



A call for

Iran and Central Asia in the Mirror of Tangible and Intangible Cultural Heritage of Mongol and Ilkhanid Era, alongside of the Silk Road

IPIS (Institute for Political and International Studies)

IICAS (International Institute for Central Asian Studies)

The Mongols and their decedent Il-khanid dynasty were one of the most important rulers in the medieval ages in Asia who ruled in the major parts of Iran, Central Asia and Silk Road during the history of that era. This period is significant in different aspects: the Mongols seized the substantial part of the road by developing China, Central Asia, Iran and Northern Caspian Sea that formed the main part of the Silk Road. Ilkhanate as the established and settled Mongols came to power and ruled Iran and part of Central Asia and Caucasus for about a century. Developments of this period in which Ilkhanate have ruled Iran including the interactions that they had with neighboring lands and people are of great importance.

Embracing “the others” as a concept, has always grabbed attention from different aspects: International, Ethical and Individual. For the history of Iran and Transoxiana, Ilkhanate period was a recognized time span for the acceptance of the other people. A brief study of the era and the situation where embracing the other comes true is worthy of attention for the investigation of tangible and intangible cultural heritage of the time span.

In the meantime, it is important to highlight that the term 'cultural heritage' has also changed content considerably in recent decades. While fragile, intangible cultural heritage is an important factor in maintaining cultural diversity in the face of growing globalization, an understanding of the intangible cultural heritage of different communities helps with intercultural dialogue and encourages mutual respect for other ways of life.

Some examples for the existence of dialogic context during Ilkhanate era include:

- The revolution in the scientific tradition: moving toward apply sciences (astronomy, mathematics and medicine, after a period of devastation, by keeping the consistency among scholars from different geographical locations while having various ideas struggling to pave the way for conditions suitable for the production and recreation of knowledge.

- Scientific cycles and debates: the tradition of hosting scholars without discrimination (religion, ethnicities.). Example: “Ologh Beig cycle” or “Bisonghor school”

- Deconstruction of fixed canons: Scholars’ endeavors to review the fixed traditions and rules, re-organizing dysfunctional ideological cycles, reviving sciences in non-religious branches

- Redefining the concept of “Waqf” : Expanding the range of dividing resources and the benefits of “Waqf” among the scholars of the Silk Road which led to the expansion of knowledge realm, regardless of the geopolitical priorities of the then disperse governments

- Making a context for expanding Art: Restoring Historical Monuments, Traditions and Rituals, Music and Art, Scientific Centers (Observatories, Schools, Art Schools and etc.) on the path of blooming the intangible cultural heritage such as regular scientific, cultural and art cycles

- Holistic view on the world’s history as a complementary document in order to recognize the “Self”: Believing in the fact the “other” can become a way to recognize the “Self”. In this period, the The Jāmi‘ al-tawārikh by Rashid-al-Din Hamadani paved the way for this purpose

- Creating inclusive security: Mongols by establishing governments, lifting borders and accepting the comprehensiveness of governmental territories along with the

Increase of travels paved the way for the dialogues between the West and the East. We can consider the pattern of Globalization indebted to the historical experiences

- Cultural Assimilation without discrimination, and separating beliefs, ethnicity, and etc.
- Role playing of the “Others” without sex discrimination by the emergence of the class of “Khatoons” by examining topics such as: the guardianship of kingdom and government, Waqf by Khatoons, Judicial, Tax Affairs, as well as Revenue Grants and etc.

The Institute for Political and International Studies (IPIS) with the support and cooperation of International Institute for Central Asian Studies (IICAS) organizes the international conference with the participation of researchers in the field of civilization and history. The conference is held on June 1st, 2022 in IPIS (Tehran) observing sanitary protocols regarding Covid-19 pandemic. All interested researchers are asked to submit their articles as soon as possible to the secretariat of this conference in Tehran.

Submission of articles' subjects: 15 of May 2022

The conference is held on June 1st 2022

Venue: IPIS

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