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Refugees Staffing of the Censorate System in Yuan China

This paper adopts a demographic approach to understanding the value of non-Chinese and non-Mongol personnel who staffed the Yuan Censorate bureau in southern China as political or administrative assets to the Mongol regime in China. Those personnel all entered China as types of refugees (voluntary or involuntary) in the context of the Mongol conquests. Understanding better their identities and roles within that very traditional arm of the Mongol bureaucracy should reveal how the Mongols understood power relations in China and how they addressed the governance of China. Some 381 individuals were assigned to the Southern Censorate at levels above the rank of investigating censor, while some 622 individuals worked at the rank of investigating censor. Initial demographic analysis indicates a wide diversity in identity and authority of individuals who served across the Southern Censorate. This paper presents new research that attempts to understand these individuals not simply as an ad hoc group of individuals, but to uncover specific social or geographic attributes that might have contributed to the construction of this important administrative bureau and the rationale behind the selection of the specific individuals who were appointed to that bureau.