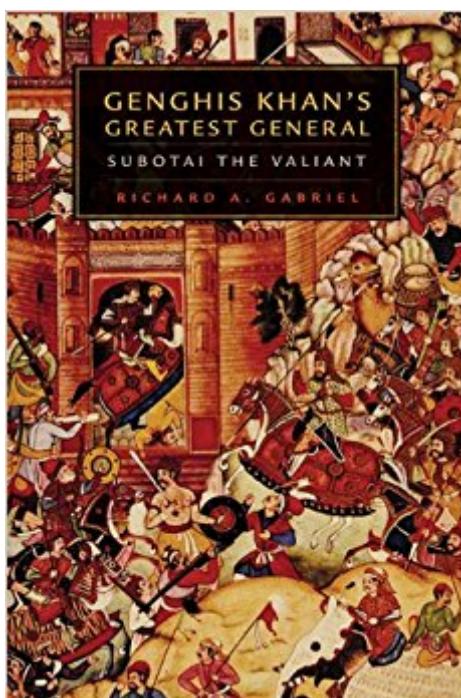


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# Genghis Khan's Greatest General: Subotai The Valiant



## Synopsis

This book tells the story of Subotai the Valiant, a warrior for Genghis Khan and one of the greatest generals in military history. Subotai commanded armies whose size, scale, and scope of operations surpassed those led by any other commander in the ancient world. Under Subotai's direction, Mongol armies moved faster, over greater distances, and with a greater scope of maneuver than any army had ever done before. When Subotai died at age seventy-three, he had conquered thirty-two nations and won sixty-five pitched battles, according to Muslim historians. Had the great Khan not died, Subotai likely would have destroyed Europe itself.

## Book Information

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"[C]overs an immense scene and yields an extraordinary amount of knowledge and wisdom....[p]rovides an extraordinarily fine description of the structure of the Mongol army....Every officer who has command over other officers should hasten to purchase a copy of this extraordinary book."-The Journal of Military History"Subotai the Valiant is a fascinating book on a subject long neglected by military historians."-Daily News Bowling Green-Kentucky"Ã¢"overs an immense scene and yields an extraordinary amount of knowledge and wisdom....Ã¢"rovides an extraordinarily fine description of the structure of the Mongol army....Every officer who has command over other officers should hasten to purchase a copy of this extraordinary book."-The Journal of Military History?Subotai the Valiant is a fascinating book on a subject long neglected by military historians.?Daily News Bowling Green-Kentucky?This product of a prolific writer of popular military history and biographies is essentially a very readable biography of a great Mongol general,

intended for general readers....[t]he first and only book-length biography published in the West on the great Mongol general....Public libraries.?Choice?[C]overs an immense scene and yields an extraordinary amount of knowledge and wisdom....[p]rovides an extraordinarily fine description of the structure of the Mongol army....Every officer who has command over other officers should hasten to purchase a copy of this extraordinary book.?The Journal of Military History?"This product of a prolific writer of popular military history and biographies is essentially a very readable biography of a great Mongol general, intended for general readers....[t]he first and only book-length biography published in the West on the great Mongol general....Public libraries."-Choice"Gabriel's book, the first biography of the great Mongol general, Subotai, is delightfully well-written, comprehensive, and full of information equally interesting to the general reader, the historian, and the military professional. The book fills a large gap in the field of military biography, and the section on the Mongol legacy of war will be of particular value to military officers."-Reuven Gal, Director, Carmel Institute for Social Studies and author of *The Israeli Soldier* --This text refers to the Digital edition.

Richard A. Gabriel, a historian, is Adjunct Professor of Humanities and Ethics at Daniel Webster College. He is the author of forty books, including *The Great Battles of Antiquity*, *The Great Armies of Antiquity*, and *Great Captains of Antiquity*.

I am a sophomore in college. I have a paper due in a month about the Mongol invasion of modern day Russia, so I read this book (among others) to understand the Mongol military system. I have never read a book about a general or military strategy & tactics, but I still found this book easy to understand and enjoy. Diagrams of battles are shown which came a long way to helping me understand each battle field. This book concentrates on Subotai, but it's not ALL about Subotai. I feel like I learned a lot about the old general and Mongol military life. If you are specifically interested in Subotai, I would recommend this book (1) because it seems like not a lot of people wrote decent books about Subotai, and (2) it details his campaigns. In the end, it does not concentrate on Subotai the man, but Subotai the general. Definitely worth it to read and purchase. Glad I added to my historical knowledge with this book.

A very interesting book about the military legacy of Subotai and the campaigns against China, the muslims, and Russia. I loved the maps detailing the tactics. Speed and maneuver were so important to the Mongolians, and they are still important today even though the battlefield has changed in many ways. The discussion at the end of the book about the effect of Mongolian rule on Russia and

the Red Army was interesting as compared to the very small effect that the Mongolian way of war had on the west.

From what I know of Mongolia as it exists today it is hard to imagine that Mongols would be able to sustain an army capable of overrunning pretty much the whole of Asia, Russia and much of Europe. This book goes a long way towards explaining the Mongol philosophy of making war and outlines some of the strategies which made them so successful. However, it does not provide a lot of detail ---but is mostly just an overview---sort of a long range history of the Mongol empire. I didn't come away feeling that I really know much about Subotai himself, his personality or detail of his contribution to the Mongol war machine isn't really spelled out in any meaningful detail. It's an interesting read nevertheless. I would have given it another star or two if there had been more analysis of Mongol weaponry and the logistics of how they were able to supply their army. I gave it three stars because i do understand some of what made the Mongols a fearsome force.

