

## MONGOLIAN PARALLEL IN HISTORY: PROBLEMATIC SPECTRUM

Sattar F. Mazhitov\*, Farida K. Atabayeva\*\* and Seidakhan U. Bakhtyorazov\*\*\*

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**Abstract:** The problem of the place of the Mongolian parallels in the histories of the people of Central Asia and Eurasia worried minds of humanity for many centuries. There were written a lot from the annals of medieval authors and ending with numerous articles in newspapers and magazines. But obviously it is not enough. And here in the first place you should think about why is this happening? Why do the Mongolian theme, or rather that part which is connected with the name of Genghis Khan does not give the people live in peace even in the XXI century. If you pay attention to the dynamics of research on Mongolian search problem, you can easily find that the highest peak of interest in it is observed in periods of crisis in the world, including in the Central Asian and Eurasian continents. Surge of interest is observed primarily in those moments in history when, in these historic spaces is the collapse of empires and people of these regions are beginning to experience post-imperial stages of development.

**Keywords:** Historiography, myths, mongols, tatars, kazakhs, approach, problems.

### INTRODUCTION

A complex of problems related to the condition of history and historiography of place of Mongols in Kazakh, Central Asian and Eurasian history was the reason for the present work.

At the end of the 20<sup>th</sup> – the beginning of the 21<sup>st</sup> centuries the information data about *Mongolians* was colored by different opinions. There could be observed serious scientific discussions, arguments and real battles of opponents and defenders of imperial activity, life and heritage of Genghis Khan. And the most interesting in this that we hardly see the participation of contemporary Mongols. This is also a phenomenon which does honors for this nation. There is nothing better than observing what somebody makes for you.

### MONGOLS IN HISTORY: HISTORIOGRAPHY, MYTHS, DISCUSSIONS

Historiography of the problem related to participation of Mongols in historical processes on the territory of Kazakhstan has two stages at least: soviet and post soviet. In soviet period, when historians were under class theory, Mongolian period

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\* Doctor of Historical Sciences, Professor, International Institute for Integration of Socio-Humanitarian Researches “Intellect Orda”, Almaty, Kazakhstan, 050008. *Email: sattar\_f@mail.ru*

\*\* Candidate of Pedagogical Sciences, Docent, Turan University, Almaty, Kazakhstan, 050038. *Email: a\_farida@inbox.ru*

\*\*\* Candidate of Historical Sciences, Docent, Taraz State University named after M.H. Dulati, Taraz, Kazakhstan, 080001. *Email: seidahana\_b@mail.ru*

in the history of Kazakhstan was mostly highlighted as the time of “Mongol-Tatar yoke” and “conquer of Kazakhstani territory by Mongols”.

There have been appeared works revealing “white spots” of history in the Kazakhstani society and on the whole soviet space after “Gorbachev’s perestroika”. There have been published unavailable works on history of Mongols and especially works of Kazakh authors written on the basis of so-called *civilized approach*. In these conditions approaches to the period of history of Kazakhstan connected with Mongols have been changing into the side of widely considering the problem. The period from the end of the 12<sup>th</sup> till the 14<sup>th</sup> centuries was named as “Kazakhstan in the epoch of Genghis Khan and his successors” [1]. This allowed considering the history of Mongols and particularly Kazakhstan from the widest position. Especially, instead of exclusive interpreting the problem from the point of feudal class interests, we have an opportunity to look insight of the problem relating to the conditions of Kazakh society on the eve of Mongol invasion from the point of formation the Kazakh nation, evolution of ethnic processes and statehood. Invasion and governing of Mongols on the territory of Kazakhstan have been linked with integration processes on the territory of Kazakhstan and Central Asia. The problems concerning the ethnic integration were of the great demand. Particularly, Genghis Khan was highlighted not only as the founder of Empire and Conqueror but in the role of that who united all tribes of Central Asia.

Saying by the words of contemporary researcher, he activated as initiator and integrator.

