

GENGHIS KHAN'S MILITARY DIPLOMACY AIMED AT UNITING THE PEOPLES OF EAST TURKESTAN AND THE FERGHANA VALLEY, INCLUDING THE UYGHURS AND THE QARLUQS

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Abstract: *This article examines Genghis Khan's military diplomacy to bring together various ethnic groups in East Turkestan and the Ferghana Valley, notably the Uyghurs and the Qarluqs. It discusses how Genghis Khan employed a combination of military strength and diplomatic strategies to foster cohesion among these diverse peoples. Through an exploration of historical events and diplomatic engagements, the article illustrates Genghis Khan's pivotal role as a unifying force in the region, illuminating his approach to achieving political and social unity amidst cultural diversity.*

Key words: *Genghis Khan, Constructivism Military Strategy, Strategic Diplomacy, Theory of International Relations, Realism*

INTRODUCTION

From the point of view of the theory of international relations, Genghis Khan's military diplomacy can be analyzed through different ideas such as realism and constructivism. From the point of view of realism, we can evaluate Genghis Khan's military campaigns in Eastern Turkestan and the Fergana Valley as a manifestation of real politics resulting from the combination of strategic calculation, coercion and military force. Alternatively, in the constructivist approach, Genghis Khan's military diplomacy can be interpreted as a process of formation and redefining of collective identity and loyalty among the peoples of East Turkestan and the Fergana Valley. Through the use of military power and political alliances, Genghis Khan sought to build a sense of common identity and purpose among different ethnic groups, thus laying the groundwork for a unified empire.

LITERATURE ANALYSIS AND METHODOLOGY

Genghis Khan's military diplomacy aimed at uniting the peoples of Eastern Turkestan and the Fergana Valley, including the Uyghurs and Qarluqs, represents a complex and multifaceted historical event. In order to effectively analyze this topic, it is very important to study various literatures that provide an understanding of the political, cultural and military dynamics of this period. A study of Genghis Khan's military

diplomacy in East Turkestan and the Fergana Valley was reviewed through primary sources and secondary sources.

Primary sources: The Secret History of the Mongols provides information on the cultural and political context of Genghis Khan's era, while accounts by Persian historians such as Rashid al-Din and Juwayni describe Genghis Khan's conquest of neighboring regions.

Secondary sources: Genghis Khan's military campaigns and diplomatic strategies are explored in works such as Leo de Hartog's Genghis Khan: Conqueror of the World and Carl Fredrik Sverdrup's The Mongol Conquests.

Methodology:

Diplomatic Analysis: Explores Genghis Khan's diplomatic relations with the Uyghurs, Qarlucs, and other ethnic groups in the region. This approach includes the study of alliances, diplomatic missions, and other forms of communication to assess the role of diplomacy in Genghis Khan's efforts to unite different peoples under Mongol rule.

Cultural and Socio-Political Analysis: Explores the cultural, religious and social dynamics in East Turkestan and the Fergana Valley during the reign of Genghis Khan. It examines factors such as religious tolerance, administrative structures, and cultural assimilation to explain Genghis Khan's military diplomacy within a broader sociocultural context.

RESULT AND DISCUSSION

In the summer of 1206, Temuchin held a great meeting at the head of the Onon River, where he proclaimed himself Genghis Khan. He also improved the army reform of 1203 and increased the number of troops from 65,000 to 90,000.

In terms of international relations, the rise of Genghis Khan can be understood through a variety of lenses, including power dynamics, diplomacy, and nation-building. First of all, Temuchin's taking the name Genghis Khan was a symbol of the strengthening of power in the Mongolian territories. Temuchin's ability to unite the often feuding and warring Mongol tribes under his leadership demonstrated his political acumen and strategic ability. This internal unification became the basis for the further expansion of the Mongol Empire.

In addition, Temuchin's taking the name of Genghis Khan had an important impact on the neighboring countries. The emergence of centralized Mongol power created both opportunities and challenges for neighboring powers. On the one hand, the rise of Genghis Khan created an opportunity for diplomatic relations and trade relations. The establishment of a stable and organized Mongol state facilitated trade and cultural exchange throughout Eurasia.

