

Submission of Armenian Lords to Mongol Power

Dashdondog Bayarsaikhan (National University of Mongolia)

The reaction of Armenian lords to a new reality of Mongol presence in their lands can serve as a distinctive pattern of submission within Mongol Empire. In this paper it is aimed to introduce the decision of the Greater Armenian lords who dealt with the invaders' pressure by taking individual approaches and responsibilities. With regard to this, it is worth stressing that these individual submissions were made timely, before the Mongols devastated the whole country.

As a result, the Armenians used the Mongol power, which guaranteed the Armenians not only security in their own lands, but also an extension of their patrimony by removing their local opponents from the political arena. In the long run, this policy of the local princes suited the Mongols as well. They preferred to have their own suzerainty over the Armenians and to see the Armenian lords attached to them rather than to the Georgian court, ensuring that the Georgio-Armenian lords were more disunited.

Moreover, the Armenian Church supported the collaboration of the Armenian lords with the Mongols. According to the contemporary Armenian historians, the Mongols employed the monks and lords of Greater Armenia as their diplomats and secretaries.