

**THEMES IN WORLD HISTORY
PLAYING THE GAME OF THRONES
15 HIST 1016**

PAPER ASSIGNMENT #2

“The Many Faces of Khubilai Khan and the Mongol Empire”

DUE MIDNIGHT FRI. NOV. 14TH

In the preface to his book, Morris Rossabi highlights the various ways Khubilai Khan has been depicted by different cultures. “He is represented as a Mongol in formal Chinese paintings; as a typical Muslim potentate, with the dress and physical features of a caliph, in Persian miniatures; and as a European king, with a Caucasian appearance, in manuscripts of Marco Polo’s account of his travels. Each civilization depicted Khubilai in its own light” (Rossabi, xvii). The question we may be left with is, “who was the real Khubilai Khan?” In class we have regularly discussed the presence of multiple Mongol Empires and varying experiences within those empires as a result of not only the empire’s size, but also the Mongols’ methods of organization and their approach to conquered populations. For this paper assignment, describe two of the many faces of Khubilai Khan, that of the Mongol *khagan* and the Yuan Emperor. What makes these two Khubilaes different? What factors contributed to these multiple images of Khubilai Khan as a ruler? Who is the real Khubilai Khan? In what ways is Khubilai Khan a typical Mongol ruler and in what ways did he prove himself unique?

To address these questions, you must make direct reference to our course readings including Rossabi, *Khubilai Khan: His Life and Times* and primary source documents assigned in class, using quotations and citations where necessary. You may also use other class readings and lecture notes, but please cite all of your sources properly. Make sure you place the reign of Khubilai Khan in its proper historical context. Be careful about engaging in “Google-shipping,” do not rely on un-academic sources on the web, including Wikipedia. You will be able to complete this paper using only course materials.

All papers **MUST** be at least 1,500 words (approximately FIVE (5) full pages) in length. Do not submit a paper that is either overly short or overly long. A paper of less than 1,500 words will not receive full credit.

You **MUST** use 12 point font and 1” (one inch) margins and your paper **MUST** be double spaced.

All papers must be submitted via Blackboard (and passed through SafeAssign) by midnight on Friday Nov. 14th. Late papers will be deducted 1 point (out of a total of 15) for every 24 hours they are late. For example, a paper submitted on Nov. 15th will lose 1 point from the final grade and a paper submitted on Nov. 16th will lose 2 points.

I and our TAs will be happy to read drafts and offer feedback, but only in Office Hours. Please come with a printed copy of your paper and allow enough time for us to read your paper and then discuss it with you. If you cannot meet with one of us during our posted office hours and you would like to discuss your paper, please contact me about scheduling an appointment.