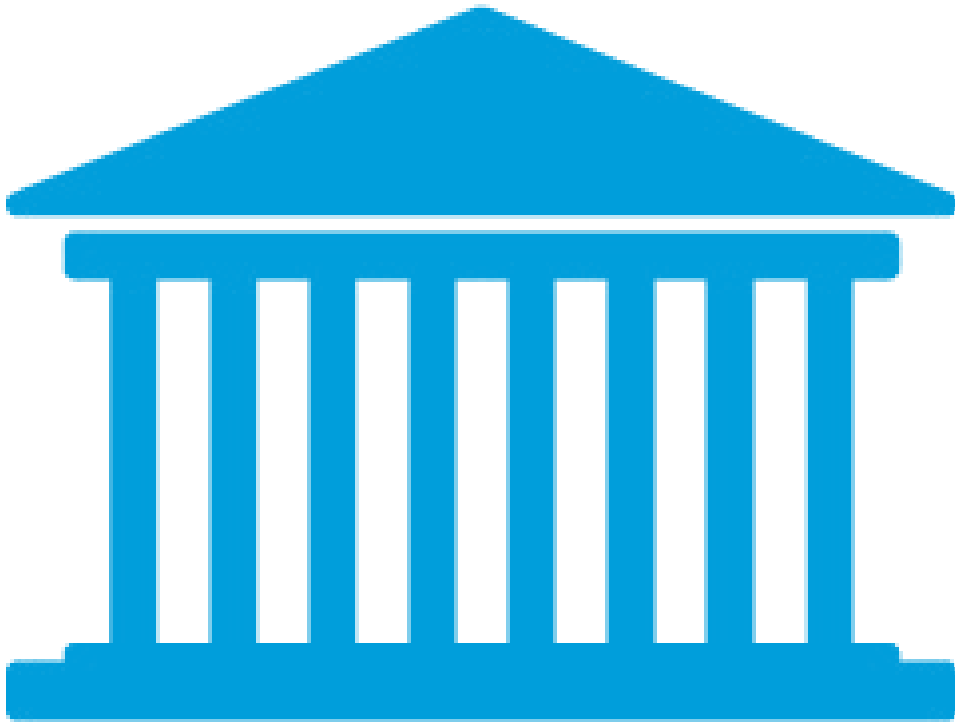




GALMUN 2025
in partnership with
RETORIKA FOR MULTICULTURALISM



**Crisis
Research Report**

Toluid Civil war: Blood and Fire on the Silk Road

DEFINITIONS:

The Mongolian Empire (1259): geographically, refers to the area known now as modern day Mongolia, Northern China, Western China, and Central Asia.¹

The Silk Road: is a 6,400km ancient route linking China and the West. In the 13th century the route was revived under the Mongols² which controlled the trading between Asia and Europe.³

Khan: is a historic Turkic and Mongolic title signifying the ruler of a horde.⁴

Great Khan: or Khagan, is a title used to signify the ruler of all the Mongols.⁵

Khanate: is a region ruled by a Khan.⁶

Kurultai: was a political and military council of the Turkic and Mongol chiefs and Khans, in which all Mongol Great Khans were formally elected for this title.⁷

The Golden Horde: also known as “Kipchak Khanate” or “Ulus Juchi”, was a Mongol Khanate founded by Batu Khan, grandson of Genghis Khan. These territories ranged from the Carpathian Mountains in Eastern Europe to the steppes of Siberia.⁸

1 Britannica, The Editors of Encyclopaedia. “Mongol empire”. *Encyclopedia Britannica*, 5 Oct. 2024, <https://www.britannica.com/place/Mongol-empire>.

2 Britannica, The Editors of Encyclopaedia. “Silk Road”. *Encyclopedia Britannica*, 1 Nov. 2024, <https://www.britannica.com/topic/Silk-Road-trade-route>.

3 “Mongolia | Silk Roads Programme.” *UNESCO*, en.unesco.org/silkroad/countries-alongside-silk-road-routes/mongolia.

4 “Khan (Title).” *Wikipedia*, Wikimedia Foundation, 7 Nov. 2024, [en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Khan_\(title\)#:~:text=Khan%20](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Khan_(title)#:~:text=Khan%20).

