

Mongol Invasion of Iran: Destructions and Economic and Cultural Consequences

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ABSTRACT:

Mongol invasion of Iran in the thirteenth century AD was one of the most disastrous incidents in the history of this land with deep and extensive effects on the economic and cultural structures of the country. The present study dealt with the investigation of the destruction due to the Mongol invasion and its consequences for the Iranian economy and culture. Analysis of the historical sources indicates that the Mongol invasion led to the widespread destruction of the infrastructure, a drastic drop in population, the annihilation of the scientific and cultural centers, and serious disruptions in trade and agriculture. Finally, the present study has evaluated the importance of reconstruction and revival of the Iranian culture and economy after this period and showed how the Iranian society managed to overcome this huge crisis.

Keywords: *Mongol invasion, economic destruction, cultural destruction, Iran, 13th century AD.*

INTRODUCTION:

Iranian history is filled with great and effective events each of which forms the identity and culture of this land. One of these events was the Mongol invasion of Iran in the 13th century AD which not only destructively did affect the physical and economic infrastructure of the country, but also deeply affected the culture of the Iranian culture. The present study aimed at a detailed investigation of these destructions and their consequences for the Iranian economy and culture. It aimed to provide a comprehensive and detailed image of the effects of the Mongol invasion of Iran and investigate the way this land was reconstructed and revived after this historical disaster.

Review of Related Literature:

There are various studies on the Mongol invasion of Iran and its consequences. Ibn Asir, Joweini, and Rashid-al-Din Fadhlullah Hamedani are among the historians who have mentioned this incident in their works. Ibn Asir, in his book "Al-Kamel fi Tarikh" has described the incidents and massacres by Mongols in detail. Joweini, in the book "Tarikh Jahangoshay Joweini", has analyzed the military strategies of Mongols and their effects on the Iranian cities. Rashid-al-Din Fadhlullah Hamedani also, in his book "Jamea al-Tavarikh", has dealt with the investigation of the economic and cultural consequences of the Mongol invasion. Moreover, more recent research has been done in this regard which has dealt with a more detailed analysis of this incident using modern historical and archaeological methods.

Problem Statement and Research Objectives:

The Mongol invasion of Iran was one of the most disastrous incidents in the history of the country with deep effects on the economy and culture of Iranian society. The present study seeks to answer the questions "What are the economic and cultural consequences of the Mongol invasion of Iran and how did the Iranian society manage to overcome this huge crisis?". The research objectives are:

1. Investigation of the destruction of the economic infrastructure of Iran due to Mongol invasion.
2. Evaluation of how the Iranian culture and economy were reconstructed and revived after the Mongol invasion.
3. Analysis of the cultural and economic effects of Mongol invasion on the Iranian society.

METHODS AND MATERIALS:

The present study is descriptive-analytical. The data has been collected from authentic historical sources and more recent research in this field. For a more precise and comprehensive analysis, the works of contemporary historians of the Mongol invasion as well as more recent research have been used. The data are analyzed qualitatively and the results are presented in various chapters.

Findings:

Mongol invasion of Iran led to the widespread destruction of the economic infrastructure of the country. Large cities and important trade centers such as Neyshabur, Harat, and Baghdad were fiercely

invaded and fully destroyed. Many agricultural lands and irrigation systems were destroyed, which caused a sharp decrease in agricultural production and increased poverty in society.

Population Decline:

One of the huge impacts of the Mongol invasion was a drastic decline in the Iranian population. It is estimated that millions of people were killed or captured during these attacks. This population decline not only had negative economic effects but also reduced the labor force and destroyed families and local communities.

Disruption in Trade:

Destruction of the roads and caravanserais greatly affected business security. Business, which was one of the main pillars of the Iranian economy, decreased drastically and many traders and businessmen had to leave the country.

Cultural Effects:

The Mongol invasion led to the destruction of many scientific and cultural centers in Iran. Libraries, schools, and mosques were burned, and many scientists and scholars were either killed or expelled. This incident stopped the cultural and scientific advancements in Iran for a long time.

