THE DECLINE OF THE MONGOLS

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Annotation. This article analyzes the causes and historical significance of the decline of the Mongol Empire. Founded in the 13th century by Genghis Khan, the Mongol Empire quickly rose to become one of the largest and most powerful empires in the world. However, its collapse occurred almost as swiftly as its expansion. The article highlights several key factors that contributed to the decline, including the weakening of central authority, territorial fragmentation, internal political struggles, economic instability, and cultural as well as religious discord. Additionally, the Mongols' excessive reliance on military power, while neglecting scientific, technological, and social development, played a significant role in their downfall.

Keywords: Mongols, state, invasion, crisis, Genghis Khan, wars, consequences, tribes and clans, Mongolia.

Annotatsiya. Ushbu maqolada Moʻgʻil imperiyasining inqirozi sabablari va uning tarixiy ahamiyati tahlil qilinadi. Moʻgʻil imperiyasi XIII asrda Chingizxon tomonidan asos solingan boʻlib, qisqa vaqt ichida dunyoning eng yirik va qudratli davlatlaridan biriga aylangan. Biroq imperiyaning tezlik bilan kuchaygani singari, uning parchalanishi ham tez roʻy berdi. Maqolada inqirozga olib kelgan asosiy omillar sifatida markaziy boshqaruvning zaiflashuvi, hududiy boʻlinishlar, ichki siyosiy kurashlar, iqtisodiy beqarorlik, hamda madaniy va diniy murosasizliklar alohida ta'kidlanadi. Shuningdek, Moʻgʻillar harbiy kuchga haddan ziyod tayanib, ilm-fan, texnologiya va ijtimoiy rivojlanishga e'tibor qaratmaganliklari ham imperaning yemirilishiga sabab boʻladi.

Kalit so'zlar; Mo'g'Ilar, davlat, istilo, inqiroz, chingizxon, urushlar, natijalar, qabila, urug'lar Mo'g'illar

Аннотация. В данной статье анализируются причины и историческое значение упадка Монгольской империи. Основанная XIII Чингисханом, империя быстро превратилась в одно из крупнейших и могущественных государств в мировой истории. Однако её распад произошёл почти так же стремительно, как и подъём. В статье выделяются ключевые факторы упадка: ослабление центральной власти, раздробленность, территориальная внутренние политические конфликты, экономическая нестабильность, а также культурные и религиозные противоречия. Кроме того, чрезмерная опора монголов на игнорировании научного, военную силу при технологического социального развития сыграла значительную роль в их падении.

Ключевые слова: монголы, государство, завоевание, упадок, Чингисхан, войны, последствия, племя, роды, монголы

INTRODUCTION

By the end of the 12th century, political struggles among various tribes and clans living in Mongolia had intensified. Tribalism and kinship relations were especially strong among them, and they mainly survived through nomadic herding, hunting, and barter trade. Temujin, who was born in 1155, was declared the Khagan (Great Khan) of all Mongolia at a special kurultai (assembly) held near the Onon River in 1206. This marked the beginning of the Mongol conquests. In 1207–1208, the Yenisei River basin and the northern part of the Semirechye (Zhetysu) region were conquered, and the Uighurs in that area were fully subjugated. In 1209, Genghis Khan launched an attack on the Tangut kingdom in northeastern China, seizing vast loot and capturing many people, whom he brought back to Mongolia as slaves. Between 1211 and 1215, the Mongols launched a large-scale invasion of China, delivering heavy blows to the powerful Jin army and eventually capturing the city of Beijing. The Jin dynasty was overthrown, and Northern China was annexed to the Mongol state. Having established a powerful empire in Mongolia, Genghis Khan then turned his attention to Central Asia .During the reign of Khwarazmshah Ala al-Din Muhammad (1200–1220), the Khwarazmian state seized Samarkand and Otrar from the Qarakhanids, expanded its borders as far as Ghazna (in southern Afghanistan), and subjugated Western Iran and Azerbaijan. He even advanced into the inner territories of the Kipchak Steppe. According to historical sources, more than 25 countries were under his control. As a result of these great achievements, Ala al-Din Muhammad became excessively proud and proclaimed himself "Iskandar-i Sani" — meaning the "Second Alexander." It would not be an exaggeration to say that, on the eve of the Mongol invasion, a dual power structure had emerged within the Khwarazmshah state. Although Ala al-Din Muhammad was officially the ruler of the country, in matters of both domestic and foreign policy, the second center of power was his mother, Turkan Khatun. After the death of Ala al-Din Tekish, Turkan Khatun began to take full and active part in state governance from all sides.

