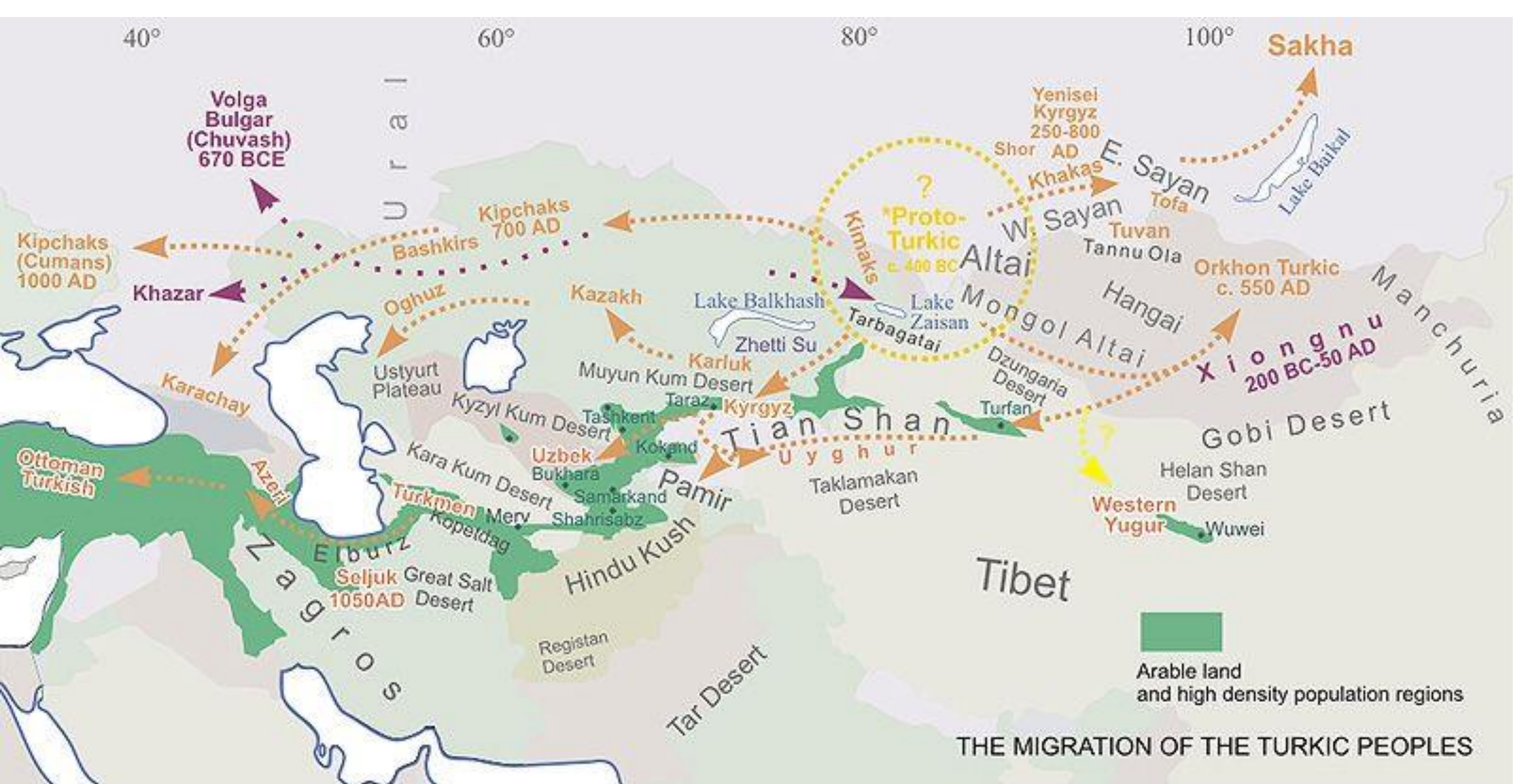


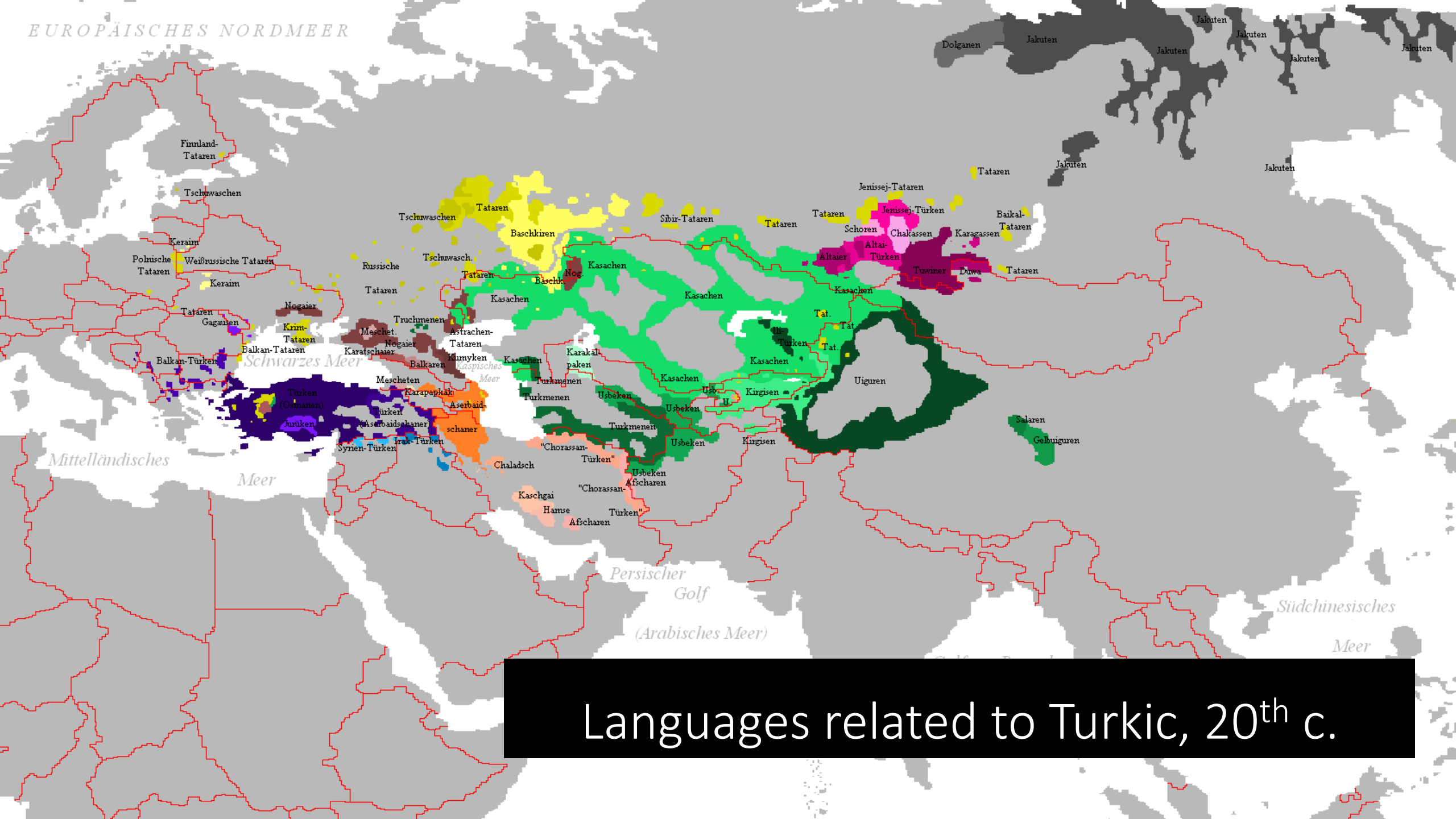
Iran Week 5: the Turkic Era

From Mamluk Slaves (900s) to
Persian Dynasts, Mongol Invasions



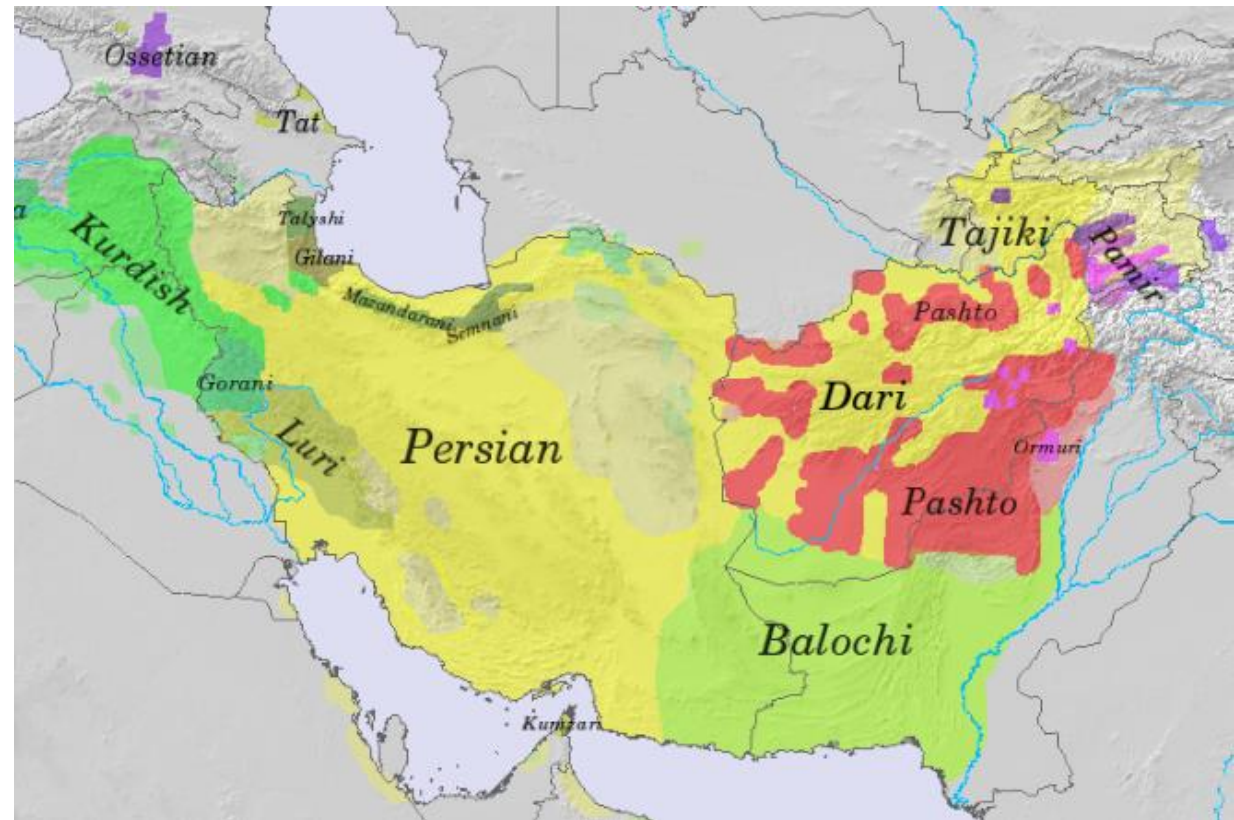


EUROPÄISCHES NORDMEER



Languages related to Turkic, 20th c.

Just a refresher – Persian part of the Indo-European world.