The spectrum of problem connected with Mongolian history actualized with great power after the collapse of the USSR and with formation of sovereign and independent states. There have been published a wide range of unpublished and contemporary literature with opposite point of views in post soviet period. If one authors write about exclusively negative role of Mongol invasions and bloodthirstiness of Genghis Khan, then others begin to oppose for the sake of that it was a favor and Genghis Khan was lifted to the rang of national hero[2].

The Kazakh market of products about Mongols and Genghis Khan is rich. There could be found various opinions and judgments that Kazakhs were descendants of Mongols and vice verse. One of the authors wrote that “Kazakh nation was considered as the only generation of Mangul (Mongol. – S. M.) ulus. Consequently, the contemporary Kazakh nation is the only generation of Alash-Mangul khanate, becoming the last Turkic khanate... If the researchers among other nations described Genghis Khan as cruel person, then it was truthful phenomenon.

So, any historical personality deserving glory and respect among one nation cannot be positive among other nations. Because he fought for the happiness and prosperity of his nation and for the sake of that he conquered his enemies, threw the thrones... It will be fine to construct a magnificent complex (horde) on

one of the beautiful places of Astana in honor to Genghis Khan and all other our Kaghans because they were so brave and generous for their future generation” [3,154].

Another author succeeded in prospering the name of Genghis Khan taking the side of those who considered him as Kazakh. He wrote: “ Kazakh background of Genghis Khan written and published books of mine was completely proved, and it opens a new epoch in writing the history of Kazakhstan and Kazakh nation... The version about that Genghis Khan was a Mongol is one of the myths of world history... It should be understood that all those who wrote referring to Kazakh state and background of Genghis Khan described unreal situation... All Kazakh clans took part in marshes of Genghis Khan and Khan Batyi, and Genghis Khan was Kazakh, because his father Essykei was a khan of Kazakh clan kiati... admitting that the Kazakh people will return his original history which was falsified and lost... Genghis Khan was also announced as Chinese and there was constructed the monument for his honor in Beijing. And the Chinese stated that the Chinese clan kiati became one of the Kazakh clans connecting with historical reasons and transformed into Kazakh language...” [4, p.4,25,11,6].

It is not surprising if to take into consideration, which post soviet space has still had its period of renaissance and establishing of its national heroes. Occurrence of myths and mythologization of history in conditions of formation of renaissance of national historiography traditions is natural process. Saying above coincides with the opinion of the authoritative expert in sphere of world politics N.A. Narochinskaya, who said that opinions on history are appeared by waking motives and consideration of that which gives it the sense and justification in the eyes of survivor and maker of it as well as in the eyes of researcher of history. “The need in this search is natural because only a man has its history among other existence of the Earth, he is only governs his deeds not only by momentarily circumstances of life but with understanding his role which he has to act in the history... Only a man has its chronicles and legends along with its personal concepts about his historical tasks and his historical duties. So only a man could not live his life ordinarily as it was given to him. He must somehow understand and justify it before his personal conscience” [5, p.15]. Another thing that some of mythological works in national histories can arise interethnic conflicts, protests on geopolitical and territorial levels [6,70].

Much role in formation of mythological and antiscientific approach towards the Mongolian history particularly, in evaluating Genghis Khan was played by common crisis of historical science of the post soviet space. There have been broken scientific relations, past periodization of history was out of date and approaches to interpretation of any historical problems were changed with the collapse of the USSR.

Civilized approach used in researches was considered as copying of the methods of research of that epoch which was reflected in any work. So, in highlighting the problems of medieval history which is connected with the history of Mongolian Empire of Genghis Khan was used personification approach.

As the authors of the book “Country in the Heart of Eurasia. Stories on the History of Kazakhstan” marked: “Periods of time in the historical past of Kazakhstan were measured by the names of its rulers which were narrated by Muslim and Chinese scholars whose works are the main sources of the medieval history of Kazakhstan. The governor was recognized as the principle person among all the participants of the history of Kazakhstan and the history was considered as the arena of activity exclusively for governors, their court and military leaders” [7,83].

