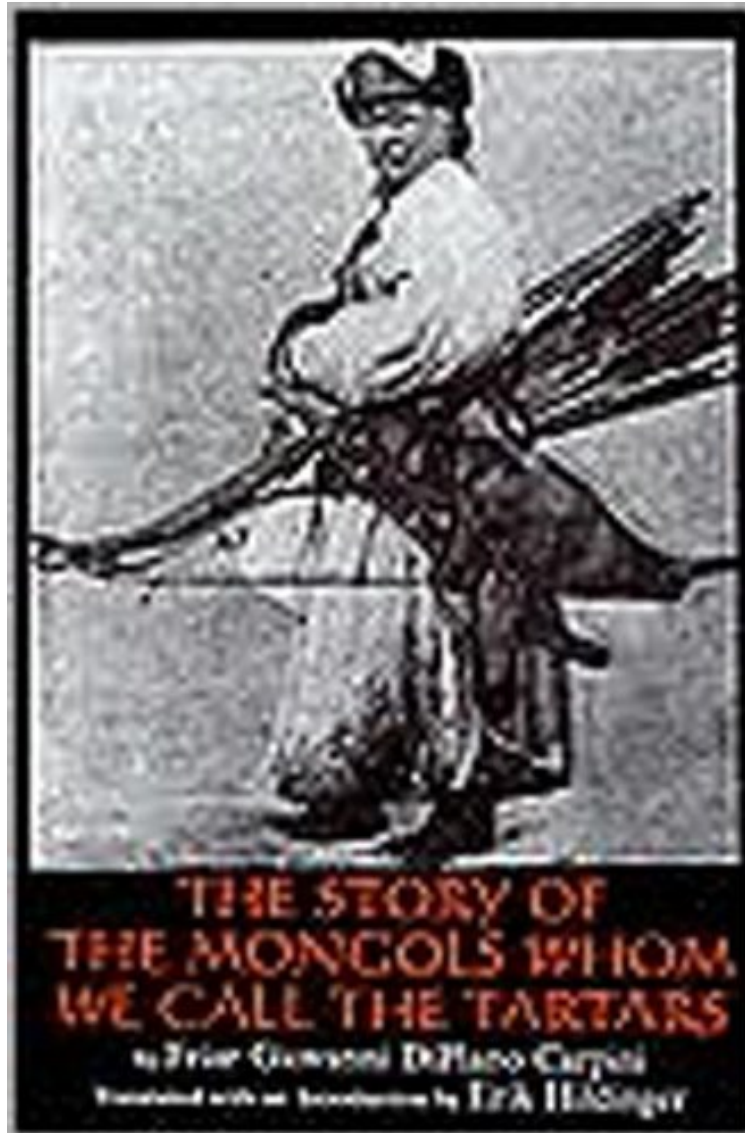


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The Story of the Mongols Whom We Call Tartars (English Edition)

Von Giovanni Carpini

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Von Giovanni Carpini : The Story of the Mongols Whom We Call Tartars (English Edition) before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised The Story of the Mongols Whom We Call Tartars (English Edition):

KundenrezensionenHilfreichste Kundenrezensionen0 von 0 Kunden fanden die folgende Rezension hilfreich. great text, shameful editionVon A customerThis is a great text, but the edition is absolute junk. There are typos and missing words on every other page. The illustrations are too dark to be visible and they are captioned incorrectly, often only

partially printed. The end notes are printed twice, typography is inconsistent, the front and back cover are so pixelated that they are barely readable... I could go on. Again this is a wonderful primary source and the translation strikes a good balance between preserving medieval syntax while being easy on the modern reader. You should read this book, but definitely not in this edition. 0 von 0 Kunden fanden die folgende Rezension hilfreich. Very useful. Von Ein Kunde

The publisher hasn't seen fit to provide a description of this book's contents, so I shall. Friar Carpini was sent by Pope Innocent IV on an embassy to the Mongols; this is his account of the journey. He met Batu Khan in Russia and then journeyed onward to reach the court of Guyuk Khan. He had been sent to preach Christianity to the Mongols and to offer baptism, but the other important part of his mission was to spy on them, for the Europeans were almost wholly ignorant of the Mongols when they swept across Europe. The chapter subheadings are perhaps the best guide to the book's contents:

1. The Tartar Country, its Location and Description and its Weather.
2. The People, their Clothes, Homes, Possessions and Marriages
3. Religion, What the Tartars Believe are Sins; Divination, Absolution and Funeral Rites
4. Their Good and Bad Customs, their Food and their Habits
5. The Founder of the Tartar Empire, its Princes and the Power of the Emperor and his Government
6. War, the Organization of the Tartar Forces, their Arms, their Tactics when Fighting and their Cruelty to Captives, How they Besiege Forts, and their Treachery toward those who Surrender to them
7. How the Tartars Make Peace; the Countries they have Conquered, the Countries which have Resisted them Successfully, and the Despotism the Tartars Exert over their Subjects
8. How to Fight the Tartars and what to Expect; the Arms and Organization of such Forces; How to Meet Tartar Cunning in Battle, and how to Supply Fortresses and Cities, and What should be Done with Captives
9. The Provinces We Passed Through and their Location; the Court of the Emperor of the Tartars and his Government, and the Witnesses who Met us there

Carpini isn't encyclopedic on any of these subjects, but he does manage a decent overview. There are only a couple of illustrations and no maps; the book would be improved if the reader could see where Carpini went, and pictures of what he's talking about. But it's very handy all the same. 0 von 0 Kunden fanden die folgende Rezension hilfreich. A must read primary source!

Von Paul Schneider If you are in the process of reading about Mongolia and its domination of world affairs in the 13th century, then this book is a must read. Eric Hildiger's translation makes this work by the Friar flow in a smooth easy readable manner. If you are a student of History then you know the invaluable nature of primary sources. This account reflects the attitudes of Europeans at this time period toward the peoples from the steppe and yet it is surprisingly refreshing in pointing out characteristics that the Europeans might emulate. The Friar's accounts of events has become the main source for many works written about this era. I highly recommend this book as a starting off point for this subject area.

Kurzbeschreibung Except for Marco Polo (whose book entitled, *The Million*, meaning a million lies about a fabulous China), Europeans knew very little about China. When the Mongols pushed out of China in their conquests to the west, suddenly the Europeans were faced with a veritable threat. In 1241, Mongols had killed more than 100,000 knights and soldiers in Russia, Poland and Hungary. In addition, the invaders laid waste to the land like no other force in history. Pope Gregory IX, understanding too well the threat of doom, was helpless because Europe knew nothing about those invaders; worse, there was no standing army to meet the challenge. The Pope put together a team of missionaries to go to China with the secret mission of gathering appropriate intelligence to bring back. Friar Giovanni Carpini did exactly that. He went to China, gathered the information, wrote them down in Latin, and presented them to the Pope. His extensive report, however, was never published. The present English translation by Hildinger is the first ever to be published in English, and may still be one of a kind in the world.

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