DISCUSSION:

Interpretation of Findings:

Analysis of the findings indicates that the Mongol invasion of Iran led to numerous destructive effects on the country's economy and culture. Destruction of the economic infrastructure and population decline led to an increase in poverty and a reduction in agricultural and business products. Also, the annihilation of the scientific and cultural centers stalled the scientific and cultural progress in the country. These findings are in line with those of previous studies and indicate that the Mongol invasion has been one of the most disastrous incidents in Iranian history.

Comparison with Previous Studies:

The findings of the present study are in line with those of previous studies in terms of Mongol invasion and its consequences. Studies by Ibn Asir, Joweini, and Rashid-al-Din Fadhlullah Hamedani also confirm the intensive annihilation of the infrastructure and population decline. Using more precise analyses and archaeological methods, more recent research has also confirmed the economic and cultural effects of this invasion.

Meanings and Consequences of Results:

Results of the present study indicate that the Iranian society, despite the destructive effects of the Mongol invasion, managed to overcome this crisis over time and reconstruct its economy and culture. It is indicative of the Iranian society's resistance and reconstruction power against severe crises.

Conclusion:

The present study indicated that the Mongol invasion of Iran has had highly destructive effects on the economy and culture of this land. Destruction of the economic infrastructure, population decline, disruption of trade, and annihilation of the scientific and cultural centers were among the main consequences of this invasion. However, the Iranian society managed to reconstruct and revive its economy and culture through the brave efforts it made. It is recommended for further studies to investigate more details of this economic-cultural reconstruction and provide practical solutions to confront similar crises.

This comprehensive article dealt with the investigation of the economic and cultural destructions and consequences of the Mongol invasion of Iran by the use of authentic historical sources and more recent analysis and provides a detailed and inclusive image of this historical incident.

Investigation of Destruction of Iranian Economic Infrastructure due to Mongol Invasion:

Introduction:

The Mongol invasion of Iran in the 13th century AD was one of the most disastrous incidents in the history of Iran which deeply affected the economic infrastructure of the country. This invasion not only destroyed the towns and villages, but also destroyed the vital infrastructure such as irrigation systems, the caravanserais, and trade centers. In this chapter, we have dealt with a detailed investigation of the destruction of Iranian economic infrastructure due to the Mongol invasion.

Destruction of the Towns and Villages:

One of the most important aspects of the Mongol invasion was the widespread destruction of the towns and villages. Large and prosperous cities such as Neyshabur, Rey, Marv, and Harat were completely destroyed. Destruction of these cities, which were significant economic, trade, and cultural centers, not only destroyed the urban infrastructure but also drastically reduced the economic products and activities. Destruction of the cities was equal to the annihilation of the markets, production and service centers, and people's houses, which all negatively affected the local and national economy.

Destruction of Irrigation Canals:

Due to its specific geographical location, Iran was highly dependent on irrigation canals. Traditional irrigation systems such as Qanats, canals, and dams which were used for agriculture and water supply were extensively destroyed by the Mongols. These destructions led to a drastic drop in agricultural products and the annihilation of the water supply needed for people's and animals' lives. The destruction of irrigation canals not only damaged agriculture but

also increased drought and water shortage in different regions of Iran.

Destruction of the Roads and Caravanserais:

Caravanserais and trade tours were among other vital economic infrastructures highly damaged during the Mongol invasion. The destruction of caravanserais, which were used as resorts and business centers for business caravans, led to disruption in domestic and international trade. Destruction of such places was equal to increased insecurity and reduced commercial traffic, which led to a decrease in business profit and an increase in transportation fees.

Destruction of Production Centers and Workshops:

Production centers and various workshops existing in Iranian towns and villages were also damaged by the Mongol invasion. Destruction of these centers, including handicraft, production, and service centers, led to a decrease in industrial and handicraft products and job loss, which itself caused an increase in unemployment and poverty in the society.

Decline of Population and Workforce:

Mongol invasion severely reduced the population and workforce in Iran through the mass killing of people and capturing them. Population decline was equal to the decrease in workforce and economic production which led to huge negative effects on the country's economy. Many agricultural lands were left without a workforce and the industrial and handicraft products were seriously reduced.

