

# Thistles and Thrones: The Fall of the Golden Horde



## Background Guide

# Letter from the Secretary-General and Director General

Hello delegates, advisors, parents, and teachers,

On behalf of us, your Secretary-General Isabella Balbi Masso and Director-General Alexandria Cerini, and all of our Secretariat, we would like to welcome you all to the 37th iteration of the Florida International Model United Nations Conference! This upcoming FIMUN will continue to be held at Florida International University's beautiful Modesto A. Maidique Campus from March 14th to 16th, 2025.

This year we have selected the theme of "Diplomacy in a Divided World," where delegates will be prompted to show diplomacy during challenging and engaging scenarios in a wide variety of General Assembly, Specialized, and Crisis Committees. Both of us originate from opposite sides of the ocean and have seen the division of the world, especially in our modern day. We are strong believers that every person, even young students, have the ability to show diplomacy and change the world. Being able to act with diplomacy in cases of adversity, disadvantage, and injustice is a skill that every person should learn and harness to make the world a better place, not just for themselves but for everyone.

We are working hard to provide every delegate with a committee that they will love, and an unforgettable experience where they will make new friends, learn new skills, and discover the amazing world of Model UN! This year we will be hosting 15 committees each one focusing on a different current, historical, or fantasy issue, with an amazing staff who are prepared to make this FIMUN the best one yet!

We are incredibly honored and excited to welcome you all to our amazing campus and conference this March, and cannot wait to see each and every one of you succeed!

See you soon,

Isabella Balbi Masso and Alexandria Cerini  
Secretary-General and Director-General for FIMUN 37

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# Letter from the Under-Secretary General

Dear Delegates,

My name is Kathy Cuellar and I will be your Under-Secretary-General for Crisis for this iteration of FIMUN 37! I am a senior at Florida International University double Majoring in Politics and International Relations, while working toward certificates in Latin American and Caribbean Studies and National Security Studies. Last year I had the honor of serving as the Director of Delegate Affairs for last year's FIMUN 36 and I am incredibly excited to be serving as your "USG" of Crisis for FIMUN 37! I was born and raised in Miami, Florida, making FIU a natural choice for me to attend and I have not regretted it since! I have been on the FIU Model UN team since Fall of 2023 and as a delegate, I have been able to not only learn new skills but also make new friends. I hope that you can have as much fun participating as we have had in planning these committees!

The FIMUN 37 team has worked extensively to create these exciting and unique committees curated toward delegate learning and enjoyment. As you look through these committees, you might notice that we try to put a little part of the world (and the multiverse) into different committees. This year's selection of the crisis committees starts in 1300 with the Fall of the Golden Horde in Eastern Europe, jumping to the 1530s with the Spanish (but the S is Silent): Court of Charles V, fast forwarding to 1975 to Bet(ting) on Green or Black with the National Security Council on the Angolan Civil War, reconvening with modern times to find where X Marks the Spot with Twitter Board of Directors in 2022, and then jumping into hyperspace to reach the planet of Dune with It's Getting Spicy In Here: The War for Arrakis. As for the ad hoc... well we can't tell you guys yet! All the topics have been selected to take you guys through a journey of problems, cooperation, and solutions to solve the crisis at hand!

As we move closer to FIMUN 37, our secretariat, directors, chairs, and staffers are working hard to make this experience unforgettable and enjoyable! We're all excited to see how you guys plan on making your part and impact in "history!" As we move forward with FIMUN, please remember the importance of these events, as they may deal with sensitive topics and hold much importance (although some may be on the niche side). I am looking forward to seeing the chaos, shenanigans, and brilliance delegates will create in our FIMUN 37 crisis committees! If there are any questions or concerns, please feel free to contact me, your crisis directors and chairs, or the secretariat of FIMUN 37.

~ Best of luck,  
Kathy Cuellar  
kcuel007@fiu.edu  
Under-Secretary-General of Crisis Committees  
Florida International Model United Nations 37

# Letter from the Director

My name is Polina Evdokimova and it is my pleasure to welcome you all to the thirty-seventh iteration of FIMUN! I am glad to be the director of the “Thistles and Thrones: The Fall of the Golden Horde” committee. The thought to create a committee that would hit close to home, but still be a way to explore history has always been in the back of my mind, and now it is coming true!

A bit about myself - I am a junior at FIU. My major is Biochemistry with a Certificate in Human Rights and Political Transitions. I came to the US around 7 years ago, but I went back and forth between two countries spending a year or two in each. My interest in history started with Moscow State’s University historical arts group - “Золотые Леса” (Golden Forests), where I practiced Mounted Archery with a focus on Mongolian shooting and riding style. Here is where my passion for the era came in. After coming to the United States I joined a Debate team at my school and later - the FIU Model UN team, which has been one of the best choices in my life! With this wonderful team, I have traveled throughout the US and explored numerous topics and historical eras, looking at each from different perspectives of times and places.

This committee will address exactly that! “Diplomacy in a Divided World” - each of your characters possesses a unique outlook on how the world should be shaped as the Great Empire weakens. Some of you are descendants of great Khans and wish to see your country staying strong. Some of you are Knyaz s of independent city-states ruling with Jarlig and wishing nothing, but prosperity to your domain. Others of you, have never been conquered and will continue the fight for power over your own domain. Or perhaps, a newly emerged player in the field as Timurid’s empire grows and strengthens. Regardless, a wish for your people to prosper and peace to be over the land is what unites you all.

Your task is to navigate this complex field of interests without losing your power or your people. Diplomacy and wit are your strongest allies, as all of you will start with your own unique cards up your sleeves. Whether you are already a seasoned player or a beginner, I can promise one thing - this committee will be the most unique among all that you have encountered.

Good luck!  
Polina Evdokimova  
pevdo001@fiu.edu

# Letter from the Chair

Dearest Delegates,

I'm honored to welcome you to the Crisis Committee on "Thistles and Thrones: The Fall of the Golden Horde," set in a pivotal moment in the 13th-14th centuries.

My name is Mariyam Temirbayeva, and I am excited to be serving as your Chair for this crisis committee at FIMUN 37. I am currently a junior at Florida International University, majoring in International Relations and pursuing a certificate in International Logistics. My journey with Model UN began during the spring semester of 2024, and I quickly fell in love with the experience. The thrill of debate, the complexity of the topics, and the sense of community were captivating. I am also one of the executive members of the Central Asian Student Association (CASA) at FIU, and I enjoy blending my academic interests with leadership roles.

Originally from Almaty, Kazakhstan, I have a special connection to this committee's topic, as the history of the Golden Horde is closely tied to my own country's past. As you dive into this committee, you'll need more than just a knowledge of complex names and historical facts. You must step into the shoes of khans, nobles, and diplomats of the Golden Horde—leaders who shaped the Eurasian landscape through battle, diplomacy, and strategic alliances. Whether you are defending your borders, forming alliances, or fighting an internal power struggle, you will be faced with the task of protecting your interests and using your influence wisely.

I am eager to witness your creative approach, strategic thinking and negotiating skills. This committee provides a fantastic opportunity to combine historical events with making important decisions. I encourage you to not only focus on your personal goals but also develop a sense of collaboration, community and innovation throughout the sessions.

I can't wait to see what you all bring to the table!

Best of Luck,

Mariyam Temirbayeva

Chair of "Thistles and Thrones: The Fall of the Golden Horde"

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# Sensitivity Statement

FIMUN 37 has a zero tolerance policy on racism, sexism, xenophobia, homophobia, and transphobia. If delegates are found to be engaging in any such actions or rhetoric are open to disqualification from awards.

We ask all delegates to be conscious of the histories and context of their countries or characters for their committees. Many of our committees focus on the stories and topics relating to historically oppressed and marginalized communities and regions. While these committees are simulations, the histories behind them are real, and disrespect towards the histories and existences of people represented in our committees will not be tolerated.

On our website, we have an anonymous report form if delegates encounter such actions. While we hope to avoid the need for such, this form will be checked regularly by our Secretariat to ensure that all delegates at FIMUN 37 can enjoy their weekend comfortably.

# Land Acknowledgement

We acknowledge that our university is located on the ancestral homelands of sovereign Native nations, including the Tequesta, the Calusa, and today, the Seminole Tribe of Florida, and the Miccosukee Tribe of Indians of Florida. We pay our respects to the traditional custodians, the Elders past and present, by fully recognizing Indigenous sovereignty as well as the historical and contemporary relationship between Indigenous peoples and their traditional homelands. It is within our responsibility as an academic institution to uphold knowledge about the history of our institution with the original stewards of this land that we live, learn, and work on. We encourage our delegates to read and learn about ways to support our local Indigenous communities in their efforts to preserve Seminole and Miccosukee land and water rights, cultural practices, and the conservation of the environment.

Consistent with our University's commitment to diversity, equity, and inclusion, FIU is working towards creating an academic environment that is inclusive of Indigenous students, faculty, and staff who have often been rendered invisible due to structural discriminatory practices. At FIU, we hold ourselves accountable to serving local, regional and worldwide Indigenous communities through academic policy-oriented research, education, partnerships, community service, as well as enrollment initiatives to overcome the effects of Indigenous exclusion and erasure in our own academic institution. It is our hope that acknowledging the land helps us to better understand that harm has been done and address the legacies of violence in our communities in order to create a pathway to true healing

# Rules of Procedure

## Motions

### Motion to Open/Resume Debate

Opens the floor for debate. Delegates may now begin to provide further motions.

### Motion to Open Speakers List

Opens the Speakers List, wherein delegates can deliver speeches without a set topic.

### Motion for a Moderated Caucus

Opens a set speakers list for debate on a specified topic. Total time and speaking time must be specified within the motion.

### Motion for an Unmoderated Caucus

Opens time for unregulated working time for delegates to work within their blocs on working papers/draft resolutions/directives.

### Motion for a Round Robin

Opens a Round Robin, where every delegate in the room delivers a speech for a set time without a designated topic. Will start from the delegate that motioned and will either go clockwise or counterclockwise at delegate's discretion.

### Motion for a Gentlemen's Unmoderated/Consultation of the Whole

Similar rules as to a normal Unmoderated Caucus, however all delegates must remain in their seats.

### Motion to Introduce Working Papers/Draft Resolutions/Directives

Opens the floor to begin formal procedure on papers. Order of address if not specified will default to order in which each paper was introduced.

