

**“Lambs to the Slaughter: conflict and culture over animal slaughter in Mongol Eurasia”.**

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During several periods of the Mongol Empire the issue how one slaughtered animals became a key point of contention between the Mongol elite and Muslim subjects. The traditional Mongol method of slaughter prevented blood from being spilled into the ground, whereas Islamic and Jewish methods did. While a seemingly small issue, it remained a source of anxiety for Muslims as they adapted to the new reality of Mongol Rule. While the tensions between the Mongols and Muslims over animal slaughter is well documented, there is no indication of other groups facing similar persecution. The question is whether the variances in animal slaughter created strain via religious differences or whether it was caused by cultural differences concerning the treatment of animals. While the Mongols' reputation for ferocity was merited, it is easy to forget they also considered their animals (of all sorts) differently than most sedentary groups.