

## MENGCHIANG—A COUNTRY IN THE MAKING

By ALFRED LUECKENHAUS

*Mongolia is one of the least-known regions of the world. Yet there is hardly a part of East Asia whose very name evokes such a feeling of romance and such a desire for more knowledge about it. So we hope that our readers will approve if we devote part of this number to Mongolian topics.*

*The first article takes us to present-day Inner Mongolia: Mengchiang. Alfred Lueckenhaus was formerly a German newspaper correspondent in London, New York, and Tokyo and is now correspondent of the German DNB News Service for North China, Mengchiang, and adjoining territories. He is the author of the article "The Changing Empire" published in this magazine in December 1942 and has recently paid an extensive visit to the new state of Mengchiang. He was given the opportunity of inspecting many industrial, cultural, military, educational, and other establishments; of studying actual conditions at the front lines; and of talking with many political and military leaders of the country. His article does not deal with Mongolia's romantic past, but with her remarkable development during the last few years.—K.M.*

**I**F the saying that the least-talked-about women are the ones with the best reputation is applied to countries, then the autonomous state of Mengchiang must be a country with virtues second to none. Very little has been heard or said about Mengchiang, the land of the Mongols, since its foundation more than six years ago. And yet there are not many new countries which have so little reason to hide their achievements. In fact, its development toward political maturity and economic prosperity is quite remarkable, particularly in view of the fact that, during the few years of Mengchiang's adolescence, the United States and England pursued a policy which kept the flame of unrest in East Asia alive.

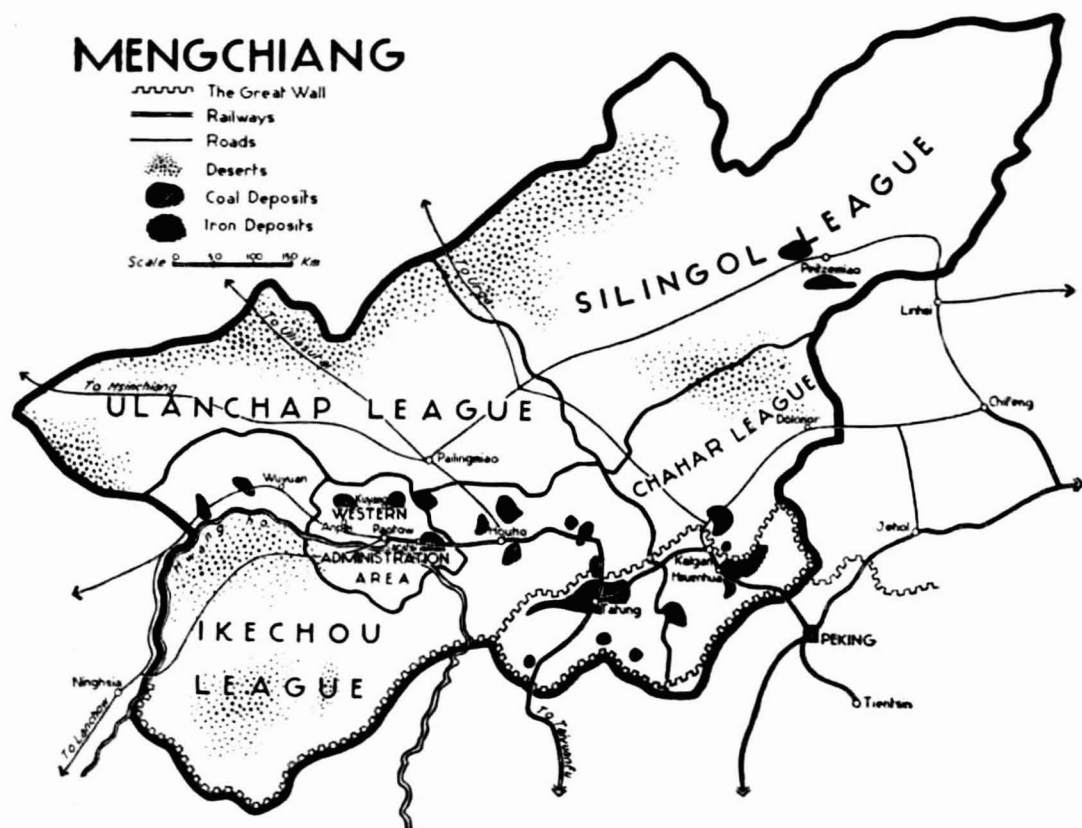
### THE ORIGIN OF MENGCHIANG

Mengchiang, whose territory of approximately 506,000 square kilometers roughly comprises former Inner Mongolia, is about as large as Germany. The foundation was laid in 1937 when, with the help of the Japanese, some of the Mongol leaders, headed by Prince Teh Wang, grasped the opportunity to satisfy their people's craving for their own state, after several former attempts had failed. The name of "Mengchiang" was introduced at that time. It is a Chinese word,

*meng* meaning Mongol and *chiang* borderland.

