

## **Nasir al-Din Tusi and the Scientific Exchange in West Asia in the Period of Mongol Expansion**

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The Mongol campaigns in the west, which stretched for much of the thirteenth century, completely restructured the patterns of government in the region, and changed the state and society in West Asia in profound ways. Even prior to the complete Mongol dominion in the West under Hülagü, and the establishment of Ilkhanid Iran, the ripples of the Mongol campaigns had affected various states in the region, and by extension the system of patronage of scholarly activity. By investigating the changes in the patterns of patronage during this period, new light can be shed on the patterns of intellectual activity as well.

The career of one of the most influential figures in the intellectual history of the Islamic East, Nasir al-Din Tusi, a mathematician and philosopher from Khurasan, overlaps with various steps of the spread of Mongol dominion in West Asia, in multiple ways. Both during his pre-Mongol period, from Khurasan to Iraq and Jazira, and then to Quhistan and Alamut, as well as in the latter period, when he joined the Ilkhanid administration, he interacted with many states and scholars, all of which operated in the new world order as defined by Mongol expansion, and later Mongol dominion. Through studying Tusi's career with a new critical approach, one may learn more about the state of intellectual activity and scientific transfer under various states he interacted with. Based on a combination of re-examining certain aspects of his scholarly career, combined with an analysis of contemporaneous historiographical texts through a philological and textual critical approach, I offer a new interpretation of the nature of his interaction with the Mongol campaign, and its ramifications for the issue of scientific activity and scientific exchange from Alamut to Maragha.