### Authors Panel

Generally motioned for alongside the introduction of Working Papers/Draft Resolutions. Involves a Reading Period for Delegates to read papers, an Introduction where a panel of Delegates present the paper, and a Question and Answer portion, where sponsors of the paper are asked questions by fellow delegates about the paper.

### Motions for For and Against Speeches

Opens a short speakers list where (generally speaking) 2 delegates are called to speak for and against a given working paper/draft resolution/directive.

### Motions to Enter Voting Procedure and Voting Methods

Goes alongside a motion to end debate when in General Assembly and certain Specialized Agencies. Delegates will vote on papers on the floor. If no voting method is specified, committee will default to placard vote.

Placard vote operates the same way as votes for procedural matters. Delegates raise their placards to vote For, Against, or to Abstain if they stated they were Present.

Roll Call vote will have the chair call Roll Call once more, and when delegates are called they will state whether they vote For, Against, or if they Abstain.

Votes by Acclimation involves calling for general consensus, where the paper will pass unless anyone votes Against. Then placard vote is in order.

## Points

### Point of Inquiry

General question regarding committee or the conference

### Point of Order

Question or correction regarding parliamentary procedures

### Point of Personal Privilege

Personal request unrelated to committee. (e.g temperature in the room or seating issue)



### **What is a Crisis Committee?**

Crisis committees are dynamic committees that differ substantially from your typical General Assembly. You might be asking yourself, what exactly is this difference? The difference is that, unlike in General Assemblies, where everything is taking place in one setting (your committee room), there are “two rooms” in a crisis committee. One room, which is your committee room, is where you will be debating on recurring issues plaguing the committee and its “setting.” The other room consists of your crisis director and their staffers, where they are responding to the committee’s crisis notes and engendering crisis updates, which can either be delegate or staff driven. Delegates are welcome to prepare not only a public policy but also a composition of their own private interests to pursue through personal notes to the crisis staffers.

### **How do I begin to prepare for a crisis committee?**

There are many ways you, the delegate, can prepare for a crisis committee. However, for the purpose of this guide, a standard that is generally widely used by delegates will be written here for your convenience. To start, reading your committee’s background guide written by your crisis directors will help you get a kickstart on your preparation efforts. The background guide, while it gives plenty of context to your topic, should not be the only research you bring to the conference. Rather, it should be giving you an idea as to how you would want to research for your committee. Not just for historical context, but also for your crisis arcs, speeches, and directives.

### **What is a Crisis Arc?**

A crisis arc is the story that you are going to be writing to your crisis staff through crisis notes. Crisis arcs are the most integral aspect of your research and preparation for a crisis committee. They consist of every single idea that you plan on showcasing to your crisis staff through your crisis notes in order to influence your committee. When crafting a crisis arc, you should keep it secret from every other delegate in your committee, even if they ask! The best crisis arcs are typically the most creative and most detailed. As a result, these arcs will be the most likely to be brought to the committee’s attention by your crisis staff. Think of making a crisis arc like you’re writing a story or a movie script. This plan is top secret and will allow you to pursue personal interests and ulterior motives to impact your committee room.

### What is a Crisis Note?

A crisis note is what you write to your crisis staff in order to influence action in your committee. Crisis notes should be written with some form of action. The better prepared your crisis arc is, the better your crisis notes will be in regards to the action(s) you want to take behind the scenes. Your crisis notes should be kept “secret” from other 2 delegates in your committee, unless you are collaborating with another delegate to influence action in the committee. The more detailed your crisis notes are, the more likely you are to get a crisis update from your crisis staff. Like the aforementioned crisis arc-story analogy, think of your crisis notes as the chapters to your story (crisis arc).

### What is expected of the committee?

A crisis committee is very atypical in conflation with a General Assembly, but it is still a very fun experience that you will soon come to embrace! When you walk into committee, you are expected to be ready to debate on pressing issues and write crisis notes! Prior to the start of committee, the chair and crisis director will give you their specific expectations. The crisis director and their staff will walk into the committee to give the first crisis update. Afterwards, the crisis staff will return to the crisis room, and the chair will take a roll call, then will look for motions to, usually, discuss the crisis update in a moderated caucus, or your own unique motion! Once committee officially starts, you are expected to either be debating about finding a solution via a directive, or composing your top secret crisis note, which will be collected by your crisis staff.

### What is a Crisis Room?

The crisis room is where your crisis staff will be for the majority of the conference. Unless it’s under a circumstance where someone from the crisis staff and or the crisis director wants/needs some clarification on a crisis note, delegates are not allowed to be in this room. In this room, the crisis staff will be responding to crisis notes. As these crisis notes are responded to, the crisis director will choose the best of the actions in the round of notes to incorporate into a crisis update

### What is a Directive?

A directive is the resolution that you are deriving in response to the crisis update. Directives are basically General Assembly resolutions, except that they are much more 3 concise and to the point. In a moderated caucus, you are discussing the ideas that you have in your directive that you feel would be best to solve the problems given in the crisis update. When comprising the directive, feel free to give it a creative name! In an unmoderated caucus, you are meeting with the other delegates in your committee to merge these directives, especially if your fellow delegates had a similar idea to yours. Once these directives are merged, you would read through each and vote for them just as you would a General Assembly resolution. It is also worth noting that the best directives are usually incorporated in crisis updates by the crisis director.

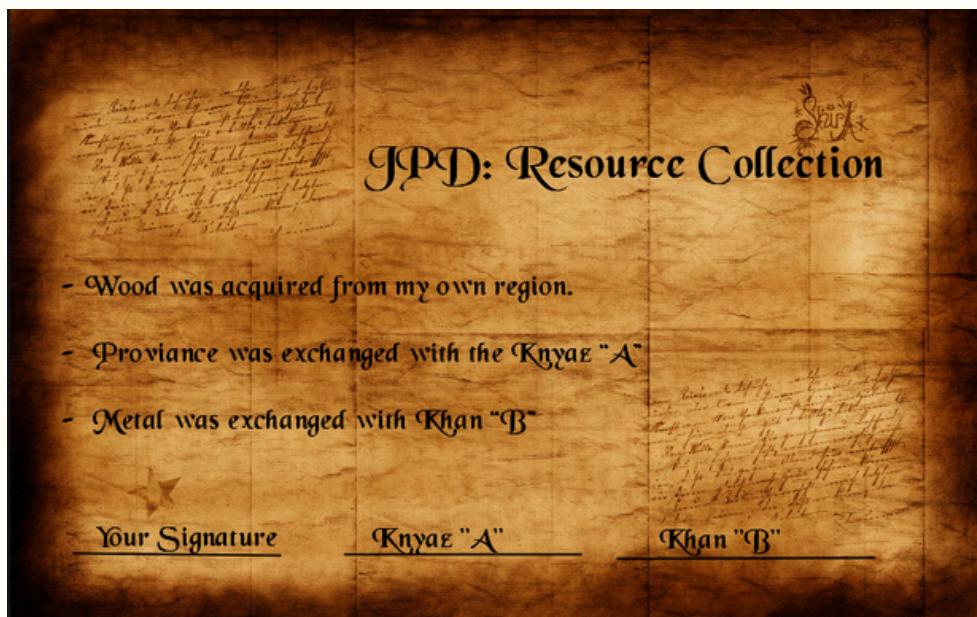
# Frontroom Procedures

Delegates must have a 50% majority vote to pass a motion unless it is a motion to suspend the rules; in that case, a supermajority is required. To pass directives, delegates must also have a 50% majority. The debate will primarily consist of round robins, moderated caucuses, and unmoderated caucuses, as well as voting periods when the need arises. Delegates will be expected to create directives in response to crisis updates, which will be given periodically throughout the weekend. Dias may specify a limit on the number of directives submitted, or other substantive restrictions (such as a sponsor minimum or a page cap).

# Backroom Procedures

This committee will utilize standard backroom procedures (the two-notepad system and the use of standard JPDs). However, a new mechanic is being introduced. By the end of every session, each delegate will have to collect three resources through the use of JPDs: Provisions, Metal, and Wood. Those resource-collection JPDs should be signed and turned in to the Chair by the end of every session. Every delegate will have one resource available to them by default, depending on the region under their rule (this will be specified in your character's card). The other two resources should be collected through collaboration with other members, utilizing those specific JPDs, with one JPD per delegate.

Example: Wood was acquired from my own region. Proviance was exchanged with the Knyaz "A" and Metal was exchanged with Khan "B" with your and their signatures on it.



Failure to ensure resources for your region by the end of the session will result in “revolt” in your region and will limit your ability to use some of your power. Failure to collect resources twice in a row will result in front-room consequences (leaking of information, inability to use the army, etc.)

If a crisis arc is not being advanced due to innumerable reasons including relevance or inappropriateness, the crisis staffer will respond in a way that guides the delegate in an alternative direction. Big enough issues will result in either the staffer breaking the “fourth wall” or the delegate being pulled aside. Staffers and the Director will be happy to explain why the arc was steered away from during feedback sessions. While crisis arcs typically do not always directly relate to what’s going on in the committee, we ask that there is some relevance to the topics discussed in the main room or there is an indication of arc progression depending on the resolutions passed or topics debated.

Some large and/or significant JPDs may even be included in crisis updates. For directives, in collaboration with the dais, the backroom staff has the authority to determine whether a directive actually solves the crisis at hand. We ask that for these documents - if responding to a crisis update - you address the issue at hand in the “first clauses and then go into your less relevant and arc-advancing ideas. If a directive does not solve the crisis at hand, it will be denied, and the situation established in the update will remain.

# Additional Information

Additionally, to the information provided in the Background guide in regards to your character and region, each delegate will receive a card with their own personal knowledge of other delegates' characters, region's specifics, connections to the characters present in the committee, etc. It is highly encouraged to use this in the backroom and may be used in the front room as well.