5 “Khan (Title).” *Wikipedia*, Wikimedia Foundation, 7 Nov. 2024, [en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Khan_\(title\)#:~:text=Khan%20](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Khan_(title)#:~:text=Khan%20).

6 “khanate.” *Oxford Reference*. Date of access 10 Nov. 2024, <https://www.oxfordreference.com/view/10.1093/oi/authority.20110803100035673>.

7 “Kurultai.” *Wikipedia*, Wikimedia Foundation, 1 Nov. 2024, <https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Kurultai>.

8 Britannica, The Editors of Encyclopaedia. “Golden Horde”. *Encyclopedia Britannica*, 24 Sep. 2024, <https://www.britannica.com/place/Golden-Horde>.

GALILEE MODEL UNITED NATIONS 2025

Crisis Research Report

The Caucasus Region: is a region spanning Eastern Europe and Western Asia, present-day Armenia to Ossetia. The Mongols fully invaded the area in 1235-1236.⁹

Sultanate: “a country ruled by a Sultan.”¹⁰

Civil War: “a war fought by different groups of people living in the same country”¹¹ or state.

Toluid: refers to the Tolui family, descendants of Tolui, the fourth son of Genghis Khan.¹²

BACKGROUND:

The Mongol Empire was established by Genghis Khan, originally named Temüjin, who united the Mongolian tribes roaming the steppes of central Asia in 1206. This unification marked the beginning of a cross-continental empire that dominated the trading routes connecting the riches of the Far East with the civilizations of the Near East and Europe. At its all-time peak, it covered enormous areas and territories. From the Pacific Ocean in the east, reaching all the way to the Persian gulf in the west. As Genghis Khan and his unified tribe conquered and consolidated other nomadic tribes, they formed a devastating military force that was able to traverse the steppes, relying heavily on their stout horses that allowed them to strike with unmatched speed and conquer settled cities of the surrounding civilizations. The Mongols’ heavy reliance on horses and on bows and arrows created a formidable war machine that made the nightmare of many kingdoms and nations. Their ability to make use of the technologies of the civilizations they conquered, especially siege techniques, and their relative flexibility when it came to tolerating other cultures, allowed for the development of a highly dynamic empire in which the ruling classes were nomads but the conquered subjects were allowed to be integrated into the management of local affairs.¹³

9 Pubblici, Lorenzo. “Georgia and the Caucasus.” *The Cambridge History of the Mongol Empire*. Ed. Michal Biran and Hodong Kim. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 2023. 707–733. Print.

10 Cambridge Dictionary. “Sultanate.” @*CambridgeWords*, 6 Nov. 2024, dictionary.cambridge.org/dictionary/english/sultanate. Accessed 10 Nov. 2024.

11 “CIVIL WAR | Meaning in the Cambridge English Dictionary.” *Dictionary.cambridge.org*, dictionary.cambridge.org/dictionary/english/civil-war.

12 “Toluid Civil War.” *Wikipedia*, 4 Jan. 2023, en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Toluid_Civil_War.

13 The editors of Enclopaedia Britannica . “Mongol Empire. “ *Britannica* , Oct 5/24 , <https://www.britannica.com/place/Mongol-empire>.

GALILEE MODEL UNITED NATIONS 2025

Crisis Research Report

It is the groundwork made by Genghis Khan that allowed his successors to continue the expansion of the Mongol Empire. After Genghis Khan's death in 1227, his empire was divided among his sons with each having their zone of influence but still subject to a central figure who was the Great Khan, the leader of the empire. The position of Great Khan was not a hereditary one, as it was filled by the figure who had the sufficient support from the different Mongol leaders – usually as part of a voting ceremony in Karakorum, the capital of the empire. Ögödei, Genghis's third son, was declared the Great Khan in 1229 and continued the empire's expansion, conquering the Jin dynasty in Northern China by 1234 and launching campaigns into Eastern Europe, including the invasion of Russia and Hungary. Following Ögödei's death in 1241, the empire experienced internal conflicts over succession. Möngke, Genghis Khan's grandson and a member of the Toluid family, became Great Khan in 1251 and continued the expansionist policies. During the reign of Möngke, the Mongols armies led by Holagu conquered Baghdad in 1258, marking the end of the Abbasid Caliphate, and advanced into Syria. Möngke's brother, Kublai, played a crucial role in the Mongol campaigns in fighting the Song Dynasty in Southern China. The Mongol Empire's borders seemed to expand endlessly but under the surface a crisis awaited its moment.

