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Center for Eurasian  
Cultural Studies  
(Haneda Memorial Hall)



# 2019 KYOTO LECTURES

Saturday, March 7th, 15:00h

Nicola Di Cosmo

SPEAKER

## A Contested Legacy

## The Mongol Factor in the Manchu Conquest of China

The victorious Manchus entering Beijing in 1644 had come a long way from their remote abodes beyond the Willow Palisade and the Great Wall. How they managed to conquer China is still a matter of debate, but one element is widely recognized for having critically increased Manchu power, namely, the support they received from allied Mongol peoples. The Mongols gave the Manchus sturdy warriors, valuable material resources, and a trusted cohort of capable leaders that reached the very top of the Qing establishment. Yet the road to acquire Mongol support had been far less smooth than it appears in retrospective. This talk examines various sides of the process that enabled the Manchus to "conquer" the Mongols before the conquest of China. Looking at the political strategies, military confrontations, and legal history in pre-1644 Manchu-Mongol relations, it will illustrate a dimension of the Manchu conquest that is sometime taken for granted, under the assumption that the Mongols joined forces with the Manchus as part of a traditional "nomadic" process of unification. The study presented here is part of a broader effort to reposition the pre-conquest history of the Manchus within various local, regional, and global historical contexts.

Nicola Di Cosmo is the Luce Foundation Professor of East Asian Studies at the School of Historical Studies, Institute for Advanced Study (Princeton, USA). His main area of work is the history of the relations between China and Inner Asia from the ancient to the modern era, with special emphasis on the early and late imperial periods. Before joining the Institute for Advanced Study (2003) he has been a Research Fellow at the University of Cambridge, and has taught at Harvard University and the University of Canterbury (New Zealand). He is the author of *Ancient China and Its Enemies: The Rise of Nomadic Power in East Asian History* (2002); *A Documentary History of Manchu-Mongol Relations (1616-1626)* (2003); *Diary of a Manchu Soldier in Seventeenth-Century China* (2006). He has also edited several books. His most recent publication (edited) is *Military Culture in Imperial China* (January 2009).

This lecture will be held at the Center For Eurasian Cultural Studies (Haneda Memorial Hall)

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