European image of the Turkic empires not really accurate.. (Vanmour, 1830s)

- Military Patronage System
- Unstable Empires (Seljuks, Ghaznavites, Timurids...)
- Patrons of Persian culture – often intermarried with Persian elite
- Enthusiastic observatory builders
- Centered in Central Asia



In the 900s, Mahmud of Ghazni, a Muslim Turk with Persian mother, takes Persian culture into India, commissions the *Shahnameh*. Patron of Scholars.

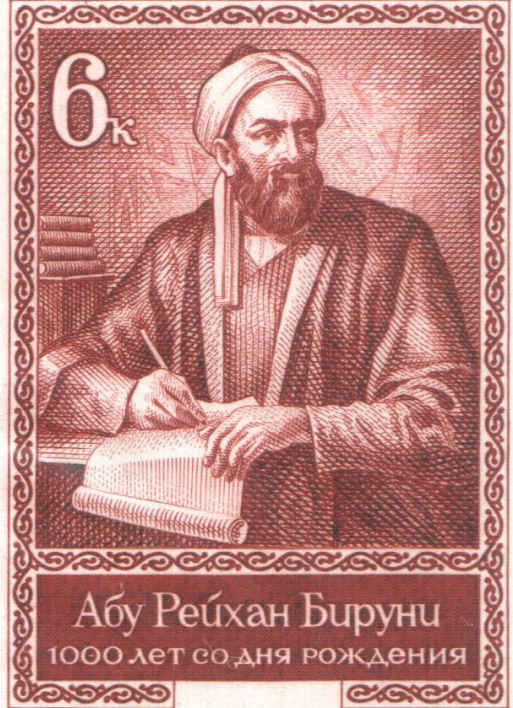


Ghaznavid Capital, Ghazni Afghanistan

Center of Learning – libraries,
scholars, art, paid for with loot from
India.

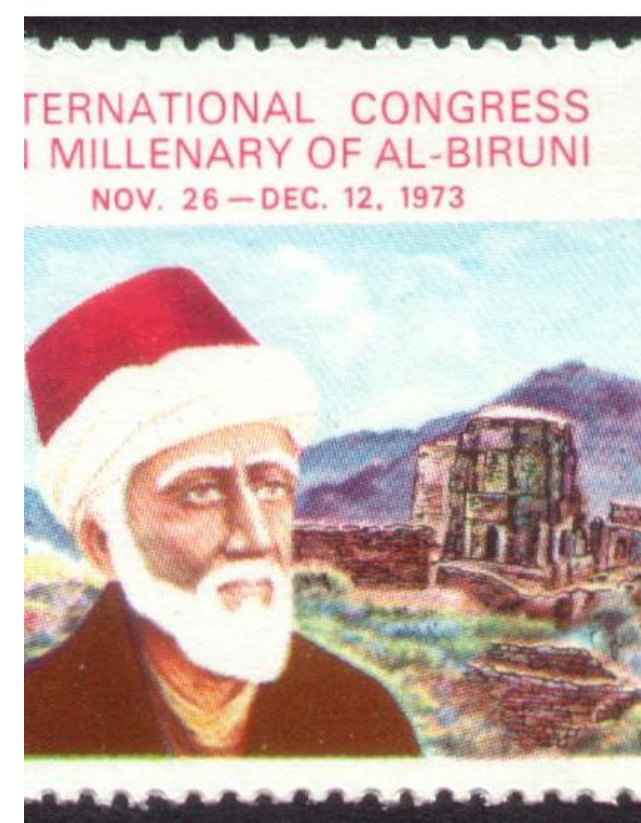
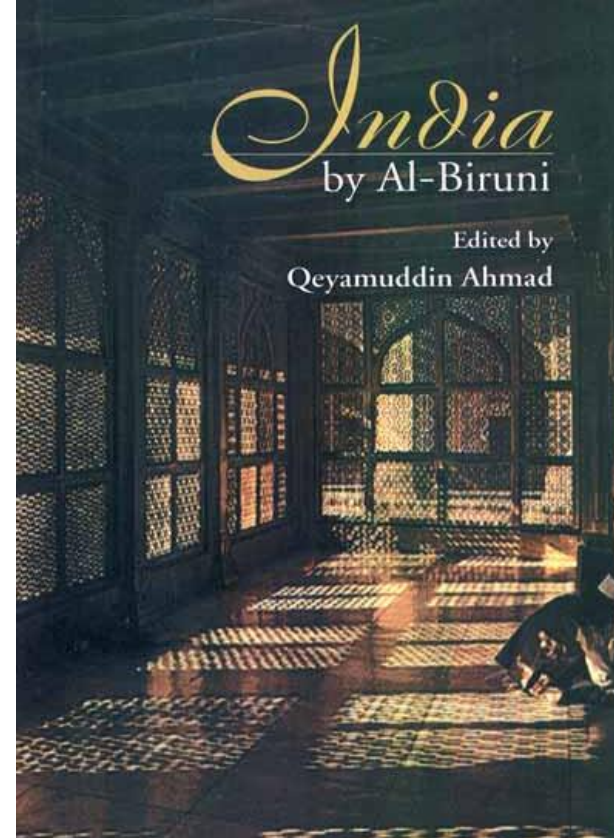