So it is quite explainable that in the periods of formation new historical conscience reasoned by crucial social-political and economic changes in that and another society, first attention is being attracted by the real epoch and the role of personality in it. R.Yu. Pochekaev named it as micro history. “A life of any historical personality is almost micro history. If there is a speech about a ruler of such state as Gold Horde, then his biography includes an important period of history of a continent under the name Eurasia. The analysis of life and activity of horde governors and rulers allows highlighting various ‘dark spots’ of the history of not only Gold Horde but the states of that time. In the process of analyzing the sources to form the biographies of that or another khan you often begin to understand that or another information of source in another way and in the result quite another interpret events having, as it seemed, established, single-minded interpretation in the historiography” [8, 7].

The saying above gives an opportunity to understand why the history of Mongols and Genghis Khan was often doubtful and brought new interpretations and myths. Namely often breaking of the historical event and marking the principle historical person from the common context of world history assists their idealization which follows by independent interpretation. Namely that becomes the reason for preventing the serious consideration to the history which really had its place. This reason for that why there existed opinions about negative and positive roles of Mongols in Kazakh history moreover it existed in histories of other countries which history had parallels with Mongols.

#### **MONGOLIAN PARALLEL: OFFICIAL OPINION**

Appealing to the position of official history of Kazakhstan on the problems of Mongolian period and its heroes in the medieval history of Kazakhs allows choosing a wide spectrum of problems connected with the considering problem. Despite, the problem of Mongolian presence in Kazakh history interests many but it mustn't name as considerable the range of real researchers. So, for studying the official

opinion to the interesting problem I consider that it is necessary to analyze the fundamental researches of Ch.Ch.Valikhanov Institute of History and ethnology under the Committee of sciences of the Ministry of Science and Education of the Republic of Kazakhstan.

The opinion of scholars of the Institute reflected in the first and second volumes of academic edition “History of Kazakhstan (from ancient times till nowadays)”. In the first volume of the “History of Kazakhstan” published in 1995 the theme of Mongolian parallel is included to the paragraph 6 of third chapter of third part ‘State of earlier and later medieval’ under the title ‘Genghis Khan’s invasion’ [9]. It is seen from the saying above that the researching theme was not reflected in the special section, as it was done earlier, moreover, as it mentioned above, it was divided into two parts: Mongolian invasion and its consequences was reflected in the second volume of the “History of Kazakhstan” [10]. Mongolian problem is narrated in the first chapter “Gold Horde” of the first part “Formation of the Kazakh nation. Establishment and development of the Kazakh statehood”. There were included such problems as formation of uluses, political and statehood formation, the consequences of Mongolian invasion.

In the generalizing work “The history of Kazakh Statehood” Kazakhstan is considered as a part of Mongolian Empire [11, 242-260]. Chronological time of being Kazakhstan as a part of Mongolian Empire included period from 20ies of the 13<sup>th</sup> century till 1465-1466. The author of the chapter famous historian and researcher of Mongolian history Zardykhan Hinayatuly narrated the history of Mongolian invasion and the place of Kazakhstan being the part of Mongolian Empire from different points of view. But he marked two aspects of historical role of Mongolian Empire in the world history and history of Kazakhstan. The first one included the process of invasion – 1204-1242. Second one included the years of ruling Genghis Khan’s descendants. “Empire system aspired to link East and West. So west had open gates to East. The Silk Route was revived... Kazakh steppe played a role of a bridge in that close relations... If in the first period of Mongolian invasion people were concerned about survival. Then in the second there were stopped wars, there were strengthened national borders, there were appeared state structures. Mongols introduced the system of governing office work Kazakhs were formed as a nation bravely surviving Mongolian invasion. Genghis Khan’s descendants became governors on the conquered lands of Dzychi-Kipchak ulus. However the main опорой of the state were Turks-Kipchaks (Kazakhs). Thus the local population did not turned into Mongols and the representatives of ruling Mongolian dynasty became closer to Kazakhs learning their languages” [11, 259-260].

