

Turks: Their Ancestors and States

2.From Genghis Khan to Modern Age

The history of the Turkic peoples has been distorted both now and always; many Western and Russian historians tried to avoid saying the word 'Turks.' They unanimously asserted that the Scythians were Iranian-speaking (in fact, they were Turkic-speaking); the Hunnic Turkic Empire was turned into something unknown, called polyethnic; the Mongol Empire was renamed from Turkic to Mongol.

The Mongolian-Manchurian Steppe is an arid area located in Mongolia and northern China. The term Mongol (Menggu) was used by the Chinese to refer to the steppe peoples nomadizing in northern China.

In the 10th century, there was an All-Mongolian State - a confederation of Mongolian tribes called Khamag Mongol. The first ruler of that State, Khabul Khan, united the tribes of the Nirun Mongols (the Mongols as such), among which Khiad-Borjigins and Taychiuds dominated. Many well-known clans such as Taychiud, Chonos, Barlas, etc. emerged from the Borjigins. The Taychiud clan consisted of many branches: in the 12th century, they included Khonkhotans, Arulats, Sunnits, then Suldus, Besuts, and Baarins. Wikipedia and historical writings report this. But is it so?

According to Wikipedia, in ancient times, the Mongol tribes were defeated by the Turks. Two clans remained from them - Qiyān and Nukuz. The ethnonym Kiyān was the name of the leading Xiongnu (ancient Turkic) clan Huyān. The Chonos clan originated from the Nokhos (Nukuz) clan. Nokhos is also one of the ancient clans that formed the Mongolian tribe of Taychiuds. Khungirat and Uriankhai were Turkic clans having kinship ties with the Nukuz, who probably had ancient Turkic roots. In Persian sources, the term *nokhos* is read as *nukuz*. Today, there is the city of Nukus in the Republic of Karakalpakstan (Uzbekistan).

The All-Mongolian State invented by the Chinese did not exist in history. The only known historical writing about the Mongols, The Secret History of the Mongols, was created by an unknown author allegedly in the 13th century and came down to us under the Chinese title Yuan Ch'ao Pi Shih. This work has been written during the time of the Ming Empire to erase the traces of the Turks in China.

According to this mythical writing, the original homeland of the ancestors of the Mongols (Nukuz and Qiyān) was Ergune Khun. Among the tribes that came from Ergune Khun, Qiyat, Nukuz, Uriankhai, and Khungirat were mentioned.

The Uriankhai (Uriankhats) are Turkic people from the Uighur branch in today's Mongolia.

Qiyat (Qiyān), Nukuz, and Khungirat (Khongirad) are ancient Turkic clans.

The Turkic languages are related to Mongolian, which are both included in the Altaic language family. Proto-Turks and Proto-Mongols extensively communicated during the first millennium BC. Both groups professed Tengrism (Tengrianism). There are many borrowings between the Turkic languages and Mongolian. Today, Turkic borrowings form the major foreign component in the Mongolian vocabulary. Were these words inherently common? When did these words appear?

Mongolian tribes were divided into steppe, nomadic, and forest. All of them spoke different dialects. All these tribes were not aware of the affinity of their origin, have no idea of themselves as a single ethnic group, and have no common name. Their clans were headed by aristocratic families who bore various titles: bagatur (hero), taiji (prince), noyan (prince, governor). The clans developed rapidly, generating new branches. The leaders of individual tribes bore the title of khan or khagan (king, emperor). Large tribes were the Tatars, Kereites, and Naimans.

Tatars are Turkic people.

The issue of the origin of the Kereites remains open. Researchers argue that the *Kereites were a confederation of Mongol and Turkic-speaking tribes.*

The linguistic and ethnic identity of the Naimans is a debatable issue. In Soviet and Russian historiography, the Naimans were traditionally attributed to the Mongol-speaking tribes. *Linguists note that among the personal names of the Naimans, Turkic elements occurred most of all.* Some historians attribute them to the Turkic tribes.

The Tatar tribe was more numerous than the rest of the tribes put together. The vast majority of the tribes were Turkic-speaking. Purely Mongol tribes were few.

In the middle of the 19th century, Russian sinologist Vasily Vasilyev (1818-1900), who spoke Chinese and Mongolian, studied little-known historical sources in Beijing for 10 years. He noted that the Chinese from the Ming dynasty overthrew the power of the Mongol-Tatars in eastern Eurasia at the end of the 14th century in the course of a 20-year war and “composed their ‘history of the Mongols’; therefore, the history of the origin of Genghis Khan and his state enveloped in mystery.”

Vasilyev's translations of Chinese sources from the beginning of the 13th century made it clear that Genghis Khan was a representative of a Tatar tribe. Marco Polo also confirmed that “in 1187, the Tatars chose a king whose name was Chyngyz Khan.”

Genghis Khan is quite popular in China even today, and the government supports the memory of him as one of the most prominent national heroes of China in every

possible way. The wax figure of Genghis Khan stands in the Beijing National History Museum next to the most prominent emperors in Chinese history. He is praised as the first Chinese to conquer Europe. Numerous books, films, and serials depict his achievements and positive role in the unification of Mongols and the expansion of Chinese territories.

In 2006, monuments to Genghis Khan, Ogedei, and Kublai were erected beyond the Chinese boundaries, in Mongolian Ulaanbaatar. In Mongolia, the International Airport, streets, hotels, factories, universities, etc. are named after Genghis Khan.