ПОЧТА СССР 1973



GUINÉ-BISSAU

ou um hedômetro primitivo, e o
ro calendario lunisolar mecânico



- Al-Biruni a virtual hostage of Mahmud of Ghazni. Historian, mathematician, astronomer, anthropologist, wrote in 5 languages, 145 books, mostly on science, some on history
- Al-Tabari (History of the Prophets) a Persian historian supported by Ghazni. Tabari traveled from Persia through Egypt gathering materials for his histories.



Avicenna (or ibn Sina)
980-1037, Bukhara



- Influenced Thomas Aquinas and European Medical Education through the 1800s
- His life a record of how insecure the warring emirates had become – tried to stay far away from Ghazni, but began and ended life in Bukhara.

The Seljuks – Turkic Empire with capital in Isfahan

- Iqta' Landholding system based on Sassanid methods (origins of Spanish *encomienda*?)
- Persianized Capital at Isfahan
- Origins in Mamluk slaves
- Transformed Isfahan (Friday Mosque on following page)
- Later capital in Merv

Seljuk Empire

آل سلجوق
Āl-e Saljuq

1037–1194



Seljuq Empire at its greatest extent in 1092,
upon the death of **Malik Shah I**



Mithrab in the Friday mosque





Kharaghan towers, mausoleum for Seljuk princesses
Togrul tower, near Tehran, 12th c. memorial