I would like to mark that Zardykhan Hinayatuly is one of the few researchers who follows principles of objectiveness in his works relating to investigations of Mongolian period of Kazakh history and Genghis Khan’s personality. He issued

a monographic work “Genghis Khan and Kazakh statehood” in two volumes in connection with a lot of unqualified information and prejudice opinions of amateur historians on Mongolian history and the historical role of Genghis Khan [12]. Last years several authors wrote that Genghis Khan was a Kazakh and he did not conquer the Kazakh land on the contrary protected it from foreign enemies. The named monographic work was as a kind of reply to such challenges and other questions related to the Kazakh-Mongolian history. The specific of the work is consisted of that the author was born and educated in Mongolia and knows old and new Mongolian languages. So he was able to study the materials which were not accessible for a wide range of scientific circuit. Referring to the Kazakh history the second volume of monographic work is of great importance where the author broadens the chronological borders of formation of the Kazakh people. Buy his opinion the territory of Kazakhstan and Kazakh nationality were formed in the period of Dzuchi ulus, namely its left wing – Aq Horde which was gradually enlarged [11, 259; 12, 549-550].

The point of official history was written in the works of another Kazakh historian-medievalist Saiden Zholdasbaiuly. In his manual for the higher education “History of Kazakh country in ancient and medieval times” he wrote the conception about conquering character of Mongolian invasion [13, 222-252].

In whole, the position of official science on problems of history of Mongolian invasion and activity of Genghis khan is different by its fundamental, serious documentary base achieving to all-round research of the problem.

### **SPECTRUM OF PROBLEMS**

Today it could be said about the complex of problems in the sphere of Mongolian theme in the history which requires its investigation and specification, doing new researches, scientific discussions and further searches. Among them:

*The reasons of Mongolian invasion to the territory of Central Asia including Kazakhstan.* As a rule, peaceful and aggressive intentions of Genghis khan were also included to that list. However a question calls an opinion that how far it could be named as peaceful the conquering intentions. Moreover the reason for conquering Central Asia and Kazakhstan connected with the murder of a merchant from Otrar is considered as a purpose. Could it be explained as a reason for Genghis khan’s war that he was insulted by the rejection of Muhammed, a shah of Horezm, from the title “the dearest son” [13, 60]. War was profitable nor for Horezm shah neither Genghis khan at that moment.

*Mongolian invasion was the great tragedy of medieval times or command and uncertainty of time?* By the opinion of recognized historian of medieval Central Asia T.I. Sultanov the problem of Mongolian invasion had another sense. “Not all

contemporaries of that time comprehended the invasion of Mongols as a misfortune. A war was an ordinary thing in medieval times. If so many states collapsed under the Mongolian attack consequently these states did not have interior power. Admittance of that fact was not available for most. A doctor from Abd-al –Latiff from Bagdad (1231-1232) knew why Horezmians yielded Mongols” [14, 146].

*Medieval Mongols were the bearers of progress and globalization. Is it a reality?* By Jack Weatherford (Jack Weatherford, 2004) Genghis Khan and Mongols were keepers of achievements of civilization. “Mongols gradually conducted international circuits in spheres of their political, economic and intellectual reforms. They aspired not only to conquer the world but to establish world order based on free trade, unique legal rights for all and common alphabet...Practically in every country which felt Mongolian influence, primordial horror and shock caused by invasion of unknown barbarian tribe quickly replaced by unseen rise of international trade, expansion of cultural horizons and leap of technical development” [15]. International circuit of Weatherford appears before the eyes just like globalist. During the World War II fascists also thought that they bring a new order to the world. There is a question how people could easily reconcile with their enslaved position herewith preformed the feat of innovative scale.