# Content Sensitivity

While we understand that the time setting of the committee is not a timid one, we highly discourage delegates from using extreme violence in their backroom and front room. Here are some, not all, possible sensitive topics that often surface in committees such as this one, including within this background guide. You should make an effort to be mindful of these while preparing your arc, speaking in committee, and writing your notes, directives, and JPDs:

- Gendered violence and discrimination
- Discrimination on the basis of race, class, religion sexual orientation, gender identity, or other factors of a person's identity
- Severe political violence, such as ethnic cleansing and/or genocide

# Historical Accuracy

While we would like to stay historically accurate, we do not discourage delegates from taking creative freedom when working on their arc. Moreover, this time in history is called “Былинным” (rooted in legends, in need to be believed in) not for its clarity and our deep knowledge and understanding, therefore a lot of information even to this time is a subject of debate. However, we would discourage delegates from a few things. First - using religious movements or political movements outside the region (Think clearly, how could this religion reach this place? If you need more than 3 lucky historical events, I would discourage you from its use. If you would like a cult or religion-based arc - I highly encourage you to use niche movements that appeared during this time or root a new religion in these movements). Second - technology, we encourage a creative approach to inventions in the arcs, but not too far, as it is the 13th century. You can do a jump from a sword to a trebuchet, but not from a sword to a plane. In regards to other creative approaches, such as magic and mythology - anything that may be relevant to history, beliefs, mythology, or traditions of the regions touched in this committee is permitted to be used. Example: You can't create a fireball-casting wizard, but can utilize Veles, the god of hunt and forests, to spy on your enemies.

Small remark: There is a funny saying in Russian “В Рязане грибы с глазами. Их едят, а они глядят”. “There are mushrooms with eyes in Ryazan. While they're being eaten, they're watching”. The roots of this joke is that Pereyaslavl-Ryazansky was one of the closest routes to Moscow, and the presence of the Horde invaders in the surrounding forests could be traced by the degree of gobbling and trampling of mushrooms in the border areas, in which their collection was strictly prohibited, so the Ryazan mushroom acquired the qualities of a frontier scout, from whose watchful eyes The Horde invader will not hide. If you mix this kind of niche knowledge with a god, cult, or magic - your humble Director will be incredibly happy.





# Introduction to the Committee

In the 1360s, the Golden Horde entered a period of significant political instability known as the "Great Troubles." After the death of Khan Berdibek in 1359, a fierce struggle for power began, which led to the division of the Horde into many factions and temporary alliances. Victory is currently held by Mamai Han. But for how long remains a question, as support for Tokhtamysh is growing in the region and beyond it, with Tamerlan's army at his aid. However, the ambitions of the Timurid Empire are also growing, and for how long they will remain supporters of Tokhtamysh is unknown. At the same time, in the west, Moscow and other Ruthenia principalities were also experiencing a period of internal strife and external threats. Highly divided, by their political and diplomatic affiliations, they struggle to remain in power. During this period, there were numerous internecine strife, power struggles, and territorial conflicts that determined the political picture of the region. Ruthenia was divided into many principalities and republics, each of which sought to strengthen its independence and expand its territories.

## Historical Background

### Background: The rise of the Golden Horde in XXII-XXIII Centuries

In the late XII — early XIII centuries, the Mongol commander Temujin (1155 or 1162-1227) conquered vast territories, from the Sea of Japan in the east to the Caspian Sea in the west, and assumed the title Genghis Khan ("khan of the great"). His sons continued their conquests, and soon the Mongol Empire became the largest continental state in the history of mankind. It united Central Asia, Southern Siberia, China, Tibet, the Middle East, and part of Eastern Europe.







Shortly before his death, Genghis Khan divided the empire between his sons and bequeathed them to conquer the whole world. The richest territories in the northeast went to the eldest son of the great khan, Jochi. His ulus included the south of the East European Plain and the western part of the Eurasian steppe. Later, this territory became known as the Golden Horde.

Khan Jochi did not rule his ulus for long. Then his son Batu, who was called Batu in the Russian lands, took power. From the early 1220s to the first half of the 1240s, he made several conquests to the west. The Horde included the Southern Urals, the North Caucasus, the Volga region, and the Crimea, the Knyazestva of Ruthenia were included in the Horde under a system of Yarliks.

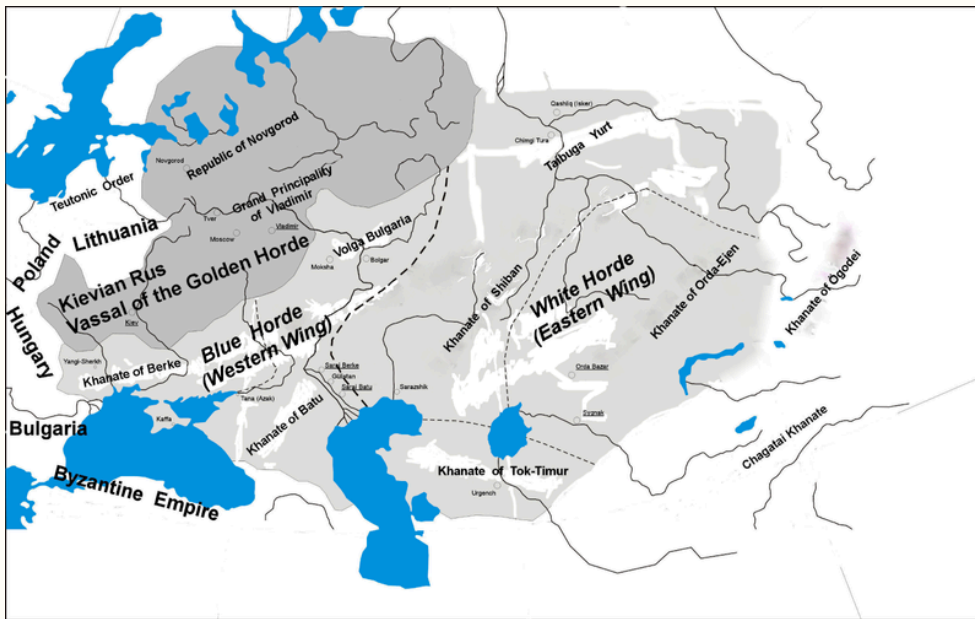


## History of the Golden Horde

Shortly before his death, Genghis Khan divided the empire between his sons and bequeathed them to conquer the whole world. The richest territories in the northeast went to the eldest son of the great khan, Jochi. His ulus included the south of the East European Plain and the western part of the Eurasian steppe. Later, this territory became known as the Golden Horde. Khan Jochi did not rule his ulus for long. Then his son Batu, who was called Batu in the Russian lands, took power. From the early 1220s to the first half of the 1240s, he made several conquests to the west. The Horde included the Southern Urals, the North Caucasus, the Volga region, and the Crimea, the Knyazestva of Ruthenia were included in the Horde under a system of Yarliks.



The Golden Horde consisted of many parts. Uluses and Knyazestv that were in vassalage. The Mongol-Tatar invasion and the yoke of the Golden Horde, which followed the invasion, played a huge role in the formation of many governmental systems of Ruthenia. Ruthenia is a collection of Knyazestv (principalities) and city-states in Eastern Europe (Western Russia, Ukraine, Belarus).



The Khan's power was unlimited. In the khan's entourage, in addition to members of his house (sons, brothers, and nephews), there were large representatives of the Golden Horde nobility - beg (Noyans). Beklyare-bek was in charge of state affairs, and the vezirs were in charge of certain branches of power. To cities and regions (uluses) Darugs were sent out, whose main duty was to collect taxes. Along with the Darugs, Basque military leaders were appointed. The state structure of the Horde was of a paramilitary nature. The most important positions were held by members of the ruling dynasty (oglan), who owned land in the Golden Horde and were at the head of the army. From among the begs (noyans) came the main command personnel of the army.

The Horde was founded on very conveniently located lands: the highway of the ancient caravan trade ran here, and from here it was closer to other Mongolian states. Merchants from distant Egypt, Central Asia, the Caucasus, Crimea, Volga Bulgaria, Western Europe, and India came to Sarai Batu with their goods. The Khans encouraged the development of trade and crafts. Cities were built on the banks of the Volga, Yaik (Ural), Crimea and other territories.

The population of the Horde represented a wide variety of nationalities and beliefs. From traditional shamanism (Tengrianism), Buddhism of the Sakya tradition, Siberian Shamanism, Ural Shamanism, and Slavic Pagan beliefs to Islam and Orthodoxy. The Mongol conquerors did not constitute the majority of the population. They disappeared into the mass of the conquered peoples, mainly of Turkic origin, primarily the Kipchaks. The most important thing was that the cultural strip on the Lower Volga turned out to be so close to the steppe that sedentary and nomadic farming were easily combined here. The main population of the cities and the steppe remained the Polovtsians. There was also a feudal law in the steppe - all the land belonged to the feudal lord, to whom ordinary nomads obeyed.

## Golden Horde Conquest of the West

The main reason was the disunity of the region. The Ruthenian army consisted of Druzini (small armies) of each individual Knyaz. The Druzini were small detachments of 100 to 1000 warriors. Although each squad was well armed, it was subordinate to its own separate Knyaz, and could not stand up to a well-formed and coordinated Mongolian army on its own. The fragmentation of the principalities was based on political (Monarchical rule, Primitive Democracy, etc.), religious (Orthodox Faith, Polytheism, etc.), or personal preferences of the Knyaz (personal hostility to each other) was the main reason for the fall of part of Ruthuenia under Mongol rule.

Ruthenian princes had to come to the khan's headquarters for a yarlik confirming their Knyazev power, sometimes they lived there for a long time, not always of their own free will. Here they brought tribute, the so-called "Horde exit", and rich gifts to the Horde nobles. Ruthenian Knyaz' with their entourage, Ruthenian merchants, and numerous Ruthenian artisans made up an extensive community in Sarai. Therefore, back in 1261, a special Sarai Orthodox bishopric was established. There was also an Orthodox church in Sarai.

In the 1360s, the Golden Horde entered a period of significant political instability known as the "Great Troubles." After the death of Khan Berdibek in 1359, a fierce struggle for power began, which led to the division of the Horde into many factions and temporary alliances. Victory is temporarily held by Mamai Han, but only formally. His power is quickly dismantling, as support for Tokhtamysh is growing in the region and beyond it, with Tamerlan's army at his aid and Ruthenian Knyaz's attempts at leaving the Golden Horde and starting their own conquests of each other and lands beyond. The ambitions of the Timurid Empire are also growing, and for how long they will remain supporters of Tokhtamysh is unknown. Moscow and other Ruthenia principalities are also experiencing a period of internal strife and external threats. Highly divided, by their political and diplomatic affiliations, they struggle to remain in power. During this period, there were numerous internecine strife, power struggles, and territorial conflicts that determined the political picture of the region. Ruthenia was divided into many principalities and republics, each of which sought to strengthen its independence and expand its .

territories, same ambitions were shared by Ulus rulers as weakened Mamai's power meant a chance for them to stand at the head of the Empire.