When Mengchiang began life as a state, it consisted of a federation of three autonomous governments. They were the United Mongolian Leagues, with Houho (formerly Suiyuan) as their capital; the government of Chinpei or North Shansi (capital: Tatung); and finally, the government of Chanan or South Chahar (capital: Kalgan).

At the beginning of 1943, however, the administrative system of the Mengchiang government was completely reshuffled. Mengchiang now ceased to be a federation since, in order to simplify the administration, the governments of North Shansi and South Chahar were abolished. Both territories became ordinary provinces, Tatung Province replacing the North Shansi government and Hsuenhua Province taking the place of the South Chahar government. Kalgan may now be regarded as the capital of Mengchiang and the seat of the administration, although the affairs of the Mongolian Leagues are for the most part still directed from Houho, which is more centrally situated and which the Mongols would like at some future date to make Mengchiang's real capital. In May of this year, as a provisional war-time measure, a special



“western administrative area,” consisting of Paotow city and the rural districts of Saratsi, Kuyang, and Anpei, was established in order to consolidate conditions in the areas bordering on China’s north-western territories as speedily as possible.

#### ITS PEOPLE

The meaning of Mengchiang’s existence and the role it has assumed in the current war can be aptly described in the words of Wu Hao-liang, head of Mengchiang’s political council or, in Western terms, its Prime Minister. When talking to the author some time ago, he said: “To materialize the Mongol people’s ideal of becoming once more a strong, unified Mongolia, and to help Japan win the Greater East Asia War as a prerequisite of the new order in this part of the world—these are the two most important tasks Mengchiang is now facing.” The Mongols, he added, hope one day to regain at least some of the former Mongolian Empire’s

splendor. Viewed in the light of Japan’s Greater East Asia policy, which naturally embraces strategical considerations, the Japanese policy in Mengchiang is, in Premier Wu’s opinion, in conformity with the aspirations of the Mongol people.

The Mongols are at present building their own house with the advice and active support of the Japanese. According to estimates given the author by official Japanese sources, there are approximately 6 million people living in Mengchiang, of whom less than 240,000 are pure Mongols. Most of the others are Chinese peasants and townspeople, including several hundred thousand Chinese Mohammedans. In addition to the Mongols living in Mengchiang, there are, according to official Japanese statements, 1.3 million Mongols in Manchoukuo and another 900,000 in Outer Mongolia.

Six years ago the political and economic setup of Inner Mongolia was far from

satisfactory, mainly owing to the intrigues of international diplomacy and the non-existence of a strong central government with well-prepared plans of policy and construction. By now a far-reaching and impressive change has taken place, and relations between the composite parts of the population have noticeably improved.

Let us first examine the political and military situation of Mengchiang. It is a remarkably quiet and pacified territory. Only three small communist groups of altogether several thousand men are still trying to disturb public life in Mengchiang, one group somewhere north of Kalgan, another north of Houho, and the third south of Tatung. In addition, feeble forces of Chungking regulars are still holding out west of Paotow and south of the Yellow River. The railway line between Kalgan and Paotow is now rarely exposed to hostile action. Trade is brisk. One day, immediately behind the foremost lines, I noticed a donkey caravan laden with valuable goods which had just arrived from northwest China. Donkeys were being used instead of camels, which at this time of the year shed their hair and so cannot be employed for long trips in the burning sun.

With Outer Mongolia, however, there is no longer any caravan traffic at all. The Soviets have hermetically closed the entire frontier. The three caravan routes which formerly connected Mengchiang with Outer Mongolia are all closely guarded. Impassable no man's land now lies between.

#### VISIT TO THE FRONT

When I visited the westernmost front lines, the exact location of which naturally cannot be revealed, the only sensation was the complete absence of any fighting activity. Calm reigned along the entire sector, and the opposing Chungking troops did not show the slightest desire to fire even a rifle shot. When, in rare instances, Chungking forces make an exception to the rule and try to attack, Mongol and Chinese formations of the rapidly growing Mengchiang army are quite able to cope with the situation. Indeed, larger and

larger parts of the front are being taken over by Mengchiang troops at their own desire.