Main body

On the eve of the Mongol invasion, the country had already fallen into a state of decline and crisis. While Genghis Khan and Ala al-Din Muhammad formally exchanged envoys in the guise of trade caravans, these missions also served the purpose of espionage, collecting necessary intelligence on one another. Thus, in the final stages before the Mongol invasion of the Khwarazmian state, diplomatic relations existed between these two powerful rulers — relations that, in reality, were designed to study and assess each other's strengths and weaknesses. Satisfied with the treaty signed with Khwarazmshah, Genghis Khan sent a caravan of 450 Muslim merchants from Beijing to the Khwarazmian state. The mission was led by Umar Haji al-Otrori, al-Jamal al-Marghani, and Fakhr al-Din al-Bukhari. Representatives of various tribes—two or three from each—were included in the caravan. Their purpose was to select and purchase rare goods from the Khwarazmian lands for Mongolia. At the same time, it is highly likely that some members of the caravan were tasked with gathering intelligence for potential future military campaigns. According to the historian Nasawi, when the caravan reached the city of Otrar, the local governor—Inalchuq Khan (real name Ghayir Khan), a cousin of Turkan Khatun—was overwhelmed by greed after seeing the valuable goods. With malicious intent, he sent an urgent message to the Khwarazmshah, accusing the caravan members of acting like spies. In response, the Khwarazmshah ordered the caravan to be halted and not allowed to proceed further into the country. However, relying on the support of Turkan Khatun, Inalchuq committed a grave atrocity: on his orders, the entire caravan was seized, and all the merchants and accompanying individuals were executed. The goods they had brought were confiscated. By a stroke of luck, one camel driver managed to escape and reached Genghis Khan to report the tragic incident. In conclusion, it should be noted that the war between Genghis Khan and the Khwarazmshah state began in 1219. The Mongol invaders moved quickly and with great force to capture Otrar. The siege of Otrar lasted for more than five

months, with over 80,000 soldiers defending the city. Between 1219 and 1221, as a result of devastating battles, the Mongol armies conquered almost all the territories of the Khwarazmshah state. Jalal al-Din, the son of the Khwarazmshah, offered fierce resistance to Genghis Khan and his forces from 1221 to 1231, inflicting heavy losses on the Mongols. ¹⁰

Conclusion

The decline of the Mongol Empire is one of the most significant events in world history. Although the empire rapidly expanded and became an unmatched military power, it was unable to sustain its dominance over time. Its collapse was not solely due to political or military reasons, but also rooted in economic, social, and cultural factors. First and foremost, the lack of a strong centralized government structure played a major role. After the death of powerful leaders like Genghis Khan, internal struggles for power weakened the stability of the empire. Following Genghis Khan's death, the empire was divided into separate khanates, each pursuing its own interests. This fragmentation undermined the unity of the Mongol rule. The failure to establish effective political and cultural ties with local populations, along with excessive taxation and oppressive policies, fueled widespread discontent. The Mongols heavily relied on military strength, but neglected technological and scientific development, which proved to be a critical weakness in the long run.

Additionally, the vast empire encompassed various religious and ethnic groups, which led to internal conflicts and further eroded the cohesion of the state. The decline of the Mongol Empire offers a powerful lesson for history — even the strongest empires can collapse if they fail to maintain internal stability, cultural integration, and economic balance. Therefore, historical experience reminds us that for any modern state to thrive, it must have a well-thought-out development strategy that accounts for governance, social harmony, and sustainable growth.

When Jalal al-Din arrived at a village named Aindar near Mayyafariqin, he was captured by Kurdish bandits. The Kurds took all his belongings. Their leader locked Jalal al-Din in a house and assigned a guard to watch him. At that moment, another Kurd who had learned about the incident came to the house. His brother had been killed during the siege of Khilat by the Khwarazmians, and he was seeking revenge. Despite the guard's resistance, the Kurd, unarmed, stabbed Jalal al-Din with a spear and killed him. Thus, the fearless hero Jalal al-

¹⁰ Abdullayev, A. – *Scientific Research on Medieval History*. Tashkent, 1995, p. 177.

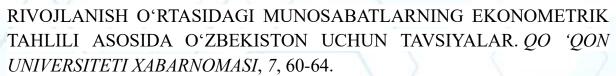
Din, who had survived years of fierce and unmatched battles, died in obscurity. This incident took place between August 17 and 20 in the year 1231.

However, it is clear that during that period, Jalal al-Din Manguberdi was the pillar of hope for Muslims in their struggle against the Mongols. Unfortunately, his state collapsed due to internal conflicts among Muslim rulers. His untimely death opened the way for further Mongol aggression and brought new calamities upon the Islamic world.

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