

Population:
 Mongolia – 3,000,000
 Florida – 20,000,000
 Whole USA – 320,000,000

Land Area:
 Mongolia – 600,000 square miles
 Florida – 65,000 square miles
 Whole USA – 3,800,000 sq miles

Language: Mongolian

Since 1992, Mongolia has been a democracy, with an elected President and Parliament.

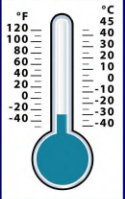


Khaltmaa Battulga was elected President on June 26, 2017 and sworn in July 10. He was in the Parliament 2004-2016. He was world champion Mongolian wrestler in 1989.

Capital: Ulaanbaatar (sometimes spelled Ulanbator)

Economy: Mainly mining and agriculture

Winter Temperature: Minus 30 degrees every day!



Ethnic groups
 — 96% Mongols
 — 4% Kazakhs

Religion
 — Buddhism 53%
 — Islam 3%
 — Shamanism 3%
 — Christianity 2%
 — Not religious 39%

"High, cold, windy, sunny"
 Grassland on a high plateau
Mongolia is landlocked


Eternal blue sky: Over 257 cloudless, sunny days a year **Naples 264!**

Ulaanbaatar is world's coldest capital city: Annual average temperature 29 degrees F.
 Southern Mongolia: Gobi Desert


There's only one city of any size in Mongolia

- 1 Ulaanbaatar 1,340,000 people
- 2 Erdenet 86,866
- 3 Darkhan 74,300
- 4 Choibalsan 38,150
- 5 Mörön 36,082
- 6 Khovd 28,601
- 7 Ölgii 27,855
- 8 Bayankhongor 26,252
- 9 Arvaikheer 25,622
- 10 Ulaangom 21,406

A third of the population lives in the capital, Ulaanbaatar...



...while around 40% are nomadic, herding livestock on the plateaus.




Mongolia's economy is dependent on two countries: China and Russia:

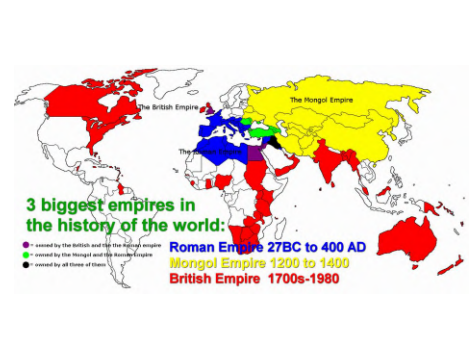
- China buys 90% of Mongolia's exports by value.
- 30% of Mongolia's imports are from China.
- Russia supplies 90% of Mongolia's energy.

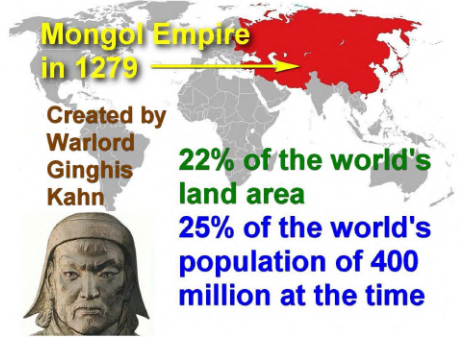
Education

- Transitioning (by 2020) to a 12-year public education system.
- But only 8 years is compulsory.
- All students begin to study English in fourth grade.

Literacy

- Very high: 98%.



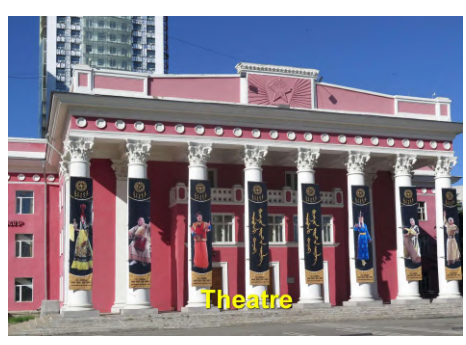
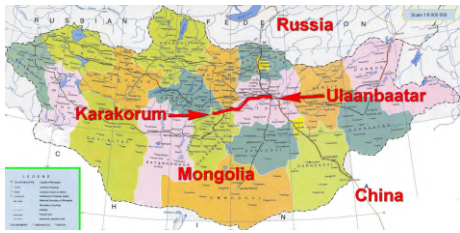
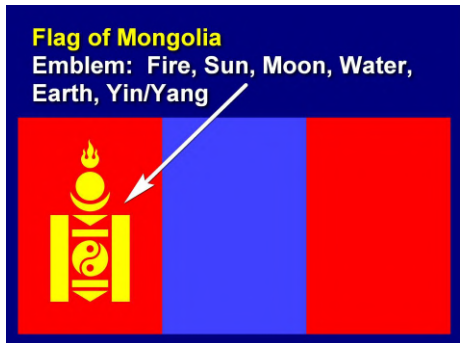