When calling on a fort occupied by a Mongol formation, we met a Mongol company commander who, together with some fellow officers, had been cited recently by the Japanese commander in chief for special bravery and had, in addition, been awarded a high medal by Mengchiang's Minister for Public Safety. Mongol recruits, we were informed by a Japanese instruction officer, already possess two important prerequisites for warfare in this part of the world: their horsemanship and their marksmanship. They do not use field glasses, as their eyesight is remarkably good. What they still need in the early part of their training is to learn the importance of co-ordinated action. They have been taught how devastating and demoralizing for the enemy a bayonet attack can be if it is carried out with force and determination. The Mongols now generally prefer bayonet attacks to shooting assaults. Although without fear when facing the enemy, they were as shy as children when they faced a German journalist for the first time in their lives. A Mongol detachment stood smartly at attention when the visiting party left and, after having fallen out of ranks, they smilingly returned the German salute with which they had been greeted.

Late in the evening, when the party had returned to their quarters, the escorting officer, a middle-aged Japanese lieutenant of the reserves, turned up with a violin under his arm to play Schumann's *Träumerei* and other pieces for the benefit of the German guests.

#### MENGCHIANG'S ECONOMICS

What have they achieved in the economic field in Mengchiang where they count the present year as that of 738 after Genghis Khan? A fair distribution of agriculture and industry is generally recognized as the most ideal condition for the soundness of any country's economy. There are few countries where the possibilities for materializing this ideal are as great as in Mengchiang. While its

northern half still consists mainly of pastures and steppes, agriculture and industry are predominant in the south. Roughly speaking, the dividing line runs from Dolonor in the east to Wuyuan in the west. It is south of this line that most of Mengchiang's industries are now being developed. Here not only coal (Tatung) and iron-ore deposits of almost unlimited quantities are to be found, but also graphite, quartz, asbestos, mica, and other materials.

In surveying the present situation, it should be borne in mind that, in view of the still unfinished war, military necessity obliges the authorities to concentrate on war-industrial tasks rather than on peacetime planning. Once the war is over, a readjustment of the present industrial policy may be expected. At present, the exploitation of all mineral resources is strictly controlled by the state. In due course pig iron will be produced, although for export only, since the construction of further processing plants is not envisaged, at least not for the time being. Light industries in particular will be further promoted, since foreign currency is available now in sufficient amounts to pay for the import of raw materials, chiefly iron, steel, and machinery from Manchoukuo and Korea.

#### THE TATUNG COAL FIELDS

While the blueprints are thus being drawn, a review of the situation on the spot revealed that no time is being lost in preparing for the execution of the plans. The general manager of one of the biggest coal mines in the Tatung district informed me that the total deposits of coal in Tatung, extending over an area of 1,870 square kilometers, are estimated at no less than 29.3 billion tons. The coal district around the city of Tatung, situated on both sides of the Kalgan/Taiyuanfu railway, is roughly 110 kilometers long and 70 kilometers wide. The Tatung coal can be found in two seams, one being from 100 to 150 meters below the surface, the other at a depth of about 400 meters. The seams are from 2 to 20 meters thick, that is, thicker

than in most of the European or American coal fields.

Both as regards quantity and quality, the Tatung coal may be compared to the Pennsylvania coal in the USA, the general manager explained. The upper seam, which at the moment is the only one being "scratched," consists of soft coal with a heating value of 7,000 calories. Part of it is already oxidizing and may therefore be used like charcoal. As to the rest, it serves various industrial purposes. The upper seam is so near the surface that no accidents caused by the explosion of coal dust or for similar mining reasons have ever occurred; nor is there any danger of inundation by underground water. As a matter of fact, the conditions of production are much better than in most coal fields. The deposits are so rich that neither wood (of which there is a scarcity) nor stone is needed to support the ceiling below, because sufficient coal can always be left standing to do the job. The lower layer which has not yet been touched can also be used for coking purposes. It is mixed with kaolin, the raw material for the manufacture of porcelain. The miners hail mainly from Shantung and Hopei. Their efficiency would be much greater but for their disastrous habit of smoking opium.

Six years ago there existed in this district three mines; four have been added since. Only 20 per cent of the Tatung coal production is being consumed in the country itself. Mechanical production has been introduced, some of the machinery and pit installations being of German manufacture. A big-scale mining plan aiming at an annual output of 30 million metric tons is already under way. An entirely new settlement of clean dwelling houses for mining officials, of schools for overseers of mines and other engineering personnel, of administration buildings, etc., has been erected on the site of some of the districts during the last two years. A hospital and a Shinto shrine for the Japanese staff living there could also be seen. The only question still causing something of a headache is that of transporting the coal production

to the seaports and the centers of coal consumption, but it is being vigorously tackled now.

