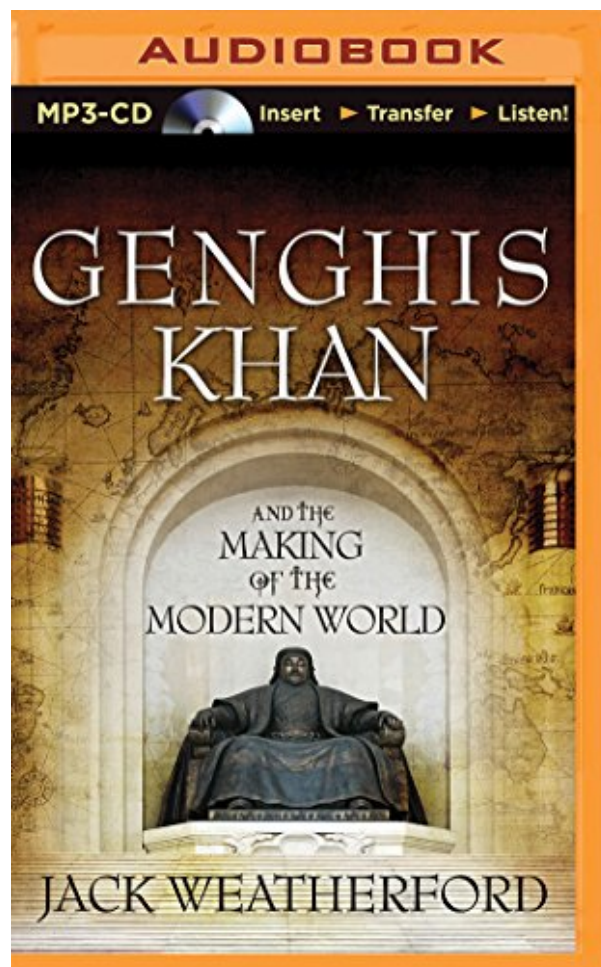
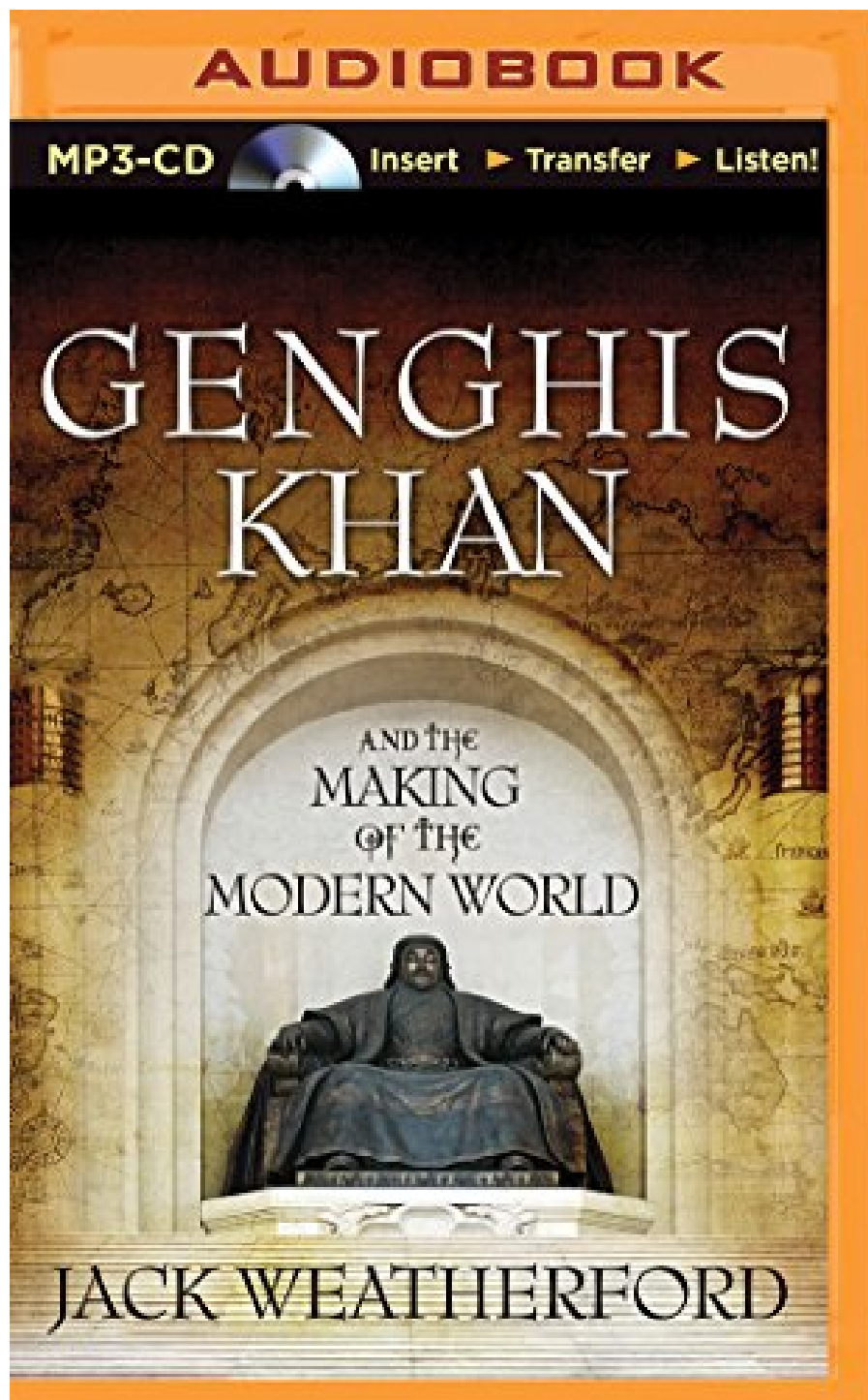