Scholars and travelers visiting Mongolia have always been surprised by the discrepancy between the historical image of the great conquerors sticking by Genghis Khan and the population of modern Mongolia. How could the ancestors of the Mongols create a huge empire? It turns out that the modern Mongols and the great conquerors have different ethnic origins.

As a state, Mongolia emerged on the world stage in 1911, declaring independence from the Qing Empire (1644-1912), and the Khalkha Mongol people - not earlier than the 17th century.

In China, the Ming Empire (1368-1644) existed before the Qing Empire, and earlier, the Yuan Empire (1271-1368). The Genghisid Yuan Empire destroyed the Jin Empire as early as 1211-1234.

The Chinese used the term 'Tatars' to refer to the Turkic-speaking nomads, distinguishing the Naimans, Kereites, Qiyats, Merkits, etc. among them. For the Mongol-speaking tribes living closer to Manchuria, they used the ethnonyms Donghu, Xianbei, or Khitan.

The term 'Mogul' is the variant of the pronunciation of Persian 'Mongol.' In the XIII century, the Eastern Asian Turks settled in the west toward Khorasm (part of the territories of Uzbekistan and Turkmenistan), Khorasan (the territories of the Iranian regions of North Khorasan, South Khorasan, and Razavi Khorasan), Asia Minor (Turkey), and the south and north of India. The Mongol Empire was divided into four parts, and the terms 'Mogul' or 'Mongol' were forgotten. The term 'Mogul' reemerged in the 14th century under the Mongolistan Khanate to refer to the Eastern Chagatai Khanate, and in the 19th century under the English colonialists to refer to all Muslims of North India.

Also, in 1235-1260, the capital of the Mongol Empire (Menggu) was the city of Karakorum in the Mongolian region of Kharkhorin. The term 'Karakorum' has a Turkic etymology. The Orkhon Valley was the center of the Xiongnu, Gokturk, and Uyghur Empires. The Uyghur capital of Karabalgasun was located near the place where Karakorum would later be built.

According to Russian researcher Anatoly Olovintsov, in the 12th century, there was no Mongolian nation in the Asian steppes. There were only Turks, divided into different tribes. Temujin unified them into a single state, called Mongolia. The term 'Mongol' came from the name of the Mengu tribe, which was one of the Tatar clans. The ancestors of Genghis Khan originated from this tribe.

It is known that Genghis Khan wrote in the Turkic language. His letters to the rulers and messages to descendants were written in the Turkic language.

Concerning the origin of the word 'Genghis,' there is an opinion that it has Turkic roots and is a derivative of the Turkic 'tengiz' meaning 'ocean.' Based on this, Genghis Khan means 'Khan of the Ocean,' 'Master of the Ocean,' or 'Universal Ruler.'

In the 12th century, the Turkic-Mongolian tradition emerged based on ethnocultural synthesis. The official language of the Great Mongol Empire was Persian and Turkic. The Turkic language dominated among the elites. In 1220-1250, these elites converted to Islam. This tradition began to develop rapidly to the west and north of India.

The Mongol Empire called itself *Yeke Mongyol Ulus* (great Mongol tribe) in Old Mongolian, or *Kür Uluy Ulus* (the 'whole great nation') in Turkic. The Old Mongolian script emerged as a result of the adaptation of the Old Uighur alphabet to write the Mongolian language. According to one of the legends, that script was created around 1204 by the Uighur scribe *Tata Tunga*, who served Genghis Khan.

The Old Uyghur script (Uyghur vertical script) is the alphabet used by the Uyghurs from the 8th to the 16th century AD. The Old Uyghur script goes back to the Sogdian script adapted by the Uyghurs to write Turkic phonetics.

The Sogdian script is an alphabet that goes back to the Aramaic branch of the Syriac script. It was initially used to write the Sogdian language belonging to the Iranian language group, and was further adapted for the ancient Uyghur and other Eastern Turkic peoples who switched to the Arabic alphabet after the adoption of Islam.

After the adoption of Islam by the Genghisides, the clans and tribes of northern China and Mongolia separated. Those who remained in Tengrianism subsequently adopted Buddhism, intermingled with the Chinese peoples, and became today's Mongols. Those who converted to Islam remained Turks.

The Genghisid Empire (Mongolian Empire, 1206-1294) was a state established as a result of the conquests of Genghis Khan and his successors, which included territories from Eastern Europe to the Sea of Japan and from Novgorod (Russia) to Southeast Asia.

The whole life of Genghis Khan is shrouded in myths. Scholars and researchers argue about the cause of his death. Many claim that he fell off his horse and died of a fever. Some say that he died from an illness, and others - from a lightning strike or wounds. There is also a version that he was killed by the murdered Tangut ruler's widow, taken by Genghis Khan as his wife.

Archaeologists from France, Russia, Japan, and the United States are still looking for the grave of Genghis Khan, but ineffectually. In the mid-2000s, the Mongolian authorities banned any archaeological activity related to digging the earth.

As a result of the collapse of the Empire in 1269, the following state formations emerged: the Yuan Empire, the Ulus of Jochi (Golden Horde), the Hulaguid State (Ilkhanate), and the Chagatai Ulus.

On December 18, 1271, Kublai issued an imperial decree to name his realm the Great Yuan (Dai Yuan, or Dai On Ulus) and establish the Yuan dynasty. The capital was Khanbaliq (Beijing). The Yuan Empire (1271-1368) occupied the territories of China and Mongolia. Kublai patronized Buddhism. The Empire fell as a result of the Chinese uprising (against the Turkic dynasty in 1351-1368). Then, for another 20 years, the Northern Yuan Khaganate existed behind the Chinese wall. Subsequently, there were several attempts to reestablish the government by the descendants of the Genghisides, but to no avail.

