



Khan: Empire of Silver

Conn Iggulden

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Historical Novel.

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From Reader Review Khan: Empire of Silver for online ebook

Paul Chafer says

This series has been awesome from start to finish. Timeless and well crafted with Conqueror yet to come.

Graham says

Another exhilarating read in the Conqueror series by Conn Iggulden. I was worried that this series would run out of steam once Genghis Khan left the stage in *BONES OF THE HILLS*, but I need not have worried: this is one of the best in the series yet, a thoroughly engrossing, exciting, and indeed epic retelling of the events that shaped the Mongol Empire.

Ogedai Khan is the leader of half the known world in *EMPIRE OF SILVER*, yet his fragile health means that the threat of a coup is ever present. Indeed, the warring between family members is what makes this book so tense, and there are some stand-out set-pieces which really get the blood flowing, like the storming of the palace.

I particularly appreciated the way that family resentments and vendettas are carried over from previous books, making this feel like just one part of an epic series. As most of the characters from *WOLF OF THE PLAINS* are now very old, a lot of sub-plots are tied up here. Needless to say the storytelling is vivid and electric and the battle sequences (for there are many) are mesmerising. This is truly a book that beats Bernard Cornwell at his own game.

Kevin says

Terrific. Simply. This is my all time fav book series. Easily. (well, maybe the Boxcar Children was close). Conn Iggulden continues to write great historical fiction with this Khan series. Is it all historically correct? I don't know. Is it geographically correct? I don't know. Is it a great story filled with great characters? Definitely. I was super excited when I saw this book at our library and it was one of those books you read slowly because you don't want to finish. Surely there is another book coming about Kublai Khan, the grandson of Ghengis. Highly recommend not only for people who like historical fiction but also for those who like great story lines.

Aaron Bright says

Death and destruction...if they weren't the themes of the other books that came before, this one brings it to another level. Lots and lots of battle scenes told in just the right amount of detail. This book was A LOT of fun!

Mizuki says

[assassinated Genghis Khan (hide spoiler)]

Andrew says

I like a bit of equestrian and archery action - especially, it turns out, when it involves the smelly, rapacious, bandy-legged, furry-hatted Mongols. I've savoured every sword slash and pike thrust of Conn Iggulden's romp through Central Asia in the 'Conqueror' series. In 'Wolves of the Plain', there's the desperation of Genghis Khan's early years: the fractious tribal politics that resulted in his father being killed and his family left for dead; his mother who could never forgive him for the fratricide that saved the rest of the family from starvation; and his struggle to unite his people against the manipulative and divisive Chin Empire. In 'Lords of the Bow', there's the blood-soaked charge through the gates of the kingdom of Xi Xia, the conquest and pillaging of the fat lands and cities within, and the epic battle of Badger's Mouth at which the Chin Army was routed and the Empire brought to its knees. The same fate lies in wait for the Persians in the third book of the series, 'Bones of the Hills'. Every page reeks of mutton lard, and is filled with hard-faced Mongol generals putting peaceful merchants to the sword and stealing their wives, whilst quaffing airag from goatskins. What I particularly like about these books is that, whilst Genghis and his cut-throat crew go about the business of hacking to pieces all who stand in their way, there is at least a grim sense of honour about them. The true villains are those despicable creatures, such as younger brother Temuge, who can't draw a bow and are forced to make themselves useful by doing such menial things as reading, writing, and learning languages. And then, there is the inevitable slide, as the warrior race becomes gentrified, and Genghis's heirs start to feel the need to erect monuments to themselves in 'Empire of Silver'. Bottom line, if you like to drink your pony's blood and eat dried mutton on a long campaign, then return from battle to your ger where your Chin Princess is patiently waiting, these books are for you.

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David Sven says

Genghis Khan is dead. His son Ogedai becomes khan, but not without incident. There's a lot more political intrigue in this book than the previous three. Genghis built an Empire and remained virtually unchallenged as khan by virtue of the fact there was no one with the same force of will and personality to oppose his absolute hold on the Mongol tribes. Now that he's gone, who gets to be khan is not so clear cut.

While Ogedai builds a Mongol capital from the ground up, establishing a centre for Empire, Tsubodai pushes the tumans in the khan's name into Central Asia, Russia and Hungary. It's rather chilling how close the world

came to not ever having what we now know as "the West" and it had nothing to do with anyone in Europe or Russia having an answer to the Mongol war machine.

Tsubodai will face heavily armoured veteran Teutonic and Templar Knights. His strategy of attacking in winter and using frozen rivers as a road network was key. In this Tsubodai caught a lot of cities and armies unprepared and he eliminated the battlefield advantage of those who outnumbered the Mongols by retreating and luring them into choke points of his choosing.

So we get some decent set piece battles this book, but not as many as in the previous books with Iggulden leaving out some pretty major historical battles in favour of showing how the Mongols spread their cultural and economic influence out from their new Capital. Genghis would probably be turning in his grave if he knew his son had built a city like the ones he so despised.