GENGHIS KHAN AND THE MAKING OF THE MODERN WORLD BY JACK WEATHERFORD



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Apart from its inapt title, Genghis Khan dies rather early on in this account and many of the battles are led by his numerous offspring. This book is a successful account of the century of turmoil brought to the world by a then little-known nation of itinerant hunters. In researching this book, Weatherford (Savages and Civilization), a professor of anthropology at Macalaster College, traveled thousands of miles, many on horseback, tracing Genghis Khan's steps into places unseen by Westerners since the khan's death and employing what he calls an "archeology of movement." Weatherford knows the story of the medieval Mongol conquests is gripping enough not to need superfluous embellishments—the personalities and the wars they waged provide plenty of color and suspense. In just 25 years, in a manner that inspired the blitzkrieg, the Mongols conquered more lands and people than the Romans had in over 400 years. Without pausing for too many digressions, Weatherford's brisk description of the Mongol military campaign and its revolutionary aspects analyzes the rout of imperial China, a siege of Baghdad and the razing of numerous European castles. On a smaller scale, Weatherford also devotes much attention to dismantling our notions of Genghis Khan as a brute. By his telling, the great general was a secular but faithful Christian, a progressive free trader, a regretful failed parent and a loving if polygamous husband. With appreciative descriptions of the sometimes tender tyrant, this chronicle supplies just enough personal and world history to satisfy any reader.

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From School Library Journal

Adult/High School—An interesting, thought-provoking account of the conqueror's life and legacy. From his early years as the son of a widow abandoned by her clan, he showed remarkable ability as a charismatic leader and unifier. In 25 years, his army amassed a greater empire than the Romans had been able to achieve in 400. Whether judged on population or land area, it was twice as large as that of any other individual in history. This colorful retelling discusses many of the innovations that marked Khan's rule and contributed to his success. Although his name is now erroneously associated with terror and slaughter, he showed surprising restraint during a time when few others in power did. He allowed freedom of religion, encouraged free trade, developed a paper currency, and observed diplomatic immunity. As he encountered new cultures, he adopted or adapted their best practices, and constantly updated his military strategies. Although Khan's death occurs at the midpoint of this book, the tales of his survivors' exploits and the gradual fall of the

Mongol dynasties are engaging and informative. Weatherford's efforts to credit Genghis Khan and his descendants with the ideas and innovations that created the Renaissance are a bit bewildering, but readers will be left with a new appreciation of a maligned culture, and a desire to learn more.—Kathy Tewell, Chantilly Regional Library, VA