TIMELINE:

1206 - The establishment of the Mongol Empire, founded by Genghis Khan.¹⁴

1227 - Death of Genghis Khan during a campaign against the Tangut kingdom of Xixia.¹⁵

1229 - Ögödei succeeded his father, Genghis Khan's throne, and became the first to use the term "Great Khan".¹⁶

1241 - Ögödei's death. His widow Töregene ruled as regent.

1246 - Güyük, Ögödei's son was handed over the throne.

1248 - Güyük died, his widow Oghul Qaimish was named regent.¹⁷

14 Britannica, The Editors of Encyclopaedia. "Mongol empire". *Encyclopedia Britannica*, 5 Oct. 2024, <https://www.britannica.com/place/Mongol-empire>. Accessed 10 November 2024.

15 Bawden, Charles R.. "Genghis Khan". *Encyclopedia Britannica*, 4 Sep. 2024, <https://www.britannica.com/biography/Genghis-Khan>. Accessed 10 November 2024.

16 Britannica, The Editors of Encyclopaedia. "Ögödei". *Encyclopedia Britannica*, 29 Mar. 2024, <https://www.britannica.com/biography/Ogodei>. Accessed 10 November 2024.

17 Britannica, The Editors of Encyclopaedia. "Ögödei". *Encyclopedia Britannica*, 29 Mar. 2024, <https://www.britannica.com/biography/Ogodei>. Accessed 10 November 2024.

GALILEE MODEL UNITED NATIONS 2025

Crisis Research Report

1251 - Möngke was declared the new Great Khan of the Mongol Empire, when Oghul was overthrown by him.¹⁸

1252 - Möngke handed over control of the Caucasus region to the Golden Horde, led by Berke, his nephew.

1258 - The Mongols, led by Hulegu, placed Baghdad under siege and took over it with great bloodshed. Baghdad was considered the capital of Islam and as such these actions enraged Berke, himself a Muslim, towards Hulegu.¹⁹

1259 - Möngke Khan died on the battlefield in China without naming a successor.²⁰

CRITICAL EVENTS:

The Mongol Siege of Kaifeng (1232): As of the war that Genghis Khan started against the Jin dynasty in Northern China. The army led by Sabutai captured the Northern Chinese capital Kaifeng. Consequently, this handed over control of all Jin territories in Northern China to Ögödei who was Great Khan at that time.²¹

The Mongol Invasions of Europe: While the Mongol invasions of Europe contributed to the expansion of the Mongol empire, they also increased tensions within the Mongol empire. There are key points we can learn about the division within the Empire by recognizing the events of these invasions:

Battle of Legnica (1241): The battle of Legnica happened on the 9th of April, 1241. As a diversion of the Mongolian invasion of Europe, where raiders had been sent to Poland. The European army was wiped out by the Mongolian forces, and Duke Henry of England was killed by the Mongols. This war represented significant steps towards the Mongolian invasion of Europe. However, it resulted in the loss of 20,000 Mongolian lives.²²

18 Britannica, The Editors of Encyclopaedia. "Möngke". *Encyclopedia Britannica*, 27 Mar. 2024, <https://www.britannica.com/biography/Mongke>. Accessed 10 November 2024.

19 Mustful, Colin. "The Siege of Baghdad." *History through Fiction*, www.historythroughfiction.com/blog/the-siege-of-baghdad.

20 Britannica, The Editors of Encyclopaedia. "Möngke". *Encyclopedia Britannica*, 27 Mar. 2024, <https://www.britannica.com/biography/Mongke>. Accessed 10 November 2024.

21 Phillips, Charles. "Mongol siege of Kaifeng". *Encyclopedia Britannica*, 22 Jul. 2024, <https://www.britannica.com/event/Mongol-Siege-of-Kaifeng>. Accessed 10 November 2024.

22 Phillips, Charles. "Battle of Legnica". *Encyclopedia Britannica*, 2 Apr. 2024, <https://www.britannica.com/topic/Battle-of-Legnica-1241>.

