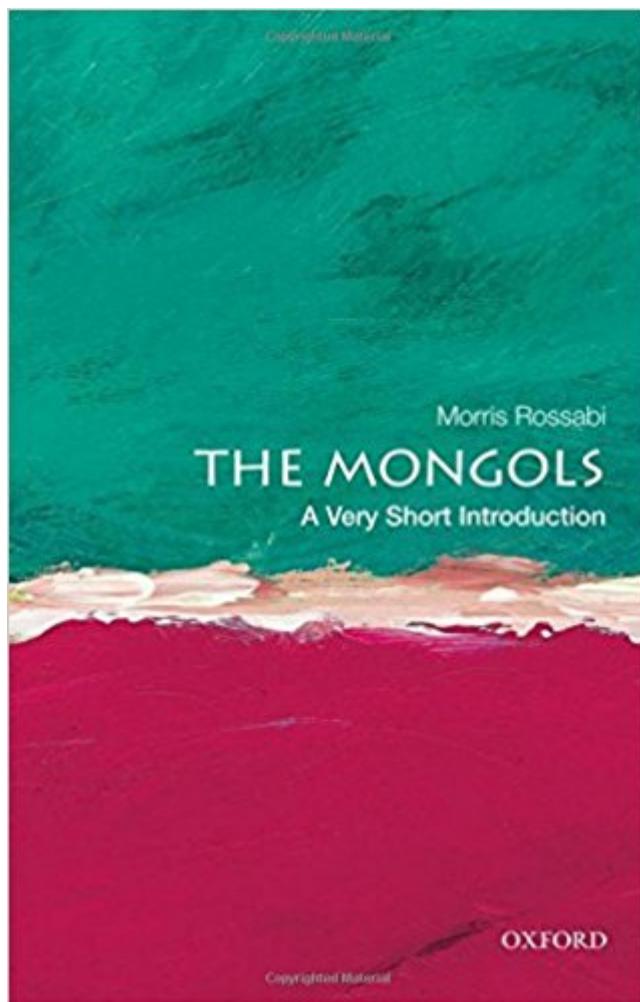


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The Mongols: A Very Short Introduction



Synopsis

In the thirteenth and fourteenth centuries, the Mongols carved out the largest land-based empire in world history, stretching from Korea to Russia in the north and from China to Syria in the south, and unleashing an unprecedented level of violence. But as Morris Rossabi reveals in this Very Short Introduction, within two generations of their bloody conquests, the Mongols evolved from conquerors and predators to wise rulers who devised policies to foster the economies of the lands they had subjugated. By adopting political and economic institutions familiar to the local populations and recruiting native officials, they won over many of their non-Mongol subjects. In addition, Mongol nobles were ardent patrons of art and culture, supporting the production of Chinese porcelains and textiles, Iranian tiles and illustrated manuscripts, and Russian metalwork. Perhaps most important, the peace imposed by the Mongols on much of Asia and their promotion of trade resulted in considerable interaction among merchants, scientists, artists, and missionaries of different ethnic groups--including Europeans. Modern Eurasian and perhaps global history starts with the Mongol empire.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

Morris Rossabi is Distinguished Professor of History at the City University of New York and Adjunct Professor of Chinese and Inner Asian History at Columbia University.

Factually awesome and good reference for the Mongols, I will be buying the print version to stick in

my classroom, but this is the driest VSI I have ever read. The one on Logic was more engaging than this, and this has a man raised by a single mother growing up to revenge his father, and conquer the largest land empire ever! In All the History!. I love the Mongols, and I love VSI, but this is the worst of both.

Review “The Mongols A very short Introduction” The Mongols: A Very Short Introduction is what it says it is. For a quick overview of the rise of Ghengis Kahn and the next four generations of Mongol Rule from Hungry east through China with incursions into Russia, Korea and Japan, this is good. The details of the four main branches of the Ghengis Khan empire from about 1200 to about 1400 are fascinating. The military history is too complicated to understand in this short version, but the quick review is well done. The cultural and artisan history is also quite brief as expected from the title, but outlines the subject quite well. The book leaves one hungering for more. This book is necessary as the usual Western treatment of this topic is to ignore this history, important as it is. Combined with “The Silk Road A Very Short Introduction” by James Millward the reader can get a good snapshot of the importance of Central Asia and Mongolia.

A tad dry compared to some of the best books in this series. However, it is still short, informative, and well organized. It's a great little introduction to the topic. In comparison to other books within the series, I'd give it 4 stars, but the form factor, low cost, and high quality of writing all earn it 5 stars when compared to other books. I was sad that it was over when I finally finished it.

This book was an excellent, understandable, and concise overview of the rise, reign, and decline of the mongol empire.

Very good basics. If you are looking an overview, this works.

Quite good introduction to the Mongol imperial achievement but leaves plenty out

Morris Rossabi is an expert on Mongolia, both historically and currently. If you wonder what the Mongols did besides "conquer," this book is essential.

I used this book for a university paper and found it extremely helpful. It has the history of the

Mongols before Chinggis Khan and after his rule! Would definitely recommend if you know nothing about them! I know I didn't until now.

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