North Asian International Research Journal Consortium

North Asian International Research Journal of

Social Science & Cumanities

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Publisher

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ISSN NO: 2454 - 9827

Dr. Nagendra Mani Trapathi



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ISSN NO: 2454 - 9827

North Asian International Research Journal Social Science and Humanities is a research journal, published monthly in English, Hindi, Urdu all research papers submitted to the journal will be double-blind peer reviewed referred by members of the editorial board. Readers will include investigator in Universities, Research Institutes Government and Industry with research interest in the general subjects

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OYRAT TRIBE STUDY IN HER HISTORIC ASSETS AND HER RELATIONSHIP WITH GENGHIS KHAN FAMILY (600-663 A.H. / 1203-1264 A.D.)

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ABSTRACT

This study has included the historical assets of the most important Mongol tribes which are Oyrat tribe. This tribe got an important position for (Genghis Khan 603-624 A.H -1206-1226 A.D) and his family for in the different historical stages for giving her individuals the loyalty and obedience to him before other Mongol tribes and giving him a support by number of her individuals to eliminate some of his opposed from other tribes as well. Besides, Oyrat tribe and also military role across various historical stages. At the top was her participation in (Hulagu-also known as Hülegü or Hulegu-654-663 A.H/1256-1265 A.D) expedition against Iran in (654 A.H/1256 A.D).

This research, tackles the first assets of naming Oyrat Tribe in Such name and the difference of historians in its writing and spelling and the most important opinions mentioned about its meaning as well. In this research, we mentioned the most important settlement areas of this tribe and its impact on her general life and the most important adjoining Mongol and Turkish tribes and the impact of that on her language and religion and her retaining of her identity despite her adjuring for these tribes.

As well research studied the reasons which allowed these tribes declare loyalty and obedience to Genghis Khan and her reasons of caring Genghis Khan of her and honoring her individuals. Also the most important marriages held between Genghis Khan and the individuals of this tribe whether in his era or in the era of his sons and grandsons. This research also focuses on addressed the most important Genghis Khan wives from women of this tribe and the marriage of his son (Oktay Khan in 606-639 AH /1228-1241 A.D) and his grandson (Mongo Khan 649-658 A.H / 1251-1259 A.D) and Hulagu from their women and their most important positions in the state and they were her most prominent princes and dignitaries.

INTRODUCTION:

The study of Mongol tribes is the most important and the hardest historical studies for what researcher faces of the lack and rarely and lack of historical sources. Its importance is for the necessity of reaching to the truth of historical assets for these tribes and to make sure of the rightness of her lineage for the discrepancy and variety of opinions about them especially there was no clear and tangible role for these tribes through the successive historical stages the Mongol empire passed through whether in the era of Genghis Khan or in the era of his sons and grandsons.

Despite the shortage of historical sources we could get important information enriched the researcher which included expanded study about Oyrat tribe which is the most important Mongol tribes. This research discussed the early naming assets of this tribe and the spelling writing difference of historians about that and the most important mentioned opinions about its meaning.

As well this research mentioned the most important settlement areas of this tribe and the most important adjoining tribes which were adjoining her for both Turkish and Mongol tribes and the impact of that on her language and religion. Also discussed the reason which let this tribe declare her obedience and loyalty to Genghis khan and the reason which let Genghis Khan takes care of her and honoring her individuals. Besides discussed the most important marriages held between Genghis Khan Family and the individuals of this tribe whether in this era or in the era of his sons and grandsons.

THE HISTORICAL ASSETS FOR OYRAT TRIBE:

There is no doubt that giving vivid image about these historical assets for Oyrat tribe is the main and important issue to get to know the fact about her history. Historians were differed about their writing to the name of this tribe and that led to their difference in the way of spelling it. Some wrote its name Oyrat (1) or Oyirad (2) and other referred to it by the enunciation (Eirat) (3). Others wrote it (Alorat) (4) while others referred to it by the enunciation (Avratih) (5). But most historians almost agreed on one way of its writing and spelling by the enunciation "Oyrat". In Turkish language, Oirat means the gray hours (6) which is the most important Mongol tribes ⁽⁷⁾. As they were very large, so they crossed into several tribes ⁽⁸⁾, this tribe is the Mongo Forestry tribe ⁽⁹⁾, for this reason, the Orientalist and German historian (Bertold Spuler1911-1990 A.D) had referred to this tribe as a very primitive tribe (10). Though this fact, they had a king response to his orders (11), every folks of Mongol and

their tribes had a king head them principally. He was called "khan" (12) and he had leaders called them the little Baki or Baki or Beke. The leader of Oyrat tribe was famous this title (13).