## Current situation

This committee is convened to decide the fate of diplomatic and trade relations inside and outside the horde. Everyone at this meeting is involved in the politics and external relations of the horde in one way or another. Whether you are khans of uluses, princes who came in with for their labels, rulers of republics that control trade routes, or clergy ruling with labels. The fate of the horde depends on your relationships as much as on your personal power. The fate of the state is not always decided by the army and the leader, as diplomacy and trade are an integral part of a healthy government.

During this time, you all will be faced with the main idea of "Diplomacy in the Divided world". In the time of the great divide, how does one maintain the balance between their personal power and gain, the good of their people, and their relationship with the outside world? Especially, when there are external and internal threats present. Maintaining a principality, whether it is an ulus, a democratic state, or an entire empire - is hard. You may be phased by revolts, internal struggle, and natural and unpredictable catastrophes in the lands under your rule. While still facing internal threats, whether physical or political. Delegates will need to find balance, and a delicate approach, while answering to themselves, what is the meaning of diplomacy and power.

In this period of extreme volatility, delegates must negotiate interactions between resource management, military strategy, and diplomacy. Opportunities for both power consolidation and fragmentation come from a power vacuum, thus each delegate must carefully evaluate how they will shape the future of the Golden Horde and adjust their strategy accordingly. While making quick decisions and forming coalitions within the committee, Delegates will have to strike a careful balance between advancing their own interests and the larger political environment since too assertive behavior runs the risk of inciting uprisings within or beyond their personal regions.

# Current Governmental Systems

## The Horde's Ulus system

The Golden Horde's ulus system was an administrative and territorial division of a vast empire into large possessions known as ulus. This system was introduced after the conquests of Genghis Khan and his descendants and was applied to the Jochi Ulus, which became the core of the Golden Horde. The ulus system was typical of the nomadic empires of that time, where each part of the empire was ruled by

representatives of the ruling dynasty, usually the sons or closest relatives of the founder.

Each ulus was ruled by a Khan or Bek, who had considerable autonomy, but at the same time was obliged to obey the supreme authority of the main Khan. The Golden Horde's ulus system included several key territorial units, such as Ak Orda, Kok Orda, and Boz Orda. Ak Horde (Orda) was the central part, Kok Horde (Orda) was located in the east, and Boz Horde was in the west. These hordes represented not only geographical regions but also wings (right and left) of the empire's political and military structure.

The main uluses had their own armies, rulers, and a tax collection system, which allowed them to effectively manage their territories. However, the main decisions were made at Kurultai meetings, where the most important state issues were discussed. Topics of Kurultai meetings would include internal issues and instability, conquest plans, change of power, raise or lowering taxes in certain regions. This structure allowed the Golden Horde to maintain control over vast territories, despite its nomadic nature and the vast distance between different parts of the empire.

The ulus system was an important part of the political stability of the Golden Horde, as it provided the autonomy needed to rule and manage vast regions. However, over time it became the cause of fragmentation and weakening of power, especially during the Great Troubles period. Various rulers of the ulus began to fight for autonomy, which eventually led to the collapse of the Golden Horde.

## The system of Yarlik's (Labels)

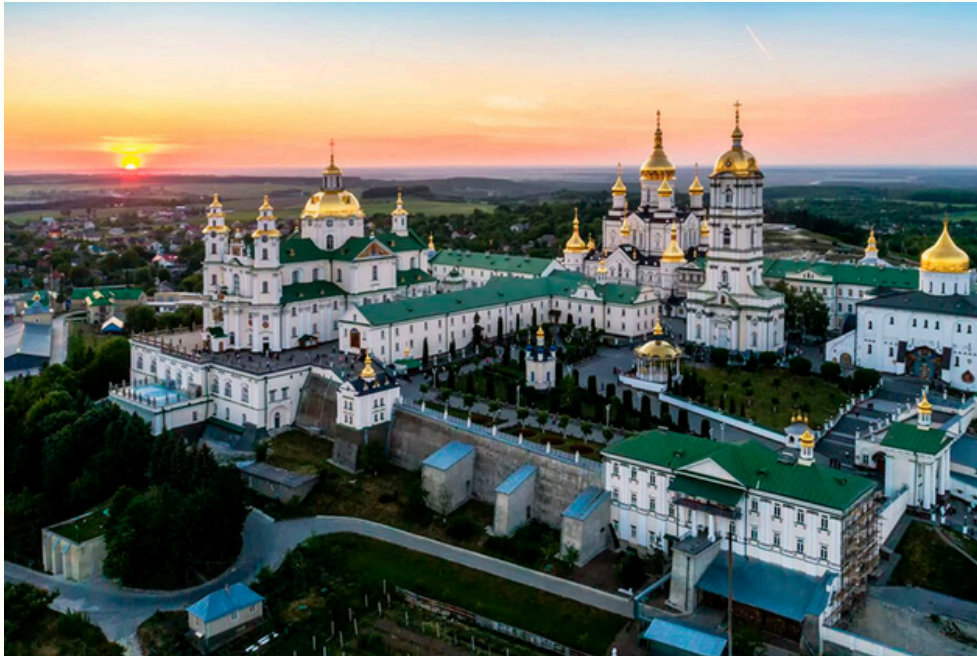
The label system in the Golden Horde is a system of decrees, charters, and documents issued by the Khans, which regulated important legal and administrative issues. Yralik were issued to both internal persons (government officials, officials) and external entities (for example, religious organizations or other states). Yralik could confirm land management rights, exempt from taxes, and establish trade and diplomatic relations. These were acts that ensured the stability of governance and regulated relations between the Khan and his subjects. The Yralik secured the rights to certain territories and privileges for the nobility and clergy.

One of the main examples of Yralik is the issuance of documents to the Orthodox Church, exempting it from taxes and other duties. Such certificates were an important management tool in the multinational and multi-confessional Golden Horde. Orthodox Church was not the only religious organization that would receive a Yarlik. Orthodoxy Church would just more often have to receive it due to its militarized nature, as it consists of monasteries with Prior (bishops) at their head. Most monasteries were militarized and were fortresses holding an important geographical position. Different monasteries could disagree with each other and support one Knyaz over the other, providing verbal or military support to them.





However, any other militarized religion would have to gain a Yarlik.





The yralik issued to the Knyazy's of Ruthuenia was an important tool for the Golden Horde's control over its principalities. These documents granted the Knyaz the right to manage their lands on behalf of the Khan and confirmed their legitimacy as rulers. Receiving the label meant that the Knyaz recognized the supreme authority of the Golden Horde and pledged to pay tribute, as well as provide military support to the Khan.

The process of getting the Yarlik was complicated. The Knyazs had to personally go to the Horde to confirm their rights to the throne, often with rich gifts for the khan and his entourage. This made the Knyazs dependent on the Horde power and increased the influence of the Horde on the internal affairs of the Russian principalities. With the help of yralik, the khan could regulate conflicts between Knyazs and resolve disputes over the right to the throne. Sometimes the Khans deliberately fomented conflicts between Knyazs in order to weaken them and strengthen control over the regions. In exchange for the label, the Knyazs were obliged not only to pay tribute but also to comply with the laws and orders of the Horde.

Thus, the yralik on the board played a key role in maintaining the influence of the Golden Horde over the Russian principalities, controlling their internal politics, and ensuring the loyalty of the princes.

## Timurid Empire and Tamerlan

Tamerlane, or Timur, became one of the most powerful conquerors of his time. At first, he supported Tokhtamysh in his conquest against Mamai in order to destabilize the Golden Horde. However, soon his ambitions grew, and he sought to expand his empire to the West. Later he undertook campaigns against Tokhtamysh three times, dealing devastating blows to the Golden Horde and undermining its power.

The Timurid Empire included modern Iran, the Caucasus, Mesopotamia, Afghanistan, most of Central Asia, as well as parts of modern Pakistan and Syria. According to a number of sources, the Timurid dynasty is of Turkic-Mongolian origin. The dominant religion was Islam.



## Internal strife and Struggle for Influence in Ruthenia

Each principality sought to maintain its independence and increase its influence. The Knyaz of Moscow Dmitry Donskoy actively fought for the unification of Ruthenian lands under the rule of Moscow. However, other Knyazs, such as Oleg Ivanovich Ryazansky and Mikhail Alexandrovich Tverskoy, sought to preserve their autonomy and used external alliances to achieve their goals. Prince Vytautas of Lithuania, supporting Tokhtamysh, also sought to weaken Moscow's influence and strengthen his position. While Novgorod Knyazstvo (Republic of Novgorod), while being similar to a principality, operated in a primitive democratic system and sought to preserve its neutrality in most questions and avoid falling under the influence of inside and outside forces.

# Character List

## Tokhtamysh Khan of the Golden Horde

Tokhtamysh is an ambitious claimant to the throne of the Golden Horde. He is a descendant of Horde-Ezhen from the Genghisid family, which strengthens his claims to power. He uses the support of Tamerlane, the current ruler of the Timurid Empire, who provides him with resources and troops to fight against his enemies. One of these enemies is Mamai, whose position weakens after the Battle of Kulikovo. Tokhtamysh relies on the support of the regional nobility, seeking to unite the lands of the Horde under his rule. As a faithful Muslim, he follows religious principles, integrating them into his political strategy and asserting the legitimacy of his rule. His determination, charisma, and vision of restoring the greatness of the Golden Horde make him a key figure in the ongoing political struggle.

## Tamerlane (Timur)

He is an ambitious military leader and emir, rapidly expanding his influence in Central Asia. His power concentrates in Maverannahr (the region between the Amu Darya and Syr Darya rivers), where he systematically strengthens his state through reforms and military campaigns. He maintains strategic alliances and actively uses dynastic marriages to solidify his authority. Tamerlane engages in conflicts with neighboring rulers, including the Mughal emirs, and actively prepares his army for new conquests. His rule is marked by strict centralization and the application of Mongolian legal traditions (Yasa). During this time, he works to consolidate his control over key trade routes, transforming Samarkand into the political and economic heart of the region.

