

**The Western Branch of the Chaghadaid Ulus Relating to the Eastern Frontier of Ilkhanate:
a Comparative Study of an Inner-Mongol Conflict**

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When Baraq (r. 1266-70) seized the throne of the Chaghadaid Ulus, he designed to resume the territory and authority which was deprived in Möngke Qan era. After a series arrangement, including connected with the princes and amirs of Chaghadaid's secretly, Baraq with his troops via Khurasan invaded the eastern part of Ilkhanate. Although Ilkhan's army defeated Baraq's attack under the commander of Abaqa (r.1265-82), and exterminated the threat to the eastern frontier of Ilkhanate. But on other side, this battle was regarded as the prelude long-term conflict between Chaghadaid Ulus and Ilkhanate indeed. In parallel with these events, a bandit group which in contemporary historical works was named Qarāūnās or Nigūdarī started to intrude the South-eastern provinces frequently.

In generally, scholars think that Chaghadaids' waged war on Ilkhanate in order to capture the regions and human resources to compensate for the loss from the war with Yuan. But in this article, author tries to indicate that the relationship between Chaghadaid Ulus and the local dominators of South-eastern provinces of Ilkhanate established in earlier era of Mongol Empire. Some branches of Chaghadaid's, especial the offspring of Mūātūkān(b. Chaghadaid) involved deeply with the internal affairs of the regions above-mentioned. Cooperating with the local dominators or rebelling commanders, the princes of Chaghadaid's used such a strategy to keep the balance of power: if Ilkhan's troop tried to challenge the authority in the territories belonged Chaghadaid's (i.e. Bukhārā), the Qarāūnās troop would invade the Kermān, Fārs and Hormūz in response. This strategy or mode also can be observed in Chaghadaid-Yuan relationship. Based on a comparative research, this article will give an insight into the political institution among different Mongol khanates.