Mongolia History:

- 1200s and 1300s Mongol Empire
- 1400s to 1911 part of China
- 1911 Independent
- 1919 Part of China
- 1921 Part of Russia:
 - Brutal Communism
- 1993 Independent Democracy

The Great Repression 1937-1939

- Stalinist persecution. Between 20,000 to 35,000 "enemies of the revolution" were executed.
- 3%-5% of Mongolia's total population.
- Victims included 18,000 Buddhist monks, democrats, devout Buddhists, aristocrats, intelligentsia.
- 700 Buddhist monasteries destroyed.
- Many former government leaders executed.





Mongolian Cyrillic - 35 letters

Mongolian English

Аа	Бб	Вв	Гг	Дд	Ее	Ёё	Жж	Зз	Ии	Йй	Кк	Лл
a	b	v	g	d	e	yo	dzh	dz	i	y	k	l
Мм	Нн	Оо	Өө	Пп	Рр	Сс	Тт	Уу	Үү	Фф	Хх	
m	n	o	ou	p	r	s	t	u	oo	f	h	
Цц	Чч	Шш	Щщ	Ьь	Ыы	Ъъ	Ээ	Юю	Яя			
ts	ch	sh	shch	i	e	yu	ya					

Russia forced Mongolia to adopt Cyrillic in 1941



Sanjaasürengiin Zorig 1962-1998

- Led 1990 democratic revolution that ousted Russia and Communism.
- Elected to Parliament 1991, 1996.
- Government was corrupt.
- 1998 chosen as Prime Minister as leader of anti-corruption movement in government.
- Stabbed to death a few days before inauguration. Murder never solved.

International Hotel
Menu items:

- Mongolian traditional milk tea
- Cold ox tongue Mongolian salad
- Beef or lamb soup
- Dumpling soup
- Cream soup with chopped meat
- Homemade noodle soup
- Steamed lamb soup covered by dough to make the soup steamed style

Menu Page 2:

- Beef Liver with apple and onion
- Beef Goulash
- Tsuivan - hand cut noodle with beef
- Khuushuur - National stuffed parcel with lamb, beef, or vegetables
- Mongolian food collection -- stuffed parcel, dumplings
- Buuz - Dumpling stuffed with lamb or beef
- Dumpling cooked in milk tea
- Pan fried dumpling with sour cream



Ox Tongue with pickles and salad



Mongolian dumplings in milk



Mongolian dinner: Various dumplings and salad. Dumplings are dough stuffed with meat.



Mongolian "bread" - fried dough



Mongolian lunch: soup, dumplings and some vegetables



Gandan Monastery



Gandan Monastery - 1809
Survived Communist destruction of monasteries in Mongolia 1937-1939



Today around 150 Buddhist monks live at Gandan Monastery



Monks chanting prayers
Prayer scrolls



This hall was built in 1840



Gandan Monastery - 1809



Gandan Monastery - 1809



Prayer Wheels

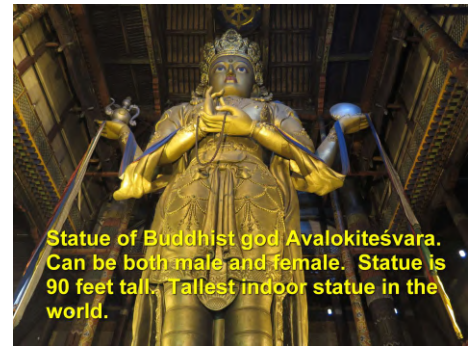




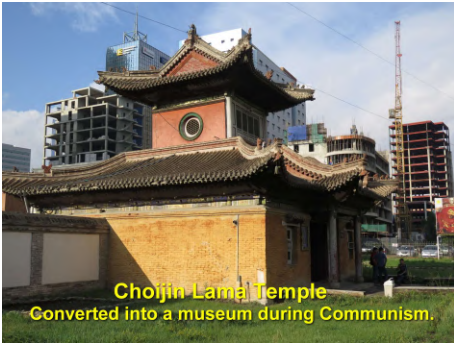
This is a Stupa. It is a memorial to someone who died.