Merv the
second capital
of the Seljuks,
1100s

Mausoleum of
Sanjar Shah,
Merv,
Afghanistan

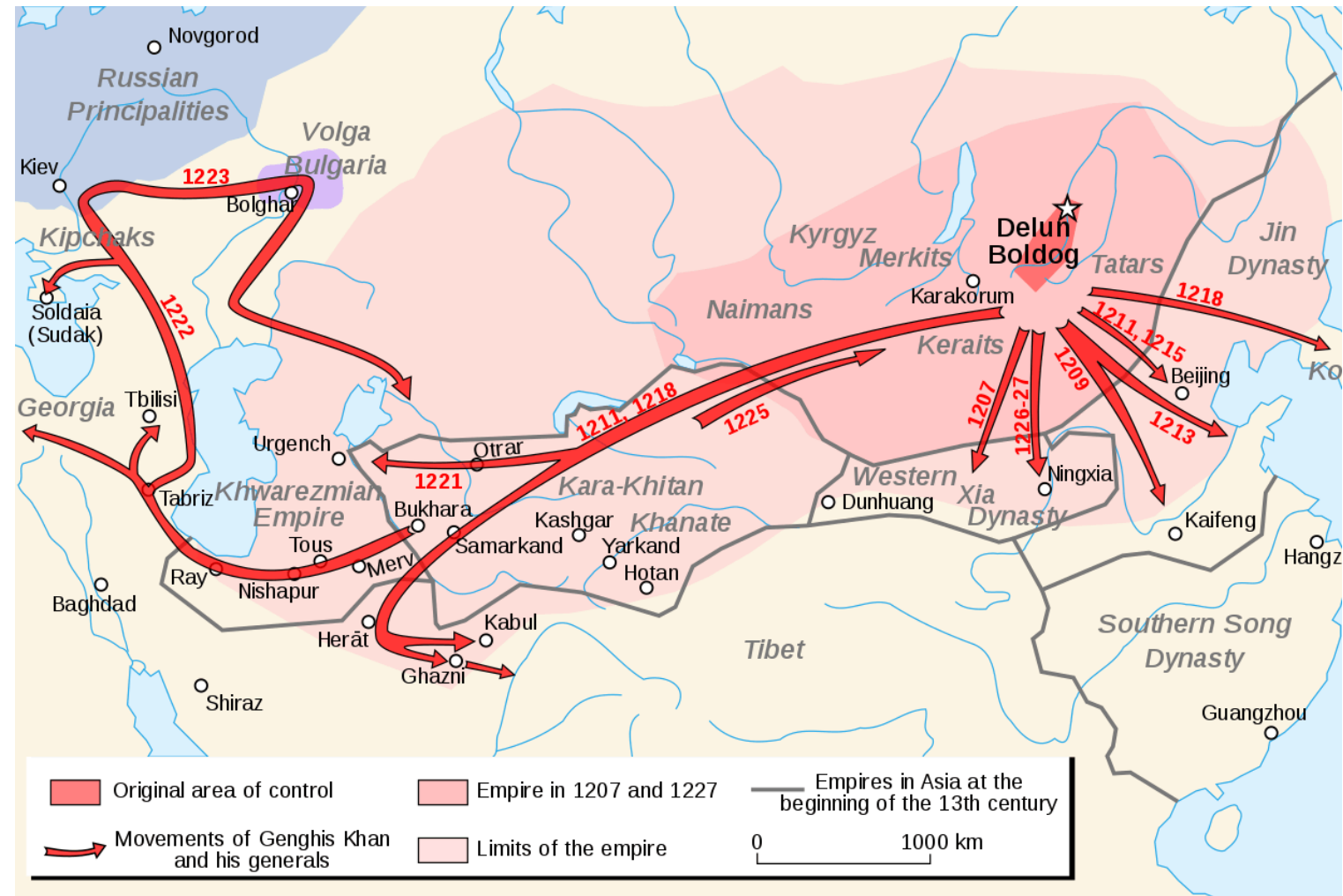


Citadel of the Ark, Bukhara, site of Library used by Ferdowsi, Avicenna, al Biruni, Omar Khayyam





Seljuk Caravanserai, Turkmenistan



In the 1220s, the Mongols arrive.

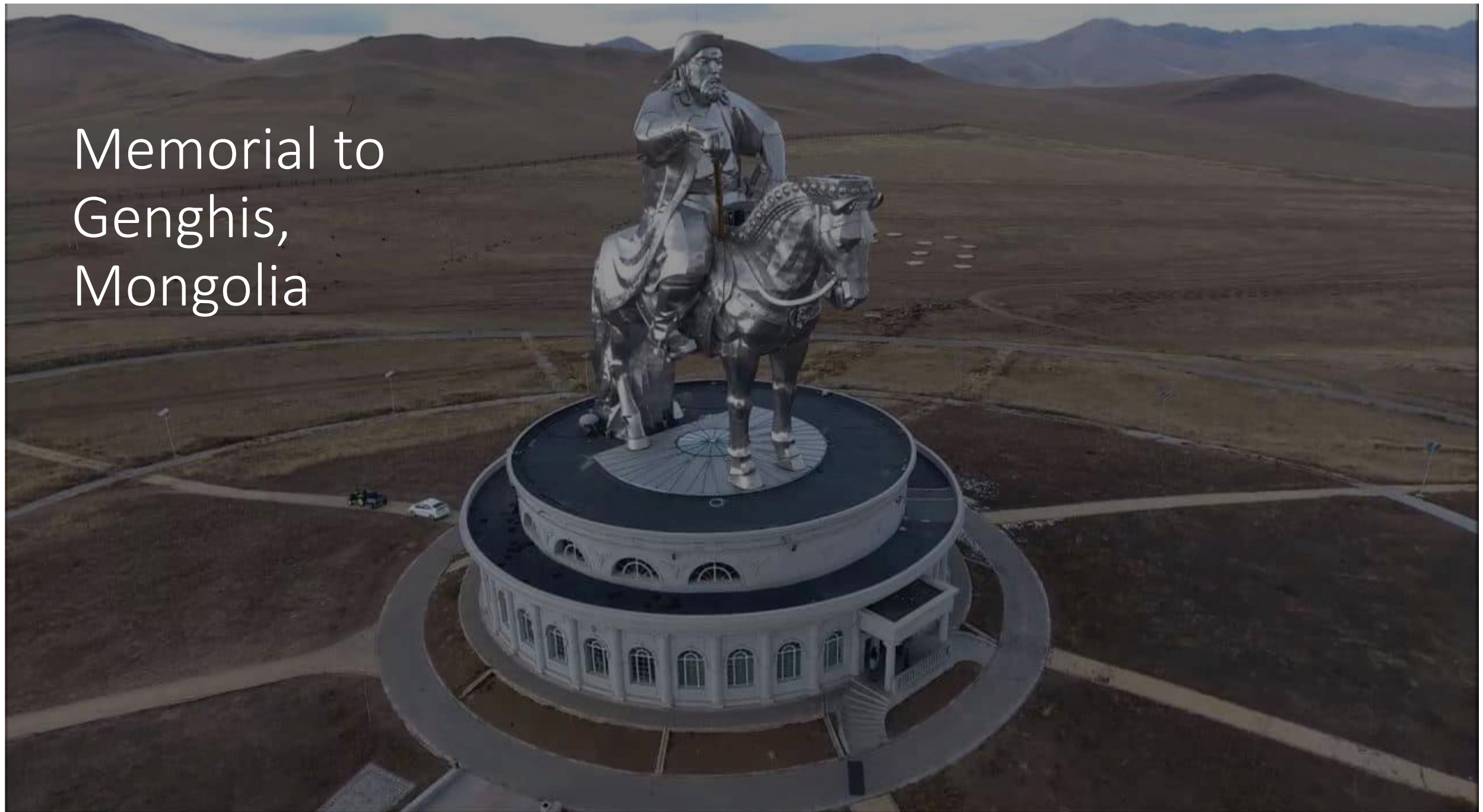
1206 Genghis Khan
Unites the Tribes, by
1220s in Central Asia.