## Dmitry Donskoy

Dmitry Ivanovich Donskoy, Knyaz of Moscow and Vladimir, actively strengthens the Moscow Principality, expanding its influence over Ruthenia. As Tokhtamysh rises in power, Dmitry focuses on recovering from the Battle of Kulikovo in 1380, where his army achieved a significant victory over Mamai's troops, weakening the Golden Horde's influence on the Ruthenian principalities. He works to fortify Moscow's defenses, anticipating possible retaliatory actions from the Horde or Tokhtamysh. Dmitry engages in negotiations with other Knyazs of Ruthenia, aiming to establish a unified defensive coalition, and strengthens internal structures, including religious and economic systems, to ensure the stability and resilience of his principality.

## Jagiello Olgerdovich (Knyaz of Lithuania)

Jagiello Olgerdovich, Grand Knyaz of Lithuania, is in the process of consolidating power in the Grand Knyazestvo of Lithuania. Recently ascending to power, Jagiello faces internal challenges and external threats from the Moscow Principality. Strategically positioning himself, he actively seeks opportunities to form alliances, which will eventually lead to the Kreva Union. His policy focuses on expanding the principality's territories, integrating Ruthenian lands, and countering Mongolian influence in the region. At this time, he faces a critical decision—whether to ally with the Moscow Principality to oppose the Horde or with the Horde to resist Moscow's growing power.

## Oleg II of Ryazan (Knyaz of Ryazan)

The Knyaz of Ryazan, Oleg, is known for his pragmatic policy and skillful maneuvering between the Golden Horde and the Moscow Principality. He plays a crucial role in maintaining the independence of the Ryazan Principality. Oleg's policy is marked by frequent shifts in alliances, allowing Ryazan to avoid complete subjugation to more powerful neighbors. He did not support Moscow during the Battle of Kulikovo in 1380, likely due to fears of retaliation from Mamai and a desire to preserve relations with the Horde. Following Mamai's defeat, Oleg establishes contact with Tokhtamysh, who claims the throne of the Horde, thereby strengthening his position in the evolving geopolitical landscape.

## Shadibek Khan

A representative of the Jochid family, Shadibek occupies a key position in the political system of the late Golden Horde period. He claims leadership in the Jochi Ulus and works to consolidate power and resist the fragmentation of the state. Advocating for the preservation of Golden Horde statehood and its unity, he faces significant opposition from within the dynasty and external threats. Shadibek actively navigates the complex political landscape, maneuvering between the main factions, including the Orduids and the Tuqatimurids, to maintain influence and assert his authority.

## Vladimir Olgerdovich

The Knyaz of Kiev, Vladimir, the son of Grand Knyaz Algirdas Gediminovich of Lithuania, actively participates in the political life of Eastern Europe in the 14th century. Following his father's death in 1377, Vladimir inherits the Principality of Kiev, becoming a pivotal figure in strengthening Lithuanian influence in Ruthenia. While maintaining close ties with the Grand Duchy of Lithuania, he strives to preserve the autonomy of the Principality of Kiev. Positioned at the crossroads of Lithuanian and Golden Horde influence, Vladimir skillfully maneuvers between these powers, avoiding direct confrontation with the Horde khans. His diplomatic strategies include forging alliances with

neighboring Ruthenian Knyazs and managing careful relations with Moscow, particularly amid the instability in the Horde and the rise of Tokhtamysh.

## Cyprian (Metropolitan of Kiev)

The Metropolitan of Kiev, Lithuania, and all Ruthenia, Cyprian, was born in Tarnovo, Bulgaria, around 1330. He began his monastic career at the Kilifarevsky Monastery under the guidance of Theodosius Tarnovsky and later continued his ministry in Constantinople and on Mount Athos. In 1375, Patriarch Philotheos of Constantinople appointed Cyprian as Metropolitan of Kiev, Ruthenia, and Lithuania, with the mandate to unite all Ruthenian lands under his leadership after the death of Metropolitan Alexy. Following Alexy's death in 1378, Cyprian encountered resistance from Moscow Knyaz Dmitry Donskoy, who unilaterally appointed Pimen and later Dionysius as metropolitan candidates without Constantinople's consent. It was not until 1389 that Patriarch Anthony IV officially recognized Cyprian as the sole Metropolitan of Kiev and all Ruthenia, marking a significant step toward church unification. Cyprian actively corrected and translated liturgical books, working tirelessly to promote unity and strengthen Orthodoxy across Ruthenia.

## Khagan Bek

A representative of the Shibaniid branch of the Jochid dynasty, rises to power during the turbulent "Great Zamyatni" period. In 1375, he seizes the capital, Sarai, and proclaims himself khan amidst ongoing political instability. His reign is marked by a fierce power struggle with other claimants to the throne, including Muhammad Bulak and Urus Khan. Following his death in 1377, his son, Arab Shah Muzaffar, succeeds him, continuing the legacy of the Shibaniid lineage during a time of significant internal discord within the Golden Horde.

## Qamar-ud-din Khan Dughlat

An emir of Moghulistan from the Dughlats family, Qamar al-Din usurps power in 1366, establishing himself as a central figure in the region's politics. He actively fights for control over various territories, particularly focusing on consolidating influence along the borders of the Jochi Ulus. His political career is defined by clashes with Tamerlane and participation in conflicts against Tokhtamysh, whom he opposes as a leader of a coalition alongside other steppe rulers, including Hadji Circassian. While Qamar al-Din upholds nomadic military traditions, his efforts are often hindered by internal disputes and the fragmentation of regional alliances, complicating his quest for dominance in Moghulistan.

## Simeon Lugven (Knyaz of Novgorod)

The Knyaz of Novgorod, Simeon, is the son of Lithuanian Knyaz Lugveny Olgerdovich and a member of the Gediminovich dynasty. His rise to power in Novgorod occurs amidst the complex dynamics

between the Grand Duchy of Lithuania and the Novgorod Republic, which strives to maintain its autonomy by balancing relations with Lithuania and Moscow. Under his leadership, Novgorod strengthens its economic ties with European trade centers, further solidified by its active participation in the Hanseatic League. Simeon's political efforts focus on consolidating control over the Novgorod boyars and maintaining a delicate balance of power between Moscow, Lithuania, and the Golden Horde. During this time, Novgorod continues to operate under a Yarlik granted by the Horde, though signs of increasing isolation and the rising influence of the Moscow Principality begin to emerge.

## Mohammed Khan

The Knyaz of Novgorod, Simeon, is the son of Lithuanian Knyaz Lugveny Olgerdovich and a member of the Gediminovich dynasty. His rise to power in Novgorod occurred amidst the complex dynamics between the Grand Duchy of Lithuania and the Novgorod Republic, which strives to maintain its autonomy by balancing relations with Lithuania and Moscow. Under his leadership, Novgorod strengthened its economic ties with European trade centers, further solidified by its active participation in the Hanseatic League. Simeon's political efforts focus on consolidating control over the Novgorod boyars and maintaining a delicate balance of power between Moscow, Lithuania, and the Golden Horde. During this time, Novgorod continued to operate under a Yarlik granted by the Horde, though signs of increasing isolation and the rising influence of the Moscow Principality began to emerge.

## Arab Shah

A Shibanid and Khan of the Golden Horde, Arapsha emerges as a dangerous leader during the era of the "Great Troubles." His ambitions are fueled by cunning, ferocity, and military acumen, making him both a formidable adversary and a potential ally to those who can secure his trust. Arapsha controls a mint in Barn, issuing coins that symbolize his authority, and leads an active military campaign marked by the infamous "Drunken Massacre" and raids on Ruthenian territories. His relationship with Mamai remains ambiguous; he is viewed alternately as an ally or a covert rival, poised to exploit opportunities to his advantage. Arapsha's personal entourage serves as both a source of strength and a potential vulnerability, while his connections to the future rulers of the Khiva and Bukhara khanates enhance his political significance. A master of intrigue and warfare, Arapsha's every move presents hidden opportunities and risks for those who engage with him.

## Kurchuk

A talented and strategically adept military commander under Tamerlane, Kurchuk is both a crucial ally and a subtle threat. His transition to Tamerlane's service following the devastation of the Golden Horde leaves him shadowed by accusations of betrayal, straining his relationships with other generals. Renowned for his exceptional skill in troop management and his ability to adapt swiftly on the



battlefield, Kurchuk is a formidable opponent. However, his loyalty is a constant source of doubt, fueled by rumors of clandestine negotiations with nomadic tribes, which further amplify suspicions. Kurchuk masterfully weaves a web of intrigue, bolstering Tamerlane's position while safeguarding his own interests. He is the shadowy figure capable of strengthening or destabilizing any side of the conflict, embodying both opportunity and danger.

## Yury of Smolensk

The Knyaz of the Rurikovich family, Yuri, stands as a controversial figure during the era of fragmentation. As the ruler of Smolensk, he maneuvers between powerful external forces—the Grand Duchy of Lithuania, the Golden Horde, and the Moscow Principality. His vassal status under the Horde makes him a necessary yet unreliable ally for other Ruthenian Knyazs. Known for his pragmatic and flexible political approach, Yuri frequently forges alliances to bolster his personal power, often at the expense of Smolensk's long-term interests. Rumors of his favoritism toward Horde merchants and his excessively harsh collection of tribute for the Horde erode his popularity among his own people. Perceived as a figure willing to shift allegiances whenever it serves his goals, Yuri becomes a particularly intriguing player in the intricate political landscape of his time.

## Umar Shaikh Mirza I

A representative of the Timurid dynasty and the youngest son of Tamerlane, Umar Sheikh Mirza plays a crucial role in managing his father's vast territories before focusing his efforts on consolidating power in the Golden Horde. Renowned for his strict policies and unwavering loyalty to Tamerlane, he serves as a governor and military commander in strategically significant regions. His activities include fortifying the dynasty's control over its territories and effectively suppressing uprisings. Known for his political acumen and firm governance, Umar Sheikh Mirza's actions help solidify the Timurid dynasty's influence in Central Asia, laying a strong foundation for its continued dominance.