According to the common version, the word 'China' comes from the name 'Cathay' which, in turn, originates from the nomadic 'Khitans' tribes. Thanks to European merchants and Marco Polo, this name came to Europe and the Slavs, where it turned into 'China.' Marco Polo (1254-1324) served Kublai for 17 years, and it is no coincidence that in honor of the traveler, a monument was erected in Ulaanbaatar next to Genghis Khan Square.

The Khitans were a nomadic Mongolian tribe. There is disagreement about the ethnicity of the Khitans. Modern researchers could not prove continuity between the Khitans and any ethnic groups. It is assumed that the descendants of the ancient Khitans, who advanced into Central Asia, were the Kara Khitai or, as they were later called, the Khitai, who became part of the Uzbeks, as well as the Kazakhs, Kirghiz, Nogais, Karakalpaks, Bashkirs, and other peoples. Some Tibetan manuscripts (texts) testify that from time to time, they were enemies and friends with the Uighurs. These facts indicate that the Khitans may have had Turkic roots.

Marco Polo communicated with Kublai in the Turkic language, sometimes in Farsi. It was common practice. Kublai tried to introduce a common written language for all the peoples of his Empire. The Turks did not merge with the Chinese to form one people.

In 1340-1355, the Genghisides conducted civil strife for the throne. In 1324, 1332, and 1344, devastating floods took place, and the Yellow River changed its course

and flooded millions of hectares of rice fields. Thousands of people died, and millions were left homeless. Then the Black Death (plague) destroyed the Empire.

In 1331-1351, the most massive and deadly global pandemic originated in China - the Black Death swept through Asia, Europe, and Africa. The world population has dropped from 450 to 375 million. China has lost about half of its population, from 123 to 65 million. The mass death of the population, uprisings, robbery, and terror destabilized vast territories. The Golden Horde, the Ilkhanate in the Middle East, and the Yuan Empire in China faced hard times.

In 1236-1242, the Genghisides completed the capture of all the main cities of Poland. In the key battle at Legnica (Poland), the Genghisides defeated the joint Polish-German army. Then they went through Czechia and Slovakia to Hungary. After the formation of the Golden Horde, no more conquest campaigns were undertaken deep into Europe.

The Golden Horde (1224-1459) or Ulug Ulus (Great State), also Ulus Jochi, was a medieval multi-ethnic state based on the Turkic ethnoses in central Eurasia. Its rulers originated from the Jochi dynasty, the eldest son of Genghis Khan. The capital was Bulgar (Tatarstan, Russia), Sarai-Batu (130 km north of Astrakhan, Russia), and Sarai-Berke (in the lower reaches of the Volga). In 1224-1269, it was part of the Genghisid Empire. In the early 1320s, under Khan Uzbek, Islam became the state religion. The state borders reached the Danube, Kyiv, Moscow, and the Urals.

The Polish and German chronicles preserved information on the participation of Russian military detachments in the Turkic invasion of Poland. It is also known that there were also Tatar units in the composition of Alexander Nevsky's army, which fought against the Teutonic Order in 1241-1242.

The Grand Duchy of Vladimir (1125-1389) was the core of the modern Russian state. Before the arrival of Genghis Khan's Turks, about 50 Russian principalities continuously fought with each other, the Kipchaks, and the Pechenegs. They occupied territories to the west of Peremyshl (the city of Przemysl, Poland), the east of Nizhny Novgorod (Russia), the south of Kyiv (Ukraine), and the north of Vladimir (Russia). The rest of the territory of modern Russia and Ukraine was part of Dasht-i Kypchak, the Volga Bulgaria Khanate, and the Bashkir Khanate. On March 4, 1238, Genghisides defeated the joint Russian army on the Sit River (Yaroslavl region, Russia). Knyaz Yuri Vladimirovich was also killed in the battle. His brother Yaroslav Vsevolodovich became the Knyaz, who was summoned to the Horde and recognized as the oldest among all Russian knyazes. In 1246, he was summoned to Karakorum, where the ceremony of proclaiming Guyuk the Great Khan took place. There, in Karakorum, Yaroslav Vsevolodovich died. Scholars put forward two versions: he was poisoned or died of a sudden illness. After Yaroslav died in 1247, his sons Alexander Nevsky and Andrei were

summoned to the Great Khan. They returned in 1249, and Alexander Nevsky received Kyiv and all Russian lands.

Some Russian scholars accuse Yaroslav Vsevolodovich and his son Alexander Nevsky of betrayal for an alliance with Batu. They did not participate in the battle on the Sit River, were the first to recognize themselves as vassals of Batu, and received all Russian lands.

Money was one of the foundations of the 'Horde yoke.' Almost immediately after the campaigns of 1237-1240, the Genghisides started introducing their system of taxation in Rus'. First, tribute was collected by specially appointed officials. From the end of the 13th century, the collection and delivery of tribute became the prerogative of Russian knyazes. The permission to reign, issued by the Khan, was simultaneously a confirmation of the knyaz's right to collect tribute and communicate with the Horde. The Russian knyaz was becoming an official of the Golden Horde in the corresponding ulus.

Genghisides did not capture the inherent Russian lands. They occupied the lands of Dasht-i Kypchak, the Volga Bulgaria Khanate, and the Bashkir Khanate. If earlier the Kyiv Principality was the center of the Russian principalities, then with the arrival of the Genghisides, Vladimir became the center. Since 1484, Ivan III stopped paying tribute, the Moscow Knyaz was called the Knyaz of all Rus', and the city of Moscow became the center.

