

01 Ocak 2021

O

Oghuz

The **Oghuz** tribal union derived from groups within the Türk Qaghanate; they were led by a Yabghu and inhabited the Syr Darya–Aral Sea region. The Eastern Old Turkic (EOT) ethnonym Oghuz initially denoted a kinship grouping (cf. Chin. 九姓 *Jiu Xing* “Nine Surnames/clans” translated into Chinese as *Toquz Oghuz*’ [“The Nine Oghuz”]). Its earliest attestation may be Hujie 呼揭 (Old Chin. *hâ/hâh gat*, Early Middle Chin. *xo giat*) or Wujie 烏揭 (Old Chin. *?â gat/kat*, Early Middle Chin. *?o giat*), which may transcribe *Hagař (Oghur? the Western Old Turkic [WOT] variant of Oghuz), a people conquered by the Xiongnu ruler Modun (r. 209–174 B.C.E.) in 174 B.C.E. (Pulleyblank, Chinese, 456; Schuessler, 49, 231). By the 460s C.E., Oghur appears as a tribal name in Greek sources (Golden, Oq and Oğur ~ Oğuz, 155–99). The division into EOT and WOT, reflected in phonetic changes such as r ~ z (e.g. *oghur* ~ *oghuz*), probably took place sometime after the third century B.C.E. and certainly before the fifth century C.E. (Schönig, 81; Róna-Tas, *The Hungarians*, 101–4; Róna-Tas and

Berta, 2:1112–4). It could also be derived from Turk. *oq* (“arrow”) and *uz* (“tribe”): *oghuz* (Németh, 77, 79; Ercilasun, 15–20; Nalbant, 47–59).

It has been argued that, from the first to the sixth century C.E., the Turkic-speaking tribes of Central Eurasia emerged from the Altai-Mongolia region. Among them, the Oghur ~ Oghuz made up part of a loose union of tribes successively (from the second century B.C.E. to the seventh century C.E.) called 丁零 *Dingling*, 高車 *Gaoche* (“high carts”), and 鐵勒 *Tiele* (Early Middle Chin. **tʰet-lak*), which may transcribe *Tägräg, a Tabghach (Mongolic/Para-Mongolic) term for wagon, as well as an exonym for the Oghur ~ Oghuz and other nomadic groups described as “the people of the wagons” (Pulleyblank, *The ‘High Carts’*, 21–6; Czeglédy, *Zur Stammesorganisation*, 89–93; Kliashtorny, *Runichestkie pamiatniki*, 162–3, 174–5; Saraev, 135–7).

The Üch Oghuz (“Three Oghuz”), Sekiz Oghuz (“Eight Oghuz”), and Toquz Oghuz (“Nine Oghuz”) that appear in Türk and Uyghur runiform inscriptions of the second/eighth century usually refer to one or another combination of the often