

Chapter 1 : The Mongol Art of War by Timothy Michael May at Abbey's Bookshop | | Paperback

Timothy May, a leading expert on the Mongol empire, is a professor of history at North Georgia College and State University.

May concludes this definitive study by tracing the Mongol legacy to modern mechanized warfare. Contemporary descriptions of their conquests have led to a popular misconception that the Mongols were an undisciplined horde of terrifying horsemen who swept over opponents by sheer force of numbers. The Mongol army actually used highly trained regiments led by brilliant tacticians, such as Subutai, that carried out planned and practiced maneuvers. It was the strength, quality, and versatility of the Mongol military organization, not unchecked ferocity, that made them the pre-eminent warriors of their time. In *The Mongol Art of War*, historian Timothy May overturns myths and misunderstandings that distort our understanding of Mongol warfare, and demonstrates that the armies of Chinggis Khan had more in common with modern ones than with the armies of ancient Rome and those of the medieval kingdoms they confronted. Describing the make-up of the Mongol army from its inception to the demise of the Mongol Empire, the author examines the recruitment, weaponry, and training of the Mongol warrior. He also analyzes the organization, tactics, and strategies the Mongols used, how they adapted to fighting in different conditions and terrain—such as using harsh winter weather to their advantage—and overcame a variety of opponents by steadily changing and adopting new tactics and modes of combat. It is topical rather than chronological. As the title of the book suggests, it is almost exclusively about the organization, training, weapons and equipment, logistics as well as the tactical and operational history of the superlative Mongol Army. I think the author should substantially expand those chapters of the book which discuss about the tactical and operational performances of the Mongol Army. I totally disagree with another reviewer who faulted the author for not discussing the social and economical factors behind the organization and behaviors of the Mongol Army. But for a book about the Mongol Art of War they are quite irrelevant, in my opinion. If you enjoy military history, get this book. It moves fast and is rich with facts. I even enjoyed reading the chapter notes in the back. In all it took the empire only 80 years to conquer a vast range from Mongolia and China in the East to Russia and Persia in the West. Along the way the Mongols mastered the art of Steppe warfare including discipline and logistics, and showed a willingness to adapt and learn from their enemies including how to conduct siege warfare. The book includes a thought provoking discussion of similarity of Mongolian war tactics with war tactics in World War II especially Blitzkrieg. This history is a surprising illustration that turns the tables on thinking of Mongols as uneducated barbarians. They had the ability to master themselves and logistics, and then to further learn and adapt from their campaign experiences. They were masters of communication, espionage and where needed deceit. I find it thought provoking to wonder at the end of the book: Great Book By M. Perera on Feb 10, This is a great book that covers topics not widely known about. Additionally, he gives detailed comparisons of the Mongols armies to their enemies. Sabin on Jan 05, This is a great title written at a very lively pace. Anyone interested in military or world history will appreciate all the details and lesser-known facts, as well as the more traditional narrative passages and descriptions of individual Mongol leaders like Hulegu Khan and Subudai. The description of the infamous sacking of Baghdad in the s is also very well done. There is a lot to like about *The Mongol Art of War*. It is written, for the most part, from the ground up and gives great detail as to what individual Mongol soldiers carried with them, the weapons they used, the mounts they traveled on, and their daily tasks. The text is never dry or dull and the pace keeps the reader interested throughout. Informative but short By Jack Baxter on Jun 22, I very good book on that strategy of the Mongols, although it focuses on strategy rather more than tactics, and I wish it had gone into more detail than it had on how they operated in individual battles. Another book that I think goes admirably well with this one is *Genghis Khan: Review* By James Hamilton on May 07, Given that there are few surviving historical chronicles from the time, I thought the book was very thoroughly researched and reasonably well written. Other books that I have read about Mongolian history and the "rise of Chinggis Khan" are written in a rather folksy manner so, I was pleased with the style and tone. The information is divorced from the overwhelming devastation the mongols committed.

Good book for tactical learning. Might have made more of them by considering the general military strategy of the Mongols more thoughtfully. Their expansion is left as kind of purposeless instead of in pursuit of - loot? But on the military side, like tactics, is better. But this level is unsatisfactory. There are about a dozen or so books at this level which pretty well repeat each other. Maybe they should stop and wait for someone who speaks a few more languages or for the Mongolian people to get serious about their own history and put some effort into it. For now, this book is about on par. I will recommend this learned and jargon-free work to others. Very fun book to read. By Glenn on Oct 16, Gives a great overview over the Mongol brilliance in warfare, together with the book about Subotai by Richard A. I loved these two. But I chose to read them as a fairytale, because if I think about all the people they killed, all that perished, all tragedy in their wake, these two books fails completely in balance. As there are several quality reviews listed, I would prefer to them with some additional comments. Pretty good By De on Sep 13, A bit repetitive at times, but the intro chapter is an especially useful summary of Mongolian history. Good contextual analysis of how and why the Mongols did what they did best. Lencz on Jun 02, The book arrived in New Condition and in a timely manner I live in at an APO address and sometimes my deliveries are unexpectedly delay, but not in this case. I enjoyed the reading about the Mongol Art of War, and it was an easy read. Excellent By Lawrence A. Carver on Mar 07, This book offers insight into how the Mongols did things. Everything from recruiting, training, logistics and organization. It held my interest throughout A great one. By Amazon Customer on Jan 11, A lot of things I was not able to find elsewhere A lot of info that I was not able to find in the other books about the mohe mongols that I have read good inside look By J. Wolter on Mar 20, Fascinating peek inside the tactics and armament the Mongols used in their wide flung conquests. The book seemed to be well researched. Add a Book Review Book Summary: Timothy May , Timothy May. This particular edition is in a Hardcover format. It was published by Westholme Publishing and has a total of pages in the book. To buy this book at the lowest price, [Click Here](#).