In the 14th century, at the suggestion of the Lithuanian Prince, the Tatars settled in Poland, received land in the Bialystok region, and drew military duty. They fought in the Battle of Grunwald in 1410. They were called Lithuanian Tatars.

The Battle of Grunwald is a decisive battle between the Union of the Kingdom of Poland and the Grand Duchy of Lithuania and the Teutonic Order, as a result of which the balance of power in Eastern Europe changed in favor of the Slavs.

Azerbaijan was included in the ulus of the Golden Horde as early as under Genghis Khan. During the 13th-14th centuries, the country has been the scene of battles between the khans of the Golden Horde and the Hulaguids. The Golden Horde undertook campaigns to Azerbaijan in 1262, 1265, 1288, 1290, 1319, and 1357.

From 1359 to 1380, 25 khans changed in the Golden Horde, and many uluses tried to become independent. This period was called the 'Great Zamyatnya.' There was a 'game of khans.' The major 'supplier' of stooges was Mamai Khan from the Batu clan (1320-1380) - the Beylerbey (governor) of the Crimea and the Northern Black Sea region, the husband of the daughter of Berdibek Khan of the Golden Horde.

Then, in 1391-1396, campaigns of Timur took place, who defeated the Golden Horde's army and destroyed the capital Sarai-Berke. In the early 1420s, the Siberian Khanate, then, the Uzbek Khanate (1428), the Kazan Khanate (1438), the

Crimean Khanate (1441), the Nogai Horde (1444), and the Kazakh Khanate (1465) were founded. The Golden Horde ceased to exist.

As a result of the plague, civil strife, and campaigns of Timur, an empire called the Golden Horde abandoned the historical arena.

The Hulaguid State is the name of the state founded by Genghiside Hulagu, accepted in Russian oriental studies. The official name of the Hulaguid state was Iranzamin (the land of Iran). In Western historiography, it is referred to as Ilkhanate (1250-1260). In 1261, the state was recognized by the Khan of the Mongol Empire, Kublai who granted Hulagu the title of Ilkhan (khan of the tribe or ulus). The last Ilkhan was Bahadur Khan, the son of Oljeitu (1316-1335). In 1335, Ilkhan Abu-Said Bahadurkhan and his sons died of plague in Azerbaijan during the war with the Golden Horde.

Most population of the Hulaguid State spoke the Western Turkic (Oghuz) language. The script was Eastern Turkic. The chancellery system was based on the Uyghur script. Earlier, the Seljuk rulers used Arabic and Persian for official purposes, and the first Turkic texts appeared under the Hulaguids.

The Ilkhanate or the Hulaguid state left the historical arena due to the plague.

The Chagatai Ulus or the Chagataid State was a Turkic state that was formed in Central Asia in 1224 and named after the son of Genghis Khan, Chagatai. Since 1326, Islam has become the official religion of the State. The capitals were Almalyk, Karshi, and Zanjir Saroy (Uzbekistan). In the 1340s, the State split into Mogolistan and Maverannahr.

The territory of Mogolistan or the Eastern Chagatai Khanate (1347-1570) covered Eastern Turkestan (from the Tien Shan mountain ranges to the Mongolian Altai), Tien Shan region (the territories of Kyrgyzstan, Kazakhstan, the Xinjiang Uygur Autonomous Region, Tajikistan, and Uzbekistan), and Semirechye (the territories of Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, and Xinjiang Uygur Autonomous Region).

Various local estates were formed here. The political history of Mogolistan is riddled with feudal wars, strife, and battles with neighboring states.

Maverannehr covered the territories of present-day Afghanistan, Iran, Uzbekistan, Turkmenistan, Tajikistan, part of Kyrgyzstan, and part of Kazakhstan. The mighty Timurid Empire or Turan (1370-1507) was formed here - a Turkic state that covered Iran, the Caucasus, Afghanistan, most of Central Asia, as well as parts of Turkey, Syria, and Pakistan. The capitals were Samarkand (Uzbekistan) and Herat (Afghanistan). Farsi and the Chagatai-Turkic language, native to the Timurids, were used in the chancellery.

The modern Uzbek and Uighur languages are a direct continuation of the Chagatai language.

Timur belonged to the Turkic Barlas tribe. His wife Saray Mulk Khanum was the daughter of Kazan Khan, the last ruler of the Chagatai ulus from the Genghisid dynasty.

Timur (Tamerlane) was a Muslim and a worshipper of Sufism. His spiritual mentors were Sheikh Shamsaddin Kulal from the Sufi Order (tariqa) Suhrawardiyya and the famous Sufi apologist Sheikh Mir Sayyid Baraka from the Yeseviyya Order. Timur was also on friendly terms with Sheikh Khoja Ali Ardabili from the Safaviyya Order.

Suhrawardiyya is a Sufi tariqa founded by Abu al-Najib Suhrawardi (1154-1191), who was born in the village of Suhraward (East Azerbaijan Province, Iran).

Yeseviyya is a Sufi tariqa founded by Ahmed Yesevi in 1340 in the city of Turkestan (Kazakhstan). It was widely distributed among the Turkic peoples of Central Asia.

Safaviyya is a Sufi tariqa founded by Safi-ad-Din in 1301 in the city of Ardabil (South Azerbaijan, Iran). The sheikhs of this Order founded the powerful Safavid State.

The Ottoman Empire, created in Asia Minor, went down in history as one of the greatest states in the world.