Awesome! Loved it! I hate how Subedei does not get notice much when historians talk about generals. Too bad, I think he was the greatest general to ever lived.

We all know about Genghis Khan and his charisma as an overall leader of his people as well as an astonishing military genius. But a part of that military genius was his ability to spot and develop talent in his corps and assemble military leadership that probably has no equal in history. The likes of Alexander and Caesar pretty much had to do "everything" themselves. They didn't have the type of talent that Genghis Khan had around him - certainly no one even close to the talent and vision of Subotai. It is amazing to ponder that two of the possibly 10~20 greatest military commanders of all time were on the same side leading their armies together. Looking at things strictly from a military strategy and tactics perspective, Subotai may have exceeded Genghis himself. Certainly, Genghis had an enormous amount of respect for Subotai's skills and talent. Subotai was the de facto "chief of staff" of the Mongol military machine. This book about Subotai is for those who are already fairly familiar with Genghis Khan and the Mongol conquests of the 13th century. I had already read dozens of books about this sweeping subject but only recently have I really started delving into the military strategies and tactics of the Mongols. The more I dug in, the more I realized that I needed to find out more information about Subotai and what he achieved. So that prompted me to get this book at a fairly high cost but I don't regret it one bit. I wasn't really interested in a personal biography of Subotai. I was much more interested in what he did and how he did it, not his personal

life or background. This book delivers on that end with a good in-depth analysis of his campaigns and the strategies he employed to overrun such a vast amount of territory in such a dominant fashion. The chapter about his 'Great Cavalry Raid' in 1221~3 through the Caucasus Mountains area in between the Caspian Sea and the Black Sea up to the southwestern Russian regions was one of the most enthralling and fascinating things I have ever read in military history. I'm a military history buff (mainly of ancient warfare up to around the 17th century) and have studied the likes of Alexander, Hannibal, Caesar, Scipio Africanus, etc., but this cavalry raid through such a vast landmass with a relatively small force (roughly 20,000 or two tumans) doesn't seem to have a parallel in history. Over a 3-year reconnaissance-in-force campaign through this area, the much smaller force led by Subotai destroyed numerous armies much larger in size with guile and sheer military brilliance with superior strategies, tactics, and maneuvers. As I read this chapter, I found my jaws dropping to the floor - "No... that couldn't be... Get outta here!" and laughed out loud in incredulousness. I don't think there is any doubt that Subotai would have conquered western Europe over the following campaign to the West had Ogedai Khan not died unexpectedly in 1241. The Mongol armies led by Subotai had thoroughly conquered and destroyed greater parts of what are now western Russia and most of eastern Europe. The Holy Roman Empire was in no condition to field an army that could even slow down the Mongol juggernaut. Subotai would surely have reached the Atlantic and perhaps as far as Scotland. The Mongols preferred fighting in the cold; after all, they attacked the Russian municipalities during the winter, which even the Russians didn't expect. The Mongols didn't like campaigning or fighting in hot weather and I believe that's the reason why they weren't successful in the Middle East, southeast Asia (areas that are now Vietnam, Thailand, Laos, etc) and India. It seems the Mongols lost interest in those areas and they had their hands full anyway pacifying the various vast territories they had conquered. If you're already familiar with the general history of Genghis Khan and the Mongols and have a specific interest in Mongol military strategies and tactics, I highly recommend this book. Subotai is undoubtedly one of the greatest military commanders of all time and it is no wonder why Genghis Khan and his descendants were so successful in their various military campaigns that were conducted over such an amazingly vast area covering lands from eastern Siberia and Korea all the way west to the eastern fronts of Germany and from areas as far south as Hong Kong all the way to Damascus. It is of a scale, range and scope that is mind-boggling to ponder - especially in that era. In my opinion, it is easily the most impressive empire in history strictly from a military perspective. To me, the Western colonization of the Americas, Africa and Asia during the 16~19th centuries aren't really empires in the true sense of the word. The Mongols had to defeat and conquer much larger and much more powerful empires

and nations. The Mongols were almost always heavily outnumbered in their wars against the Chinese kingdoms of Chin and Sung, the Khwarezmian Empire of central Asia, the Arab caliphates in the Middle East, and the Russian and eastern European kingdoms in the West. The Spanish, Portugal, French, and British subjugation of North and South American lands, Africa, and Australia over several hundred years cannot even be compared to what the Mongols achieved over mere 60 years in the 13th century. Subotai was a very big part of the Mongols' unmatched military successes at that time and this book gives you a good idea of how he achieved what he did.

A very good book to complement the books of Conn Iggulden regarding Genghis Khan, that I loved. The end was good because Subotai's work was rewarded by a good if simple and peaceful old age. Nothing was mentioned of disease that could have made his end very nasty, as was the case with the 2 brothers of Genghis Khan (according to mr Iggulden) which I was very sad to have read. The parts that described the war, the armour and the weaponry was not fascinating for me but I can imagine it would be to people who like that sort of descriptions, in such detail. Thanks to the author for this book and also to have included this book in her collection.

A must read for a student of military science. This book covers the campaigns of Subotai, who fought in the western Mongol Empire. It was the most mobile and modern army of its time, often defeating armies of much greater size through the skill of Subotai. The Mongol army was the first to use many innovations used by today's modern armies. Most Europeans unaware of how close they came to be dominated by the Mongols.

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