# AN ASSESSMENT OF THE CULTURAL CONTRIBUTION OF THE TURKIC PEOPLES IN A 1935 CHINESE TEXTBOOK ON FOREGN HISTORY

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***Annotation***. *These theses examine how the contribution of Turkic peoples to world culture is presented in a 1935 Chinese textbook on Foreign History. Their primary contribution is identified as the widespread dissemination of Islam (originally introduced by Arabs) across Central, Western, and South Asia, which took place under the rule of Turkic dynasties.*

***Key words***: *Chinese textbook, secondary education, He Bingsong, foreign history, Turkic peoples, spread of Islam, world culture, contribution.*

Senior Secondary school textbook on Foreign History edited by Chinese historian He Bingsong 何炳松 (1890 – 1946) was published in 1935. The historical period covered by this two-volume textbook encompasses the entire history of humanity (excluding the Chinese history) up to the 1930s. The medieval history of the Turkic peoples is touched upon in Chapter 24 of Volume 1 "The Resurgence of Turkic Peoples and the Crusades" (Section 1: "The Resurgence of Turkic Peoples and the Spread of Islam").

The contribution of Turkic peoples to world culture is described as follows:

In Western Asia, the period of most active development for the Turkic peoples belonging to the "yellow race"(黄种突厥民族) occurred between the fall of the Arab Caliphate (here 阿剌伯帝国) and the rise of the Mongols (referred to as the "Yuan people" 元人). Although the Persian region was nominally subject to the Caliph in Baghdad, actual power rested in the hands of Turkic dynasties: the Ghaznavids, Seljuks, Ghurids, and Khwarazmshahs. Following the Ghaznavid conquest and the subsequent rule of the Mamluk dynasty (奴隶王朝) in Delhi, northern India also became a territory held by "Muslims of the yellow race" (黄种回教徒的领土). Despite the political shifts brought about by the rise of the "Yuan people," it was through these "Turks of the yellow race" that Islam spread extensively across Central, Western, and Southern Asia. According to the textbook's authors, this constitutes the primary contribution of the Turkic peoples to world culture. They draw a parallel between the role of the Turkic peoples in the development of global culture and that of the Yuezhi （月氏）, facilitated the widespread dissemination of Indian Buddhism (印度的佛教) in ancient times (古代), as well as that of Europeans, who, in the modern era (近代), fostered the broad expansion of "Jewish Christianity" (犹太的基督教). [He Bingsong 1935: 327 – 328].

**References:**

He Bingsong 何炳松 (ed.): Fuxing gaoji zhongxue jiaokeshu waiguo shi, shang ce 復興 高級中學教科書外國史 · 上册 (Fuxing Senior Secondary school textbook on Foreign History, vol. 1), Shanghai: Shangwu yinshuguan, 1935.