The Mongolian Horse and Horseman

Elisabeth Yazdzik, SIT Study Abroad

Home Institution
Carnegie Mellon University

Publication Date
Spring 2011

Program Name
Mongolia: Nomadic Culture & Globalization

Abstract
I am halfway through my ISP when I discard the sheet of questions written for me in Mongolian, and begin to ask what really matters.

"I would like to learn not just about the practices of Mongolian horsemanship, but about the culture."

"Chinggis Khan took the entire world on horseback; America was unknown then, and he nearly conquered Europe. Because of this, the horse is sacred. We do our working riding horses. We eat the horse's meat. Our herding is done from horseback. Because of this, the horse is sacred."

These are the words of Rentsendavaa, spoken to me as I conducted an interview with his friend, L. Davaa. None can deny the importance of the horse in Mongolian culture; it is omnipresent in song, in stories, and in art. And the historical significance of the Mongolian horse is also clear, for were it not for their skill as horsemen, so little a nation of warriors never would have taken the world as they did. The horse is also very significant in the present day lives of many Mongolians. Horses are used not only for transportation, but entertainment (in the form of racing,) and also for the myriad goods they yield (meat, airag, and horsehair ties for the ger, among others.) Yet despite this, and despite the fame of both the Mongolian horse and his horseman, all too little has been written about this famous duo. In particular, about the daily practices of the Mongolian horseman, and the cultural beliefs that influence his work.

Disciplines
Family, Life Course, and Society | Place and Environment | Rural Sociology

Recommended Citation
https://digitalcollections.sit.edu/isp_collection/1068

The Mongol horse is the native horse breed of Mongolia. The breed is purported to be largely unchanged since the time of Genghis Khan. Nomads living in the traditional Mongol fashion still hold more than 3 million animals, which outnumber the country's human population. Despite their small size, they are horses, not ponies. In Mongolia, the horses live outdoors all year, dealing with temperatures from 30 °C (86 °F) in summer down to −40 °C (−40 °F) in winter, and they graze and search for food on Mongolian Horseman . man and his horse . horses with the Mongolian saddle . quick mount . children riding (they learn to ride at a very early age) horses are the http://www.galenfrysinger.com/mongolia_horses.htm. Mongolian horse - Wikipedia. The Mongolian horse is theorized to be the founding stock for many other horse breeds in Asia, The education of a modern Mongolian horseman begins in childhood. https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Mongolian_horse. Mongol Horsemen. You wanna be on their side, ... 12/02/2018 · Mongol Horsemen. You wanna be on their side, ... From BBC's Human Planet, watch Mongolian horsemen herd wild horses in order to first catch foals, and then wild mares for their milk. Mongolia's 2.4 million people are semi-nomadic and the horse is a huge part of life.
their culture. The animals are key for travel, herding, hunting, and sport. From the American Museum of Natural History: In the words of a herder who lives outside Ulaanbatar, Mongolia’s capital, "We Mongols respect horse as our companion of night and day. The horse is the source of joy and pride of a Mongolian herder. And we are nothing without our horses." Beyond Ulaanbatar, the