1221 Destruction of
Merv

1220 Bukhara (shown on
right)



Memorial to
Genghis,
Mongolia





1258
Mongol
Siege of
Baghdad

Il Khanid (Il Khan) Empire - Mongol Rule 1250s-1300s



- Capital at Tabriz
- Religious tolerance? Sort of...(administration included Sunni, Shia, Sufis, Jews, Christians, Hindus, Buddhists...)
 - Patrons of Persian Art, literature,
 - Commissioned Shahnameh, as well as world histories of Rashid al Din and Al Juvaini in Persian language
 - Architectural revival
 - Revived Silk Road Trade
 - Construction of Astronomical Observatories

Hulagu Beg imported Astronomers from China, built Observatory at Maragheb in Azerbaijan.



The Maragheb observatory of today is literally built on the ruins of the 1200s site.



- Mahmud of Ghazan (ruled 1295-1305) studying the Quran after Conversion

Many of the tribes had already converted to Islam, but the Mongol hierarchy had remained Buddhist.

Religious disputes and the Black Death of the 1300s fragmented the Empire



“The Mongols’ attitude toward the power of the word and the image, however, is not sufficient to explain the unprecedented use of high-quality paper, the richness of illumination, the refinement of calligraphy, and the blossoming of illustration that Iran and Iraq witnessed during the Ilkhanid period.”

(from “The Art of the Book in the Ilkhanate Period” Exhibit at the Met. 2003
https://www.metmuseum.org/toah/hd/khan2/hd_khan2.htm

- At right, illustrated page from Ferdowsi’s *Shahnameh*.







Timur (Tamerlane), 1330-1400s, claimed descent from Genghis Khan, from Samarkand.

Invasions (and massacres) from Syria to Delhi.

European fascination with Tamerlane hard to explain

Capital moves from Shiraz, to Herat under his Grandson Shah Rokh

Adopted Persian Court Culture,
patron of science...(met with Ibn
Khaldun in Damascus who left a
record of his curiosity for science)





Herat became a center for training of manuscripts under the Timurids

- Kamal al Din Behzad considered the master in setting a tradition to combine the word and the art on the page. The goal was to keep the viewers eye moving through the page.



Timur battles the Mamluks of Egypt



Hmm, a little
too realistic
close up for
me.



بسی شایمیا از اکبش شذرار

مجال کد رنگ شیدر سپیا

نم افنا و بر زر مگا

Timur revived the Mongol Empire in conquest style as well - caused the death of about 5% of world population – 17 million. (at right, conquest of Baghdad with everyone thrown into the Tigris River)





Not much to say here.

