

Review: [untitled]
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Reviewed work(s): Die Geheime Geschichte der Mongolen. by Erich Haenisch
Source: *The Far Eastern Quarterly*, Vol. 11, No. 2, (Feb., 1952), pp. 271-272
Published by: Association for Asian Studies
Stable URL: http://www.jstor.org/stable/2049400
Accessed: 01/07/2008 07:16

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some have been improved by the use of preferred techniques and in the realignment of regional boundaries. Several line graphs have become bar graphs. Most of the tables contain more recent statistical information than was available at the time of the first edition. Little of all this postdates the last year of World War II, but it does reveal interesting wartime changes in rural land use, such as the marked increase in the production of currants, sultanas, and lexias, the increase in the area irrigated, and the increase in irrigated land under citrus fruits. Some useful additions include: the January and July rainfall maps; the rain variability map, although this shows *increasing* variability with *decreasing* intensity of shading; the maps showing length of the growing season, contours, distribution of soil erosion; and the simplified soil map. Titles of maps and figures have been expanded to advantage.

Also, Chapter VI, "The Relation Between Wool Markets and Land Utilization," has undergone major revision, and there is some rearrangement and consolidation in Chapter XIV, "Forestry." In Chapter XVI there is an added section on "Economic Policies During World War II." Omitted from the 2nd edition is the colorful and expensive vegetation map, Figure 19 in the first edition. It is regretful that the table of clearing costs (Page 65) in the new edition has not been brought up to date, with the wartime and postwar rises in labor costs.

On the whole, the authors seem not to have changed their views appreciably on the subject of land utilization and settlement in Australia, and this, in the reviewer's opinion, merely serves to indicate that they were and are now on the right track. The fact that the Australian Government is proceeding today with more caution and scientific survey in its experiments designed to people Australia with permanent and successful settlers, and is proceeding along obviously sounder lines than prevailed in the interwar decades, can be attributed in part, no doubt, to the cautions urged in the first edition of this essential study.

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Die Geheime Geschichte der Mongolen. By ERICH HAENISCH. 2nd Edition. Leipzig: Otto Harrassowitz, 1948. XVIII, 196.

The Secret History is the most famous and ancient work of Mongolian literature and an important source on Mongolian history. It was written in 1240 but is known in a more recent transcription with Chinese characters rendering the Mongolian pronunciation of the XIV century. The existence of this has long been known. Professor Haenisch was, however, the first to publish the restoration of the original text, a glossary of all the words found in the text, and a German translation. Professor F. W. Cleaves has already given a favorable evaluation of this book (*HJAS 12. 1949.* 497–534). The present reviewer likewise published a review of the work (*Zeitschrift d. Deutschen Morgenländischen Gesellschaft* 99, 1950, 274–281).

This book is the second, improved and corrected edition of Haenisch's translation of the Secret History, which first appeared in 1941. The Secret History

is a difficult Middle-Mongolian text containing many unknown words and locutions. Therefore, many passages cannot be understood correctly at the first attempt, but need continuous research such as is being conducted at the present time by Professor Cleaves and particularly by the Reverend Antoine Mostaert ("Sur quelques passages de *l'Histoire Secrète des Mongols*." 1. *HJAS* 13. 1950. 285–361), both of whom have corrected a number of mistaken translations by former explorers.

The preface of Haenisch's book contains general information about the source and the history of its study. A brief list of reference books follows on p. XVIII. At the present time it can be completed by the titles of the articles mentioned above and particularly by Pelliot's posthumous edition of the *Secret History*.

The Mongolian original is not divided into chapters, but for the convenience of the reader Haenisch divided his translation into 12 chapters. The first chapter (p. 1) deals with the prehistoric period and the birth of Temujin, Chingis Khan. The following chapters describe his youth, his imprisonment by the hostile Taijiut tribe, his relations with the Khan of the Kereit tribe, Ong Khan, the rise of Temujin to power, and the assuming of the name Chingis, its real etymology remaining obscure (p. 24); the end of his rival, Jamukha; the organization of Chingis Khan's army and civil administration, and so on. The final chapter deals with his death, the election of his son, Ogedei, and the organization of the empire.

Notes and indexes of names of rivers, places, etc. follow (p. 175). The book contains numerous illustrations and maps.

Haenisch's book is a valuable source for historians and anthropologists, but it is also instructive for general readers. When the precise meaning of particular expressions is of importance the corrections made by Mostaert and Cleaves should be taken into consideration. The German terminology used by Haenisch should not be taken literally in all the cases, e.g. the translation of the Mongolian word *khan* as German *Herzog* (i.e. duke) is not the most fortunate one.

In my judgment Haenisch's translation is a useful contribution to scholarship.

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Po goram i pustyniam Srednei Azii (Through the Mountains and Deserts of Middle Asia). By V. A. OBRUCHEV. Moscow-Leningrad, Academy of Sciences of the USSR; Popular Scientific Series, 1948. 244 p.

Obruchev's book tells the reader about six trips in Russian Turkestan and in the border area of Dzungaria. The scientific results of these travels were published in Russian in several works by the same author, of which the following may be mentioned here as the most important: *The Transcaspian Lowlands, The Borderlands of Dzungaria* (3 vol. 1912–1940), and *The soil riches of Bordering Dzungaria* (Moscow, 1932).

The book to be reviewed is intended for general readers and, therefore, does not require special knowledge of geology or the areas concerned. It deals with