

MMW3, Section Co4

April 9, 2007

Research Log #1

Topic #1: Astrology in India

Topic #2: Mongol influences on civilizations

Amitai, Reuven, and Michal Biran, eds. *Mongols, Turks, and Others*. Netherlands: Brill, 2005.

The essays in this text focus on nomads as conquerors and raiders, especially the Mongols and the Turks. The book explains their effects on the civilizations around them as well as the civilizations' effects on the nomads. If I wrote on this topic, I could discuss the social, political, and economic ideas that were interchanged between the Mongols and the people whose civilizations they invaded. The exchange of cultural ideas, technologies, and goods had a great impact on both sides of the complex relationship between nomads and sedentary peoples.

Flood, Gavin, ed. *The Blackwell Companion to Hinduism*. Oxford: Blackwell, 2003.

This text covers a wide variety of topics regarding Hinduism. One section focuses on the formation and basic notions of the Hindu calendar, astrology, and astronomy. This source would be useful for a paper about astrology in India because it explains the lunar calendar and astrology as well as their ideas about the planets. It also includes

information about the changes resulting from the influence of Hellenistic astrology and astronomy. The Greeks influenced the role of the seven planets and the twelve zodiac signs. I would be able to write about the Greek influence and effect on Hindu ideas about astrology.

Marshall, Robert. *Storm from the East*. Berkeley: U of California P, 1993.

This book is centered on the history of the Mongols, especially during the time on Genghis Khan to Kublai Khan. It discusses the attributes of the Mongols as a people as well as the history of their invasions until the fall of their empire. Since my paper is restricted to the time before 1200 C.E., I would only be able to discuss the times of Genghis Khan. I would write about how he led the Mongols in invasions. His leadership also affected the culture of the Mongols, since he determined how things operated, especially with regard to their strong military and warfare strategies.

*The Secret History of the Mongols*. Trans. Urigong Onon. London: RoutledgeCurzon, 2001.

The translations in this text describe the history of the Mongols led by Genghis Khan. They are stories about his life and events that occurred in history that have been derived from source documents. There is also an introduction that includes information about their religion, which is Shamanism, their politics, including laws, and much more regarding the way their society was set up as well as their way of life. If I wrote on this topic, I could use this source to explain the social and political aspects of Mongol

civilization. I would use this information to describe their culture and the way they effectively survived under the rules et up by powerful leaders, such as Genghis Khan.

Sutton, Komilla. *Indian Astrology*. Singapore: Collins, 2000.

This book is a very interesting source regarding the information that pertains to each Vedic star sign. Besides explaining the details of each astrological sign, it includes information about the philosophy that resulted in the ideas that existed about astrology. The book also describes the importance of the planets and some mythologies behind the theory of the two nodes of the moon. If I were to write on this topic, I could use this source to provide specific details about Hindu astrology, which affected religious and social thought in India. Furthermore, I could use aspects of philosophy to show how the scientific information about planets was influenced by religion to create such complex ideas about astrology.