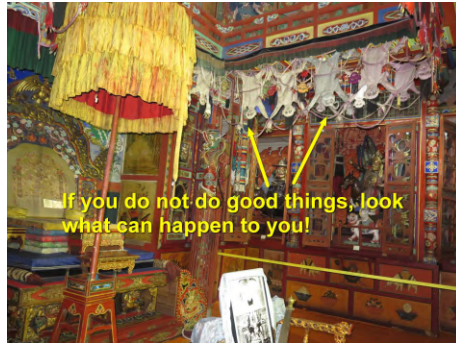
Migjed Janraisig - main prayer hall at Ganden Monastery 1911



Statue of Buddhist god Avalokitesvara. Can be both male and female. Statue is 90 feet tall. Tallest indoor statue in the world.



Chojin Lama Temple
Converted into a museum during Communism.



If you do not do good things, look what can happen to you!



Third eye!

This god sees everything you do!



Chojin Lama Temple



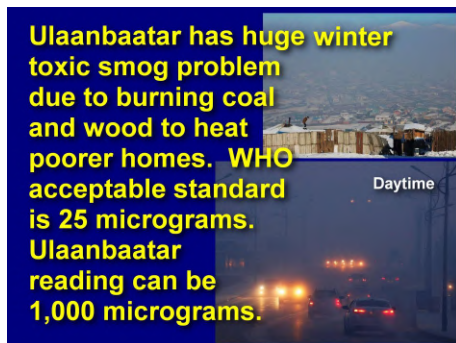
Chojin Lama Temple



Bogd Palace. Home of the last King of Mongolia -- Bogd Kahn -- until 1924.



The King's residence at Bogd Palace.



Ulaanbaatar has huge winter toxic smog problem due to burning coal and wood to heat poorer homes. WHO acceptable standard is 25 micrograms. Ulaanbaatar reading can be 1,000 micrograms.

Daytime



My friend Terry. Our guide Crystal

We prepare for our trip to the grasslands and hills.



Something like Wal-Mart.



Our car and driver (Pascal). We also had a guide (Crystal).



This kind of flat grassland is called a steppe. No trees.



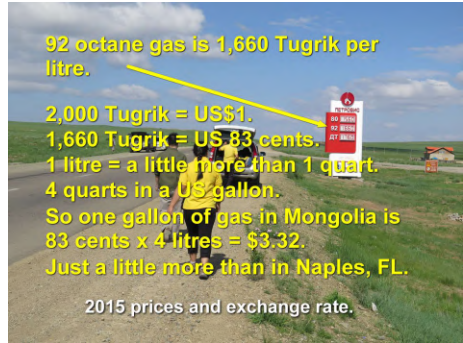
There are no trees because we are above the tree line. Trees cannot survive winter cold.



Herds of goats, sheep, horses, even camels everywhere



Very basic bathroom facilities! Inside just two wood boards with a hole.



92 octane gas is 1,660 Tugrik per litre.

2,000 Tugrik = US\$1.

1,660 Tugrik = US 83 cents.

1 litre = a little more than 1 quart.

4 quarts in a US gallon.

So one gallon of gas in Mongolia is 83 cents x 4 litres = \$3.32.

Just a little more than in Naples, FL.

2015 prices and exchange rate.



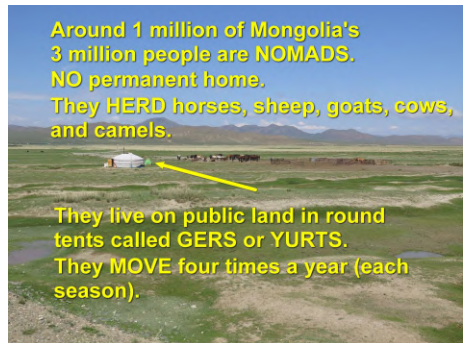
Steppes.



