Book Reviews

Marie Favereau. The Horde: How the Mongols Changed the World. Massachusetts: The Belknap Press of Harvard University Press, 2021. Pp 377. Paper $29.95.

During the twelfth through fifteenth centuries, an empire ruled over the vast expanse of what is today Russia and almost all of western Siberia. A great nomadic regime of the Mongol empire controlled the geographical, economic, and political scope of the East Asian steppes and were known as The Horde. Marie Favereau, Associate Professor at Paris Nanterre
University, examines the legacy of the thirteenth-century nomadic empire that welcomed and interacted with partnerships that impacted the world to the same extent as the Columbian exchange. Her global microhistory shows the influence of multilateral relations and commercial exchange.

This history of The Horde's rule is limited compared to the Mongol rule in the Middle East or the Ilkhanids and the Yuan. Still, historians pinpoint the expansion of the Horde's vast empire when Chinggis Khan (Genghis) divided his empire into four parts and gave each of his sons a piece of land. This history focuses on the Jochid nomadic regime - named after Chinggis's eldest son Jochi, who ruled northern Eurasia and Siberia. It examines the complex and long-standing political, social, and economic effects on global history as a result of the empire's interactions with outside nations. A few key ideas Favereau brings to light throughout the text include the balance of medieval and modern ideologies that were amidst a transformation during the Pax Mongolia (the Mongol Peace), the integration of global trade and commerce that influenced the world at the time, and the environmental effects the nomadic regime bestowed on their sovereign. She expands on what makes The Horde a global microhistory, essentially, the focus of the Mongols' nomadic rule across Eurasia and their influence on a multi-ethnic and influential empire spanning religious and cultural rule. From protection towards groups such as Muslims, Jews, Christians, and Pagans to

sovereign treaties and occupation that stretched across modernday Ukraine, Bulgaria, Uzbekistan, and Crimea, The Horde created a geographical legacy that allowed the nation-states of the thirteenth century to prosper linguistically, religiously, artistically, and culturally.

The book is chronologically divided into eight chapters covering on the political, cultural and environmental factors The Horde influenced, as well as offering an intergenerational history of Chinggis, Jochi's, Jochi's sons' rule. Subsequent chapters explore the Mongol Exchange, the nation-state rule, and the nomadic steppe's political expansion. The book offers a new perspective on collective power and the ancient world history's role of leadership as more holistic. Favereau approaches these methodologies by consulting scholars from linguistic studies, nationalist scholarship, archeology, and religion. [HJ10] She also compares English language and Russian language scholarship, historical perspectives on modern ethnic, religious, and linguistic scholarship and illuminates these sources and theoretical frameworks of this Eurasian global microhistory.

Audiences interested in learning more about early Mongol cultural and geographical history, and historiographies of linguistic and religious studies, will be drawn to this text. Reading *The Horde* offers remarkable insight into the medieval global enterprise of the Mongol nomadic empire as well as a new perspective on world history and the organization of empires, social/political structures, and sovereignty.

Gema A. Montaño