Chapter 2 : The Mongol Art of War

"Mongol Art of War" by Timothy May is a nice, thin volume that covers its subject basically and lucidly. A brief political history provides the context for a bottom-to-top examination of the steppe-warrior tradition practiced by the Mongols: horse, weapons, armor/clothing, tactics, operations, strategy.

The review is licensed under a Creative Commons License. The Mongol empire was the largest the world has ever seen, at least as a contiguous dominion. It stretched from the Sea of Japan in the east to the Mediterranean and the Carpathian mountains in the west. At its peak it had more than a million men under arms. But it did not remain long intact after the death of its founder, Chinggis Khan Gengis Khan. This book seeks to explain why its armies were so successful and how they functioned. The first chapter sets the scene with a historical summary, starting with the rise of Chinggis Khan. Under his successor, Mongke, the empire reached its zenith. The Mongols had already conquered northern China ruled by the Jin and now tried to do the same in southern China, ruled by the Song, but the terrain here was more difficult and progress was slow. Meanwhile, in the west, the Mongols under Hulegu were subduing the Middle East. May has a lively style, with plenty of vivid details. At the end of the book one is left with a pretty clear idea of why the Mongols were so successful. The Mongols relied mainly on light cavalry, avoiding hand-to-hand fighting as much as possible. Their fighting techniques were essentially those that had long been practised in their homeland, such as encirclement and feigned retreats, but these were refined and disciplined by Chinggis Khan. Discipline was strict but democratic: Chinggis Khan would promote an able man over the heads of princes, but he expected unwavering obedience to orders: But initiative was also prized. The Mongols were adaptable and were quick to incorporate new methods of fighting when they encountered them—including even gunpowder in China. They made use of mercenaries, who were skilled in tackling fortified cities with mines or catapults. But their great advantage was always their mobility, which often enabled them to take their enemies by surprise. Cities were usually offered the option of surrender, in which case they would not be plundered or their inhabitants slaughtered, but if they later rebelled the Mongols were merciless and killed everyone apart from those they thought might be useful to them. But choosing the right moment to surrender could be critical: May finds that a number of twentieth-century military thinkers were influenced, directly or indirectly, by Mongol ideas.

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Dr Timothy May is Associate Dean of the College of Arts & Letters at the University of North Georgia. He is a leading specialist in the Mongol empire and nomadic empires in general. His research and publishing focuses on the Mongol conquest of the Middle East, imperial institutions and religious conversion.

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Timothy May, a leading expert on the Mongol empire, is a professor of history at North Georgia College and State University. Table of Contents List of Illustrations vii.

Recently there has been an increased interest in Mongols and Chinggis Khan in particular. The first chapter is a brief historical narrative on the rise, apogee and decline of the Mongol empire. These eighty years chronicle the times from Changgis Khan to Khubilai Khan and give readers some sense of the tribal alliances and Mongol customs and traditions. Rational of going to war is generally understood within a socio-economical framework, and the intent of this work is not to explore the rational, but to analyze the tactical aspects employed by the Mongol armies. Hence the patrilineal social structure, or the economic basis for the Mongol conquest, or the reasons why the Mongols razed the cities they conquered to the ground, or even why the Mongols embarked on long campaigns or waged war are peripherally addressed. Genghis was a great organizer. He took the best of steppe warfare methods and incorporated additional techniques from different cultures. He imposed strict discipline, tamed his warrior aristocrats and increased social mobility. Chapter two discusses the recruitment and organization of the army. As the Steppe nomads were accustomed to riding and archery, their skills matched with those essential to the Mongol army. While the discussion on recruitment focuses primarily on soldiers, recruitment of other support personnel mainly engineers and artisans is also mentioned. Next organization of the army is discussed. Here the changes that Changgis instituted, which made the army better suited for military campaign, are outlined. The discussion also describes two elite units, namely the keshik and tamma. Both units level of discipline approached fanaticism, and their loyalty was forged to their units rather than their clans. Chapter three describes the skills that steppe nomads acquired for daily living, such as hunting, archery and riding – transferable skills for those who became soldiers. Before Chinggis, the Mongol army was loosely disciplined; the main objective of campaigns was booty. Hence, recruits were inclined to desert a campaign if booty were sufficient or if the campaign prolonged too long. This eradicated individuality and encouraged teamwork. Each soldier was supported by fellow soldiers in his unit, and as an army, the Mongols could accomplish much more than they could before. The remainder of the chapter discusses Mongol weapons specifically the compound bow and armor. Horses are discussed towards the end of the chapter. A good army without a strong support organization is effective only for short periods. Chinggis knew the value of secure supply lines, spare mounts, and good pasture. He organized a support structure that would provide for the fighting men. Chapter four focuses on caring for the army while it was campaigning. Hence, the major themes of the chapter are food supplies, rations, supply of weapons, armor, and siege engines, medical care, logistics and communications. The Mongols had good archers; they also had good quartermasters. The Mongol army used a range of maneuvers that gave it tactical advantage on the battlefield. These included fast cavalry skirmishes, showers of arrows from the fearsome composite bows archers could be mounted or on foot, feigned retreats, ambushes, siege warfare, and excellent communications. The Mongol army also drafted foreign military specialist such as Persian siege engineers and Chinese riverboat captains to expand its range of battlefield tactics. The bulk of the chapter is devoted to battlefield tactics, not only those indigenous to the Steppe warrior, but also those that the Mongols learned through contact with other cultures. For example, they adopted siege engines, explosives and even learned how to run a navy, mostly from the Chinese. The chapter also discusses intelligence gathering and strategy, but these two areas are only marginally discussed. This chapter makes the point that Mongol military leaders were chosen based on merit rather than social status although access to leadership was easier for the nobility. Another point this chapter makes is that the Mongols consistently produced good military leaders unlike their other medieval counterparts. Military leaders were groomed from the keshik an elite unit discussed in Chapter two, and through a system of apprentices. Under this system, experienced generals although lower in rank than the princes had final say in the campaign, and could send princes back to the Khan if they felt it necessary. Imperial decision-making *quriltai* is also described. The chapter ends by profiling five military leaders who served Chinggis Khan. A one-paragraph overview of an opponent is followed by a section