One of the few villages on the road from Ulaanbaatar to Karakorum



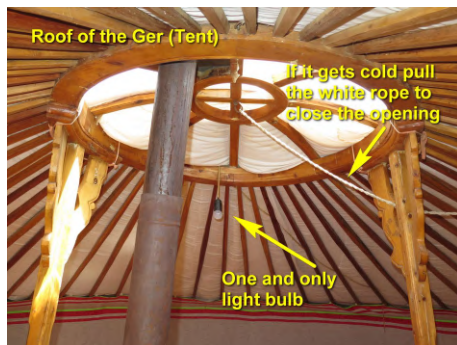
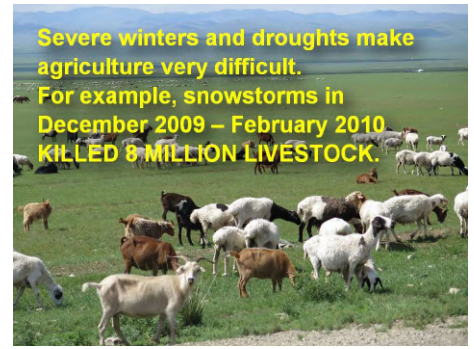
Steppes. Too cold for trees.



Around 1 million of Mongolia's 3 million people are NOMADS. NO permanent home. They HERD horses, sheep, goats, cows, and camels.

They live on public land in round tents called GERS or YURTS. They MOVE four times a year (each season).







Pork with Rice and Potatoes



Russian UAZ Van



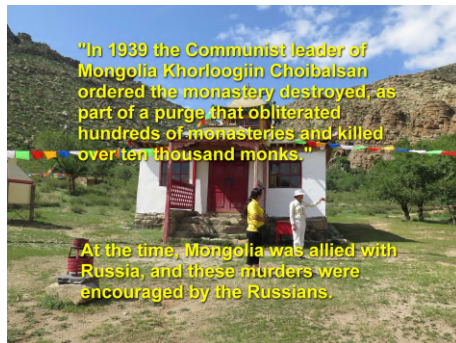
Ger is Mongolian word. Yurt is Russian word for same thing. Mongolians don't use Yurt because of resentment for Russian invasion.



Drive to Erdene Khamba Monastery



Erdene Khamba Monastery. 17th century. Once had over 1,000 monks.



"In 1939 the Communist leader of Mongolia Khorloogin Choibalsan ordered the monastery destroyed, as part of a purge that obliterated hundreds of monasteries and killed over ten thousand monks."

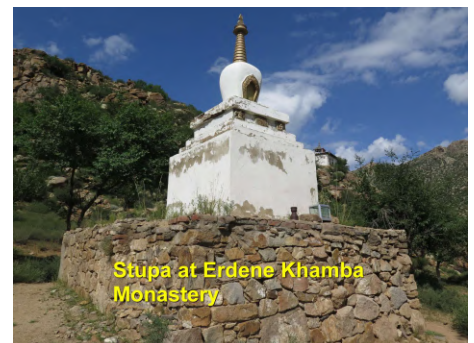
At the time, Mongolia was allied with Russia, and these murders were encouraged by the Russians.



Erdene Khamba Monastery - 17th c.



Erdene Khamba Monastery - 17th c.



Stupa at Erdene Khamba Monastery



Former monks' residence.



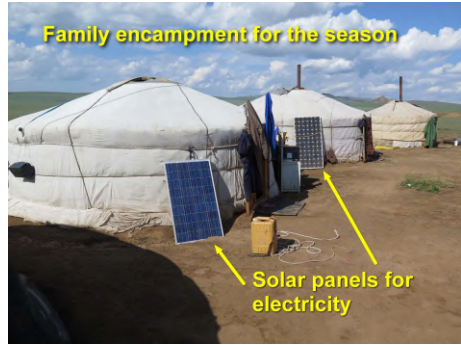
Explanation of next photo:
— 1,000,000 people live in tents.
— Winter is 30 degrees below zero.
— There are no trees for firewood.
— People need fuel for heating and cooking.
— What do you think they burn?



This is fuel - in place of firewood

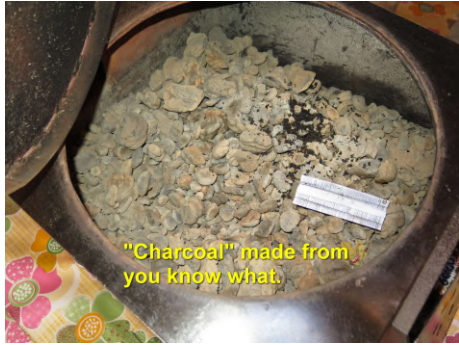


We visit a nomad family of horse herders.



