

Ming China and Its Allies

On the eve of the early modern age, Ming emperors ruled between one-fifth and one-quarter of the globe's population, the majority of the world's largest urban centers, the biggest standing army on the planet, and the day's most affluent economy. Far from being isolated, the Ming court was the greatest center of political patronage in east Eurasia, likely the world. Although the Ming throne might trumpet its superiority, it understood its need for allegiance from ruling elites in neighboring regions. In this major new study, David M. Robinson explores Ming emperors' relations with the single most important category of Eurasian nobles: descendants of Genghis Khan and their Mongol supporters. Exploring the international dimensions of Chinese rule, this revisionist but accessible account shows that even rulers such as the Ming emperor needed allies and were willing to pay for them.

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Imperial Rule in Eurasia

David M. Robinson

Colgate University, New York



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In fond memory of Tom Allsen (1940–2019).

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Abbreviations

<i>BTGZ</i>	<i>Beijing tushuguan guji zhenben congkan</i>
<i>CHC</i>	<i>Cambridge History of China</i>
<i>DMB</i>	Carrington Goodrich and Chaoying Fang, <i>Dictionary of Ming Biography</i>
<i>DMXZ</i>	Zhu Zhanji, <i>Da Ming Xuanzong huang di yu zhi ji</i>
<i>GCDG</i>	Deng Shilong, ed., <i>Guo chao dian gu</i>
<i>GCXZ</i>	Jiao Hong, ed. <i>Guo chao xian zheng lu</i>
<i>GQ</i>	Tan Qian, <i>Guo que</i>
<i>GSWY</i>	Huang Jingfang, <i>Guo shi wei yi</i>
<i>HFLB</i>	Sun Yixiu, ed., <i>Han fen lou mi ji</i>
<i>HMJS</i>	Chen Zilong, ed., <i>Huang Ming jing shi wen bian</i>
<i>HMZL</i>	Fu Fengxiang, compiler, <i>Huang Ming zhao ling</i>
<i>HMZZ</i>	Kong Zhenyun, compiler, <i>Huang Ming zhao zhi</i>
<i>HYYY</i>	Qoninchi (Huo Yuanjie), ed., <i>Hua yi yi yu</i>
<i>KDRB</i>	Maema Kyōsaku and Suematsu Yasukazu, eds., <i>Kundoku ribun</i>
<i>MGCX</i>	Libu qinglisi, ed., <i>Ming gong chen xi feng di bu</i>
<i>MMHJ</i>	Buyanküü (Boyinhū) and Wang Xiong, eds., <i>Mingdai Menggu Hanji shiliao huibian</i>
<i>MS</i>	Zhang Tingyu, <i>Ming shi</i>
<i>MTSL</i>	<i>Ming Taizong shilu</i>
<i>MTZSL</i>	<i>Ming Taizu shilu</i>
<i>MXZSL</i>	<i>Ming Xuanzong shilu</i>
<i>MYZSL</i>	<i>Ming Yingzong shilu</i> .
<i>SKCM</i>	<i>Sikuan quanshu cunmu congshu</i>
<i>SKJH</i>	<i>Siku quanshu jinhuishu congkan</i>
<i>SLQJ</i>	Song Lian, <i>Song Lian quan ji</i>
<i>XXSK</i>	<i>Xuxiu Siku quanshu</i>
<i>YHB</i>	Shen Defu, <i>Wanli yehuo bian</i>
<i>YS</i>	Song Lian, <i>Yuan shi</i>
<i>YSTBJ</i>	Wang Shizhen <i>Yanshan tang bie ji</i>