Long-term Economic Consequences:

Destruction of the economic infrastructure not only brought short-term effects but also led to long-term economic consequences. Reconstruction of this infrastructure and recovery to the previous levels of production and economic activities required huge resources and took a long time. Many regions in Iran could not recover the previous economic state years after the invasion, which led to an overall reduction in the GDP of the country.

Mongol invasion of Iran was one of the most disastrous incidents in the history of this country which deeply affected the economic infrastructure of the country. Destruction of the cities and villages, irrigation canals, caravanserais, production centers and workshops, and decline of the population and workforce led to the reduction in products and economic activities, and an increase in poverty and unemployment in the society. Reconstruction and revival of these infrastructures required a lot of time and resources, and the Iranian society managed to overcome this crisis through enormous efforts it made and reconstruct and revive its economy and culture. This historical incident indicated the Iranian society's resistance and reconstruction power against severe crises, which can be used as an important lesson to confront similar crises in the future.

Analysis of Social and Cultural Effects of the Mongol Invasion of Iran:

Introduction:

Mongol invasion of Iran in the 13th century AD not only had destructive effects on the economic infrastructures of the country but also seriously affected the cultural and social structures of the Iranian society. This invasion destroyed the cultural and scientific centers, annihilated the artistic works and libraries, and created deep changes in social structure. In this chapter, we will deal with a detailed investigation of the social and cultural effects of the Mongol invasion of Iran.

Destruction of Scientific and Cultural Centers:

One of the most enormous cultural effects of the Mongol invasion was the widespread destruction of the Iranian scientific and cultural centers. Libraries, schools, and mosques, which were considered important scientific and cultural centers, were burned and numerous artistic and scientific works were annihilated. Large libraries such as Baghdad Library and Neyshabur Library which contained huge collections of scientific, literary, and philosophical books, were completely destroyed. These destructions led to the loss of a huge part of Iranian scientific and cultural heritage and stalled the country's cultural and scientific progress for a long time.

Migration and Dispersal of the Elite:

Mongol invasion led to the killing and capture of many Iranian scientific and cultural elites. Many scientists, scholars, and artists were forced to migrate to safer areas. This migration and dispersal of the elite led to a drastic decline in Iranian scientific and cultural products, and consequently, numerous scientific and cultural achievements were lost. Moreover, it led to the transfer of some parts of Iranian culture and science to other regions in the world that brought positive results for these regions, although at the expense of Iranian society loss.

Changes in Social Structure:

The Mongol invasion of Iran deeply affected the social structure of the society. Many aristocratic families and political and economic elites were killed or captured. It led to fundamental changes in the social structure and decreased the role and influence of the aristocrats in society. Also, the migration and dispersal of the population led to widespread demographic and social changes that had long-term effects on Iranian society.

Weakening of Religion and Culture:

The destruction of the mosques and religious centers led to the weakening of the role and influence of religion in society. Many religious scholars were killed or forced to migrate, which led to a decrease in religious and cultural activities in the country. In addition, the destruction of religious centers led to the decrease in religious education and promotion in the

society which itself negatively affected the religious and spiritual culture of the society.

Effects of the Invasion on Art and Literature:

The Mongol invasion deeply affected the Iranian art and literature. Many artistic and literary works were destroyed and such products were drastically decreased. Yet, over time and with gradual reconstruction of the society, the Iranian art and literature flourished again and some significant artistic and literary works were created after the invasion, which is indicative of the reconstruction power and cultural revival of the Iranian society.

Long-term Cultural Effects:

The cultural effects of the Mongol invasion of Iran were long-lasting and the cultural reconstruction of the society required huge amounts of time and effort. Yet, through its continuous efforts and scientific-cultural capacities, the Iranian society managed to reconstruct and revive its culture and art. It is indicative of the reconstruction power and cultural revival of Iranian society.