Bibi
Khanom
Mosque in
Samarkand
built by
Timur,
1400s

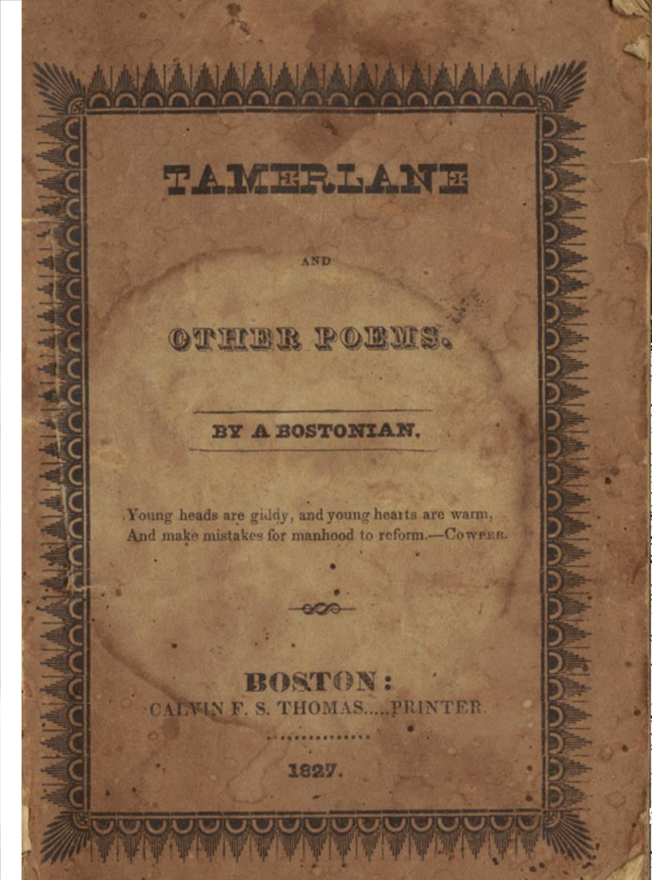


Ulegh Beg Observatory, Samarkand



Built and used
by Timurid
ruler Ulugh
Beg, 1400s





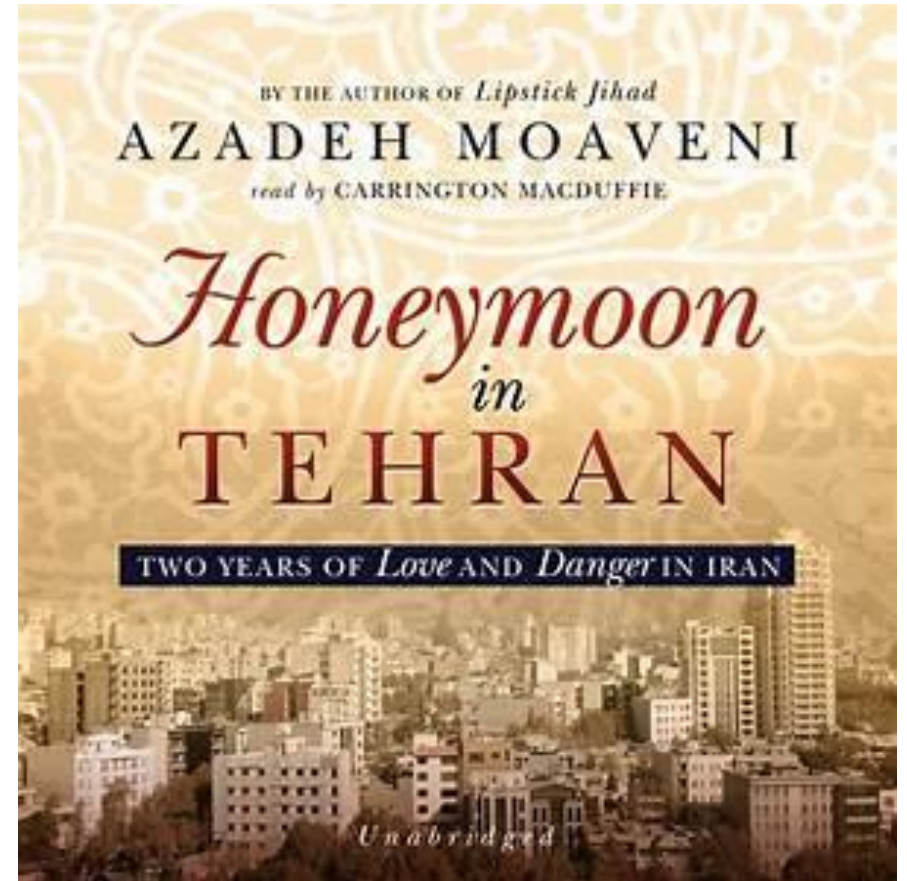
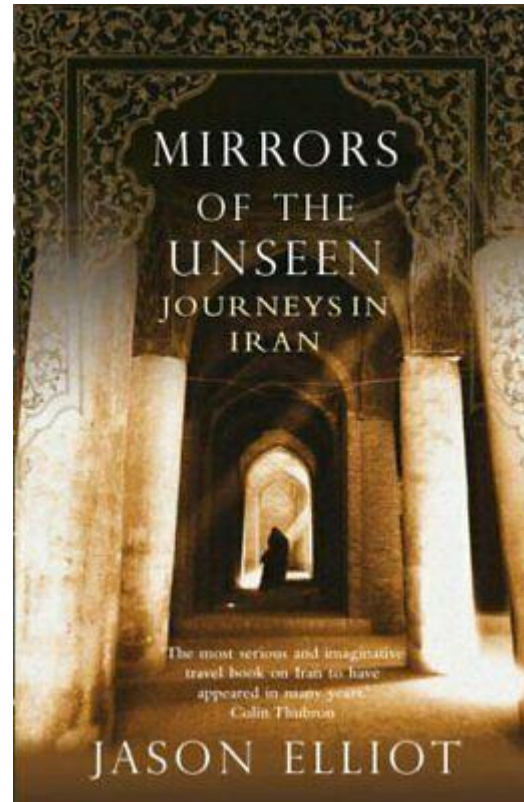
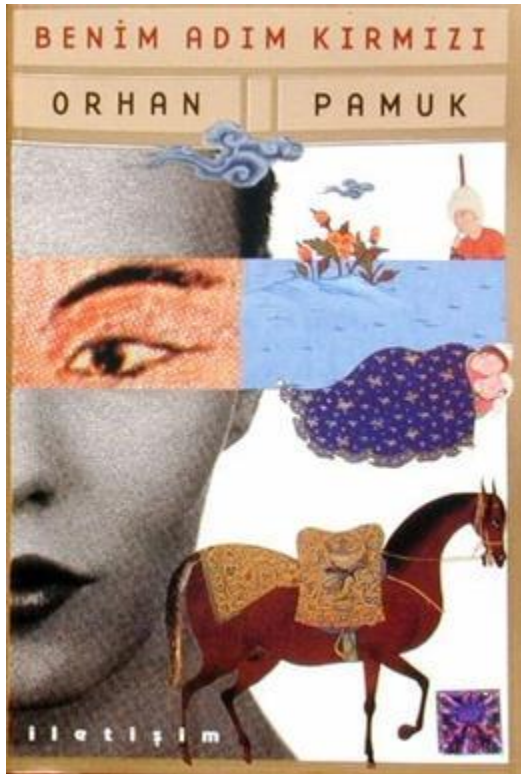
Timur appears in operas by Handel (*Timur*) and Puccini (*Turandot*), play of Christopher Marlowe (1587), and poetry of Edgar Allen Poe.

Timur an icon in Uzbekistan today. 2006 Museum dedicated in Tashkent.