The deputy governor of Tatung Province, Yujiro Morii, emphasized that the pacification of this territory was making rapid progress. Interviewed by the author and commenting on Germany's policy in the occupied territories of Europe, Morii agreed that to win the good will and the co-operation of the population for the attainment of the new order should and would be the principal ambition of both Japan and Germany.

#### PROBLEMS OF THE LAND

Agriculture is extending over ever larger areas where not long ago only nomads used to live. The remaining pastures for the grazing herds, still plentiful, have been divided up in such a way as to avoid enmity and clashes between the various nomad tribes. During my entire trip I found sufficient food everywhere, and the surplus goes to neighboring territories, particularly to North China. The price level for foodstuffs and various other commodities is low compared with that of some of the areas surrounding Mengchiang.

The lack of water for irrigation purposes constitutes one of the most important agricultural problems at present. There is a scheme to utilize the waters of the Yellow River by way of canals still to be built; but the materialization of this plan cannot be expected in the near future, because the task is too stupendous to be carried out under war-time conditions. Meanwhile, many new wells are being drilled. Cattle-raising is also receiving constant attention. Fresh blood is being introduced to improve the existing breeds. For the prevention of cattle diseases there is a very modern laboratory in Mengchiang. There are also up-to-date dairies, for some of which German dairies have served as models. Wheat, millet, kaoliang, chiaomai, potatoes, and tobacco are the main agricultural products.

Most of the agriculture is carried on by Chinese, and efforts to settle some of the

Mongolian nomads and to train them in agricultural methods have so far been unsuccessful. However, the nomads are by no means a problem since, as we have stated above, there is still ample grazing land, permitting the nomads to be useful suppliers of hides, camel hair, furs, etc., which they trade for articles of daily use.

Looking far into the future, the Japanese have caused the Mongol Government to carry out a systematic policy of forestation, not only along the railroads but also in the interior. More than 500,000 trees were planted this spring. In view of the scarcity of water and of the progressive erosion, the inauguration of this policy was an urgent necessity. According to expert opinion, the Gobi Desert may one day extend beyond its present boundaries unless drastic countermeasures are taken. Billboards and newspaper articles as well as public lectures constantly remind the inhabitants of the vital importance of forestation.

#### COMMUNICATIONS AND EDUCATION

Mengchiang enjoys good communications with the adjoining countries of the Greater East Asiatic sphere—railroads, air lines, telegraph, telephone, and mail service. In the country itself, many new roads have been added to those already existing. Faraway Paotow now boasts asphalt streets. Plants for generating electricity are on the increase. There are also factories for manufacturing cement, cigarettes, etc. A newspaper with modern rotation machines and circulating throughout the country appears daily in three languages: Japanese, Mongolian, and Chinese.

In the field of education, schools and other institutions of learning have been founded during the last few years. Here, Mongol children are given every facility for making good their formerly neglected mental or vocational training. While in Houho, I visited a Mongolian middle school which was originally founded by Prince Teh as a Mongolian academy, receiving its present character three years ago. It is the only school of its kind in

Houho. For the 214 Mongolian pupils (including 30 girls), there are eight Mongolian and five Japanese teachers. Only graduates of primary schools are admitted after passing an examination; but, since the standard of education in Mongolian primary schools is still comparatively low, one preparatory year is necessary for the newly admitted pupils.

#### MONGOL MODEL SCHOOL

Boys attend the school for four years and girls for three. The latter are then qualified as teachers for girls' schools. The male pupils, all wearing uniforms, are under strict military discipline. Their working schedule includes eight hours each a week for learning Japanese and Mongolian, six hours for mathematics, three hours for natural sciences, two hours each for geography, music, drawing, and history. The history lessons naturally center around Mongolian history, with Genghis Khan as the country's principal idol. Pictures of this historical figure can be seen in almost every school-room, just as they are to be observed in every office of the Mengchiang administration. The afternoons are usually reserved for the pupils' physical training, which in winter consists mainly of military drill and in summer of agricultural work under the guidance of an experienced farmer.

During the first two years of schooling, the teaching language is Mongolian, and after that both Mongolian and Japanese. The reason is that the Mongolian language still lacks many words needed for the higher-grade faculties such as the natural sciences, algebra, etc. While the director of the school is a Mongol, his second-in-command is Japanese. The promotion of the pupils' sense of duty and of personal initiative is one of the principal items in the educational system of this school. The pupils have their own music corps. On festive occasions, they carry with them their own flag which combines the Mongol colors and the Rising Sun. The school also owns a wealth of sporting equipment including kendo sticks (for Japanese fencing), tennis rackets, skating shoes, etc.