Family encampment for the season

Solar panels for electricity



"Charcoal" made from you know what.



Saddle



Hard Mongolian Cheese (snack)



The day we were there they were weaning young horses away from their mothers. Also putting on a bridle for the first time.





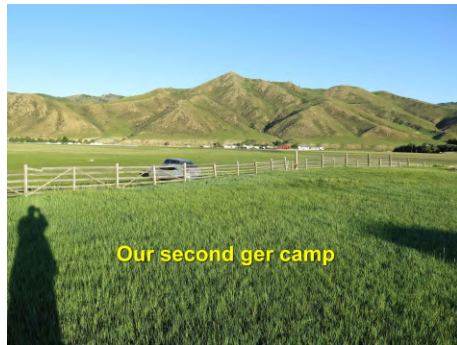




The most amazing thing:
All of the riders are children 6
to 10 years old!



First, second, and third place



Our second ger camp



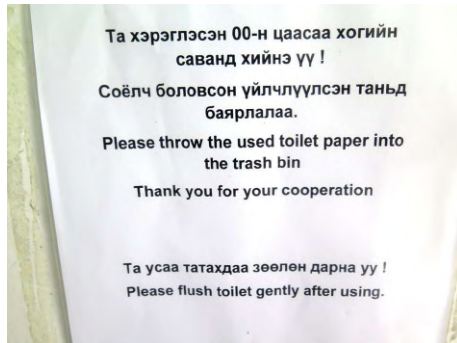
"Home" for two nights



"Running Water"
Filled up each morning



Toilets and showers



Та хэрэглэсэн 00-н цаасаа хогийн
саванд хийнэ үү !

Соёлч боловсон үйлчлүүлсэн таньд
баярлалаа.

Please throw the used toilet paper into
the trash bin

Thank you for your cooperation

Та усаа татахдаа зөөлөн дарна уу !
Please flush toilet gently after using.



Dining Room



Breakfast pancakes



Noodles and vegetables



Pork, rice, and vegetables



Salad and local beer



Chicken, rice, and potatoes



Putting a ger together



Karakorum Area UNESCO World Heritage Site

Karakorum Historic Area Museum



Karakorum Village Market



Dried cheese



Cheese



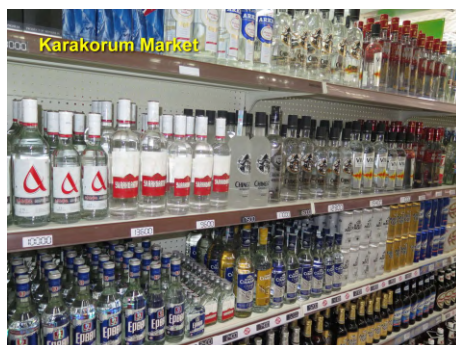
Do you see any brand names that we have in the USA?



Pampers
Tide
Lipton Tea
Nescafe
Twix
Snickers
Colgate
Huggies
Pringles



Ger Components for Sale in Market



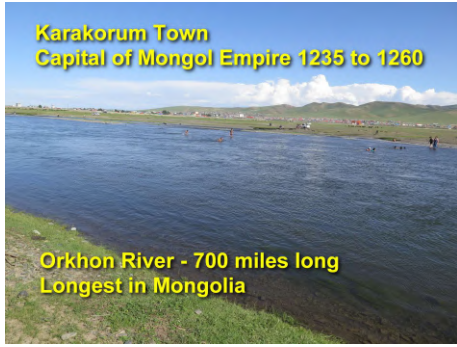
Karakorum Market



Independence Monument



Religious Shrine: Horse Skull
(Horses are highly respected in Mongolia)