*Life, activity and military campaigns of Genghis Khan: problems of estimating.* Harold Lamb assumes that “it is hard to estimate guided by conventional categories. When he считает, что «трудно дать ему оценку, руководствуясь общепринятыми категориями. When he went with his horde, the count was conducted by scales of latitude and longitude, rather than miles traveled by road, the town on its way is often compared with the land and the rivers changed their beds, deserts filled with refugees and dying, and where there was a horde of wolves and ravens were the only living beings in the once-inhabited lands. Such a massacre of people confuses the minds of even sophisticated representations of World War II. Genghis Khan, leader of the nomads that appeared suddenly from the desert of Gobi, went to war with the civilized world and emerged victorious... This empire, created as if by magic, hand barbarian mystified historians. The most recent general history of his era, compiled by academic historians of England, acknowledges that this fact is inexplicable”[16, 7-8, 11].

*The challenge, exciting yet professional individual industries is secret diplomacy, and exploration of the rulers of the Middle Ages.* Colonel Kazakh National Security Committee of B.K. Kystaubayev enunciated his vision of the empire of Genghis Khan from the position of the former military. He believes that the greatness of Genghis Khan is directly dependent on the degree of military talent commanders and those who might oppose his policy of conquest [17].

*The problem of refugees and immigrants from the Dasht-i-Kipchak.* As you know, as a result of the Mongol invasion of a large number of Steppe residents

were forced to leave the homes. The flow of refugees from the Mongols during the XIII century was observed in many countries of Eastern and Western Europe. And here it should be noted India's role as host country of emigrants from the Turkic environment. At the beginning of the campaign of Genghis Khan to conquer Central Asia and Kazakhstan in 1220-1221 years 30000 Turks of Khorezm shah state "came to India." Sultan Ghiyath ad-Din Balban who took the title of Ulugh Khan, was the ruler and commander of Delhi in 1226-1287 years. The threat of Mongol invasion loomed over India up to 20s of the XIV century [18]. The Mongols undertook large-scale campaigns in India in 1292, 1297-1298, 1299, 1303, 1305, 1306 The number of troops ranged from 100 to 200 000 soldiers. However, military reforms carried out by Turkic rulers of Delhi Sultanate, contributed to the defeat of the Mongols [1, 29-30].

*So far in the literature, the problem is the view that the Mongol conquests of Genghis Khan and the activity stopped the process of ethno-political associations in Central Asia and Kazakhstan. And if not the Mongol invasion, the ethnic processes can lead to quite different results. Since that was the general process of ethno-political associations on the territory of historical Dasht-i-Kipchak, maybe even a united people began to be called differently. For example, not the Kazakhs but Kipchaks. Accordingly, the area - not Kazakhstan but Kipchakya or Kipchak country, as some modern scholars consider. But we must remember that history does not like the subjunctive mood in the form of "if", "then it would", "like." What has happened is what should have happened and it became history. And here in the foreground are the consequences of the Mongol conquests.*

The conquests of Genghis Khan had a serious impact on the economic, political, social, ethnic, and cultural development of many nations. Destroyed towns and villages, palaces and mosques, destroyed irrigation systems, cultivated fields were abandoned, and thousands of craftsmen were sent into slavery. The heaviest damage was caused to the agricultural and urban culture of Kazakhstan. Arab and Persian sources give the name of nearly 30 cities in different countries, whose population has been completely cut out the Mongols. Among them are three major South Kazakhstan cities – Otrar, Sygnak and Ashnas. Not only the city suffered but also the nomadic and semi-nomadic areas. Many sources record significant damage in urban and Zhetysu sedentary farming culture, the south-east of Kazakhstan with a developed urban culture, and a settled agricultural and pastoral economy, rapidly lost its economic, political and cultural significance. The Mongol ulus, especially Chagatai, also contributed to the decline of farming in the south-eastern Kazakhstan in the unstable political situation. After formation in the Chagatai ulus independent from the Great Khan of the state Haydu in 1269 attempted to protect the local settled agricultural population from further destruction. By the middle of the XIV century, the south-eastern Kazakhstan, with its ancient city and settled agricultural culture has become a region of mainly nomadic and semi-nomadic



