

Imperial Sons-in-law in Mongol Eurasia (13th-14th centuries)

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The imperial sons-in-laws of the Chinggisids (Mon. *g üregens*) constituted one of the most important political and social institutions of the Mongol Empire. Their importance derived mainly from them holding key roles in the Mongol army and administration throughout the whole Mongol Eurasia. They were composed mainly of former tribal leaders, who often retained their tribal connections longer than other members of the Chinggisid elites, as well as subject rulers (from Uighuria, Korea, Iran, etc.). The research covers the history of the development of this institution both in the United Mongol Empire (1206-1260) and in the four successor Khanates (the Ilkhanate, the Chaghadaid Khanate, the Golden Horde and the Yuan), documenting the backgrounds of the various Chinggisids' "in-laws" as well as their functions during the period of the 12th until the 14th centuries. The research is of importance not only for the analysis of the Mongol conquests and rule, but also for the stages of Mongol rule's decline. In-laws, both Mongols and non-Mongols, played a decisive role in the crisis of the mid-14th century, which shook all of the Mongol states and led to the collapse of the Ilkhanate and Yuan China and to a severe crisis in the Steppe. The research also opens new perspectives for the study of post-Mongol Eurasia, as the in-laws were often the Chinggisid successors. An in-depth research of the Chinggisid *g üregens* can therefore clarify the historical roots of the later political developments, the long-term influences of which can still be traced in today's Central Asia.