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From Booklist

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The Mongol army led by Genghis Khan subjugated more lands and people in twenty-five years than the Romans did in four hundred. In nearly every country the Mongols conquered, they brought an unprecedented rise in cultural communication, expanded trade, and a blossoming of civilization. Vastly more progressive than his European or Asian counterparts, Genghis Khan abolished torture, granted universal religious freedom, and smashed feudal systems of aristocratic privilege. From the story of his rise through the tribal culture to the explosion of civilization that the Mongol Empire unleashed, this brilliant work of revisionist history is nothing less than the epic story of how the modern world was made. "Reads like the Iliad...Part travelogue, part epic narrative." — Washington Post "It's hard to think of anyone else who rose from such inauspicious beginnings to something so awesome, except maybe Jesus."

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From Publishers Weekly

Apart from its inapt title, Genghis Khan dies rather early on in this account and many of the battles are led by his numerous offspring. This book is a successful account of the century of turmoil brought to the world by a then little-known nation of itinerant hunters. In researching this book, Weatherford (Savages and Civilization), a professor of anthropology at Macalaster College, traveled thousands of miles, many on horseback, tracing Genghis Khan's steps into places unseen by Westerners since the khan's death and employing what he calls an "archeology of movement." Weatherford knows the story of the medieval Mongol conquests is gripping enough not to need superfluous embellishments—the personalities and the wars they waged provide plenty of color and suspense. In just 25 years, in a manner that inspired the blitzkrieg, the Mongols conquered more lands and people than the Romans had in over 400 years. Without pausing for too many digressions, Weatherford's brisk description of the Mongol military campaign and its revolutionary aspects analyzes the rout of imperial China, a siege of Baghdad and the razing of numerous European castles. On a smaller scale, Weatherford also devotes much attention to dismantling our notions of Genghis Khan as a brute. By his telling, the great general was a secular but faithful Christian, a progressive free trader, a regretful failed parent and a loving if polygamous husband. With appreciative descriptions of the sometimes tender tyrant, this chronicle supplies just enough personal and world history to satisfy any reader.

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Excellent Book - Highly Recommended.

By Finn

This is an excellent book which I can recommend highly. If you currently hold the popular, one-dimensional view of his being a bloody-handed barbarian leading a horde of savage steppes warriors on a cross-continental rampage of rape, torture and pillage, upon finishing this well written book, you will have an entirely different view of Genghis Khan and may actually consider him to be among history's Great Men. The book is well paced and provides an account of Genghis from his early days until his death many years later. Along the way a great number of very interesting and historically significant individuals are introduced, including but not limited to his immediate family, and the author does a fine job of finishing the tale of the Mongol Empire after the death of the Khan of Khans. Like any good work of history it gives a real sense of what life was like for a wide range of people during the time period, and how the events of that period helped shape our world today. A true treasure chest of interesting information that will keep crossing your mind long after you finish it.

0 of 0 people found the following review helpful.

4 stars

By Ernest Malinowski

Dr. Weatherford's book is an incredible account of the Mongol world of Genghis Khan and his descendents. Once you finish reading Weatherford's book, you will understand how Temujin's reign and his ideas influenced our present day world. Your education and knowledge level of the ancient and modern world is incomplete until you have read this book. Genghis Khan was ahead of his time and has received a "bad rep" by western historians.... until now! At age 66, I feel that I have finally learned the truth.

0 of 0 people found the following review helpful.

Ghenghis Kahn; warrior-servant-leader

By matthew.ewoldt

This book is a must read for everyone because it reveals the genesis of modern civilizations. "Genghis Khan redrew the boundaries of the modern world""united a dozen Slavic principalities and cities into one large Russian state"... "created the country of China"... "created countries such as Korea and India".... "created and amalgamated the many civilizations into a new world order". "He smashed the feudal system of aristocratic privilege and birth ... built a new system based on individual merit, loyalty and achievement." Genghis Khan "insisted on laws holding rulers accountable ... granted religious freedom ... abolished torture .. instituted diplomatic unity for all ambassadors and envoys including those from hostile nations"

"Seemingly EVERY aspect of European life - technology, warfare, clothing, commerce, food, art, literature, music .. changed as a result of the Mongol influence:. Incredible story of his rise from the edge of the grave to not only conquering more than twice as much land as any other ruler in history but creating a dynasty that survived until he early 1900's.

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