

## **The Eurasian sphere as Seen from the Mongol Empire: Spatial Concepts at the Heyday of Trans-Cultural Flows**

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At its height the Mongol Empire - the largest contiguous empire ever created - ruled over two thirds of the Old World and most of Asia. The vast mobility that accompanied the formation of the empire, its expansion and its administration created myriad opportunities for cross cultural exchanges and also deeply affected the ways in which the contemporaneous people conceived the world around them. The paper analyses the various concepts of spatial divisions that prevailed in the 13th and 14th centuries, reviewing how the Mongols, their subjects in China and the Muslim world, and their neighbors in Europe and Africa perceived the world, and how was the imperial and non-imperial space defined and described in writings and on maps and globes. It stresses not only the enormous broadening of the horizons, but also the amalgamation of old and new, indigenous and foreign, concepts of space that coexisted under Mongol rule, and assesses their impact on further Asian and Trans-Asian exchanges.