The Ottoman Empire (1299-1922) was a transcontinental state created by the Turkomans (Oghuz Turks) from the Kayi tribe. After the invasion of the Hulaguids and the weakening of the Seljuk Sultanate of Konya, one of the 10 beyliks led by Uch-Bey Osman I (1258-1326), started moving toward the borders of the Byzantine Empire. The result of these conquests was the creation of a new great state.

The Ottoman Empire was at war with the Byzantine Empire from 1285 to 1453. The fall of Constantinople in 1453 marked the end of the Byzantine or Eastern Roman Empire, which was the continuation of the Roman Empire.

From 1514 to 1821, the Ottomans (Sunnis) and the Safavids, Afshars, and Qajars (Shiites) waged fratricidal wars of a religious nature with each other.

The Ottoman Empire was at war 8 times with the Republic of Venice (1423-1718), the Kingdom of Naples in 1471-1514, and the Kingdom of Italy in 1911-1912. During 1453-1475, the Ottomans forced the Genoese out of the Black and Aegean Seas, as well as the Eastern Mediterranean Sea.

The Ottomans besieged Vienna three times (1529, 1532, 1683) and waged war against the Russian Empire 12 times (1568-1918).

The Ottoman Empire fell for the following reasons:

- the pressure of religion on the state;

- fratricidal religious wars with the Safavids, Afshars, and Qajars;
- the discovery of South America by the Portuguese and Spaniards and the exit of Europeans to India bypassing the Ottoman Empire, which negatively affected the economic and industrial development;
- involvement in the First World War.

By the middle of the 14th century, due to the weakening of the Hulaguids, three states arose on the territory of Iran and Azerbaijan: the Chobanids, the Jalayirids, and the Muzaffarids.

Chobanids (1338-1357) - a dynasty originating from the Turkic Sulduz tribe. In the Hulaguid Ulus (State), they occupied the highest positions. In the last period of the existence of the State, they ruled on behalf of the dummy Ilkhans alternately with the Jalayirid dynasty, and then created a state on the territory that is part of present-day Iranian Azerbaijan. The capital was the city of Tabriz (South Azerbaijan, Iran).

The Jalayirids - a dynasty of Sultans (1340-1410), originating from the Turkic Jalayir tribe. Their state covered the territories of present-day central and southern Iran, and Iraq (except for the north). The capitals were the cities of Baghdad (Iraq), Tabriz (South Azerbaijan, Iran), and Basra (Iraq). The dynasty founder, Hasan Buzurg was known for his friendship with Safi-ad-Din Ardabili. After the death of Hasan Buzurg, the Jalayirids continued to maintain good relations with the Safaviyya Order.

Ahmed Jalayir, the last ruler from the Jalayirid dynasty (1382-1410), is considered one of the first Azerbaijani poets. He wrote poetry in Azerbaijani, Arabic, and Persian.

Muzaffarids - a dynasty (1314-1394) of Persian origin, ruled in the eastern part of present-day Iran. The Muzaffarids waged continuous war with the Jalayirids. The capitals were the cities of Kirman (Iran) and Shiraz (Iran).

In 1380-1405, the entire territory of Iran was under the rule of Timur (Tamerlane). By that time, the Chobanids, Jalayirids, and Muzaffarids ceased to exist.

In 1501, the representative of the Uzbek ulus, Muhammad Sheibani, captured Samarkand, forcing the last Timurid Babur out of there, and in 1504, he captured Kabul (Afghanistan), from where conquered India and established the Great Mogul Empire. In 1451, Muhammad Sheibani's grandfather Abu'l-Khair Khan helped Babur's grandfather Abu Said to come to power in the Timurid State. The daughter of the Sultan, astronomer, and astrologer Ulugbek, Rabiya Sultan-Begim was the wife of Abu'l-Khair Khan. Abu'l-Khair Khan's daughter was the wife of Abu Said. Babur's sister Khanzada Begum was the wife of Muhammad Sheibani. Abu Said was the grandson of Miran Shah, the son of Timur.

Sheibanids (1500-1601) - Uzbek dynasty that ruled in the Bukhara Khanate, then in Maverannahr and South Turkestan (northern part of Iran and Afghanistan). The clan received the name from Chingizid Mohammed Sheibani, a descendant of Shiban, the grandson of Genghis Khan. From the moment of creating his state until his death, Sheibani Khan was constantly at war with most of the neighboring states, made raids on the Kazakh nomads in the steppes of Dasht-i-Kypchak, and fought for the expansion of his state with the Safavids. In 1510, Muhammad Sheibani was defeated by the Safavid Shah, Ismail I, near Merv (Turkmenistan) and killed.

The Great Mogul Empire (1526-1858) - a Timurid state that existed on the territory of India, Pakistan, Bangladesh, and southeastern Afghanistan. The Empire was founded by Babur, a native of Andijan (Uzbekistan), forced to migrate from Central Asia to India together with his associates. According to Kazakh orientalist Elena Rudenko, the entire ruling class, together with Babur, called themselves Turanian.

The name 'Great Moguls' emerged under the British colonialists. The term 'Mogul' was used by the Indian population to refer to all Muslims of North India and Central Asia.

The dynasty founder, Babur, wrote in his memoirs: "The Andijan inhabitants are Turks; there is no one in both the city and the bazaar who does not know Turkic. The people's speech is similar to the literary one."

"Babur's memoirs are written in the variety of the Turkish language, which is known as Turkic, the native language of Babur," noted English orientalist E. Denison Ross (1871-1940).