#### LAMA REFORMS

In religious matters, too, the Japanese have taken a hand by appointing Buddhist experts from Japan in order to help Lamaism to put through certain reforms which many young Mongol lamas themselves regard as indispensable. In the first place, there is a tendency to revitalize Lamaism by reducing the number of lamas. It is estimated that there are no less than 20,000 Lamaist priests in Mengchiang. Even from an economic point of view, this large figure is considered neither justifiable nor in the interests of Lamaism.

There are also plans to train and educate Lamaist novices in the country itself instead of in Tibet, as was hitherto the case. It is intended to found schools for this purpose with money raised in Mengchiang. The determination of the young Lamaist generation to put necessary reforms into practice is being met by the Japanese Shingon sect, a Buddhist sect with rites similar to those of Lamaism. It is this sect which has offered its co-operation to the young Lamaist movement. Circles interested in the reform plans hope that it will be possible to employ all Lamaist priests in useful trades who have turned out unworthy of their mission. That it is deemed desirable that Lamaist priests should also be good Mongol patriots goes without saying. The question of finding a *hutuktu* (supreme lama of Mongolia) recognized by all lamas plays an important part in connection with the plans to reform Lamaism in Mengchiang. There is a boy of thirteen years of age who, in the opinion of many reformers, seems to possess all the necessary qualifications. He is the object of highest respect among the Mongol people and resides in Mengchiang's Silingol League.

#### TRAINING THE ARMY

The fact that a highly efficient Mengchiang army has been established, trained, and advised by the Japanese, but under the supreme command of General Li Shou-hsin, has contributed in no small degree toward enhancing the national

self-respect of the Mongol people. In Houho, I had a chance of inspecting the newly founded officers' school of the Mengchiang army to which the graduates of the now three-year-old cadet's school are being transferred. At the time of my visit, twenty young Mongols were being trained as company commanders. All of them were of excellent physique and comparatively tall. After three years of training they will join the regular army units as lieutenants. Specially qualified graduates will be given an opportunity to continue their military training at one of the military academies in Japan. The head of the officers' school is a Mongol major general, while the instruction officers are Japanese. The cleanliness and tidiness of the inmates' living quarters could hardly be surpassed. In the courtyard of the barracks I was shown a Genghis Khan altar in front of which the future officers pay homage twice a day.

道義精神  
李守信

"In the spirit of  
virtue and justice"  
(written for this article by Li Shou-hsin,  
commander in chief of the Mongolian army)

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The people of Mengchiang, although still under Japanese guardianship, are now enjoying the very things to which Roosevelt is only paying lip service, namely, freedom from want and freedom from fear. They have every reason to look to the future with full confidence and to continue their preparations for Mengchiang's role of becoming a useful member in the society of East Asia's states. This may be regarded as the underlying idea of Japan's policy in Mengchiang, where the Japanese Army authorities have recently handed over to the civil government all administrative affairs of a not strictly military character. It is perfectly natural that Japan's policy should also serve the interests of Japan herself; but the beneficiaries of this policy will at the same time be the people of Mengchiang and, in the last analysis, the community of East Asia's nations.

## LAMAISM IN MONGOLIA

By HERMANN CONSTEN

*No other religion has given rise in the mind of the average person to such fantastic ideas as has Lamaism; partly because it is indeed a strange religion, and partly because the literature on this subject is either incomprehensible to the layman—being written for the specialist only—or the product of an adventurous and wild imagination, appealing to the reader's desire for excitement rather than his thirst for knowledge. The following pages give the layman a factual and interesting account of Lamaism in Mongolia, of its development and present state, followed by a brief summary of the so-called "direct way" of Lamaism.*

*The author has lived many years in Mongolia, where he has personally known many of the high lamas and Khubilgans; he has mapped Outer Mongolia and has published a book entitled "Weideplätze der Mongolen" (Mongol Pastures). The photos he supplied for this article have never been published before. As there is no standard transcription of Mongol words into English, the author has used the most common forms.—K.M.*

**S**OME centuries after the death of the Buddha, there occurred a split within Buddhism into two branches, Mahayana and Hinayana. The difference between these two, as described in *The XXth Century* of March 1942 (p.178), is

mainly to be found in the fact that in Hinayana the ultimate goal of the individual's efforts is the attainment of liberation—Nirvana—for himself. In Mahayana, on the other hand, the saint is supposed to renounce his right to enter