

## Summary

With the beginning of the 20th century, the Mongolian elite saw an opportunity to break free from foreign influence. So, they began an elaborate game to find new allies to rebuild their place on the steppe. However, the world of nomadic confederations disappeared, the territories of the Great Steppe were divided by powerful empires, and the relationships governing them proved to be extremely different from what the Mongols used to know. As a result, Mongolia unwittingly fell into the sphere of influence of an emerging power in the West, a power that was alien not only to the Mongols themselves, but also to the rest of the world. To survive the Mongols had to find their place in the emerging new world order and understand the laws that governed it. One of the first people to take on this task was Shirendev. He was not only a living witness to the changes taking place, but also one of the first historians ready to face up to a new reality. Shirendev was a man with an unusually interesting biography, born at the beginning of the 20th century in old Mongolia. From a poor shepherd, with prospect of becoming a Buddhist monk, he was quickly changed into an active participant in the rapid transformations of the region. He was elevated to previously unimaginable heights of power and became one of the fathers of modern Mongolian science and education. Shirendev was not only an observer thrown, as he used to put it, *on the the mighty waves of the ocean*, but above all, a researcher actively trying to understand how to rationalise the events that were taking place around him.

The work is divided into five chapters.

The first chapter is devoted to abbreviated historical context, with the aim of understanding the causes of the complicated situation the Mongols had to face after 1911. Its task is not only to describe the events that led to the situation in which Mongolia found itself at the beginning of the 20th century, but to illuminate the differences in priorities and contexts that Shirendev attributed to certain events and historical mechanisms.

Chapter two is a biography of Shirendev. In this chapter, I introduce the figure of this scholar and the unique period in which he lived.

Chapter three presents an analysis of the Shirendev's historical thought. The first part shows Shirendev's views on a nature of feudal relations in the steppe and what role they played in the history of the region. The next section of the chapter presents an analysis of the

Manchurian-Mongolian relations described by Shirendev within the Chinese state. This part of the chapter discusses the causes and the beginning of the Mongolian path to the national revolution. Part three presents Shirendev's interpretation of the actions of the Mongolian elite during the formation and existence of autonomy. Part four deals with the key role that Shirendev attributes to actions of Baron Ungern-Sternberg in the spreading the communist revolution. The fifth part discusses the actions taken by the Mongolian authorities as part of the so-called democratic revolution and the process of by-passing capitalism. In the sixth section, the author presents his analysis of the idea of revolution of Shirendev's communist revolution and the purpose it fulfils in his interpretation of Mongolian history.

The fourth chapter is devoted to Shirendev thoughts on revolution in Outer Mongolia. The first part of the subsection describes the history of Inner Mongolia from 1911 to the establishment of autonomy. It outlines how, according to Shirendev, Mongolians of Inner Mongolia reacted to the liberation of Outer Mongolia and the reactions of other force in the region to the communist revolution. The next section of the chapter is devoted to the role that Shirendev believes Mongolia played during the Japanese invasion of China and a civil war that broke out there. This section of the paper analyses Shirendev's assessment of the situation of the Mongols in the Peoples Republic of China. The last part of the chapter is devoted to a description of the Cultural Revolution in China and its consequences.

The fifth chapter concludes the thesis. In this chapter I present how Mongolian history and society were perceived by Shirendev, how he adapted the Marxist-Leninist system to local conditions and how he used it to chart the history of Mongolia as a modern state deserving to be part of the modern world.