

Two Wings of One Bird

What does the chapter title refer to? (See p. 169.)

What characteristics of Chinese silk appealed especially to the Mongols?
Besides silk, what Chinese products did the Mongols value?

How did the Jin dynasty respond to, interact with GK? What was the difference in population between the Mongols and the Jurches? Why did GK find them difficult to fight?

What was a *mingan*, and how exactly did it work? How did GK use that strategy to overcome the Jurches? And how did GK use the population against its rulers?

How did the Han and Khitai, for instance, respond to GK's overcoming the Jin dynasty?

How old was GK in 1211? What kinds of booty (bounty) did the Mongols secure in winning China? What did they do with it?

How did GK use skilled and educated Chinese workers? Be specific.

Describe Marco Polo's reports about GK's governance of Chinese peoples—and their responses to GK's rule.

Why was a census important? How did GK's "census" parallel William I's *Domesday Book*? Why is such detail crucial to justice? To governance?

Contrast the way a city looked in immediate defeat and, later, in peace under GK's rule. Provide detail.

Describe a few of the limitations on Mongol language. Why didn't they know how to pray?

Why did GK seek "scholars and religious leaders" after his conquest of China? What groups of scholars answered his call? To what ends?

Who was Yelu Chucai, and how did he serve GK?

How did GK regard dogma? Why were "the philosophical and spiritual unity" of the Mongols so important to GK?

What does Weatherford mean in calling GK's camp a sort of "nomadic university" and "spiritual zoo"? Who were the Enchanters? How did they conflict with the priests reading from the *Nom*? Ultimately, of course, what is the chief shortcoming of all so-called religious men?

God's Omnipotence

How did Guchlug exemplify the problems with religious belief, particularly in a ruler? How did Guchlug assist in turning many Muslims into GK's followers?

Who was the shah of Khwarizm who betrayed GK's peace overtures and robbed him? Why? What happened to that shah?

A founding principle of GK's conquests--"each should abide by his own religion and follow his own creed"—was not entirely a new idea. Who else followed it?

According to the Muslim interpreter, what was significant about GK's dream involving the turban (p. 181)?

Please look at the maps at the front of this book and at a map of contemporary Asia to discover the places described on pp. 182-205.

What did GK learn about the difference in a caravan and an army? What is the meaning of the phoenix and the owl (p. 185)?

When GK needed a successor, what conflicts arose among his sons? Ultimately, whom did he most trust and value amongst his descendants?

Where lay the Khwarizm Empire? Describe the two rulers GK knew. What happened to them? What did they value? How did they betray GK and fail their own peoples?

When the Mongols attacked the Khwarizm cities, what did they do to overcome those peoples?

Who were the Nizari called *hashashim*? Ultimately how did they serve GK?

Who were the fadayeens? How did they serve GK?

How and why did Muslims support GK? How did he undermine conflicts between Sunnis and Shi'a? Who were the Sufis? How did GK use them?