Oyrat tribe settled down in the area between Onon River and Baikal Lake located in southern Siberia (14). Some historian pointed out that they settled particularly on the western coast of Baikal Lake (15). While other historical sources pointed out that Oirat tribe was called in Yenisei River springs area or (Sacesnoran) which means the eight rivers and it adjoined many Turkish and Mongol tribes (16).

Oyrat tribe was the neighbor of Nayman (17) tribe from north (18) to the south; the Markit tribes (19) which were the most important Mongol tribes (20) lived adjoining Oyrat tribe. That means Oyrat tribe was stabilizing to the west of Markit tribes (21), while the Kyrgyz (22) Turkish tribes were settled to the north of Oyrat tribe (23). As for their language, it was a little bit different from other adjoining Mongol tribe's language (24). While Bertold pointed out that the inhabitants of this tribe were talking the Mongol language (25). Bertold gave his opinion by saying: "There was an overlap between the Turkish and Mongolian tongues in the area where the Oyrat was settled, Called the Sources of Yenisei" (26).

The word sakezmorn is a Mongol Turkish word which means the eight rivers as we mentioned before. This word has two syllables, the first one is Turkish which is (Sakez) which in Turkish language means eight and the word (morn) which is Mongol means (27). From this came the mingling and consolidation between the two languages. The main reason for this intermingles is the adjoining of this tribe to Mongol tribes from one hand and for Turkish tribes from the other hand.

As for their religion, it was Heathen Shamanism religion (28) which was the most important prevalent religions in that time between Turkish and Mongol tribes (29). Bertold pointed out to this point saying "real shamans are there among forests country inhabitants" (30).

THE SUBMISSION OF OYRAT TRIBE TO GENGHIS KHAN'S AUTHORITY AND ITS MILITARY **ROLE:**

Oyrat tribe has submitted to the authority of Genghis Khan within 600 A.H/ 1203 A.D after a short period of resistance and soon it surrendered and offered him loyalty and obedience (31), where he sent his messengers to these two tribes ordering them to follow him and be his princes and servants (32). this was mentioned in one of the historical sources (there were two great tribes loving for him invitation, contended with his presidency, two tribes





huge in number and readiness one is called Oyrat and the other is called Gunkorat (33). the Iraqi historian, lawyer and writer (Abbas al- Azzawi 1890-1971 A.D.) pointed out that Genghis Khan when he decided to Catch up with Kojlak Khan, the leader of Nayman tribe, and with Tukhtapek, from Markit tribe, he came across in his way to them number of individuals from Oirat tribe and other tribes who declared their loyalty and fellowship to him becoming his indicators in following Kojlak and Tukhtapek⁽³⁴⁾.

Oyrat tribe men practiced distinct military role for the favor Mongol court. This represented by preparing military group consist of a large number of Oyrat tribe men by Mongol army. Her duty as to the Mongol decree is to guard Ondor position which is the cemetery of Mongolia great leaders (35). For this, Genghis Khan is used a decree states about its rights and care and preferring it to other Mongol tribes (36).

Oyrat Mongol tribe participated with Hulagu army when heading to dominate over Iran where he had led the armies. His young brother Santayaghul accompanied him. Chichan Becky (Oyratah as we mentioned previously) had sent her son Boga Timor accompanied by number of Oyrat soldiers (37). This asserts us of the military participation of Oyrat tribe sons with Mongol army in some of his military expedition.

THE SOCIAL RELATIONS BETWEEN OYRAT TRIBE AND GENGHIS KHAN FAMILY:

Oyrat tribe had strong social relations with Genghis Khan Family. It was at the top of Mongol tribes whom Genghis Khan got married of them (38), for this point Genghis Khan Sons' uncles and grandsons belong to them. The main reason of this belonging is that it was the vanguard of Mongol tribes who declared her subordination to Genghis Khan after posing his domination over wide areas, so this tribe submitted him support and empowering (39).

These social bonds and relations between this tribe and Genghis Khan Family were represented through the marriage of a number of Oyrat tribe girls to princes of Mongol royal family. The lineage was strengthened through these marriages. Genghis Khan was the first one who took this step through his marriage to Chichan Biki who is the daughter of the biggest leader of this tribe. It was mentioned that one of his sons had married her (41), where Al-Juini pointed out that Chichan is the second daughter of Genghis khan (42) and there might be a similarity in the name of Genghis khan and his daughter. Due to the narration of Al-Juini which says that Genghis khan and his daughter was called Chichan Biki was married to Toralgi Kourkan, the son of one of Oyrat tribe leaders where she sired him his son Boqatimor who died in (658 A.H / 1259 A.D). Whatever the matter is, this



marriage was important reason. For the tending of most Mongol princes to choose their wives from the girls of this tribe (43).

