

## **The Mongol rule of Taoists and Buddhist in Southern China: A Comparative Review**

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The Mongol conquest in Eurasia had significant impact on various areas and aspects, and religions in China were also no exception. While the previous scholarship has highlighted the Mongol's early contact with the Quanzhen Taoist, the subsequent Buddhist-Taoist debates, and the patronage of Tibetan Buddhism, the details of how the Mongols interacted with the religions in the southern China is less known. This paper will examine how the new Mongol rulers from the north incorporated the different religions after the fall of the Southern Song dynasty in 1276. Focusing on both the policies of the new Mongol rulers as well as the reaction and adaptation of the religious groups, it will especially contrast how the Mongols embraced the more collaborative Zhengyi jiao Taoists, while the Buddhist in the south who were subject to the control of monks of non-Han descendant. The research will be based on piecing together the scattered records in the governmental documents and stone inscriptions, together with a careful reading of the Buddhist and Daoists histories written within their own tradition. Through this examination, my research will highlight how the different policies of the Mongols to the Daoist and Buddhist changed the religious landscape of the Southern China, serves as point of comparison of the religious policies that the Mongols adopted in the different regions, and provide insight to the broader themes how an empire rules its different subjects.