On the other hand, Temuchin's adoption of the name of Genghis Khan and unification of tribes threatened the established geopolitical order in the Eurasian region. The

expansionist ambitions and military power of the Mongol Empire appeared as a great threat to the neighboring countries.

In the fall of 1206, Temuchin went to the Altai Mountains. His goal was to defeat Buyirug, Kuchluk and Tokhtoa alliance. Temuchin unexpectedly attacks Buyirug with 50,000 troops. But Buyirug was not prepared for this surprise attack as he was on the hunt. Buyirug himself dies in this conflict. Kuchluk and Tokhtoa flee with many of their followers.

In this battle, we can see that although Temuchin's army was actually outnumbered, it did not suffer many casualties as a result of its extraordinary rapid attack and confusion of the enemy. Based on this, it can be deduced that he focused on saving the lives of his soldiers and being as careful as possible.

Genghis Khan was pragmatic in forming strategic alliances that served his interests. Juvaini mentions the cases of Genghis Khan's alliance with some groups against common enemies.

An example of this is Genghis Khan, after uniting the Mongol tribes, he waged a war against the Naimans. Meanwhile, an ambassador from the Uyghurs comes to him. By this time, the Uyghurs lived as a small state. Their ruler was called Idu Qut, and he ruled as a vassal of the Karakhanid Empire. In practice, the lands of the Uyghurs were governed by a shubna [noyib] appointed by the Karakhanid emperor. At the beginning of the 13th century, the viceroy of Black China named Shaukem ruled over the Uyghurs [Juvaini 1958, I:45]. During Shaukem's time, the local rulers and the common people were subjected to great oppression. For this reason, the leader of the Uyghurs, together with his entourage, killed the deputy of the Karakhanids. After Noyib was killed, in order to prevent severe punishment by the Karakhanids, the Uyghur tribe sent ambassadors to the Mongol ruler Genghis Khan, whose power was increasing day by day. Genghis Khan welcomes these ambassadors very warmly. He shows them enough respect and tells them to willingly accept their offers of alliance and to come to Genghis Khan immediately without wasting the ruler's time [Juvaini 1958, I:45].

Thus, Genghis Khan formed an alliance with the Uyghurs, even though he was not very strong. In fact, it was vassalage in the form of an alliance. The peaceful integration of the Uyghurs into the Mongolian state was a unique diplomatic strategy of Genghis Khan. This not-so-powerful state later played an active role in Genghis Khan's subsequent campaigns. Uyghurs actively participated in the war against Kuchluk in the army of Genghis Khan. In addition, they participated in the campaign against the Khorezm Empire. In addition to their participation in wars, the main service of the Uyghurs to the Mongol Empire can be explained by their service in the administration of the Mongolian state and the maintenance of correspondence documents of the Mongolian Empire based on their writing. Genghis Khan announced that he would reward the ruler

of the Uyghurs for his services by marrying one of his daughters. After Genghis Khan's death, Iduqut Keshmesh Chingiz married Princess Alajin Beka. Here too, we can see Genghis Khan's unique strategy. That is, by rewarding those who have shown loyalty, keeping them even closer to them [De Hartog 2004, 10].

In the autumn of 1208, Temuchin attacked the northern regions of the Altai Mountains against his bitter enemies, Tokhtoa and Kuchluk. This march will also be unexpected for the enemies. Because Temuchin could not find the location of Kuchluk and his supporters. Head of the Oyirat Quduqa Beki went to Genghis Khan and told where his enemies were [Sverdrup 2017, 92].

