

HISTORY OF CHINA: AN ITINERARY

MW 2-3:15PM, On Zoom ([class link](#))

Trip Leader: Dr. Y. Zuo (/zoo/)
Easily reached by email at
yzuo@ucsb.edu
Available for Office Hours:
Tuesday 4-6 PM, [Zoom link](#)



Fellow Explorers: All your curious selves!

Guidebooks:

Tanner, Harold M. *China: A History*. Indianapolis: Hackett Publishing Company, 2009. **ISBN-10:** 0872209152; **ISBN-13:** 978-1603842020

Online Resources:

In addition to the textbooks, we will read a selection of primary sources (in translation) and some secondary scholarship. The readings are available on GauchoSpace as PDFs.

Orientation:

Welcome to China! In this quarter we will explore the middle and late imperial periods of China's past, which witnessed a gamut of fascinating changes: disappearance of aristocracy and emergence of commoner-origin elite, triumph of refined scholars over macho warriors, rise of neo-Confucianism, and the ascendancy of Genghis Khan.

As we travel in the expansive land of middle/late imperial China, we will pursue the following historiographic issues in depth: the relation between state and society, extensive inter-ethnic coalition and conflict, cultural encounters and assimilation, and, what exactly *was* China?

Learning during a Pandemic

We are going through an exceptional time which might have posed a lot of challenges to you and yours. I hope learning history will help you find meaning, enjoyment, and some inspirations from how people in the past coped with crises and endeavored to improve their societies. I also hope this class will provide an opportunity for you to interact with your classmates and me so we can stay connected in the times of social isolation. Normally I have everything set on my syllabus and will not make changes during the quarter. Given the volatile situation of the pandemic, however, I will check in with the class periodically and make adjustments if need be. Please make sure you stay in touch via email and on GauchoSpace. If you have questions/meet challenges, please don't hesitate to reach out. I'm always happy to offer help!