## Kara-Murza

Kara-Murza, a prominent figure in the period preceding Tokhtamysh's rise to leadership in the Golden Horde, stands out as a key political actor in the White Horde. Born of a Ruthenian-Tatar union and a cousin of Tokhtamysh, his familial ties position him as a pivotal player in the region's complex power dynamics. Educated within the Order, Kara-Murza's fluency in Ruthenian, Tatar, Arabic, and Persian establishes him as an exceptional diplomat. Actively involved in the internecine conflicts of the Horde, he supports Tokhtamysh's faction while working to expand their influence. In alliance with Khan Azizkhoja, Kara-Murza becomes a trusted figure in political matters, including negotiations with Ruthenian Knyazs, further solidifying his importance in the shifting alliances of the era.

## Hadji Circassian

Hadji Circassian, a key figure in the late Golden Horde period before Tokhtamysh's ascent, serves as the khan of Hadji Tarkhan (modern Astrakhan) during a time of significant political turmoil. Governing amid the feudal fragmentation of the Horde, he struggles to maintain control over his territories while navigating internal conflicts and external threats. His rule is marked by efforts to resist Tokhtamysh's ambitions to centralize power in the Horde. Representing a faction that sought autonomy, Hadji Circassian faces mounting pressure as Tokhtamysh gains momentum, supported by Timur and other resources. The region under his control, strategically and economically vital, adds to his prominence, though it also heightens his vulnerability in the face of Tokhtamysh's push for unification and dominance.

## Kunge-oglan

Kunge-oglan, a young yet ambitious member of the tribal aristocracy of the Jochi Ulus, emerges as a key supporter of Tokhtamysh in his quest for power in the Golden Horde. Coming from an influential family, he demonstrates early strategic acumen and a willingness to take risks, making him a vital ally for Tokhtamysh during his formative struggle for the throne. Acting as both a military commander and diplomat, Kunge-oglan unites Tokhtamysh's supporters, rallying them against Mamai and his allies. Leveraging his connections with eastern tribes such as the Kipchaks and Barlas, he secures essential resources and troops for upcoming campaigns. Kunge-oglan's efforts are not solely military; he also champions the ideological goal of restoring centralized power and reviving the Golden Horde's former glory, positioning himself as both a strategist and a visionary in the movement to unify the fractured uluses under Tokhtamysh's banner.

## Mikhail Alexandrovich (Knyazof Tver)

Mikhail, a political player of the late 14th century, actively maneuvered between the Golden Horde and the Grand Duchy of Moscow to strengthen his position. Amid the Horde's fragmentation before Tokhtamysh's rise, he seeks to exploit the instability to bolster Tver's influence. His diplomatic efforts include negotiations with various Horde khans, including those challenging Mamai's authority. Simultaneously, Mikhail pursues alliances with Lithuania to counter Moscow, engaging in conflicts and seeking a Yarlik for the grand duchy. In the midst of widespread instability, he strives not only to maintain control over Tver but also to expand its territories, adeptly leveraging the divisions among Ruthenian principalities and the chaos within the Horde to advance his ambitions.

## Elmurza

Elmurza plays a significant role in the political and military dynamics of the Golden Horde during the turbulent period before Tokhtamysh's rise. Commanding a squad of highly skilled warriors, he earns a reputation for loyalty tempered by self-interest, making him a sought-after ally for many influential figures of the era. The Ossetian mercenaries under his leadership actively engage in local conflicts, offering military support to various factions in exchange for financial rewards or political leverage. Elmurza's connections extend to key maritime and steppe groups, including prominent Jochid representatives and tribal leaders. Historical accounts highlight attempts by major powers, such as Moghulistan and Tamerlane, to enlist Elmurza and his Ossetian forces to bolster their positions in the region's ongoing civil strife, emphasizing his strategic importance in the fractured political landscape.

## Edigey

Edigey is Ulubey Mangytov, a descendant of the influential beklarbek Baltychak, who was executed by Tokhtamysh for refusing to turn to his side. He manages the autonomous Mangytov ulus in the interfluvium of the Volga and the Urals, maintaining loyalty to the Golden Horde, but actually acting more independently. Politically active, thanks to his connections and military experience, he served at the court of Tamerlane, where he strengthened his position. Now he is consolidating power in his region, waiting for opportunities to further strengthen his influence in the Horde.

## Khan Aibek

Aibek, the ruler of one of the uluses, emerges as a crucial ally of Tamerlane during the struggle for control over the Golden Horde and its neighboring territories amidst the weakening of the central power of the Jochi Ulus. Actively collaborating with Tamerlane, Aibek provides troops and resources for campaigns against rival khans vying for dominance, including Tokhtamysh. As part of a coalition aiming to exploit internal strife and vulnerabilities within the Golden Horde, Aibek plays a key role in efforts to destabilize its power structure. His steadfast loyalty to Tamerlane solidifies his position as a pivotal figure in the strategic confrontation with Tokhtamysh during the latter's rise to power, underscoring his importance in the political and military conflicts of the era.

## Vladimir Serpukhovskoy (Knyaz Serpukhovskoy)

The Ruthenian Knyaz, a nephew of Dmitry Donskoy, stands as one of Moscow's most loyal and strategic allies. Commanding the Ambush regiment during the Battle of Kulikovo, he plays a pivotal role

in securing victory over Mamai, showcasing his bravery and unwavering devotion to the Moscow throne. Beyond the battlefield, he contributes significantly to strengthening Moscow's influence and maintaining stability in the Ruthenian lands during the turbulent period of the Horde's fragmentation before Tokhtamysh's rise to power. His actions underscore his importance in consolidating Moscow's leadership and fostering unity among the Ruthenian principalities.

## Khan Aibek

Aibek, the ruler of one of the uluses, emerges as a crucial ally of Tamerlane during the struggle for control over the Golden Horde and its neighboring territories amidst the weakening of the central power of the Jochi Ulus. Actively collaborating with Tamerlane, Aibek provides troops and resources for campaigns against rival khans vying for dominance, including Tokhtamysh. As part of a coalition aiming to exploit internal strife and vulnerabilities within the Golden Horde, Aibek plays a key role in efforts to destabilize its power structure. His steadfast loyalty to Tamerlane solidifies his position as a pivotal figure in the strategic confrontation with Tokhtamysh during the latter's rise to power, underscoring his importance in the political and military conflicts of the era.

## Additional Information

### Legends/Songs/Folklore/Rumors in Relation to Characters

I would like to start this section by mentioning the Ruthenian name for this period “былинные времена” “times to believe in”. This name is also because some historical figures are mentioned way more in mythological Epos than in detailed bibliographic works. So for some characters, we have more myths than historical documents that focus on them (sometimes they are mentioned in historical documents/letters/, however detailed biography was never written or properly pieced together).

### Tokhtamysh and Edigu

These two characters are inextricably linked in the epic of many nations. Often, their opposition is connected not only with historical events and some similarities of their biographies (start their servitude at Timur's army, become his close friend and/or student) but also a kind of figurative opposition of traditional beliefs (Edigey) and the Muslim faith new to the regions (Tokhtamysh).

## The epic of Byuk-Khojalar (Crimean Version)

Tokhtamysh:

- The despotic Khan executes Kutlukai for handing over the magic falcon eggs to Timur.
- Falcon eggs symbolize power and luck, their loss is perceived as betrayal.
- The episode with the prophetic dream is important, where he sees a warning about the threat from Edigey.

Edigey:

- A hero avenging Tokhtamysh for the death of his father (brother, friend, depends on the version).
- A miraculous origin is mentioned: he was found in a boot (esik) as a baby with an unknown origin of his parents, which is associated with his name.
- A few traditional mythological narratives follow him, that show his wisdom and strength (such as helping people in different ways, each showcasing his qualities for the legends).

## Nogai version (Osmanova)

Tokhtamysh:

- He is presented as the main antagonist of Edigey, whose power is under threat due to the increased influence of the latter.
- His actions are provoked by a dream where he sees a symbolic warning about the coming uprising of Edigey. This dream is interpreted as a message from the spirits of the ancestors

Edigey:

- Edigey is a descendant of Baba-Tyukli-Chachta-Aziz, a saint with unusual characteristics. Baba-Tyukli-Chachty-Aziz was born from the immaculate conception, and his union with the water spirit became the basis for the birth of their descendants. This union symbolizes the connection of the family with magical powers and natural elements.
- Edigey fights with the black dev Karotin for the release of Timur's daughter, Ak-bilek. Dev Carotene is presented as a supernatural enemy who tests Edigei on his heroism and strength. The victory over the deva symbolizes the triumph of good over evil and emphasizes Edigey as a chosen character.

## West Siberian version (Syddyk-babai)

Tokhtamysh:

-A cunning and suspicious Khan who arranges a feast to expose Edigey.

Edigey:

-Miraculously saved from death when his father's friend replaces him with his own son.

-He runs away after the fest, across the Volga, where he receives Timur's support.

-His abilities as a speaker and leader are described through a mystical context: he inspires people with his speech and songs, just as water spirits do.

Kazakh version (Valikhanov and Seifullin), Barabinsk version (Radlov), and Karakalpak version are recombinations of narratives mentioned in the previous ones.

## Tamerlane (Timur)

**Limpin (Temir-Aksak – "Iron Limper")**

-His nickname is associated with a limp acquired as a result of injuries or symbolic karma for sins. His limping makes him both weak (demonization) and strong (overcoming weakness), emphasizing his human and demonic features, depending on where you draw information from.

**Iron as a symbol**

-The nickname "Iron" symbolizes an unshakeable will and strength, almost superhuman, which makes him look like a mythological hero.

**Conquests as a divine test:**

-His campaigns were depicted as punishment for the sins of mankind, especially in Ruthenia. This gave his conquests a sacred meaning.

**The motive of divine intervention:**

-His sudden retreat from Moscow was interpreted as the result of the intervention of the Mother of God. This aspect connected him with biblical subjects such as the story of Sennacherib

**Relation to natural and magical symbols:**

-In legends, Timur is often associated with the destructive forces of nature (fires, droughts), symbolizing chaos and power.



### **Motives of fear and demonization:**

-In Ruthenian folklore, he was portrayed as a monster threatening humanity. Later interpretations added details about his bestial appearance or the anger that distorted his human features.

### **The Punishing Sword/The Sword of Justice:**

-His military might was mythologized as the "punishing sword of fate", comparable to the weapons of the gods or heroes of the epic.

