universal emperor Khubilai Khaan and during the rule of his successors until the end of the Golden Horde (1490) in Russia. With this event, the Mongol order of "Pax Mongolica" ended.

In conclusion, since the 1800s, scholars have written about different "Pax" worlds. But we, the Mongol people, are proud of our long and tremendous history of statehood and for being active agents In world history. Under the promise of "Mongol peace," all within the realm could live a safe and peaceful life.

⁶ Ж.Баясах. Хубилай хааны мөнх тэнгэрт өргөсөн бичиг (Khubilai khaan credential to the Blue Sky). Улаанбаатар., 2015., 33-р тал