In the era of Oktay khan, it was rumored in Oyrat tribe which is one of Mongol tribes that the girls of this tribe were engaged to some ones due to the decree and because of fear; they married most of these girls among them and delivered the others (44). This news reached to Oktay khan who gave his orders to enquire to know the rightness of this news and after finishing inquires, the truth was as he heard about it. For this he gave his orders to gather most of Oyrat's tribe girls who were over 17 years old and to divorce those who got married in that year. So they brought four thousand girls, then Oktay khan gave his order to isolate princes girls. For the rest of girls, they stood in two lines and those who were suitable to be in the palace were sent to join his seraglio and gave some of them to leopards Tamers and offered others to each one of his retinue and some of them to inns and protocol men. For who had left of them, he ordered Muslims and Mongol who were present to take them. What is worth to mention is that matter happened in front the sight of the girls' fathers, brothers, husbands and relatives and no one dare to say one word or defend and oppose Oktay Khan Orders (45).

Through narrating this narration, it seems that this tribe girls were the Favorite for the Genghis khan family and might be for the qualities and characteristics they have or might be their prettiness and monopolistic. They were monopolized only for Genghis khan family and his retinue.

Genghis khan followed his method in the wedding of someone from Oyrat tribe. The historian (Rashid-al-Din Fadl Allah al-Hamadāni 1247-1318 A.D) pointed out that (Mengo khan 649-558 A.H/ 1251-1259 A.D) had a wife from Oyrat tribe and from the ancestry of Qotoqh Biki called okol Qoemsh. She was Olgay Khatun's sister. This wife had a strong personality. In past she was his father's fiancée Toloy khan the son of Genghis khan. For this, okhoy was calling her husband (kobilay khan 658-693 A.H/1259-1293 A.D) and Hulagu in the word (my son). She gain their respect and she did not sire male boys but she sired two girls, the old one was called Shirin and the second girl was called Bechqa and she was called Kourkan also⁽⁴⁶⁾.

Hulagu married many women from Oirat tribe. They are respectively:

1- Queec khan who is the daughter of Toralji Kourkan and her mother, The daughter of Genghis khan who was called Chichan whom is the first wife of Hulagu he married her in Mongolia. She gave birth to his second son who was called Jumghur or Jumghar ogol who was born in Mongolia. He was left by Hulagu at the service of



Mango khan when he headed to Iran in 654 A.H/ 1256 A.D with his guards despite his young age. She gave birth to his first daughter who was called Bubo khan Agha (47).

- 2- Olgay Khatun's was also the daughter of Toralji Kourkan which means she is Goick Khatun's sister. His daughters of her were his third daughter who was called Hami Mingokan and his seventh daughter who was called Baba (48). it was worth mentioning that Olgay khaton had accompanied her husband Hulagu through his journey to Iran in 651 A.H/ 1253 A.D(49) one of the historians mentioned that Hulagu took with him in his journey three of his wives (50). After the death of her husband Hulagu in 663 A.H/ 1264 A.D, Olgay khaton married his son Abaka khan as to the Mongol habits and tradition which state on the marriage of son to his father's widow (51).
- 3- Arikak Eikaji is the daughter of Tinkar Kourkan from Oirat tribe was living in kotoy khan's camp. When Hulagu headed to Iran, he appointed her the head of most of his camps and this was for his high trust of her. His most important son of her was his eighth son Ajay. Arkikak Ikajay died ten days. After the death of her husband Hulagu in 663 A.H/ 1264 A.D (52).

CONCLUSION:

Oyrat is the most important Mongol tribes. The word Oyrat means grey horse in Turkish language. Despite its affect by the religion and the language of those who were settled near to her represented by Turkish tribes, it remained maintained on her first assets where Oyrat tribe adjoined Nayman tribe northward and Market tribe southward.

This study reached to the point that Oyrat tribe had a king implement his orders and she is in front of Mongol tribes who declared their loyalty and obedience to Genghis Khan despite the little resistance showed by some of her individuals towards him. Her individuals proved their sincerity to Genghis Khan through helping him to eliminate his opposed of other tribes like Krayit and Nayman tribes. A number of her individuals participated in Hulagu expedition against Iran in 654A.H\1256A.D which confirms the continuation of loyalty of this family to Genghis Khan's family in various historical stages.

