
MONGOL IMPERIALISM

THE POLICIES OF THE GRAND QAN MÖNGKE
IN CHINA, RUSSIA, AND THE ISLAMIC LANDS,

1251-1259

THOMAS T. ALLSEN

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THE GRAND QAN MÖNGKE
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BY THOMAS T. ALLEN

In the first six decades of the thirteenth century, Mongol armies overran a vast tract of territory extending from Korea to Syria, creating in the process the largest contiguous land empire in human history. The Mongols' extensive conquests were achieved by a military machine long recognized for its efficiency and ruthlessness. But behind their disciplined and mobile armies there was an administrative apparatus, less well known, that procured the human and material resources that fueled these conquests. As each new country or province fell to Mongol arms, its manpower and wealth were soon harnessed to sustain the next phase of expansion. How this was accomplished forms the central theme of this work.

Through a detailed investigation of the reign of the Grand Qan Möngke (1251-59), Professor Allsen first establishes the general pattern of resource mobilization and then addresses specific

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