Babur was a direct descendant of Timur (by father) and Genghis Khan (by mother). The Shah of the Safavid State, Ismail I, was the first to support Babur in Central Asia.

It is well known that the Turks appeared in India around the year 1000. These were the Ghaznavids (961-1186) - the Turkic dynasty of emirs and sultans of the city of Ghazni (southern Afghanistan). The Ghaznavids founded a state that occupied the territories of present-day Khorasan, Afghanistan, Khoresm, Bukhara, Gurgan, and the northern provinces of India.

Then in 1194, the Turkic commander Qutb-ud-Din Aibak conquered India and founded the Delhi Sultanate (1194-1526). During that period, Delhi became the capital of the state for the first time.

The future great traveler Ibn Battuta (1304-1369) was in the service of the Delhi Sultan, Muhammad Tughluq, for eight years, from 1334 to 1342. He was first a qadi (judge) and then a faqih (Islamic theologian-jurist). Ibn Battuta's father was

the qadi of Tangier (a large port city in Morocco) and wished to see his son as his successor. In India, Ibn Battuta met the sheikh of the Suhrawardiyya tariqa, Burhanuddin Sarji, on whom Sultan Muhammad Tughluq passed one hundred sultanate villages for khanaka.

Khanaka - a Sufi abode, a place of residence and prayer for dervishes.

Dervish - a Muslim analog of a monk, an ascetic, an adherent of Sufism.

Sufism (Tasavvuf) - an ascetic and mystical trend in Islam.

The central Suhrawardiyya Khanaka was located in the city of Multan (Punjab province, India).

Let us return to Asia Minor, Iran, and Azerbaijan.

Since 1375, the Qara Qoyunlu Turkomans have originally been part of the Jalayirids in Baghdad and Tabriz. Their leader Bayram Khoja Bey ruled Mosul (Iraq).

Qara Qoyunlu is an association of Oghuz Turkic tribes headed by a Shiite Turkoman dynasty from the Oghuz Yiva clan. The Qara Qoyunlu State (1375-1468) existed in Western Asia, on the territory of Azerbaijan, Armenia, Iraq, northwestern Iran, and eastern Turkey. The State's capital was the city of Tabriz (a region of Eastern Azerbaijan, Iran).

Jahan Shah (reigned 1436-1467) - the first among the rulers of the Qara Qoyunlu to take the title of Sultan. Jahan Shah was also known as a poet who wrote in the Azerbaijani Turkic language under the pseudonym Haqiqi.

The Qara Qoyunlu rule was in many aspects similar to that of the Jalayirids. In 1467, in a battle with the Aq Qoyunlu confederation near the city of Mush (Turkey), the Qara Qoyunlu troops were defeated, and their possessions were ceded to Aq Qoyunlu.

Aq Qoyunlu - a confederation of Oghuz Turkic tribes headed by the Sunni Turkoman dynasty from the Oghuz Bayandur clan. In 1402, Timur granted them the entire region around Diyarbakir (Turkey). The Aq Qoyunlu State (1467-1501) ruled in the eastern part of Turkey, Iraq, Iran, Armenia, and Azerbaijan. The State's capital was the city of Tabriz.

The Oghuz Turkic tribes, which were part of the Qara Qoyunlu and Aq Qoyunlu States, were related. The only difference was that the former were Shiites while the latter were Sunnis.

The first Ottoman Sultans Osman, Orhan, and Murad belonged to the Ahi Brotherhood (a professional community with its own rules). In 1365, Sultan Murad

created a regular infantry army called the Janissaries, who belonged to the Bektashi Order. Ahi and Bektashi were close to the Shiites.

In 1505, when the Ottoman Sultan Selim I was the governor of Trabzon, he started fighting against the Shiites and rebelled against his father, Sultan Bayezid, who pursued a loyal policy towards the Shiites. In 1517, he became Caliph of all Muslims, and over the eight years of his reign (1512-1520), turned the Ottoman Empire into the leader of the Muslim world.

Weakened by feudal civil strife and popular unrest by the end of the 15th century, the Aq Qoyunlu State was defeated in 1501 by the Qizilbash, headed by Ismail Safavi (Uzun Hassan's maternal grandson). Shah Ismail founded the Safavid State and got a grip of all the Aq Qoyunlu territories.

Uzun Hassan, the head of the Aq Qoyunlu confederation, maintained close relations with the Sufi dervishes. His sister Khadija Begum was bestowed in marriage to Sheikh Junayd (paternal grandfather of Shah Ismail Safavi), and one of his daughters Martuza Begum (in the Safavid court, she was called Alemshah) - to the leader of the Ardabil Safaviyya Order, Sheikh Heydar (the father of Shah Ismail Safavi). Uzun Hassan also banned the persecution of Shiites to strengthen the alliance with the Safavid sheikhs of Ardabil.

Safavids - the Shah dynasty, the rulers of the Safavid State (1501-1736). The first ruler from this dynasty was Shah Ismail I (1487-1524), who was born in Ardabil (South Azerbaijan, Iran).

The territory of the Safavid State covered the lands of present-day Azerbaijan, Iran, Armenia, Georgia, Turkmenistan, Afghanistan, Iraq, eastern Turkey, eastern Syria, Kuwait, Bahrain, western Pakistan, southern Uzbekistan, and southern Tajikistan.

