



# COMMON VALUES OF MONGOLIAN-BRITISH RELATIONS

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the United Kingdom of the Great  
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# Both Great Historical Empires

In the 13<sup>th</sup> and 14<sup>th</sup> centuries, Mongolia established the largest contiguous land empire and made a remarkable contribution to the history of human development.

Britain was the largest world empire and the pioneering nation for the industrial revolution.

When Genghis Khan was named as Man of the Millennium by *Washington Post*, his closest runner-up was Queen Victoria.

The two countries had their first basic law promulgated about the same time – Ikh Zasag or Yassa between 1206-1218 and Magna Carta in 1215. Both advocated free movement and protection of merchants, a precursor to free trade.

The great and small Khurultais or Assemblies created by Genghis Khan were identical to the Roman, English, and modern classical parliamentary system.

Mongolia and Britain had intensive diplomatic interactions during the time of the Mongol Empire.



# Both Great Historical Empires

- ▶ **David of Ashby, an English-born friar, served during 1261-1262 as Ambassador of Europe at the court of Hulegu Khan, a grandson of Genghis Khan, and later was a member of the Mongol Embassy to the Second Council of Lyon in 1274. Edward of England sent in 1271 also an embassy to the Mongol ruler of Ilkhanate Abaga Khan in Mongol-conquered Persia, who was tolerant of Christianity. At that time, army coordination and cooperation had been developed for peace building in the region between Abaga and Edward.**
- ▶ **In fact, the Mongol Empire's influence on the flow of information and commerce and cultural exchange played a role in shaping the context of the Renaissance and was one of factors that contributed to this pivotal period in European history.**
- ▶ **It was through the Mongol Empire that papermaking, block printing, and gunpowder moved from the East to the West, hastening the spread of knowledge and catalyzing Europe's conquest of the seas.**

# Great Britain among Mongolia's First "Third Neighbors"

Right after regaining its independence in 1911, the Bogd Khan's government sought to establish relations and cooperation with world powers other than Russia and China. There were many occasions of interaction among the Mongolian and British representatives, as several records from those years manifest. Among them, the correspondents of the main character in the book "Our Man in Mongolia: Charles Binstead, an Agent of the British Empire, in Mongolia as Qing rule ended", compiled in 2023 by Sue Byrne, indicate the strong interests of the Mongolian government at that time to attract British capital and investment in Mongolia which can be viewed as the first prototype element of today's "Third Neighbor Policy" concept of Mongolia.

# Yalta Agreement and Great Britain

**The agreement reached in Yalta by the leaders of the three Great Powers - the Soviet Union, the United States of America and Great Britain - to preserve the status quo in Outer Mongolia (the Mongolian People's Republic) as one of the conditions for the Soviet Union's entrance into the war against Japan on the side of the Allies, established the legal foundation for the future recognition of Mongolia's independence by world's major powers. Great Britain was not only the first Western country, but also the initiator to establish diplomatic relations with Mongolia in 1963. This fact was recognized in MPRP Political Bureau Resolution No.410 of 24 December 1962.**

**In the 1960s-1980s, Great Britain trained many Mongolian politicians, government officials and artists and introduced them to the Western culture, society and politics. That was an immense contribution to opening the minds of the Mongolians after centuries of being closed to the outside world.**

**Today, this tradition continues with the Chevening Scholarships which over 200 Mongolian students received so far.**

## 1990s and Great Britain

- ▶ **After the Mongolian Democratic Revolution of 1990, Great Britain played a significant role in raising the international attention to Mongolia. The G7 Summit held in London in 1991 under the Chairmanship of Great Britain declared that “We welcome Mongolia’s continuing progress towards political and economic reform, which deserves further support”. Our two nations cherished free trade since ancient times. As a result of our pursuit, interaction, and cooperation with Peter Mandelson’s office as the EU Commissioner for Trade, Mongolia was granted GSP+ status in 2005. Just after the Brexit the UK granted also in early 2021 to Mongolia duty free access to Mongolian export goods.**
- ▶ **The United Kingdom as a permanent member of the United Nations Security Council has responsibility for maintaining international peace and security. By the way, the Security Council has only 5 permanent members whose collective decisions are binding on all countries in the world to abide and implement. That is why developing closer and productive relationship and cooperation with the UK is in the interests of small countries like Mongolia as a viable guarantee for our independence, sovereignty, and development.**



*Ambassador Dalrai Davaasambuu of Mongolia to the United Kingdom (2001-2008) presents his Letters of Credence to Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II*

# Great Britain is the Largest Investor in Mongolia

The investment made in Mongolia's flagship Oyu Tolgoi copper-gold mine by the \$120 billion-worth Rio Tinto, whose main decisions are taken in London and Canberra, has proven that the international investors can be successful in Mongolia if they have faith and consistency. We hope the OT's contribution to our GDP will steadily grow after it reaches full commercial production. The Kingdom's role in Mongolia's prosperity since the establishment of diplomatic relations between our two nations 60 years ago will be always cherished by the Mongolian people. I'm confident that the relations among our two countries will further prosper on the basis of our common values such as freedom, democracy, human rights and rule of law.





2007:

President of Mongolia Enkhbayar Nambar visits the UK (photographed with Ambassador D. Davaasambuu and then President of Wolfson College, Oxford University, Professor Jon Stallworthy).

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**Thank you for your  
attention**

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