Genghis Khan's soldiers destroy the enemy's army along the Bukdurma River. Power escapes as always. Later, he went to Gorkhan, the ruler of the Karakhanids. Half of the enemy tribes are killed, including Toktoa, who was shot. His sons cut off his head and took him away with them. In fact, neither Kuchluk nor the merkets posed a real threat to Genghis Khan at this time. But in order to prevent them from forming some kind of alliances and strengthening them later, Genghis Khan marched against them. As a result of this campaign, he almost destroyed the merkets and weakened Kuchluk. Through this campaign, we can know that Genghis Khan was very careful, that he relentlessly pursued the enemies, regardless of whether they were weak or weak. Temuchin now became the ruler of the country from Altai to Khingan. With the addition of 4,000 Ayirots to the Mongol army, the total number of Genghis Khan's army reached 109,000.

After Genghis Khan conquered Naiman in 1204, he appointed Ta-ta-Tonga, who guarded the seals of the murdered Naiman leader, to his service. Ta-ta-Tonga was responsible for preparing and signing official documents, marking the beginning of the establishment of the official Mongol state bureaucracy.

Genghis Khan understood the need to establish order before expanding his empire. One of the important decisions in the organization of the government of his empire was the adoption of the Uyghur script as the official alphabet. This was very important because the Mongols did not have their own script [De Hartog 2004, 36].

Before that, Muslim traders visited Mongolia until 1203 and contributed to Genghis Khan's management strategies. There was a strong trade alliance between Genghis Khan and Islamic merchants. Merchants were eager to enter the lucrative Chinese market, and Genghis Khan had created good conditions for them. Genghis Khan had his own reasons for supporting them.

Islamic merchants served as crucial intermediaries for the Mongols for two main reasons. The first reason is that they facilitated international trade, including clothing transactions. The second reason is that they helped import grain for the Genghis Khan state.

Based on this, the relationship between Genghis Khan and Islamic merchants was mutually beneficial. He was able to attract merchants due to Genghis Khan's policy of religious tolerance. For Genghis Khan, they were very important for security and intelligence purposes in military campaigns [McLynn 2015, 256].

Genghis Khan understood the need for literacy for his sons and leading officials. Therefore, he appointed Ta-ta-Tonga, the keeper of the seals, to tutor his sons and other members of his court. This decision reflected Genghis Khan's foresight in equipping his successors with the necessary skills to rule effectively.

Even before the time of Genghis Khan, Mongol tribes had their own unwritten common laws, which varied among different tribes. However, as Genghis Khan's power spread over a wider area, there was a need for a single legal system that could apply to the entire empire.

Yasa served as the codification of Mongolian ancestral traditions, customs, laws and ideas. Genghis Khan supplemented this with laws of his own making, aiming to create a unified legal code that could govern the diverse population under his rule [De Hartog 2004, 37].

Zhuvaini writes that Genghis Khan made each of his sons responsible for something during the period when the Mongol Empire was being formed. For example, his eldest son Jozhikhan was responsible for organizing hunting, because hunting was considered a special hobby for the Mongols, which always ensured military readiness and readiness. Genghis Khan was succeeded by his second son, Chig. Atoy was engaged in the implementation of the laws that created the empire in the administrative aspect. Genghis Khan's third son and successor, Oktoy, was engaged in administrative management. Chiungiz Khan's younger son Tulu was responsible for preparing the army for wars [Juvaini 1958, I:41].

In order to form the state as a unity and a single force, Genghis Khan paid special attention to the unity of his sons. According to Juvaini, Chingizkhon called his sons and broke one bow arrow from his shield, then he took two arrows and broke them again, then he couldn't break a bunch of arrows even though I hit them all in front of him. After that, turning to his sons, not even the best of you, even the most prosperous person, can break these combined arrows. Because they are united and protecting each other. If you are alone, you will be broken like a bullet, even a weak opponent can break you. If you stand together and support each other, even the strongest enemy will not be able to defeat you, just like these united arrows.

Genghis Khan's inability to complete his conquest of Jin China can be primarily attributed to events occurring in the western parts of his empire, which demanded his immediate attention. The Mongol Empire's westward expansion was driven by both commercial interests and geopolitical factors.