In medieval sources, the State was more often called the Qizilbash state (in Persian, Dovlet-e Qizilbash). The capital was the city of Tabriz (South Azerbaijan, Iran), later it was moved to Qazvin (Iran), and from there to Isfahan (Iran). The Safavids called themselves by the Sasanian title Shahenshah (king of kings). Ismail considered himself the legitimate heir of his grandfather Uzun Hassan. The Qizilbash brought to the fore not an ethnic principle but a confessional one, declaring Shiism the state religion. Just in the Safavid era, Shiism was established as the dominant religious madhab in Azerbaijan and Iran.

In the Safavid State, the Azerbaijani Turkic language became the language of the court, the army, lawsuits, and poetry, and Persian became the language of administration and literature. The inscriptions on the coins were minted in Persian. Soviet orientalist I.P. Petrushevsky wrote: "The first Safavid sheikhs lived in Ardabil, their native language was Azerbaijani."

To neutralize the influence of the Qizilbash elite, Shah Abbas I (1571-1629) from the Safavid dynasty created a new tribal confederation called Shahsevan (loving the Shah). Thousands of warriors from all over the state, from different, mainly Turkic tribes, were drawn to this confederation. Every warrior, clan, or tribal community who swore allegiance to Abbas I could declare himself Shahsevan. It is believed that Yunsur Pasha and his descendants from the Ayrum tribe recognized themselves as the first Shahsevans. According to some sources, they immigrated in 3,000 closed wagons to South Azerbaijan from Ganja and Karabakh. Earlier, they arrived in the northern regions of Azerbaijan from Anatolia, after the fall of the Seljuk Sultanate of Konya in 1301.

The last Shah from the Safavid dynasty, Soltan Hoseyn I (1668-1726), was a pious man. Under him, anti-Sufism law was tightened, the consumption of alcohol and opium was banned, and restrictions were placed on the behavior of women in public places. The governors were ordered to be guided by Sharia law.

The instilment of Shiite Islam at the state level has led to an increase in intolerance against Sunni Muslims, Jews, and Christians. There were other grievances as well. As a result, uprisings were breaking out everywhere. The Shah was deposed by Afghan rebels in 1722. In 1729, the military leader Nadir defeated the Afghans, who left Iran.

The Afsharids ruled in Iran (1729-1750) and Khorasan (1750-1796). The founder of the Nadir dynasty was a Qizilbash from the Kyrklu clan of the Afshar Turkoman tribe. In his letter to Fath-Ali Shah Qajar, Napoleon Bonaparte considered himself a follower of Nadir Shah. Joseph Stalin called Nadir his teacher, along with Ivan the Terrible.

Nadir considered the southern shores of Lake Urmia (South Azerbaijan, Iran) to be the homeland of the Afshars. Nadir Shah maintained a strong Turkic identity throughout his life, being proud of his Turkoman origin. Nadir's native language was Turkic.

According to well-known orientalist V. Minorsky, Nadir, like other Afshars, spoke the southern Turkoman dialect of the Oghuz language. Soviet orientalist Hakob Papazyan also pointed out that Nadir Shah, being a Qizilbash, used Azerbaijani as his native language. After Nadir's death (1747), civil strife broke out in Iran (except for Khorasan), and thus, representatives of the Kurdish Zand tribe (1753-1794) seized power.

In 1779, the leader of the Qajars, Agha Mohammad Shah Qajar, conceived an idea to unite Iran.

The Qajars are a Turkoman tribe. According to the Ethnohistorical Dictionary of the Russian and Soviet Empires, the Qajars are a sub-ethnic group of Azerbaijanis. In 1796, Agha Muhammad Qajar made Tehran (Iran), the former residence of the Afshar Khans, the capital of the Qajar State for the first time. During the time of the Qajars, the heirs to the throne were appointed by the governor of Azerbaijan.

Tehran first emerged as a Safavid garrison city, northern gate, due to its strategic position. The first capital of the Seljuk State, the ancient city of Rey, is located 10 km from Tehran. Back in 1553-1554, the son of Ismail I, Shah Tahmasp I (1514-1576), built city walls with 114 (according to the number of the Koran suras) gun towers in Tehran.

After the Russian-Qajar wars of 1804-1813 (the Treaty of Gulistan) and 1826-1828 (the Treaty of Turkmenchay), the Qajar State lost Eastern Georgia, Dagestan, Armenia, and Northern Azerbaijan.

The rule of Naser al-Din Shah Qajar (1831-1896) was the longest in modern history and the third longest in the entire three-thousand-year history of Iran - 47 years. Until the age of 12, he knew only the Azerbaijani language. At the age of 17, he became Shah.

The last Qajar ruler, Sultan Ahmad Shah, was deprived of his throne on October 31, 1925, and Reza Khan was proclaimed Shah.

Petrushevsky writes about the Qajar tribe: “According to the tribal tradition transmitted by the court historian Abd-ar-Razzaq Dumbuli (1763-1828), the Qajar tribe was formed in the Mongol period thanks to the unification of fragments of three tribes - Sulduz, Jalayir, and Tangut” (I.I. Petrushevsky, Essays on the History of Feudal Relations in Azerbaijan and Armenia in the 16th-19th Centuries).

In the 12th-13th centuries, the Oghuz converted to Islam, and most of the Kipchaks remained Tengrians. In the epic Dede Gorgud, the Kipchaks are called ‘giaour’ or ‘kafir’ meaning infidels. Later, part of the Kipchaks converted to Islam and mixed with the Oghuz. The main part was mixed with the Genghisides. The Western Kipchaks adopted Christianity and lost both faith and language. The Gagauz changed Tengrianism to Christianity, however, retained their Turkic language.