GALILEE MODEL UNITED NATIONS 2025

Crisis Research Report

Battle of Mohi (1241): The battle of Mohi took place on the 10th of April, 1241, when Batu Khan and his chief general defeated the Hungarian army. 80,000 Mongol lives were lost in this battle.²³

Even though the invasions cost the lives of many, Mongke Khan and fellow Mongol leaders were in favor of continuing the invasions while others such as Kublai Khan were more focused on strengthening the Mongol rule in Asia.

Great Khan Möngke Khan's Death(1259): Möngke has been known for preserving the old Mongol way of life. In 1257 he started personally leading his armies into battle within China. However, in 1259 he died on the battlefield due to a disease.²⁴

CURRENT SITUATION:

Our crisis begins with the sudden passing of Möngke, the Great Khan of the Mongol Empire in 1259. This took place while he was on a military campaign in China where he was leading his forces in the siege of a provincial town. It was there that he became sick due to the harsh conditions that led to his eventual demise. There is, however, speculation that this story is a cover up by the Mongols to obscure the real cause of his death.²⁵ In any case, the sudden death of Möngke and the fact that he named no clear heir was a turning point to the Mongol empire as it led to a succession crisis within the Mongol empire. There were two potential figures who had the support to succeed him: his two brothers, Kublai and Ariq Böge; both members of the Toluid family. After negotiations between the two brothers failed, in 1260 each candidate declared themselves as “Great Khan”, with Kublai doing so at his palace in Kaiping, and Ariq Böge doing so with great proclamation by the majority of Mongolian ruling class and administrators at Karakorum – the capital of the Mongol Empire.²⁶ Thus, the Toluid civil war has begun.

23 Phillips, Charles. “Battle of Mohi (Sajo River)”. *Encyclopedia Britannica*, 10 Jul. 2024, <https://www.britannica.com/event/Battle-of-Mohi>.

24 Britannica, The Editors of Encyclopaedia. “Möngke”. *Encyclopedia Britannica*, 27 Mar. 2024, <https://www.britannica.com/biography/Mongke>. Accessed 10 November 2024.

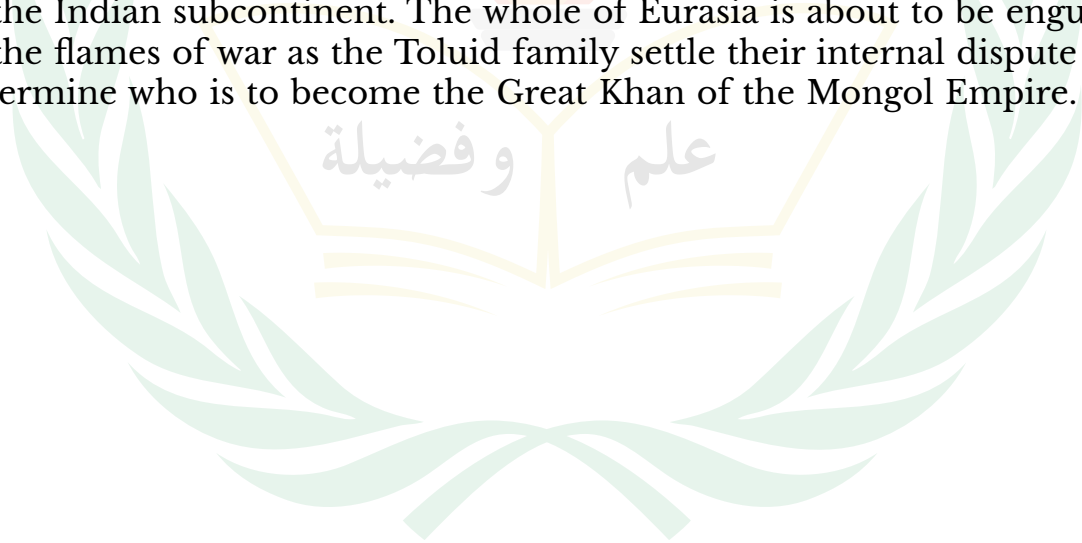
25 Wikipedia contributors. “Mongke Khan”, *Wikipedia, The Free Encyclopedia*, 7 November 2024 22:21 UTC, https://en.wikipedia.org/w/index.php?title=M%C3%B6ngke_Khan&oldid=1256037131.

