

Law, Institutions, and Justice in the Mongol Empire

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Speaking of laws of the Mongol Empire, Chinggis Khan's *jasagh* (or *jasa*) is the first thing that comes to mind. As partly shown in the contested issue of whether or not the *jasagh* was a legal code, the form of law in the Mongol Empire is assumed to have been diverse, flexible, and dynamic. The common assumption of the Mongol law as a set of customary rules further suggests the socially-oriented nature of Mongol laws. In many cases, the Mongol law reflected the society-based notion of "justice," while it would have been used for pragmatic purposes. This study takes an institutional approach to consider how the Mongol rulers delivered (or administered) "justice" into its various regions. It defines laws as a collection of institutions, which the Empire utilized to rule its territories. It clarifies the notion (or idea) that lied in the laws or other forms of institution, including military and residential system as well as judicial apparatus, and discusses the ways the imperial "justice" operated from a comparative legal-historical perspective. This study offers significant implications for the Qing Mongolian legal history, as it demonstrates how the Mongol Empire's institutional legacies survived into 17th to 19th century Mongolia.