

## **Migration and Memory**

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The massive and usually violent expansion of the Mongolian people and polity produced a range of memories that varied by time, region, cultural identity, gender, religion, and more. The imperial enterprise also spurred migration on a continental scale among the conquerors, the vanquished, and agents of empire. This paper explores the interplay of migration and memory in eastern Eurasia in the post-imperial period (that is post-1368). It focuses on the sharply contested mantle of succession to the Great Yuan from the late fourteenth to the mid-fifteenth centuries on the Mongolian steppe, Jurchen lands, Korea (both the late Koryŏ and early Chosŏn dynasties), the Ming dynasty, and smaller polities like Hami. The paper argues that memories of the Great Yuan were shaped and reshaped not only by shifting geopolitical and intellectual developments but by the Mongolian diaspora that had begun during the imperial phase but continued after 1368. It shows that Ming emperors and their ministers battled to put the Great Yuan safely in the past, that Chinggisid and non-Chinggisid Mongolian rulers attempted to revive the legacy of Great Yuan throughout the fifteenth century, and that such contests easily crossed borders as large Mongolian communities were spread widely across the steppe, in western Manchurian, and throughout Ming territory, with some Mongolians becoming senior Ming military commanders and important advisors on political and military matters related to the steppe. The paper contributes to the wider discussion of how successor polities engaged the “Mongolian age”.