describing its organization, another section describes its methods used in warfare and the last section outlines how the Mongols adapted to that foe. The Mongols defeated all of them save the Mamluks. Probably the objective of chapter eight is to tie in the various themes discussed earlier into a coherent whole. This chapter provides an overview of prominent campaigns, battles and sieges two in each category are covered that the Mongols carried out. Aspects of discipline, tactics, planning and leadership are covered where relevant. A post-analysis of possible options the Mongols could have used based on the battlefield tactics they or their adversaries deployed in previous encounters would have been useful here to understand the depth and complexity of their decision-making. Chapter nine goes beyond the Mongol empire by exploring how some of the tactics that the Mongols used inspired later military strategists. The chapter starts by listing the strengths and weaknesses of Mongol warfare and attempts to uncover Mongol influences on Eastern European warfare. It also tries to draw parallels between Mongol tactics and tank warfare as well as similarities between Mongol tactics and Blitzkrieg made famous by the Germans during World War II. Whether one agrees if these tactics are indeed parallel to Mongol ones is an open question. What May claims is that the battle tactics developed were inspired through military theorists like Fuller and Hart and commanders like Guderain from Mongol tactics. The text does have some grammatical errors, but these do not distract from the overall meaning or flow of the text. The substantive chapters have a Conclusion at the end of each chapter that outlines the major points discussed in the relevant chapter. Strangely, chapter six does not have such a section. As the Mongols fought on several fronts simultaneously, they acquired new tactics that were incorporated in later field tactics. From what is known about their battlefield tactics, they used traditional steppe warfare that allowed them to advance as far as Russia. Their campaigns against the Song and Jin dynasties deployed traditional Chinese ways. A section describing how their battlefield tactics evolved would have been useful. The stratagem and discipline of the Mongols has long been well understood. This book has helped expand and refine our view of the Mongols.

Chapter 5 : The Mongol Art of War by Timothy May

In The Mongol Art of War, historian Timothy May overturns myths and misunderstandings that distort our understanding of Mongol warfare, and demonstrates that the armies of Chinggis Khan had more in common with modern ones than with the armies of ancient Rome and those of the medieval kingdoms they confronted. Describing the make-up of the Mongol army from its inception to the demise of the Mongol Empire, the author examines the recruitment, weaponry, and training of the Mongol warrior.

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The Mongol Art of War: Chinggis Khan and the Mongol Military System. By Timothy May. By Timothy May. Yardley, Pa.: Westholme Publishing,

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Read "The Mongol Art of War" by May, Timothy with Rakuten Kobo. The Mongol armies that established the largest land empire in history, stretching across Asia and into eastern Europe, a.

Chapter 8 : Book Review by Anthony Campbell: The Mongol Art of War, by Timothy May

The Mongol Art of War: Chinggis Khan and the Mongol Military System. By Timothy May. Yardley, Pa.: Westholme Publishing, ISBN Maps. Illustrations. Battle plans. Notes. Select bibliography. Index. Pp. \$ The Mongols' place in history is closely linked with the name of Ching-gis Khan and with their military conquests.

Chapter 9 : Project MUSE - The Mongol Art of War: Chinggis Khan and the Mongol Military System (review

Timothy May Although the Mongols used many of the tactics and strategies that steppe nomads had used for centuries, the Mongols refined steppe warfare so that this style of warfare reached its.