

A Discussion before the Mongolian Campaign to the Volga Area and East Europe 1235

Liu Yingsheng

Researches on the Campaign to the Volga area and East Europe led by Batu 拔都 and Güyük 贵由 have been focusing on the details of the battles and historical geography, so far as I know. The most frequently cited source on the decision and preparation before the campaign, was the paragraph 270 of the Secret History of the Mongols 元朝秘史. Prof. Igor de Rachewiltz had a discussion on this issue in his English translation of this source.

In the text of the tomb stone of Yelu Chucai 耶律楚, a famous minister during the regime of Chinggis Khan and his successor Ögedei Qa'an, written by Song Zizhen 宋子贞, kept in Yuanwenlei 元文类, there is a paragraph on a discussion happened in the court of Ögedei Qa'an on the possibility to send troops of the northern Chinese (Hanren 汉人) to the Western Regions 西域. This discussion lasted for more than 10 days. I believe this description should be on the issue mention by the paragraph 270 of the Secret History of the Mongols, but focusing on how to organize the troops of this western campaign.