

The Islamization of the Chaghadaids in Comparative Perspective

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Amid the recent scholarship on the Islamization of the Mongols, Professor Devin DeWeese's chapter in the *Cambridge History of Inner Asia* (2009) stands out as an eminently clear and readable synthesis. I propose to begin by taking up a number of points made in that chapter, with a view both to amplifying and to qualifying them. A good deal of my evidence and ideas will relate to the Inner Asian states – the Chaghadayid *ulus*, the Golden Horde and the western reaches of the Yüan empire. But I shall also draw on developments in the Ilkhanate, about which in this context (as in most others) we are better informed. The principal aim of my paper will be to examine in greater depth the agents of and the motives for conversion and the limits of its effects on policy.