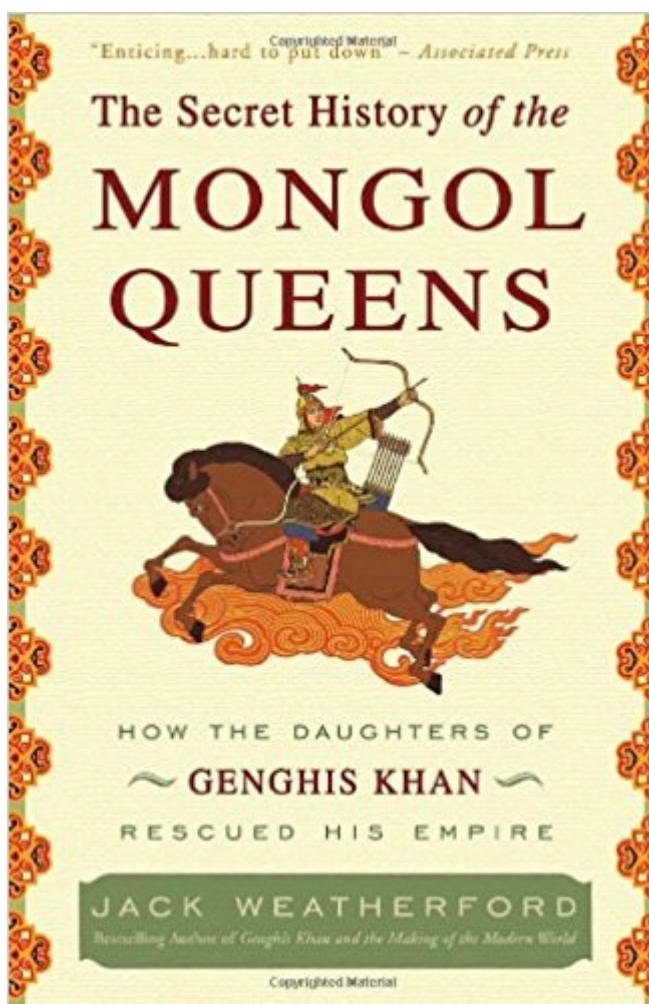


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# The Secret History Of The Mongol Queens: How The Daughters Of Genghis Khan Rescued His Empire



## Synopsis

The Mongol queens of the thirteenth century ruled the largest empire the world has ever known. Yet sometime near the end of the century, censors cut their story from *The Secret History of the Mongols*, leaving only a hint of a father's legacy for his daughters. The queens of the Silk Route turned their father's conquests into the world's first truly international empire, fostering trade, education, and religion throughout their territories and creating an economic system that stretched from the Pacific to the Mediterranean. Outlandish stories of these powerful queens trickled out of the Empire, shocking the citizens of Europe and the Islamic world. After Genghis Khan's death in 1227, conflicts erupted between his daughters and his daughters-in-law; what began as a war between powerful women soon became a war against women in power as brother turned against sister and son against mother. At the end of this epic struggle, the dynasty of the Mongol queens had seemingly been extinguished forever, as even their names were erased from the historical record.

Two centuries later, one of the most unusual and important warrior queens of history--Queen Manduhai--arose to avenge the wrongs, rescue the tattered shreds of the Mongol Empire, and restore order to a shattered world. She led her soldiers through victory after victory. In her thirties she married a seventeen-year-old prince, and she bore eight children in the midst of a career spent fighting the Ming Dynasty of China on one side and a series of Muslim warlords on the other. Her unprecedented success on the battlefield provoked the Chinese into the most frantic and expensive phase of wall building in history. Charging into battle even while pregnant, she fought to reassemble the Mongol Nation of Genghis Khan and to preserve it for her own children to rule in peace. Despite their mystery and the efforts to erase them from our collective memory, the deeds of these Mongol queens inspired great artists from Chaucer and Milton to Goethe and Puccini. And so their stories live on today. With *The Secret History of the Mongol Queens*, Jack Weatherford restores the queens' missing chapter to the annals of history. From the Hardcover edition.

## Book Information

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## Customer Reviews

Though the prolific Genghis Khan fathered numerous sons and daughters, historians have dutifully recorded the foibles and follies of his male heirs while virtually ignoring the accomplishments of his female offspring. Weatherford seeks to remedy this glaring omission by providing a fascinating romp through the feminine side of the infamous Khan clan. Surprisingly, old Genghis himself seems to have been impressed enough by the leadership abilities of his womenfolk to want to reward some of them with pieces of his vast empire. At least four of his daughters became queens of their own countries, exercising power over their courts, their armies, and, of course, their families. Important linchpins in the Mongol Empire, these women supplied the balance of power necessary to appease fractious tribes and territories. Unfortunately, soon after Genghis Khan's death, the female rulers were challenged by their male relatives, and the fragile bonds that held the Mongol Empire together quickly disintegrated. Ironically, it wasn't until the emergence of a new queen, two centuries later, that the once-mighty Mongol nation was reunited. Let's hear it for the girls.

--Margaret Flanagan --This text refers to an out of print or unavailable edition of this title.

JACK WEATHERFORD is the New York Times bestselling author of *Genghis Khan and the Making of the Modern World*; *Indian Givers: How the Indians of the Americas Have Transformed the World*; *The Secret History of the Mongol Queens*; and *The History of Money*, among other acclaimed books. A specialist in tribal peoples, he was for many years a professor of anthropology at Macalaster College in Minnesota and divides his time between the USA and Mongolia.

This significantly researched book added an all but forgotten layer to the history of the great Mongol nation established by Ghengis Khan. In the novels I have read about famous Khans from Ghengis to Kublai, their wives were often seen as powerful advisers, but nothing was ever mentioned about the legendary daughters of Ghengis Khan who ruled the Mongol nation when his sons failed to rise to the occasion. Centuries later, Munduhai, a woman of Ghengis's tribe, assumes the reins of power

and resurrects the Mongol nation after centuries of decline. I was most impressed at the level of research here and thoroughly enjoyed learning more about the Mongol nation and its bold, determined women Khans.

This book is engaging and easy to read. The great Genghis Khan inspired fear and respect throughout history; who knew his daughters actually succeeded him? It is a truly fascinating tale, one filled with so many facets of history of which I was completely unaware. Very well worth the read!

Fascinating sequel to Genghis Khan and the Making of the Modern World. Describes with captivating prose the still emerging history of the daughters and female ancestors of Genghis Khan who both preserved and enhanced the Mongol Empire and the Mongol nation.

It's very comprehensive and historically well researched. I just find it slow reading. A good read if you are interested in Mongol history

a fascinating look at the contributions of Genghis Khan's wife, daughters and other progeny. A remarkable story rarely told. I had no idea that Genghis Khan's followers were the founders of Beijing.

His book is an eye opener about the reign of Gengis Khan, the local customs of his time, and most of all the role women played in his succession. There was a lot more going on in the world than our ethnocentric Western history education leads us to believe. Great book.

This is a story of Mongolian women leaders and their continued present day powerful influence, uncovered by a persistent historian. He proves that Mongolian recorded history has literally cut them out but that their lives and influence continue in the hearts of its people and cultures well beyond Mongolia and China.

Amazing book, life story of 3 inspirational Mongol queens, literally main inspiration for my new project.

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