Karakorum Town
Capital of Mongol Empire 1235 to 1260

Orkhon River - 700 miles long
Longest in Mongolia



Another shrine for respect of horses

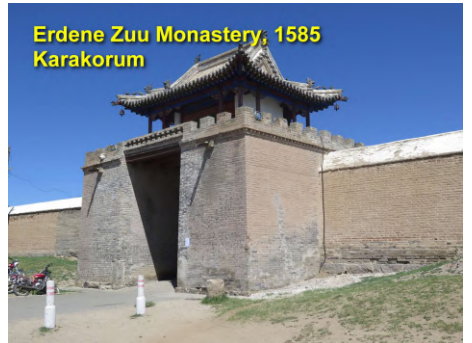


Karakorum Phallic Shrine - 16th century
Purpose: remind monks to remain celibate

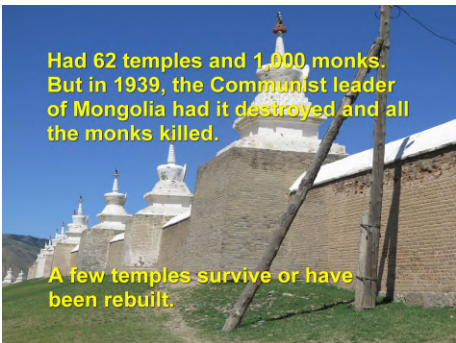


Karakorum - Stone Turtle Shrine - 15th c?

Turtles considered guardians of the town



Erdene Zuu Monastery, 1585
Karakorum



Had 62 temples and 1,000 monks. But in 1939, the Communist leader of Mongolia had it destroyed and all the monks killed.

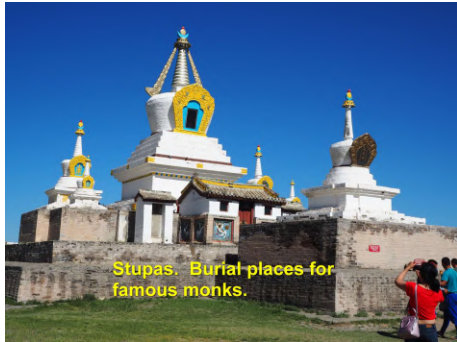
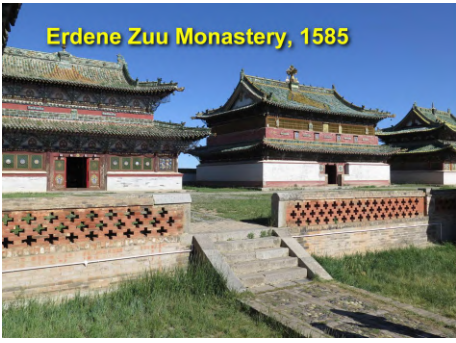
A few temples survive or have been rebuilt.



Erdene Zuu Monastery, 1585



Chinese style temples.





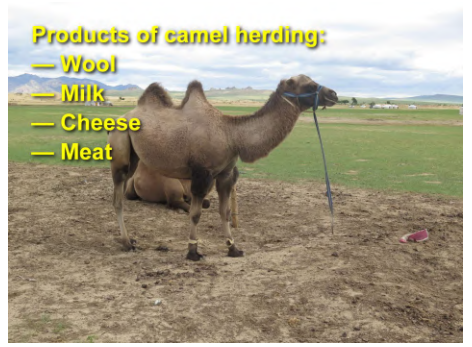
Stone turtle, 1400s



Young lady from Quebec, walking from Beijing to Morocco (two years).



Nomad family of camel herders



Products of camel herding:

- Wool
- Milk
- Cheese
- Meat



Gobi Desert

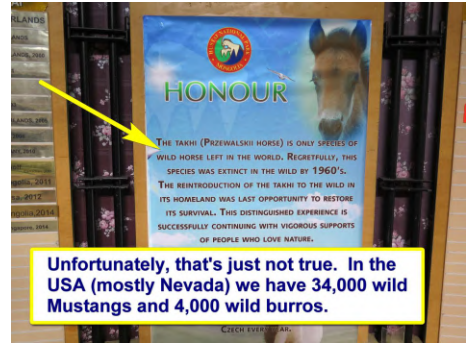
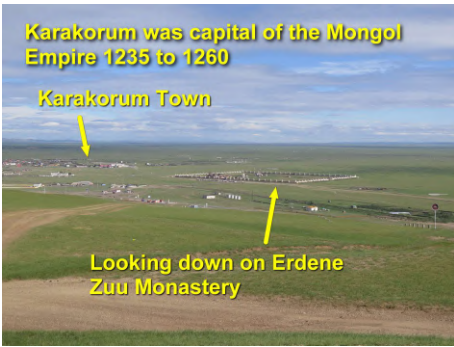


Milking a horse for "mare's milk"



Shrine -- respect to horses





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The End

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