pastoralism. The Mongol conquest did not bring much innovation in public relations in the conquered countries. But the Mongol rulers were forced to borrow from the local population of more developed state organization and operation of local sedentary population, as well as introduce many forms of land tenure and land use. So gradually iqta Institute has grown into soyugal, the Waqf - the lands of Muslim clergy, Milky - private property and other forms of land tenure. Tributary forms of exploitation were replaced by economic, taxation system was introduced. Nomadic and semi-nomadic population is also included in the Genghisids uluses, and was divided into tens, hundreds, thousands, tens of thousands. They formed new inheritance of Mongolian aristocracy and the new army units. The division is made in view of the tribal structure of the local population and has been an important factor contributing to perpetuate it for a long time. In favor of the Khan's court, and their immediate lords nomadic pastoral population was obliged to pay the tax. It has been established at the head of one with 100 head of cattle. In practice, this ratio is constantly violated. Many scientists and researchers consider that there were at least 20 set of taxes that had been levied across the area. Postal service was heavy connected with the running of postal stations. The population was required to provide transport, housing and food for special khan's couriers-passers - ilchi, officials and merchants. The population was assigned the duty to supply food and clothing for standing military forces. The wars that were led by lords declined the productive forces of the conquered countries. At the same time, before the formation of the Mongol Empire, then the Golden Horde and the state of Chagataids, the state Haydu has been able to development of integration processes in a broader sense, i.e in the interaction and mutual influence of media culture of the Eurasian steppe and the sedentary farming culture of the conquered countries. And so the population of Kazakhstan has been able to communicate with the wider Muslim East, Europe and China. The Mongolian government has stimulated the development of trade, international relations, introduced throughout the system and the postal service yamskaya. There were established trade and cultural ties between distant people. Besides the Mongols brought the organization of the central zone of power, have enacted legislation steppe adapted to new conditions. Many of the same forms of social organization and the state were used in the states on the territory of Kazakhstan in the post-Mongol times [10, 85-92].

The destruction of cities, economic decline and economic life, social and political change and social regression - these factors are global markers of Genghis Khan's invasion to identify historic sites of the Mongol era and activities of the Genghis Khan in world history.

## CONCLUSION

Initially, I thought that it would be enough to highlight the spectrum of problems associated with the history of Kazakhstan and presence of Mongols in it. However,

it turned that this question is impossible to cover in full and to express the more modern view on the issue without recourse to the scale of world history and geopolitics.

The problem of the place of the Mongolian parallels in the histories of the people of Central Asia and Eurasia worried minds of humanity for many centuries. It would seem that a lot of were written, from the annals of medieval authors and ending with numerous articles in newspapers and magazines. But obviously it is not enough. And here in the first place you should think about why is this happening? Why do the Mongolian theme, or rather that part which is connected with the name of Genghis Khan does not give the people live in peace even in the XXI century. If you pay attention to the dynamics of research on Mongolian search problem, you can easily find that the highest peak of interest in it is observed in periods of crisis in the world, including in the Central Asian and Eurasian continents. Surge of interest is observed primarily in those moments in history when, in these historic spaces is the collapse of empires and people of these regions are beginning to experience post-imperial stages of development.

There is another phenomenon, the essence of which lies in the fact that at the moment to achieve well-being and prosperity in the bowels of some of the former empire under the rule of countries are beginning to ripen a claim to leadership, for which the outlines are beginning to peek out new empires. These images can hardly be called empires in the classical form, but their meaning makes itself felt. In the modern sense of the empire did not monotype, they are integrated into each other and look like Unions. What empire was not the Soviet Union, but consisted of the republics, each with its own Constitution.

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