




The Role and Position of Mongol Women on The Ilkhanate Era

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Abstract

The aim of the present study was to investigate the role and position of Mongol women on the Ilkhanate era. The research universe included all historical books related to Mongolian women. The research sample subsumed the texts regarding to the position of women in the Ilkhanate era. The research method was descriptive-historical. The findings obtained based on documentary and library studies. The results showed that Mongolian women, in terms of their tribal lifestyle, always worked alongside with the men and side by side with them. The Ilkhani women had a direct participation and active presence in politics and state affairs and always fought alongside with the men in the battlefields and were as active as men in the production of material goods during peacetime. In addition to being officially regents or rulers, Mongol women also interfered in government affairs at other times and gained influence in this way according to their personality. Ilkhani women played a prominent role in positions such as ambassadors in domestic and abroad trips. Also, beauty and respect for chastity and decency of women were very evident in the eyes of the Mongols. Mongol women were generally chaste and tolerant with their husbands. The privileged position of Mongol women caused it to be reflected in their legislation. Dowry was very important during the Mughal era. From the point of view of the law, dowry was considered a woman's ownership rights and among most of the Ilkhanate families, it was considered as a criterion for determining the dignity of young girls. Garment is one of the things that showed the high status of women in the society.



Extended abstract

Introduction: Referring to the sources of Iranian history during the Mongol era shows that historians did not address the issues related to women, including the position and dignity of women in society, specifically and in the form of a chapter or an independent work. The main reason for not addressing the description of women's cultural life should be found in the special attention given by historians of this era to the description of the events or lifestyle of the rulers of this era. After the collapse of the Khwarazmshah dynasty, the Transoxiana territories, Great Khorasan and other parts of Iran fell into the hands of the Mongols. Genghis Khan's financial, cultural and political attacks on Iran did not leave room for the emergence of a new government, that's why the Mongols appointed one of their generals to rule in the land of the Khwarezmshahs. Until, during the Khany Manqoqa'an period, the plan to seize the rest of Iran and the center of the Caliphate was proposed, and Hulako was assigned to carry out this plan. In 651 A.H., he moved to the west and first forced the Ismaili fortresses to surrender, and then he left for Baghdad and abolished the Abbasid caliphate and took over Iran and Iraq. The Mongol rule in Iran lasted for 79 years. Concerning the above mentioned facts the aim of the present study was to investigate the role and position of Mongol women on the Ilkhanate era. The research universe included all historical books related to Mongolian women.

Method: The research sample subsumed the texts regarding to the position of women in the Ilkhanate era. The research method was descriptive-historical. The findings obtained based on documentary and library studies.

Results: The results showed that Mongolian women, in terms of their tribal lifestyle, always worked alongside with the men and side by side with them. The Ilkhani women had a direct participation and active presence in politics and state affairs and always fought alongside with the men in the battlefields and were as active as men in the production of material goods during peacetime. In addition to being officially regents or rulers, Mongol women also interfered in government affairs at other times and gained influence in this way according to their personality. Ilkhani women played a prominent role in positions such as ambassadors in domestic and abroad trips. Also, beauty and respect for chastity and decency of women were very evident in the eyes of the Mongols. Mongol women were generally chaste and tolerant with their husbands. The privileged position of Mongol women caused it to be reflected in their legislation. Dowry was very important during the Mughal era. From the point of view of the law, dowry was considered a woman's ownership rights and among most of the Ilkhanate families, it was considered as a criterion for determining the dignity of young girls. Garment is one of the things that showed the high status of women in the society.

Conclusion: When the Mongols succeeded in forming a great empire, women also played a role in the administration of the government as much as they had an important position in the tribe. The Mughal era was completely exceptional and unique in terms of women's freedom and dignity in comparison with other eras. In Iran, women did not have the ability and power to the extent of the Mongol era, and they did not participate in government affairs. The wives and daughters of the Mughal sultans had a lot of power and respect, and the first wife of the sultan was more important than his other wives and was involved



in her husband's affairs. The first wives of sultans had the chance to reign at least once in their lifetime. On this occasion, Mongolian women played a great role economically. Even their marriages could have a great effect on their economic interests. As a result, having a daughter was not only considered a shame, but it was very gratifying. On this occasion, mothers enjoyed a high position and a lot of respect, especially the first wives of Mongol men enjoyed more honor and respect, and their children also received more respect. The laws of Yasa were also a seal of approval on this importance, respect, influence and power that was respected by the Mongols. In fact, according to the definitions of sociologists, the Mongols were passing through the era of matriarchy and the women still had a high degree of dignity.

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