We also see a little bit of Kublai as a child though he is not a major character this book. The way this book ends it's difficult to imagine how Kublai will rise to power. It will be interesting to see how the fourth son of the fourth son of Genghis Khan takes up his grandfather's legacy in the final book of the series.

4 stars

Donna says

This is the fourth book in the Conqueror series by Conn Iggulden. This has been a great Historical Fiction series that I have enjoyed so much. I loved how the author portrayed the people, tribe life, and how the different nomadic tribes became united, not to mention how they became a strong and a fearsome people.

This book was a continuation of the story of the people in Genghis Khan's rule, but I wasn't loving this one as much as I have the others. This was less about the people and more about the governing powers.....and their conquering finesse. However, this was still enjoyable. I have the next one in this series and I'm hoping to get to it this coming week. So 3 stars.

Terri says

While not the best of the series I still enjoyed Empire of Silver, the fourth in this epic saga on the Mongolian Empire. Put it this way, not as good as the first two, but better BY FAR than the third, Bones of The Hills.

And I learned something, which is always good. I did know much of Ogedai Khan. He was a son of Ghengis Khan and this book covers his reign. His story is quite interesting. There are events that took place during his reign that truly did shape the world, such as, the invasion of Russia.

I was also surprised to find out, when I read the Historical Notes in the back, that some of the parts of this book that I scoffed at whilst reading it were actually based on facts. At the time, as I was reading them, I thought they were far fetched and I was a bit of a doubting Thomas. It helped me to look favourably on the book when I discovered the parts that seemed made up for the sake of a good story were actual truths. Thank goodness for Historical Notes. Without them at the end of this book, my rating may have looked completely

different.

Barry says

I simply love Conn Iggulden's writing!

This is the fourth book that I have read in his Conqueror series which revolves around the formation of the Mongol nation and its subsequent conquering of most of the known world. In this book, Genghis has previously died and the leadership of the nation is up for grabs.

Normally, I am opposed to learning anything from the books that I read as I highly prize my state of ignorance about most things, especially history. Although this series is clearly a group of novels, according to reviews that I have read by historians, it was meticulously researched by Iggulden and, as a result, I could not avoid learning a fair amount about the period described.

Iggulden also includes a rather extensive author's note wherein he described the liberties that he took in combining characters and describing events that he surmised, based on the available information.

So, even if you are unalterably opposed to learning, you will still probably enjoy the book as long as you enjoy reading about the period in which it was set and the people responsible for changing the then face of the world.

Vagner Stefanello says

Muito bom, como já é de praxe! O modo como o Iggulden descreve a história do povo mongol é simplesmente sensacional.

Muita treta acontecendo com a sucessão de Genghis Khan, Tsubodai mostrando por que foi o grande General do falecido khan, Ogedai e seus problemas de saúde atrapalhando o avanço dos mongóis, que poderiam ter conquistado todo o oeste europeu, assim por diante.

Peter says

Succession

Now that Genghis is dead who will rule and what are the rights of passage to become the Great Khan of the Mongol nation?

How history is such a delicate path of events and decisions. If Genghis hadn't died when he did, causing the withdrawal of the Mongol army generals from their battle-fronts, would Europe have a totally different culture and gene-pool than it currently does? The Mongols after destroying the main European army (Templars) didn't execute their opportunity to roll across Europe conquering all before it. Instead, it returned to Mongolia to elect a new leader – never to return.

Which of Genghis' sons, Chagatai, Ogedei, Jochi, or Tolui will be the next Great Khan and what is the toll

for those that pick the wrong side? Ogedei has built a silver city on the plains that is the capital of the Mongol nation. Chagatai is the eldest son now Jochi is gone and claims the throne. Whoever becomes Great Khan needs to keep the people together if he is to rule successfully and continue to war on multiple fronts. In particular, the Song dynasty is a foe that is looming and must be dealt with. The rivalry between Chagatai and Ogedei is palpable and threatens to destroy the dynasty. Conn Iggulden provides an excellent insight into the struggle and challenges for leadership following Genghis' death.

This is a wonderful blend of history and fiction to create a must-read story.

Lance Greenfield says

If I had read this book as a standalone, without its three predecessors, I think that I may have awarded it five stars. It really is a wonderful work of historical fiction. However, it is just not up to the standard of the other three in this series.

There is quite a lot of politics in this one, and the rivalries between the sections of the family continue. There is a fair share of savage brutality, and some of it is shocking, but you expect that by now, don't you?

Ogedai is the new Khan, but only just. There is an unsuccessful attempt on his life on the eve of the oath-taking which will confirm his supreme position in the Mongol nation. Some skilful manipulation resolves the splits and rivalries between the most powerful, and makes all of the protagonists relatively happy.

The Khan continues the expansion of the empire, and the building of cities. This may not be the way that Ghengis would have operated, but it works. Sadly, Ogedai is ill. The radical solution is beyond anything that you can imagine, but Iggulden makes it totally believable.

The torrid pace of all of the books in the Conqueror series continues, but I just felt that this was one book too far. Don't let me put you off reading it though. It is still a superb read, and I commend it to you.

