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The Mongols and Europe

Building common economic and political spaces in medieval Eurasia

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The Mongol conquest favored the interconnections into Eurasia and the Italian Sea Republic – Genoa and Venice – were the most prepared to take the chance created by the Mongol invasion of Eurasia. The two Italian cities invested considerable efforts to penetrate the Mongol Empire and frequent those markets, whose potentialities in terms of profit were immense. In other words, the Mongol conquest opened new horizons to the Europeans (traders, missionaries, adventurers, etc.) and favored unprecedented intercontinental connections, at least in the decades commonly called Mongol Peace. But was the so-called Mongol Peace (Pax Mongolica) historical reality or it is more of a (successful) historiographical category? In this talk, I will try to illustrate the most recent findings of historical research and to explain the point of view of Western sources with particular attention to the Venetian ones.

Lorenzo Publici (Ph.D. in Medieval History 2005) was born in Florence in 1972 and is currently professor of Premodern Central Asian History and Cultures at the Department of Asia, Africa and Mediterranean (DAAM) of the University of Naples l’Orientale. Author of numerous monographs and articles on Eurasian nomads and medieval Russia, prof. Publici is the scientific director of CeSecom (Center for Studies on Central and Eastern Europe in the Middle Ages) with Prof. Marcello Garzaniti. Is editor in Chief of the book series Europe in between of the Florence University Press, member of the Center of Studies on Central Asia, Tibet and Iran (CSACTI) and member of the International Association on the Golden Horde.

Moderation: Francesca Fiaschetti