Conclusion:

The Mongol invasion of Iran deeply affected the culture and society of this country. Destruction of the scientific and cultural centers, migration and dispersal of the elite, changes in social structure, weakening of religion and culture, and effects on the art and literature were among the main consequences of this invasion. However, the Iranian society managed to overcome this crisis through enormous efforts it made, and reconstructed and revived its culture and art. This historical incident indicated the Iranian society's resistance and reconstruction power against severe crises, which can be used as an important lesson to confront similar crises in the future.

Investigation of the Way the Iranian Culture and Economy was Reconstructed and Revived after Mongol Invasion:

Introduction:

The Mongol invasion of Iran in the 13th century AD destructively affected the country's economy and culture. Yet, through its continuous efforts and scientific-cultural capacities, the Iranian society managed to reconstruct and revive its culture and art. In this chapter, we will investigate how the Iranian economy and culture were reconstructed and revived after the Mongol invasion.

Economic reconstruction:

1. Reconstruction of the Infrastructures:

After the Mongol invasion, the first step to economically reconstruct the country was the reconstruction of the destroyed infrastructure. Qanats, irrigation canals, and business routes were reconstructed so that agriculture and trade could

flourish again. This reconstruction was done with the help of traditional techniques and the local workforce.

2. Revival of Agriculture:

Agriculture was one of the most important sectors of the Iranian economy, which was highly affected by the Mongol invasion. After the invasion, the agricultural products gradually increased through the reconstruction of the irrigation systems and encouraging the farmers to return to their lands. The local governments also encouraged the farmers to increase production by providing loans and reducing taxes.

3. Promotion of Business:

Through the reconstruction of the roads and caravanserais, business security was improved, and domestic and international trade flourished again. Also, business relations with other regions in the world such as India, China, and Europe were strengthened.

4. Development of Handicrafts and Local Products:

After the Mongol invasion, handicrafts and local products were gradually increased. Production workshops that were destroyed during the invasion were reconstructed and handicrafts such as carpet weaving, pottery, and textiles flourished again.

Revival of the Culture:

1. Reconstruction of Scientific and Cultural Centers:

Scientific and cultural centers destroyed during the Mongol invasion were gradually reconstructed. Schools, libraries, and mosques were reconstructed, and scientific and cultural activities were reinitiated. In addition, scientists and scholars who had migrated to other areas gradually returned to Iran and helped with the cultural and scientific development of the country.

2. Supporting Art and Literature:

After the Mongol invasion, Iranian art and literature was also gradually revived. Local rulers helped with the development of art and literature by supporting the artists and authors. New artistic and literary works were created most of which were inspired by experiences and developments caused by the Mongol invasion.

3. Strengthening the National Identity:

One of the important processes through which the Iranian culture was reconstructed after the Mongol invasion was strengthening the national identity. Through the emphasis on national history, culture, and values, the Iranian people reconstructed their culture. It led to an increase in national solidarity and strengthened the spirit of resistance against problems and crises.

4. Promotion of Islamic Knowledge and Culture:

The promotion of Islamic knowledge and culture flourished again through the reconstruction of the schools and mosques. Religious and cultural scholars dealt with education and promotion of Islamic teachings which helped to strengthen the cultural and religious foundations of the society.

Role of Local Governments and Rulers:

Local governments and rulers played an important role in the reconstruction and revival of the Iranian culture and economy after the Mongol invasion. They helped with the development of the infrastructures, agriculture, trade, handicrafts, and scientific and cultural activities through the provision of loans and financial support. Moreover, they dealt with social and cultural reconstruction of the society by strengthening security and supporting people's rights.

CONCLUSION:

Reconstruction and revival of the Iranian economy and culture after the Mongol invasion is one of the important historical periods of the country which is indicative of the Iranian society's reconstruction power resistance against severe crises. The Iranian society managed to overcome the enormous crisis of Mongol invasion and reconstruct and revive the country after this crisis through reconstruction of the economic infrastructures, revival of agriculture and trade, development of the handicrafts and local products, reconstruction of the scientific and cultural centers, support of art and literature, strengthening the national identity, and promotion of Islamic knowledge and culture. This historical period can be used as a significant model to confront similar crises in the future.

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