### **The motive of destruction and creation:**

-Timur is represented as both a destroyer of cities and a builder of new civilizations, which makes him a dual symbol of chaos and order. Similar to the duality of God. (giving and taking)

## Dmitry Donskoy

The myths about Dmitry Donskoy show the cultural layer of that time in a very interesting way. In Ruthenia at that time, Orthodoxy coexisted with pagan practices and quite often was more a political lever than a cultural aspect (many Knyaz s had harems, conducted pagan rituals at the same time turned to Orthodox saints and monks).

### Orthodox Legends:

#### **Blessing of Sergius of Radonezh:**

- Before the Battle of Kulikovo, Dmitry Donskoy visited the Trinity Sergius Monastery, where he received a blessing from St. Sergius of Radonezh. Sergius not only blessed the Knyaz but also sent with him two warrior monks, Peresvet and Oslyab, who took part in the battle. This episode highlights the spiritual support of the Ruthenian Church in the fight against foreign invaders.

#### **The miraculous intervention of the Virgin Mary:**

-According to legend, during the battle on Kulikovo field, the Virgin Mary appeared to the soldiers, inspiring them and contributing to the victory. This underlines the special protection of the Heavenly Powers to the Ruthenian people at critical moments in its history.

#### **The image of Peresvet:**

-The warrior monk Alexander Peresvet, according to legend, before the start of the battle, engaged in a duel with the Tatar hero Chelubey. Both warriors died after impaling each other with spears.

### Pagan Motifs:

#### **Perun as a symbol of heavenly patronage:**

-In pagan traditions, Perun, the god of thunder and lightning, was associated with military might and







the protection of warriors. In folk legends about Dmitry Donskoy, there is an assumption that the success in the Battle of Kulikovo could be interpreted as a manifestation of Perun's blessing, especially in the context of victory over a formidable enemy.

### **The image of Dmitry as an earthly Perun:**

-In some interpretations, Dmitry Donskoy is presented as the embodiment of Perun on earth — a formidable Knyaz capable of combining the elements of thunder and lightning to protect his land.

### **Lightning on the Kulikovo field:**

-Folk legends sometimes mention unusual natural phenomena such as lightning or thunder during battle. The sign of Perun, approval and assistance to Ruthenian soldiers in their struggle.

## Jagiello Olgerdovich (Knyaz of Lithuania)

### **The Legend of the Werewolf Knyaz**

-The legend tells about Jagiello's ability to transform into a wolf, which connects him with ancient mythological motifs of Lithuanian and Slavic folklore. Werewolf in this context is interpreted as the Knyaz's connection with the forces of nature and his role as a defender of his people.

### **Ancient rituals and connection with pagan cults:**

-According to legend, the ability of shapeshifting was associated with rituals held in sacred groves, where Lithuanian Knyazs could turn to the gods for power (Like Veles or Žemėpatis).

### **Defender of the People:**

-In the legend, Jagiello in the guise of a wolf protects his lands from enemies, attacking enemy troops and intruders.

### **The transition to Christianity:**

-The adoption of Christianity and the baptism of Jagiello symbolically destroy his ability to be a werewolf. This moment of the legend highlights the conflict between the pagan culture of Lithuania and the new Christian faith. Nevertheless, in the people's memory, werewolfism has been preserved as a symbol of the old faith and power, which connects Jagiello with duality — he is both a Christian ruler and heir to pagan traditions.

### **The motives of the curse and redemption:**

-Some versions of the legend mention that shapeshifting was a curse placed on Jagiello by his enemies. The legend emphasizes his redemption through the prayers of his wife, who in various legends asks Pagan gods (Yarilo, saying that her husband promised her before him to return home as a man and not a



beast) or Christian God to release him of the curse. In both versions, she realizes that the curse is lifted when her sons turn from wolf cubs back into children.

## Oleg II of Ryazan (Knyaz of Ryazan)

### **In the Orthodox tradition:**

-Some legends say that Oleg voluntarily sacrificed himself to save Ryazan from total destruction by the Horde. He was martyred, becoming the patron saint of Ryazan.

### **In the pagan tradition:**

-After Oleg's death, some legends claim that his body was not found, but he allegedly "went into the woods", turning into a spirit defender of his land. Some stories say that Oleg will return if Ryazan is in danger again.

-Legends often associate Oleg with the forests and rivers of the Ryazan land. He acts as an intermediary between nature and people, able to call upon the forces of nature to protect Ryazan. ("In Ryazan, there are mushrooms with Eyes when they are eaten, they watch" I mentioned in the Background Guide).

## Shadibek Khan

There are no specific legends about him, but it is known that he was an adept of Mongolian Shamanism.

## Vladimir Olgerdovich (Knyaz of Kiev)

### **Adoption of Orthodoxy and baptism:**

-According to the chronicles, Vladimir Olgerdovich converted to Orthodoxy, which symbolized the rejection of pagan beliefs and the transition to a new faith. This act was perceived as a spiritual rebirth, similar to the baptism of Ruthenia by Knyaz Vladimir Svyatoslavich.

### **Construction of churches:**

-The Knyaz is credited with founding and restoring several Orthodox churches in Kyiv, which emphasized his role as a defender and propagator of Christianity. These actions symbolized the establishment of a new faith in lands previously associated with pagan cults.

### **The fight against paganism:**

-Vladimir Olgerdovich actively opposed the remnants of pagan rituals and beliefs among the population. In folk legends, he is depicted as a Knyaz who destroys idols and forbids pagan festivals, which

emphasizes his desire for the spiritual purification of society.

### **Syncretism of beliefs:**

-Despite the official adoption of Christianity, elements of paganism continued to exist in popular culture. Vladimir Olgerdovich, according to some legends, tried to combine folk traditions with Christian rituals, creating a unique syncretic cult.

## Cyprian (Metropolitan of Kiev)

-Cyprian was perceived as a spiritual leader guiding the flock through difficult times. His efforts to unite the Ruthenian lands under a single metropolis symbolized the desire for spiritual unity and overcoming fragmentation.

-Under his leadership, monasteries not only served as spiritual centers but also turned into fortified fortresses playing a strategic role. These monasteries became strongholds of Orthodoxy and protection from external threats, symbolizing the strength of faith and fortitude.

-Cyprian actively contributed to the development of the book business, correspondence, and translation of sacred texts. This contributed to the spread of Orthodox culture and knowledge, strengthening the spiritual foundations of society.

-His activities included opposing heretical teachings and remnants of pagan rituals, which emphasized his role as a defender of the purity of faith and a spiritual mentor.

-In folk legends, miracles and healings were attributed to Cyprian, which strengthened his authority and was perceived as a sign of divine favor.

## Khagan Bek

Unfortunately, Khan did not distinguish himself by strong mythological merits and acted as a more historical figure. Also most likely was a practitioner of Tengrianism.

## Qamar-ud-din Khan Dughlat

### **Adoption of Islam and Religious Policy:**

-Qamar al-Din's predecessor, Khan Toghluk-Timur, converted to Islam at the age of 24 and declared it the state religion of Moghulistan. He forcibly spread Islam among his subjects. According to historians, 160 thousand people who had previously practiced paganism accepted Islam in one day under his rule.

### Syncretism of beliefs:

-Despite the official adoption of Islam, elements of shamanism and traditional beliefs remained in Moghulistan. Emirs, including Qamar al-Din, could combine Islamic practices with shamanic rituals, reflecting a deep connection with the spiritual traditions of their ancestors.

## Simeon Lugven (Knyaz of Novgorod)

-Simeon's transition from paganism to Orthodoxy reflects the process of syncretism characteristic of that time. In folk religion, there was often a mixture of Christian and pagan elements, which contributed to a smoother transition to a new faith. Simeon, being from a pagan background, could contribute to the integration of pagan customs into Orthodox practices, facilitating the adoption of Christianity by the local population

-Simeon Lugveny actively promoted the construction of Orthodox churches and supported the clergy, which strengthened the position of Orthodoxy in regions with strong pagan traditions. His activities contributed to the gradual displacement of pagan cults and the strengthening of the Christian faith among the population.

## Mohammed Khān

-Muhammad Khan, following the example of his predecessors, actively promoted the spread of Islam in the Golden Horde. This strengthened its legitimacy among the Muslim population and promoted the integration of various ethnic groups under the banner of a single religion.

## Arab Shah

In historical texts, he flashes three times, mainly in the context of "He defected to Tamerlane", "Oh no! He defected over to -Information about him in historical sources differs the most in comparison with the other figures. At the time of Mamai's reign, it is unclear whether he supported him, Tokhtamysh, Moscow or lied to all three at once. The figure is extremely dark and ambiguous. As well as his true faith, after all, he was seen to support traditional beliefs and Islam, and even sometimes corresponded letters with the heads of Orthodox monasteries.

## Kurchuk

In historical texts, he flashes three times, mainly in the context of "He defected to Tamerlane", "Oh no! He defected over to Tokhtamysh's side!", "Oh no! He's gone! " (not dead).

## Yury of Smolensk

-Smolensk is a city rich in pagan beliefs. Yuri is often identified with the serpent Knyaz, who pursues only his own benefits, often seen as an evil entity by both pagans and Christians.

-The story of Ulyana Vyazemskaya is a tragic episode at the beginning of the XV century. After the loss of Smolensk, Knyaz Yuri Svyatoslavich ended up in Torzhok, where he met Ulyana, the wife of his friend and co-ruler Semyon Vyazemsky. Captivated by her beauty, Yuri began to pursue her, trying to achieve reciprocity, but Ulyana, remaining faithful to her husband, rejected him. If you do not go into history, Yuri, according to legend, killed Ulyana, after which she became the patron saint of loyalty, and he fled to the Horde and spent his whole life in the wrath of the Lord.

## Umar Shaikh Mirza I

-In myths, he is often associated with the symbol of pigeons. Symbol of purity. Some contemporaries describe him as a merciful and sincere ruler. His death was sudden, from a collapsed dovecote. Some say that his death is Timur's loss of divine patronage and a symbol of Timur becoming a vicious ruler. The death of Umar was the death of not only his kindest son but also the death of kindness itself in Timur.

## Kara-murza

It is unclear who he was more, a Ruthenian or a Tatar. His negotiations often ended with the horde leaning towards the interests of the Knyaz.

