

HISTORICAL DYNAMICS IN THE SUCCESSION OF INNER ASIAN NOMADIC EMPIRES

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DYNAMICS /STAGNATION

- Marxist Periodisation
- 1. Primitive nomads
- 2. Slave-owning
- 3. Nomadic feudalism
- (by Tolstov, Vladimirtsov, Zlatkin etc.)
- 1. Pre-state society (by Markov)
- 2. Early state (by Khazanov)
- 3. Monadic civilization (by Masanov)



STABLE FEATURES OF NOMADIC LIFE

- Pastoral economy
- Domestic handicraft
- Inchoate agriculture



DYNAMICS OF MATERIAL CULTURE

- From pottery to metal caldrons
- Hard saddle
- Improvement of harness
- Changes in mortuary practices

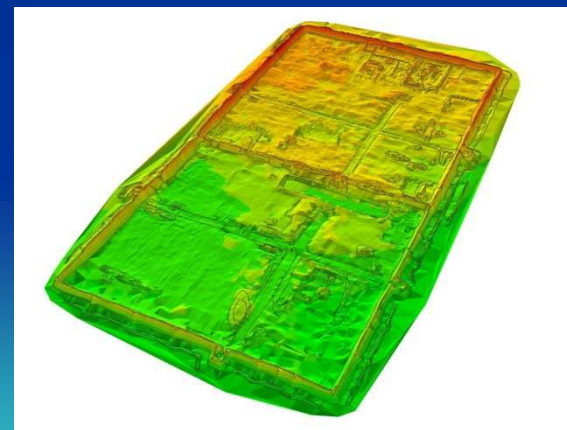
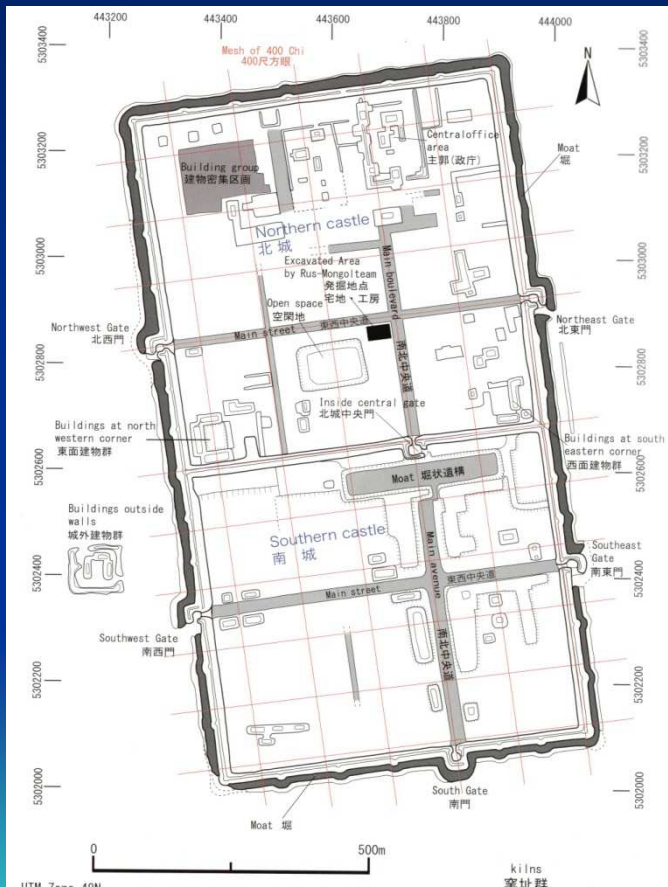


URBANIZATION

- Xiongnu – fortress and settlements
- Rouran – capital town (?)
- Turks – doctrine of anti-urbanism
- Uighurs – world-trade city
- Khitans – 5 capitals and real urbanization
- Mongols – world-city



CHINTOLGOY BALGAS



Dwelling with heating system



DYNAMICS OF MILITARY TECHNOLOGIES

- Wooden saddle and stirrup from IV-V centuries
- From light to hard cavalry
- Sabre
- Mongolian bow
- Urban siege technology



WRITING

- Xiongnu – Chinese interpreters
- Turks and Uighur – Runic inscription
- Kitans – small and large letter
- Mongols – from Uighur alphabet to Square script by Phags-pa



SIGNS OF NOMADIC EMPIRES

- 1) Hierarchical character of the social organization pierced at all levels by tribal genealogical ties;
- 2) Dualistic (into wings) or triadic (into the wings and center) principle of administrative division of the empire;
- 3) Military-hierarchical character of the social organization, more often, on the decimal principle;
- 4) Horse reay messenger service (*yam*) as a specific way of organizing the administrative infrastructure;
- 5) Specific system of power (empire is a property of the whole khan clan, institution of co-government, *kuriltai*);
- 6) Distant exploitation – specific relations with the agricultural world



RELIGION

- Ancient nomads – shamanism
- Uighur elite –Manicheanism
- Khitans – Buddhism
- Chinggis Mongols' – religious diversity
- Golden Horde – Islam
- Late Mongols – Buddhism



CONCLUSION

- 1. Some aspects were determined by the environmental conditions (pastoralism, social organization).
- 2. Certain dynamics in other components of culture of the steppe societies (means and technology of transport, weapon and military arts, urbanization, writing system etc.).
- 3. Many cultural impulses were accepted from the settled world by way of diffusion or assimilation (a number of technologies, world religions etc.).