26 The editors of Enclopaedia Britannica. “Mongol Empire: later history of the Mongol, history of Mongolia: internecine strife, Mongol Empire: the reign of Möngke” *Britannica*, Oct 5/24, <https://www.britannica.com/place/Mongol-empire>.

GALILEE MODEL UNITED NATIONS 2025

Crisis Research Report

With the two candidates vying for the title of Great Khan, family members picked different sides for who they support. Hulegu Khan, dominating the Ilkhanate which is the Mongol administrative area that covered Iran and Mongol possessions in the Middle East, supported the claim of Kublai who ruled over Northern China as the Yuan dynasty. Berke Khan, dominating the Golden Horde in the Caucasus, Russia and Mongol-dominated territories of Eastern Europe, supported Ariq Böge who's base of support was the Mongol heartlands. Alghu Khan, who was appointed as the khan of Chagatai Khanate in Central Asia by Ariq Böge, and was able to take control over it, also supported Ariq Böge's claim to the throne. Meanwhile, other kingdoms and civilizations who have suffered from the scourge of Mongol power took a sigh of relief while their enemies were busy fighting amongst themselves. Kublai Khan made a peace treaty with the Song dynasty of southern China while the Mamluk Sultanate in Egypt looked for ways of pushing back the Mongol armies from Muslim lands in the Middle East. The principalities of the Rus and other peoples of Eastern Europe looked for the opportunity to free themselves from the Mongol yoke just as the Sultanate of Delhi strengthened its once weakened position in the Indian subcontinent. The whole of Eurasia is about to be engulfed in the flames of war as the Toluid family settle their internal dispute and determine who is to become the Great Khan of the Mongol Empire.



Our Crisis Simulation begins on August 1st, 1260.

QUESTIONS TO CONSIDER:

Ideologies:

- What ideologies and religions did different figures have?
- How did these ideologies clash leading up to the civil war?

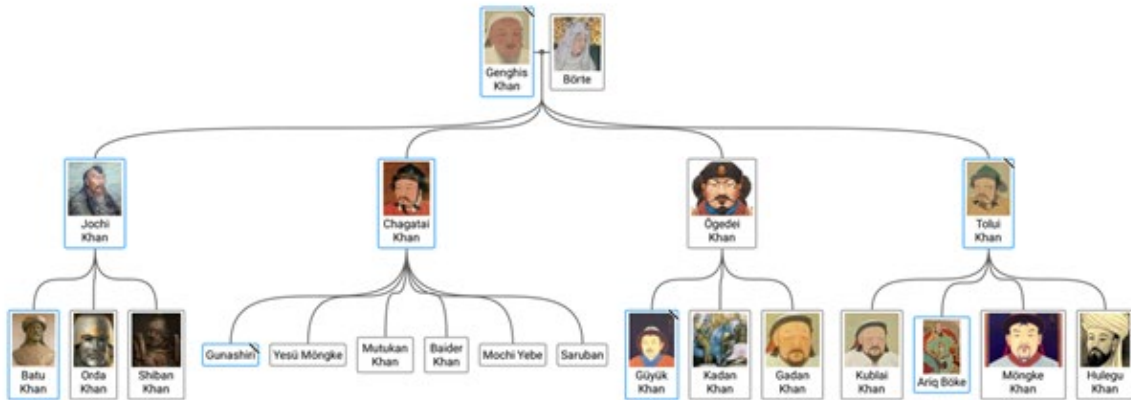
External Relations of the Mongol Empire:

- How were the relations between the Mongols and neighboring countries?
- What were the intentions and priorities of each leader during the Mongol invasions of Europe and the far East? How were the internal affairs within the Empire managed when external conflict was ongoing?

Power and Division:

- How important is the control of the silk road to the Mongol Empire and to your character?
- What type of control did each of the Khans seek? E.g. expansion of the Empire to more areas and continents; focused expansion in one area; refraining from invading specific areas according to different ideologies and points of view; etc.
- According to the current (1260) division of land and Khans within the Mongol Empire, what steps would your character take towards achieving their vision within the power they hold? Can your character achieve the support and power necessary to become the Great Khan?
- If your character is not a member of the Mongol Empire, what position do they have regarding the Mongol Empire? Do they have a positive or a hostile attitude to it, and what steps need to be taken to achieve their vision?
- What diplomatic relations exist amongst regions within the empire and without which are controlled by different leaders?