Modern Times

On October 3, 2009, an organization called the Turkic Council was established in the city of Nakhchivan (the Republic of Azerbaijan), which was renamed the Organization of Turkic States (OTS) on November 12, 2021. The OTS members are Azerbaijan, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Uzbekistan, and Turkey. The observers are Hungary, Turkmenistan, and the Turkish Republic of Northern Cyprus.

Headquarters: Secretariat - in Istanbul, Parliamentary Assembly - in Baku, International Turkic Academy - in Astana.

“Hungarians are Kipchak Turks, and Hungary is a country of Christian Turks.” These words belong to the Prime Minister of Hungary since 2010, Viktor Orbán. Discussions on the ethnogenesis of the Hungarians have been going on since the middle of the 19th century. There are two camps - supporters of Finno-Ugric and Turkic origin. More and more modern archaeologists and anthropologists adhere to the second opinion. This became especially noticeable after the fall of the socialist regime and the transition to democracy in 1989.

The total number of Turks in the world is more than 250 million.

The Turkic-speaking people of Iran make up 30-35% of the country's population, i.e., about 30 million. Azerbaijanis form the backbone.

Representatives of the Turkic ethnic group continue to live in China; these are Uighurs, Dungans, and Salars, although the Dungan and Salar languages are virtually Sinicized.

The Xinjiang Uygur Autonomous Region with the center in the city of Urumqi is part of China. The population is more than 25 million; more than 60% of it is Turkic people, mostly Uighurs. In addition, there is the Sunan-Yugur Autonomous County in Gansu Province, where the yellow Uighurs live. The total Turkic population of China is over 25 million.

The following Turkic peoples live in Russia: Tatars, Chuvashs, Bashkirs, Nogais, Balkars, Karachais, Kumyks, Altaians, Yakuts (Sakhas), Khakasses, Tuvans, and many other small ethnoses. The total Turkic population of Russia is 11-12%, more than 15 million.

As part of Russia, there are the following Turkic-speaking (or mixed with Turkic-speaking) Republics: Altai, Bashkortostan, Kabardino-Balkaria, Karachay-Cherkessia, Tatarstan, Sakha, Khakassia, and Chuvashia.

The population of Afghanistan is about 40 million. The total Turkic population is about 8 million, of which half are Uzbeks. There are also Turkmen, Kirghiz, and many small ethnic groups as part of the Hazaras. The Qizilbash and the Afshars who are closer to Azerbaijanis live in Kabul and Kandahar. Their population is about 300,000.

Between 3 and 8 million Turks live in Germany.

Turkmans or Turkomans who come from the Oghuz tribes live in Iraq. Their total population is about 3 million, they are the third largest people in Iraq, after the Arabs and Kurds. According to some ethnographers and linguists, Turkoman is a dialect of the Azerbaijani Turkic language.

Turkish scholar of Iraqi-Turkoman origin Kemal Bayat wrote: “The dialect spoken by the Iraqi Turkomans is a dialect of the Azeri Turkic language. From a geographical standpoint, the Azeri dialect covers Eastern Anatolia, the South Caucasus, Caucasian Azerbaijan, Iranian Azerbaijan, Kirkuk (Iraq), and the Syrian regions inhabited by the Turks. The Turkoman residence territories (Salahuddin, Diyala, Ninewa, Erbil, and Kirkuk) in Iraq are called Turkmaneli with the center in the city of Kirkuk.

Syrian Turkomans or Syrian Turks live mainly in the provinces of Latakia and Aleppo. In 1187, just the Turkoman tribes, united by Salaheddin, played a major role in the victory over the Crusaders. The total population is about 1.5 million. Syrian Turkoman is a dialect of the Azerbaijani language.

There are about 2 million Turks in France.

The Republic of Crimea is part of Ukraine. The total population of Crimean Tatars is more than 1 million.

There are about 1 million Turks in Bulgaria.

More than 800,000 Turks live in Holland.

More than 600,000 Turks live in the United States, of which about 400,000 are from Iran.

More than 500,000 Turks live in Austria.

More than 500,000 Turks live in the United Kingdom, of which 350,000 are Turkish Cypriots.

More than 320,000 Turks live in Australia, of which 120,000 are Turkish Cypriots.

The Autonomous Territorial Unit of Gagauzia (Gagauz Yeri) is part of Moldova. The total population is more than 300,000. The language of the Gagauz is something like a mix of Turkish and Azerbaijani dialects.

About 500 thousand Turks live in Georgia, mostly Azerbaijanis.

The following Turkic peoples live in Mongolia: Kazakhs, Uriankhals, and Khotons. The total population is more than 200,000, of which more than 60% are Kazakhs.

More than 200,000 Turks live in Belgium.

In Greece: 150,000.

In Switzerland: over 120,000.

In Canada: over 120,000.

In Romania, Gagauz, Turks, and Crimean Tatars live, the total population of which is just over 100,000.

About 80,000 Turks live in North Macedonia.

The vast majority of Turkic-speaking peoples live in Eurasia. Turks are mostly Muslims. There are also Orthodox Christians (Gagauz, Chuvash, Kumandins, part of the Altaians, Tatars, Khakasses, and Yakuts), Jews (Karaites and Krymchaks), Buddhists (yellow Uighurs, part of the Salars, Tarbagatai Kirghiz, and Tuvans), Tengrians (Dolgans, Teleuts, Khakasses, Shors, and Yakuts). Most Altaians confess Burkhanism, something like a mix of Tengrianism and Buddhism.

Ethnicity is a common set of origin, language, history, religion, culture, mythology, cuisine, rituals, and traditions in a certain people group residence area. In fact, it is a synonym for the term 'nation.'