## Hadji Circassian

-The Circassians never bowed under Mongol rule. Despite the considerable efforts of the Mongols to suppress their resistance. This testifies to the steadfastness and independence of the Circassian people in the face of external aggression.

-Despite the fact that he sided with the Mongol Empire, he pursued the interests of his people for enrichment more than he was ideologically for the Horde.

## Kunge-oglan

-Legend has it that Kunge-oglan was born with the first ray of the sun at dawn. His appearance was an omen of the beginning of a new era when light must conquer chaos and darkness.

-He is often associated with the symbolism of the sun. As the embodiment of his warmth, and patronage, but also destructive heat.

## Mikhail Alexandrovich (Knyazof Tver)

-He remained in the shadow of his grandfather, Mikhail Yaroslavich Tversky, known for his heroic deeds and martyrdom, which led to his canonization. Unlike his grandfather, Mikhail Alexandrovich did not acquire the status of a saint and did not leave a vivid mythological trace in Ruthenian culture. His reign was marked by significant efforts to preserve Tver's independence from the increasing power of Moscow, but these actions rarely became the object of legends.

-Mikhail Alexandrovich entered into an alliance with the Grand Duchy of Lithuania by marrying the daughter of Knyaz Algirdas of Lithuania. This marriage was not only dynastic but also strategic, which indicates his diplomatic talent. However, he remained in cultural memory more as a politician.

## Elmurza Head of Osetin Mercenaries from the Caucasus

-He himself is not associated with mythical heroes. However, he can be connected to the myths of the ancient Nart Epic. They are often described warriors of unprecedented strength who achieved immortality through numerous battles with both human and non-human enemies.

## Khan Aibek

Unfortunately, it is mentioned in historical texts only twice and it is not even completely known which ulus he led.

## Vladimir Serpukhovskoy (Knyaz Serpukhovskoy)

-Knyaz Vladimir Andreevich Serpukhovskoy, the nephew of Dmitry Donskoy, became one of the key heroes of the Battle of Kulikovo, whose contribution to the victory of the Ruthenian troops remained forever in the annals. Commanding the ambush regiment, Vladimir acted strategically — his troops hid in the forest until the decisive moment of the battle. When Mamai's Mongol-Tatar troops believed in their victory and began to push the Ruthenians back, the sudden appearance of an ambush regiment turned the tide of the battle. This moment became a symbol of courage, tactics, and unity of the Ruthenian principalities. Vladimir Serpukhovskoy did not just command — he embodied the hope of liberation from the Mongol-Tatar yoke, forever recording his name in history as one of the architects of this epoch-making victory.



-He is often associated with the symbolism of the sun. As the embodiment of his warmth, and patronage, but also destructive heat.

## Fun Facts (this section is included to drive inspiration for your backroom)

### Tamerlane (Timur)

An interesting fact: Tamerlane, like other great historical figures, did not escape the more modern myths about himself. One of the most famous is the myth of his tomb. According to legend, if Tamerlane's tomb is disturbed, war will begin. "When I rise (from the dead), the world will shake" and "Anyone who disturbs my peace in this life or the next will be subjected to suffering and will perish." Such words, as the legend tells, are carved on the tomb of the conqueror. (However, the researchers did not find such words inside Timur's tomb. All the inscriptions contained in it are only informative in nature. There are no warnings or threats on behalf of the dead Tamerlane). However, it is interesting to mention the opening of his Tomb by Soviet scientists in June 1941, which often incites the interest of conspiracy theorists in the figure of Tamerlane. In general, the excavations of Tamerlane's burial are associated with a huge number of modern myths similar to the excavations of the Egyptian tombs of the pharaohs (natural disasters, diseases, mysterious omens, curses, and other things that come to mind when you think about the Egyptian excavations - it's all firmly rooted and settled in the culture of Soviet archaeology in regards to Timur's tomb).

### Mongolian Shamanic Practises

Tengrianism was a developed form of shamanism characteristic of Central Asia. It included the worship of the Eternal Sky (Tengri) and combined elements of shamanic practices with the veneration of higher deities.

#### **The Cult of the Eternal Sky (Tengri):**

The central element of Tengrianism was the cult of the Eternal Sky, which dominated the religious beliefs of the Mongols. Tengri was perceived as the supreme deity, determining the fate and success of people.

**The role of shamans:**

Shamans served as intermediaries between the human world and spirits, conducting rituals to ensure the well-being and protection of the tribe. They played an important role in public life, performing the functions of healers, fortune tellers, and spiritual mentors.

**Binary oppositions in culture:**

Mongolian culture was based on binary oppositions such as "life-death" and "friend-foe". These oppositions were reflected in shamanic rituals and worldviews, emphasizing the dualism of the universe.

**The influence of shamanism on power:**

Religious beliefs, including shamanism, had a significant impact on the concept of power among the Mongolian people. Rulers were often perceived as possessing sacred power gained through shamanic practices

## The Novgorod Republic

The Novgorod Republic in medieval Ruthenia stood out for its unique democratic system of government, which was a rarity for the region and the time. The main political institution, the Veche, an assembly of free citizens, resolved the most important issues, including the election of a mayor (head of administration) and an archbishop. This form of self-government provided a certain degree of participation for the general population in government, which was in stark contrast to the monarchical regimes that dominated Eastern Europe. This democratic model made Novgorod a republic in the feudal world.

## Legend of the Warewolf Knyaz (translation)

It's not the plowman who plows the land  
The raven knits shreds of the sky into clouds  
Bells are ringing in ancient City

There has been a rumor about the Knyaz for a long time  
There is a wolf's shadow in the sky  
Finish your day  
Avoiding the Drujina  
The Sorcerer and the Werewolf Knyaz

The face of the moon creeps south from the east  
He is preparing a hunt for enemies  
Midnight is near - the skies are storming

The prince is ready to rule miracles out of reality

Blades of the enemies are terrible  
It's hard to take them humanly  
And in a wolf form  
He leads the Drujina into battle, laughing

The Knyaz is formidable, not a human  
If he doesn't kill you right away, he'll mutilate you.  
The enemy's troops became darkness by the river  
Claws and fangs will be useful to the Wolf

Birds in the groves, fish in the depths  
The plains were deserted in horror  
Death moans and bloody grass  
But the Knyaz's Drujina is alive

It's enviable to be a beast  
To drink victory wine  
He had done his duty.  
But why is the Wolf so gloomy?

Dogs were killed  
But with the bitterness of tears  
The victory was intertwined  
The Knyaz hears the Knyazna's prayer

Do not overgrow with spicas of wheat  
Stone on the Voroniy steppe  
Dissecting the darkness with his body  
Warriors as brave as beasts

Wind, dry out their wounds  
Take them away, brother, from death  
Don't drive it over the Kalinov Bridge  
And bring back my beloved husband unharmed

“Sun! Our holy Father, take the Knyz out of the perishable furcoat  
Let him return to his father's walls as a man unchanged!”

Take the enemy's arrows and swords, roars and grins into your rays  
Turn the night of blood into fun, as if it had never happened!  
So the prophetic Knyaz swore to me yesterday before the battle  
What the Knyaz won't be a wolf

Your sons are waiting at home, your cubs  
I have removed the night's magic  
Come back with the red sun my falcon  
Turn from the beast, hurry home

The dawn rises in the night  
And the terrible beast screams  
"I did not deceive the Knyazna!  
Last stand. End the war!"

Dawn in the night  
He shouts to the Drujina  
I go to my wife, blaming myself  
I'm ending the war, not as a wolf, but as a Knyaz

## Legend of the Snake Knyaz

Ah, otherwise in the old years  
The earth was conjuring with the heavens,  
The marvels matured then,  
Wonderful miracles were performed by themselves.

Forgetting about the threat of the Golden Horde,  
The mottled roar of the Chinese plain,  
A winged serpent in a deserted garden  
He often hid there at midnight in May.

Only girls would come out to see the moon,  
They would come out with a stately gait,  
He would pick up one quickly,  
And soared, and rushed back.

How it sparkled, how it dazzled and burned

A copper shell under a predatory moon,  
How it flew like a silver bell  
Screeching over the Russian forest:

"I love such beauties, like swans,  
With the whiteness of milk,  
I have never met similar anywhere,  
Neither in an overseas country nor in an eastern one;

But there hasn't been one yet.  
In my magnificent palace, in the Lagore -  
They all die on the way, and the bodies  
I throw it into the Caspian Sea.

Sleeping at the bottom, among the monsters of the sea,  
Why is it more valuable to them, the mad ones,  
Then in my mighty arms  
On a grand Knyaz's bed?

And sometimes I'm envious of fate.  
The guy with the white shepherd's pipe  
In the meadow, where there is a girlish crowd  
So pleased with his song..."

These screams were heard by Volga  
As a man went out and looked at the sky with a frown.  
He put a bowstring on the horns  
The Belovezhsky Old Aurochs.

# Questions to Consider

1. How did the political fragmentation of Ruthenia influence diplomatic relations between the various principalities?
2. In what ways did the rivalry between Mamai and Tohktamysh affect the stability of the Golden Horde and its diplomatic relations with Rus'?
3. How did Dmitry Donskoy manage to secure alliances with other Ruthenian principalities and foreign powers?
4. What strategies did Mamai use to form alliances with European powers like the Grand Duchy of Lithuania?
5. How did the relationships between the Golden Horde and its vassal states change during Tohktamysh's rule?
6. What diplomatic measures did Tamerlane employ to expand his influence and secure his western borders?
7. How did the political ambitions of Vytovt (Vytautas the Great) shape his diplomatic strategies with both Ruthenia and the Golden Horde?
8. In what ways did the internal conflicts within the Golden Horde create opportunities for neighboring states to influence its politics?
9. How did trade routes and economic interests impact diplomatic relations between Ruthenia, the Golden Horde, and Central Asian states?
10. What role did marriage alliances play in the diplomatic strategies of Ruthenian principalities during this period?
11. How did the Battle of Kulikovo affect the diplomatic stance of Ruthenian principalities towards the Golden Horde?
12. What were the diplomatic repercussions of Tohktamysh's sacking of Moscow in 1382?
13. How did Tamerlane's campaigns influence the diplomatic relations between the Central Asian states and the Golden Horde?
14. What impact did the shifting alliances within the Golden Horde have on the diplomatic landscape of Eastern Europe and Central Asia?



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