

Khubilai Khan

His Life and Times

Morris Rossabi

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Portrait of Kubilai Khan. National Palace Museum, Taipei.

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KHUBILAI KHAN

His Life and Times

MORRIS ROSSABI

Khubilai Khan was a real person, although Samuel Taylor Coleridge's famous poem persuaded many readers that he was a mythical or legendary character. Living from 1215 to 1294, Khubilai Khan is one of history's most renowned figures. Here, for the first time, is an English-language biography of the man.

Morris Rossabi draws on sources from a variety of East Asian, Middle Eastern, and European languages as he focuses on the life and times of the great Mongol monarch. He brings to life the man who attempted to rule the known world, a man first immortalized by Marco Polo, a visitor to Khubilai's court. The author shows Khubilai's significance as one of the first of the pastoral nomadic leaders to administer an empire rather than merely conquer and exploit his subjects. He continued the Mongols' military expansionism, conquering Southern China and attacking Japan and Southeast Asia, but he sought to rule as Emperor of China and Khan of Khans of the Mongol domains. In this effort, he recruited and used an international corps of advisers, including Chinese Confucians, Persian Muslims, Tibetan Buddhists, and European Christians.

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