Mark Harrison says

Decent addition to the Khan series dealing with the aftermath of Genghis' death. Lots of infighting and tribal politics whilst the younger generation invade Russia and Hungary. Not quite the same level as the earlier three books but still a very good historical adventure story. Really is a must read series.

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Faith Justice says

From the Synopsis:

“Genghis Khan is dead, but his legend and his legacy live on. His son Ogedai has built a white city on a great plain and made a capital for the new nation. Now the armies have gathered to see which of Genghis’ sons has the strength to be khan. The Mongol empire has been at peace for two years, but whoever survives will face the formidable might of their great enemy, China’s Song dynasty.”

Conn Iggulden (author of the Emperor series on the life of Julius Caesar) brings us the fourth in his Conqueror series covering the history of the Mongols. The book begins with a very unhorde-like activity...building a city. But quickly moves into palace intrigues as Genghis' heir, the ailing Ogedai, moves to thwart his brother's attempt to assassinate him and take over the assembled nation. From there, Iggulden takes us on a roaring ride—all battles, military strategy, and new weapons (including proto-cannons)—lots of blood, death, and unimaginable destruction. Not having lived in or studied this time period, I couldn't say if it accurately reflects the thinking of the time, but it felt visceral and grounded in the known facts. Iggulden makes good use of everyday details from food, drink, clothes, geography and shamanism to build a world and give us access to it.

The settings are sweeping, the descriptions vivid and the myriad characters well-rounded. The story concentrates on that transitional period between Genghis and Kublai as the remaining brothers, sons and grandsons fight and connive for the succession. Very few women make an appearance. The major exception is Sorhatani, the wife of Genghis' youngest son and the formidable mother of Kublai (later the Great Khan.) Upon her husband's death, she is given his titles and rights, making her one of the most powerful women of the times. Hopefully we'll have more of her in the next book.

The most fascinating part for me was the Mongol invasion of Europe under the great general Tsubodai. He came across as believable: loyal, ruthless, brilliant at both war and politics. But also tragic, in that with all his gifts, he had no heirs and would never take a ruling role. The strong right arm of Genghis and Ogedai, he was the military power behind the throne. I had a real sense of the terror felt by the Europeans as the Golden Horde destroyed one army after another and slaughtered the people of any city that failed to surrender. The walled cities of Russia, Poland, and Hungary all fell during Tsubodai's march toward the Atlantic in the mid-13th Century. He had scouts that reached Italy and France. Only the death of a single man, resulting in the continuing struggle for an empire, saved Western Europe from utter destruction; according to Iggulden.

Before reading this book, I knew Iggulden only by reputation. Historical fiction readers on some sites extolled his story telling, but felt he played a little fast and loose with historic facts in his Roman series. I've studied the Roman Late Republic and Empire extensively and hate it when an author makes an obvious goof or chooses to ignore known facts. It rips me right out of the story. Luckily, I know little about the Khanates other than a few bald facts, so any errors or stretches went over my head and I concentrated on the story—which was fascinating. Iggulden also provided an extensive historical note talking about his sources and where he “filled in” gaps in the history; probably as a response to earlier criticism.

Altogether, I enjoyed my break from the Roman world. This was a fascinating sojourn in a little known (to westerners) time and place. I'd recommend *Empire of Silver* to anyone who enjoys fast-paced, adventure fiction. I might even pick up one of Iggulden's Roman books!

Please note: I received this book as a free Advanced Review Copy from the publisher through the LibraryThing Early Reviewers Program. The opinions are my own.

Ivie ☆Born to Magic-Forced to Muggle☆ says

I remember starting this series and thinking to myself just how little information we usually get about the Eastern cultures through our educational system. Just the basics really. Truth be told, not a lot of people would just sit and research some random piece of history either. It takes precious time, that we really don't have these days.

So once you find an author who can so creatively rouse your interest and get you invested into researching it's a brilliant thing.

This is the final installment of a very well researched history of one man that managed to call the wandering Mongolian tribes under one banner. King of the Sea of Grass. This series has been an eye opener for me, something new and something I really enjoyed. What makes me smile that even today there are nomadic Mongolian tribes that still cling to the elements of the past lives described in this book. Truly amazing.

Would I recommend this series? Of course I would. Honestly I haven't found a writer yet that would impress me as much as Conn Iggulden when it comes to historical fiction.

Scott Hitchcock says

Book 1: 5*

Book 2: 5*

Book 3: 5*

Book 4: 5*

Another amazing chapter in this series. Also amazing what the Mongols accomplished and what else they might have done had things broken just a big differently. In the words of the Knights Templar the best fighting force in Europe of that age had Genghis's son not died and the Mongols pulled back there was nothing that was going to stop them from burning all of Europe. They had already burned half of it and taken out supporting troops from western Europe.

This is real life Grimdark where they did what Napoleon and Hitler couldn't do. They marched into Russia in the middle of winter and burned every one of their cities. They marched into the Islamic world and burnt them out. They went into China and cleaned their clock. While doing all of this they were outnumber 2-10:1 in every battle.

There's a good reason 800 years later people still talk about them. Their battle tactics and strategies are still taught in modern military schools.

They were the original badasses.

Dr. Sulaiman says

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