In 1125, Abaoji, a nomadic military leader from the Jurchen tribe, led a rebellion that overthrew the Liao dynasty in China, establishing the Jin dynasty. Following this upheaval, a group of Khitans, previously ruling in these regions, relocated to Eastern Turkestan under the leadership of Nushi Taifu, a high-ranking official. There, they founded the Qara Khitai state, continuing their political presence in the region. Nushi Taifu, a high-ranking official, became the ruler of this state, demonstrating exceptional leadership and strategic acumen. He assembled a formidable army and consolidated control over the entire Turkestan region, adopting the title Gurkhan, meaning "supreme ruler," around 1128-1129 [RASHIDUDDIN 1998, 154].

Upon Gurkhan Nushi Taifu's death, his young son, merely eight or nine years old, succeeded him and also took the title of Gurkhan. This second Gurkhan enjoyed a long reign, living up to the age of ninety-two and ruling until approximately 1213.

By the early 13th century, the Qara Khitai state began to weaken due to rebellions by vassal rulers within the region. Amidst these internal conflicts, Kuchluk, a key figure, emerged in 1208. After being defeated by Genghis Khan in a battle along the Irtysh River, Kuchluk, representing the last hope of the Naimans, sought refuge with the Qara Khitai.

Despite arriving with only a handful of loyal followers, Kuchluk was warmly received by the Qara Khitai ruler, Gurkhan Jilugu. This hospitality was partly due to the historical alliance between the Naimans and the Qara Khitai, but more crucially, Jilugu recognized Kuchluk as a valuable ally against threats from the east (the Mongols) and the west (Shah Muhammad of Khwarezm).

These developments in the western regions significantly impacted Genghis Khan's military campaigns. The rise of Kuchluk and his integration into the Qara Khitai power structure created a new geopolitical dynamic, necessitating Genghis Khan's strategic attention and resources to be diverted westward. This shift in focus hindered his ability to fully concentrate on the conquest of Jin China.

The complex interplay of alliances, rebellions, and geopolitical strategies in the western part of the Mongol Empire played a crucial role in shaping the course of Genghis Khan's campaigns. Understanding these factors provides valuable insights into the broader context of international relations during this period, highlighting how regional dynamics can influence the ambitions of even the most formidable conquerors.

Kuchluk soon manages to gather a strong army around him. With the help of this army, he first rebelled against the ruler of the Karakhanids, who was his patron. During this period, he sent an ambassador to Khwarezm Shah, who was developing into a huge empire in Khwarezm, and offered to divide the lands of the Karakhanids. In his proposal, if Khwarezmshah conquers the lands of Gorkhani first, he will have all the Karakhanid lands from Almalik to Kashgar, and if Kuchluk is the first, he will have lands up to the Fanokot

river. Based on this agreement, the parties will start a military campaign. Kuchluk was the first to arrive and occupy Ozkent. But in the battle in Bolasogun, the poor man was defeated. Defeated Kuchluk retreats and prepares his army for further battles. Meanwhile, Khorezmshah was also at war with the Karakhanids. Because of this, the army of the Karakhanids becomes much weaker. In addition, Kuchluk, who learned that Gorkhan disbanded the army, immediately arrived, took the ruler of the Karakhanids prisoner, killed him and married one of his daughters [Juvaini 1958, I:64].

Although Kuchluk himself is a Christian, he accepts Hinduism under the influence of the queen of the Karakhanids. As a result, he forced the population to accept one of the two religions in all the cities where he established his rule. Muslims are brutally punished and many scholars are executed. In order to break the enormous resistance in Khutanda, Kuchluk burned the crops in the suburbs three years in a row. After that, local residents will be forced to open the city gates and submit to Kuchluk. After taking over the city, the Kuchluk resorted to violence against the Muslim people. It forces Muslims to convert to Christianity and Hinduism and wear Chinese clothing. Dissatisfied with this, he leads a religious dispute with the imam of the city, Alauddin Muhammad Kuchluk. As a result, the imam is killed. After that, local imams turn to Genghis Khan and Khorezmshah for help. Genghis Khan immediately sends his army and defeats Kuchluk, allowing the people of the city to freely practice their faith by chanting azan and takbir. The Mongolian army is greeted with great joy in Khootan.

