The Nomadic Tactics of the Mongolian Military

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ABSTRACT

The Mongolian had the strongest military and was able to conquer the Eurasian Continent because they not only upheld nomadic tactics but also made adjustments and fostered them. Unlike other ancient monarchs of nomadic countries, Chinggis Khan formed the strong Khan power and consolidated military centralism having Chiliarch organization directly under the rule of a central government and exercising the power to appoint Chiliarch. While former Chiliarch system was formed based on the tribal system, therefore, Chinggis Khan’s Chiliarch was established through the break-up of the tribal system. Though Chinggis Khan used the existing decimal system as a standard unit for the military and administration, he was able to reconstruct the Mongolian tribes as breaking up the traditional tribal system. This reconstruction of several Mogolian tribes made it possible to overcome the limits of the tribal system that showed a tendency to disintegrate and to become a nomadic conquest dynasty. The Chiliarch system was an administrative unit that controlled the people most effectively as well as the military system ready to take part in a combat at any time. It helped the Mongolian military become the strongest in the
world as it built up group consciousness.

Having a victory in wars for conquering enemies with tactics and strategies that reduced a loss of soldiers and horses that were exceedingly valuable was the priority objective of the Mongolian military. Before getting involved in a war, therefore, they thoroughly discussed and investigated, and even sent spies to collect information on the state of opponents. They also trained their horses during summer to go to war and took an action in fall after a final discussion. In a war, they harassed their enemies by chasing them into a corner little by little. If a situation became unfavorable to their side, they avoided a frontal attack and trapped their enemies by ambush.

The archery of the Mongolian knights who did Parthian Shot on horseback was probably a strong barrier that could not be easily destroyed in settled agricultural societies. Moreover, it must have been threatening to have 100, 1,000, or 10,000 horses mobilized when even one horse could have been intimidating. The mobility of the Mongolian military based on Mongolian horses for wars raised with the peculiar ways of Mongolian helped the Mongolian declare a war to conquer all around the world, and it became the motive power of establishing the Mongol Empire.

**Key Words**  Chilarch(천호제), Chinggis Khan(청기스칸), Group Hunting(집단사냥), Mongol Empire(몽골제국), Mongolian horses(몽골 말), Mongolian knight(몽골기사), Mongolian military(몽골군), Parthian Shot(파르티안 샷)