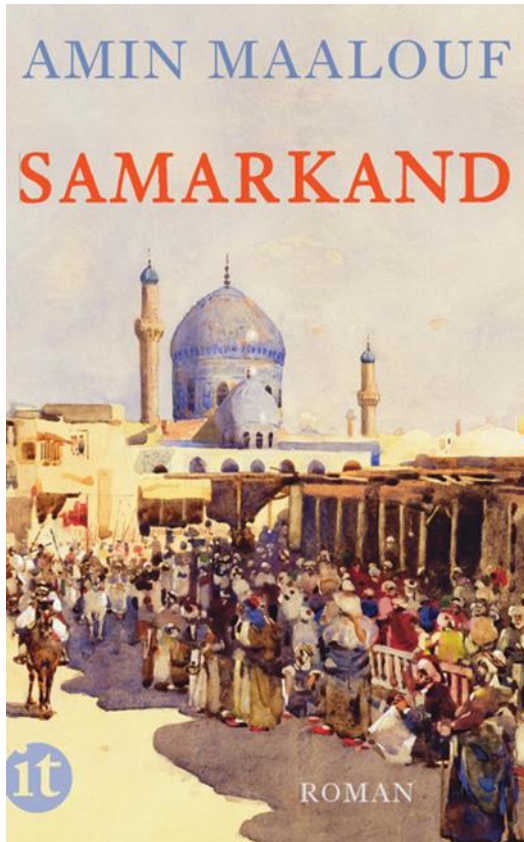


Next Week: Gunpowder Empires of the Safavids and Mughal and the Restoration of Persian Rule

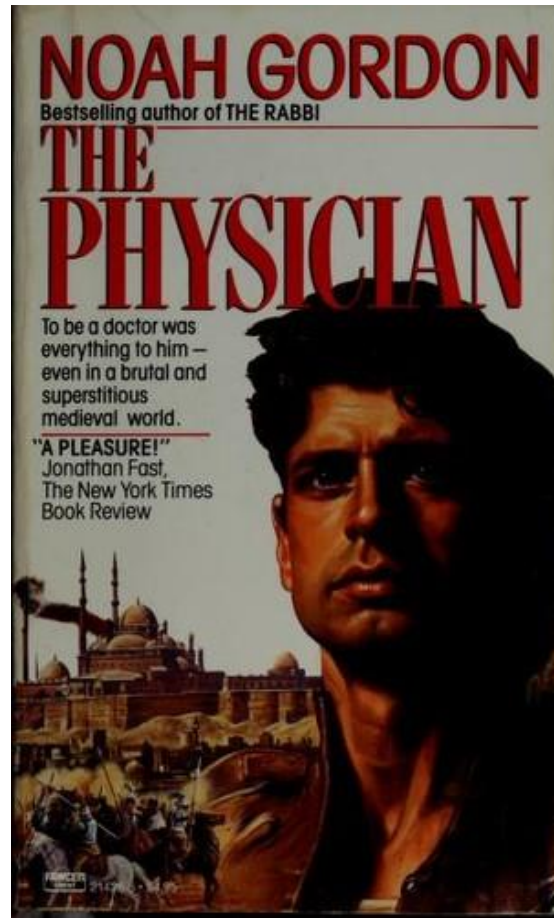




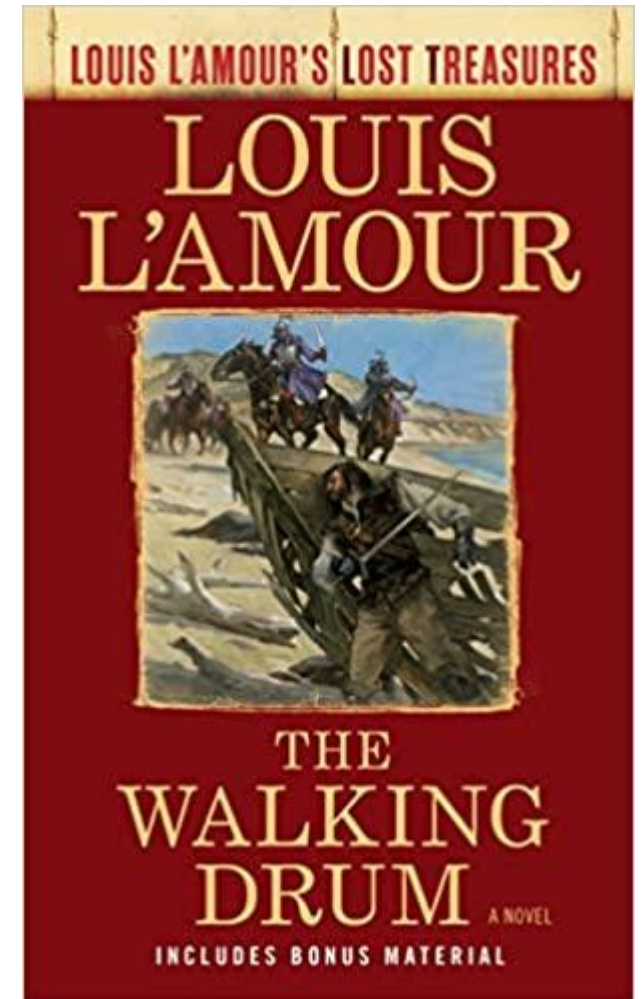
Pamuk's novel is set in a workshop of Ottoman Miniaturists, and shows the influence of the Persian Behzad of Herat.



Lebanese writer's 1988 novel on an American academic's obsession with finding the lost manuscript of Khayyam



(1988 novel on Avicenna, who is played by Ben Kingsley in the movie, 2013!)



Surely the most bizarre...

I read this a few years ago and had nightmares.