For this reason, Genghis Khan wanted to honor her individuals by marrying them. This became mores followed by his sons and grandsons after him and for that the uncles of Genghis Khan and grandsons





belong to it. This marriage added a great prestige to her individuals and they had great status in most Mongol places.

FOOTNOTE AND SOURCES:

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- 15- Al-Araini., Op.Cit., p. 34.
- 16-Spuler. Op.Cit., p. 152, Fahmi., Op.Cit., p. 13.
- 17- Nayman Tribe: Their assets belong to Turk but the Mongol Character overshadowed then. Despite the name of Nayman Tribe which means eight, they were settling in the upper Basin of Orkhon River and Naron River and Foothills of Altai Mountain. Also the were near the lakes located in Mongolia. Their kings were entitled in the title of Kocalok Khan or Buerouk Khan. Their religion was Christianity. Their language was Mongol language and Aalaoegorih religion as well. It submitted to the authority of Genghis Khan after the death of leader Tayank Khan in 600 AH \ 1203 AD. Al Juwaini., Op.Cit., pp. 69- 72, 87; Rashid Aldin fadhil Allah al- Hamadāni, (718 AH/ 1318 AD) transferred to Arabic by Fouad Abdul-Muti al-Sayad,1st.ed., special part of Genghis khan successors history, (al- Nahdha al-Arabia House for printing and publishing, Beirut, 1983), p. 309.
- 18-Bartold, History of the Turk in Central Asia. Ahmed El-Said Soliman, Reviewed by Ibrahim Sabri, the Anglo-Egyptian Library, Cairo, N.D.) p. 152; Spuler., Op.Cit., p. 11.
- 19- Markit tribes: there are one of Mongol tribes who were stabilizing near the banks of yansi river to the south of Baikal lake .they were adjoining Oirat Mongol tribe from south . They were strong people with great power practicing hunting profession in forests. Their leaders were famous with the title Baki or Biki. This tribe had received Nestorian preaching Christianity movement after professing shamanism religion and their language was the Mongol language as well as for Uighur language. Ahmed bin Ali al-Qalqashandi (821 AH/ 1418 AD), Sobh Alasah in the snaat Alancha, vol. 4 (ministry of culture and national Guidance, Egyptian establishment for translation, publishing, printing and authoring, kostatsomas and his partners press, Cairo, N.D), p. 307; partold., Op.Cit., p. 54, 154- 155; al-Sayad., Op.Cit., p. 29; al-Araini., Op.Cit., p. 35, 38.
- 20- al-Araini., Op.Cit., p. 34.
- 21- Spuler., Op.Cit., p. 11.
- 22- Kyrgyz: as to Turk country, Karghiz were settling in the Plain of Yantis River or (Yanisi). They had worship house and Were good in writing. They had good speech, opinion and well Spoken words use them when praying. Their flags had green color and they were glorifying Saturn and Venus planet. Musk had a big value in their exports. Their prince was entitled as Kaghan. Bartold., Op.Cit., p. 9, 30, 32.
- 23- Ibid., p. 152.



- 24- al-Sayad., Op.Cit., p. 29, Fahmi, Op.Cit., p. 13.
- 25- Bartold., Op.Cit., p.152.
- 26- Ibid.
- 27- Ibid.
- 28- Shamanism religion: shaman in Turkish language means (stood) and shaman means magician, poet or spiritual doctor. Vicars were called by this word. This religion had spreader widely among Turks and Mongol. It is one of the primitive religions which do not stand on real religious moral principled values. This religion admitted great god where they were worshiping mummified goddess. Mongol was worshiping their grandfathers' spirits and everything cause fear to them. Among them were goddess of river, tress, mountain, sun, moon, and other goddess. Bartold., Op.Cit., p. 11; 14, 68, 263; W. sert Arnold, invitation to Islam, a research in spreading Islamic creed, translated by Hassan Ibrahim Hassan and Abdul Majed Abdin and Ismaeel al-Nahrawi, (al- Nahdha al- Masriya library, al Subki press, Cairo, N.D), p 191.
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- 30- Ibid.
- 31- al-Sayad, Op.Cit., p. 29; Fahmi., Op.Cit., p. 14.
- 32- Al Juwaini., Op.Cit., p. 71.
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- 40- JiJan Biki: in Mongol language, it means small flower.
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- 44- Ibid., p. 238.
- 45- Al-Hamathani., Op.Cit., pp. 92-93.
- 46- Ibid., pp. 193-196.
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- 50- Al Auraini, Op.Cit., p. 208.
- 51- Al Hamathani., Op.Cit., vol. 2, p. 222.
- 52- Ibid., p. 226.

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