Note on Transliteration

Since most of the primary materials consulted for this book are in Central Asian Persian, which—depending on the time and the actual source— is to varying degrees intermingled with Mongol and Chaghatay loanwords, any system of transliteration is bound to contain inconsistencies and simplifications. The system adopted here largely follows that of the Cambridge History of Iran and uses an "Arabic" vocalization (*ā*, *a*, *ī*, *i*, *ū*, *u*) for long and short vowels respectively and the corresponding diphthongs (*ay*/*ai* and *au*). The rendering of the consonants favors the Persian standard pronunciation: *w* for و, *ż* for ض, and *ẓ* for ظ. The only exceptions to this rule are the rare fricatives ث, ذ, and ژ, which have been rendered as *th*, *dh* and *zh* respectively. The spelling of a large number of Turkish and Mongol terms reflects a more sophisticated vowel system.This is the case with *bēg* and its derivatives. In the rendering of Mongol proper names, the Persianized transliteration takes effect with transition to Islam, like Ögedei, Möngke, and Güyük, as opposed to Ūgādai.