Kuchluk was killed in Badakhshan by the army led by Jebe [Juvaini 1958, I:65–68]. The arrival of Genghis Khan's army in these regions was met with great joy, as mentioned above, and the unique strategic achievement of Genghis Khan was that he was able to unite representatives of different religions around him, recognizing the freedom of belief for all, and local we can see that he easily captured the cities without resistance from the population. Another thing is to say that when the people who suffered from the oppression of Kuchluk appealed to Genghis Khan and Khorezmshah for help, Genghis Khan took advantage of the situation without wasting time, which is a proof of his ingenuity.

While studying the military-strategic and diplomatic activities of Genghis Khan, we can come across many such cases. Another example of this is the situation with the rulers of Almalyk and Koylyk.

Arslan Khan, the ruler of Koyliq, ruled as a vassal of the Karakhanid state. As a result of weakening influence of the Karakhanids and rebellions in different parts of the country, Arslan Khan also tried to create his own independent state. It would not have been possible to do this without strong support from the outside. For this reason, he appeals to Genghis Khan for help in order to get help from the increasingly powerful Genghis Khan. Genghis Khan graciously accepted his appeal. In this way, the state of

Genghis Khan expanded to the west. The most interesting thing is that this expansion is happening through such diplomacy without fighting, it was a great diplomatic achievement of Genghis Khan. This success continued. Ozar Khan, who himself was from the Qarluk Turks, who started his career as a pirate and later became the ruler of Almalik, appeared as a new ally of Genghis Khan. The reason for this was the same Kuchluk. Kuchluk's several marches to Almalik forced Ozar Khan to turn to Genghis Khan, who defeated Kuchluk, in order to find an alliance with him. Genghis Khan welcomed Ozar and gave him 1000 sheep and other gifts [Juvaini 1958, I:75].

Also, Genghis Khan told Azar Khan not to hunt too much, otherwise he would become someone's prey, and they said goodbye to him saying that it is permissible to be careful. Soon after that, Azar Khan was hunted by the soldiers of Kuchluk, as Genghis Khan used to say, that is, he is caught while hunting. Kuchluk attacks Almalik, the townspeople close the gates. Meanwhile, Kuchluk retreats after hearing that help is coming from Genghis Khan. On the way back, Kuchluk's soldiers kill Azar Khan. After Azar Khan, his son Sugnak becomes the ruler of Almalik. Genghis Khan gave Joji Khan's daughter in marriage to him [Juvaini 1958, I:76]. This marriage will lead to further development of alliance relations.

Even in these examples, Genghis Khan expanded the borders of his state to the west without excessive losses. Because these territories joined him voluntarily, his empire became a strong and integrated state. These areas served as a kind of bridge for his further marches. In other words, these regions and their rulers played an important role in Genghis Khan's campaigns to the Khorezm state. During the Khorezm campaign, Genghis Khan sent Chigatoy to Kulyka to build 48 bridges designed to carry heavy loads. The weapons used for the siege of the Chigatoy fortress will be completed by building bridges where two carts carrying weapons can move side by side. For this reason, the descendants of Sugnak were allowed to rule the city of Uzgent.

CONCLUSION

Based on the above, Genghis Khan's good attitude towards the rulers who came to him for help gained the trust of other rulers. That is, Genghis Khan appeared in Eastern Turkestan and the Tashkent oasis at the beginning of the 12th century as a protective force against the Karakhanids and Kuchluk. Genghis Khan, on the other hand, took advantage of this favorable situation. Because there was a power vacuum in the above-mentioned regions, that is, the weakening of the Karakhanids led to the loss of strong statehood in these regions. As a result, fierce wars started in these regions. For this reason, people like Azarkhan, who was actually a robber, came to power. Civil wars also caused a lot of damage to the way of life of the population. That is why the inhabitants of these regions aimed to live a peaceful life under the rule of Genghis Khan. Another unique diplomatic strategy of Genghis Khan was that by marrying off his daughters and

granddaughters to his vassal rulers, he gained their trust on the one hand, and on the other hand, made it easier for him to control them.

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