H858: PROBLEMS IN ISLAMIC HISTORY: SPRING 2008

THE MONGOL EMPIRE IN RECENT RESEARCH

The seminar will meet on Tuesdays, 3.30-5.30, in Humanities 5255. Students should have copies of J.J. Saunders, *The History of the Mongol Conquests* (London: Routledge, 1971; reprinted Philadelphia: University of Pennsylvania Press, 2001) and T.T. Allsen, *Culture and Conquest in Mongol Eurasia* (Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 2001). Also very useful is P. Jackson, “The state of research. The Mongol Empire, 1986-1999,” *Journal of Medieval History*, 26/2 (May 2000), pp. 189-210. Students will be expected to read a weekly allocation as specified below (they are not expected to read everything listed!), and to come prepared to discuss it. They will also be expected to write a review of one relevant book of their own choice, to be submitted immediately after Spring Break, and a final paper on a topic of their choice, to be submitted towards the end of the semester.

1. General Surveys of the History of the Mongol Empire

M. Prawdin, *The Mongol Empire: Its Rise and Legacy* (1940)  

2. Background to the Mongol Empire

M. Biran, *The Empire of the Qara Khitai in Eurasian History* (2005)  
*Cambridge History of China VI*

3. The Sources

*The Secret History of the Mongols:*
F.W. Cleaves (tr.), *The Secret History of the Mongols* (1982)
U. Onon (tr.), *The History and the Life of Chinggis Khan* (1990); 2nd ed. as *The Secret History of the Mongols. The Life and Times of Chinggis Khan* (2001)
A. Waley (tr.), *The Secret History of the Mongols and Other Pieces* (1963)

B. Spuler (tr.), *History of the Mongols* (1972)
A. Waley (tr.), *The Travels of an Alchemist* (1931)
E. Bretschneider (tr.), *Mediaeval Researches from Eastern Asiatic Sources*, 2 vols (1888, 1967)
Bar Hebraeus, *The Chronography of Bar Hebraeus*, vol. 1, tr. E.A.W. Budge (1932)
E.A.W. Budge (tr.), *The Monks of Kublai Khan, Emperor of China* (1928)
J.A. Montgomery (tr.), *History of Yaballaha III* (1927)
C. Dawson (ed.), *The Mongol Mission* (1955), aka *Mission to Asia*
Marco Polo, *The Travels* (numerous translations)
R. Michell & N. Forbes (tr.), *The Chronicle of Novgorod 1016-1471* (1914)
4. The Career of Chinggis Khan

M. Hoang, *Genghis Khan* (1990)
B. Vladimirtsov, *The Life of Chingis Khan* (1930)
R. Fox, *Genghis Khan* (1936)
C.C. Walker, *Jenghiz Khan* (1939)
H. Lamb, *Genghis Khan. The Emperor of All Men* (1927)

5. The Mongol Military Achievement

6. The Contribution of Thomas Allsen

*Commodity and Exchange in the Mongol Empire* (1997)
*Culture and Conquest in Mongol Eurasia* (2001)


7. The Great Yasa of Chinggis Khan

Juvaini, *World Conqueror*, pp. 23-34
V.A. Riasanovsky, *Fundamental Principles of Mongol Law* (1937)
Ratchnevsky, *Genghis Khan*, pp. 187-96
8. Mongol Rule in Iran (the Ilkhanate)


C.P. Melville, “The Keshig in Iran: the survival of the royal Mongol household,” in Komaroff (ed.), *Beyond the Legacy of Genghis Khan*, pp. 135-66


9. Conversion of the Mongols to Islam


R. Amitai-Preiss, “Ghazan, Islam….”


J. Pfeiffer, “Reflections on a ‘double rapprochement’: conversion to Islam among the Mongol elite during the early Ilkhanate,” in Komaroff, *Beyond the Legacy of Genghis Khan*, pp. 369-89


M. Biran, “True to their ways: why the Qara Khitai did not convert to Islam,” in Amitai & Biran, *Mongols, Turks and Others*, pp. 175-200

10. Rashid al-Din: historian, statesman, polymath, letter-writer?


A.K.S. Lambton, “The *Athar wa ahya’* of Rashid al-Din Fadl Allah and his contribution as an agronomist, arboriculturist and horticulturalist,” in Amitai-Preiss and Morgan, *The Mongol Empire and its Legacy*, pp. 126-54


A. Soudavar, “In defense of Rashid-od-din and his Letters,” *Studia Iranica* 32 (2003), pp. 77-122


T.T. Allsen, *Culture and Conquest in Mongol Eurasia*, ch. 11

11. The Yüan Dynasty in China

*Cambridge History of China VI: Alien Regimes and Border States*

J.D. Langlois (ed.), *China under Mongol Rule* (1981)


F.W. Mote, *Imperial China 900-1800* (1999), part 3


12. Marco Polo

L. Olschki, *Marco Polo’s Asia* (1960)
F. Wood, “Did Marco Polo go to China?”, *Asian Affairs* 27/3 (October 1996), pp. 296-304

13. Relations with Europe, and Other Travellers

I. de Rachewiltz, *Papal Envoys to the Great Khans* (1971)
A. Ruotsala, *Europeans and Mongols in the Middle of the Thirteenth Century: Encountering the Other* (2001)
L. Olschki, *Guillaume Boucher. A French Artist at the Court of the Khans* (1946)
M. Rossabi, *Voyager from Xanadu. Rabban Sauma and the First Journey from China to the West* (1992)
14. Tamerlane and the Timurids

H. Hookham, *Tamburlaine the Conqueror* (1962)
W. Barthold, *Ulugh Beg* (1958)