RELEVANT MEDIA AND HELPFUL RESOURCES:



The family tree of Genghis Khan²⁷



The expansion of the Mongol Empire from 1237-1259²⁸

27 “Khan S Family Tree - Hsbs - Information Technology - Tolui Khan Genghis Khan Börte Jochi Khan Batu - Studocu.” *Studocu*, 2015, www.studocu.com/ph/document/pambayang-dalubhasaan-ng-marilao/information-technology/khan-s-family-tree-hsbs/92921424.

28 “The Mongol Conquests of Asia and Europe.” *Www.chinasage.info*, www.chinasage.info/mongol-conquest.htm.

GALILEE MODEL UNITED NATIONS 2025
Crisis Research Report



Areas of domination during the beginning of the Toluid Civil War (Screenshot taken from 4:35 <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ppLoUfpp8RI>)

[Britannica - The Mongol Empire](#)

[The rise and fall of the Mongol Empire - Anne F. Broadbridge](#)

[Mongols Season 1 Full - from Genghis to Kublai](#)

[How Trade Revolutionized the Mongol Empire | Modern World History 2 of 30 | Study Hall](#)

[Mongols 09 - Civil War and Division](#)

GALILEE MODEL UNITED NATIONS 2025

Crisis Research Report

BIBLIOGRAPHY:

- Britannica, The Editors of Encyclopaedia. “Mongol empire”. *Encyclopedia Britannica*, 5 Oct. 2024, <https://www.britannica.com/place/Mongol-empire>. Accessed 10 November 2024.
- Britannica, The Editors of Encyclopaedia. “Ögödei”. *Encyclopedia Britannica*, 29 Mar. 2024, <https://www.britannica.com/biography/Ogodei>. Accessed 10 November 2024.
- Wikipedia contributors . “Mongke Khan” , *Wikipedia, The Free Encyclopedia* ,7 November 2024 22:21 UTC , https://en.wikipedia.org/w/index.php?title=M%C3%B6ngke_Khan&oldid=1256037131
- Phillips, Charles. “Battle of Mohi (Sajo River)”. *Encyclopedia Britannica*, 10 Jul. 2024, <https://www.britannica.com/event/Battle-of-Mohi>.
- Phillips, Charles. “Mongol siege of Kaifeng”. *Encyclopedia Britannica*, 22 Jul. 2024, <https://www.britannica.com/event/Mongol-Siege-of-Kaifeng>. Accessed 10 November 2024.
- Phillips, Charles. “Battle of Legnica”. *Encyclopedia Britannica*, 2 Apr. 2024, <https://www.britannica.com/topic/Battle-of-Legnica-1241>.
- Britannica, The Editors of Encyclopaedia. “Golden Horde”. *Encyclopedia Britannica*, 24 Sep. 2024, <https://www.britannica.com/place/Golden-Horde>.
- Pubblici, Lorenzo. “Georgia and the Caucasus.” *The Cambridge History of the Mongol Empire*. Ed. Michal Biran and Hodong Kim. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 2023. 707–733. Print.
- Cambridge Dictionary. “Sultanate.” @*CambridgeWords*, 6 Nov. 2024, dictionary.cambridge.org/dictionary/english/sultanate. Accessed 10 Nov. 2024.
- “CIVIL WAR | Meaning in the Cambridge English Dictionary.” *Dictionary.cambridge.org*, dictionary.cambridge.org/dictionary/english/civil-war.
- “Toluid Civil War.” *Wikipedia*, 4 Jan. 2023, en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Toluid_Civil_War.
- UNESCO, “Silk Roads Programme”, <https://en.unesco.org/silkroad/countries-alongside-silk-road-routes/mongolia>.
- “Khan (Title).” *Wikipedia*, Wikimedia Foundation, 7 Nov. 2024, [en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Khan_\(title\)#::~:~:text=Khan%20](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Khan_(title)#::~:~:text=Khan%20).

GALILEE MODEL UNITED NATIONS 2025

Crisis Research Report

- “khanate.” *Oxford Reference*. Date of access 10 Nov. 2024, <https://www.oxfordreference.com/view/10.1093/oi/authority.20110803100035673>
- “Kurultai.” *Wikipedia*, Wikimedia Foundation, 1 Nov. 2024, <https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Kurultai>

