

SOCIAL ORGANIZATION
OF
THE MONGOL-TURKIC
PASTORAL NOMADS

BY

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FOREWORD

The study of the social organization of Mongol and Turkic peoples is the product of research conducted with the support of the Far Eastern Institute (now the Far Eastern and Russian Institute) of the University of Washington, and of the Russian Research Center, Harvard University. Later aid of the Bureau of Social Science Research, then of American University, Washington, and of the Human Relations Area Files, New Haven, contributed materially to the eventual book. It was possible to travel in the area and discuss with local specialists during the final stages of the writing.

Over the years of its composition, a number of people have generously aided in clarifying difficult points of methodological, cultural historical and philological analysis. Although their number is too great for individual thanks my gratitude is extended to all of them. A few names are outstanding: N. N. Poppe, Meyer Fortes, Paul Kirchhoff and D. B. Shimkin. Antoine Mostaert and Louis Schram made available their knowledge of the Ordos Mongols and the Monguor respectively.

The transliteration system was not solved in a unitary and comprehensive fashion: for non-Latin alphabets, various systems were used. Since there is no standardization in the transliteration of the Altaic languages, a simplified version of the current systems has been applied: regarding Ordos and Monguor, Mostaert; Buryat and Khalkha, Poppe; Kalmuk, Ramstedt; Kazakh, the current Soviet system. In Russian transliteration, the system in use at the Library of Congress, Washington, has been applied, but without diacritical marks and ligatures. It is hoped that no grievous phonemic solecisms have been committed.

American University,
Washington.
July 1960.

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