

## Commonalities in Topics

*Islam & the Persianate World: Iran, Central Asia, India*

*The Ilkhanids: From Mongol Hordes to Builders of Empire*

**Incorporation of new populations & ways of living:**

- nomadic vs. sedentary
- tribal vs. centralized
- militaristic vs. urbane
- meeting of old civilizations

**Political & cultural significance of Iran**

# ***The Ilkhanids: From Mongol Hordes to Builders of Empire***

**14th century**

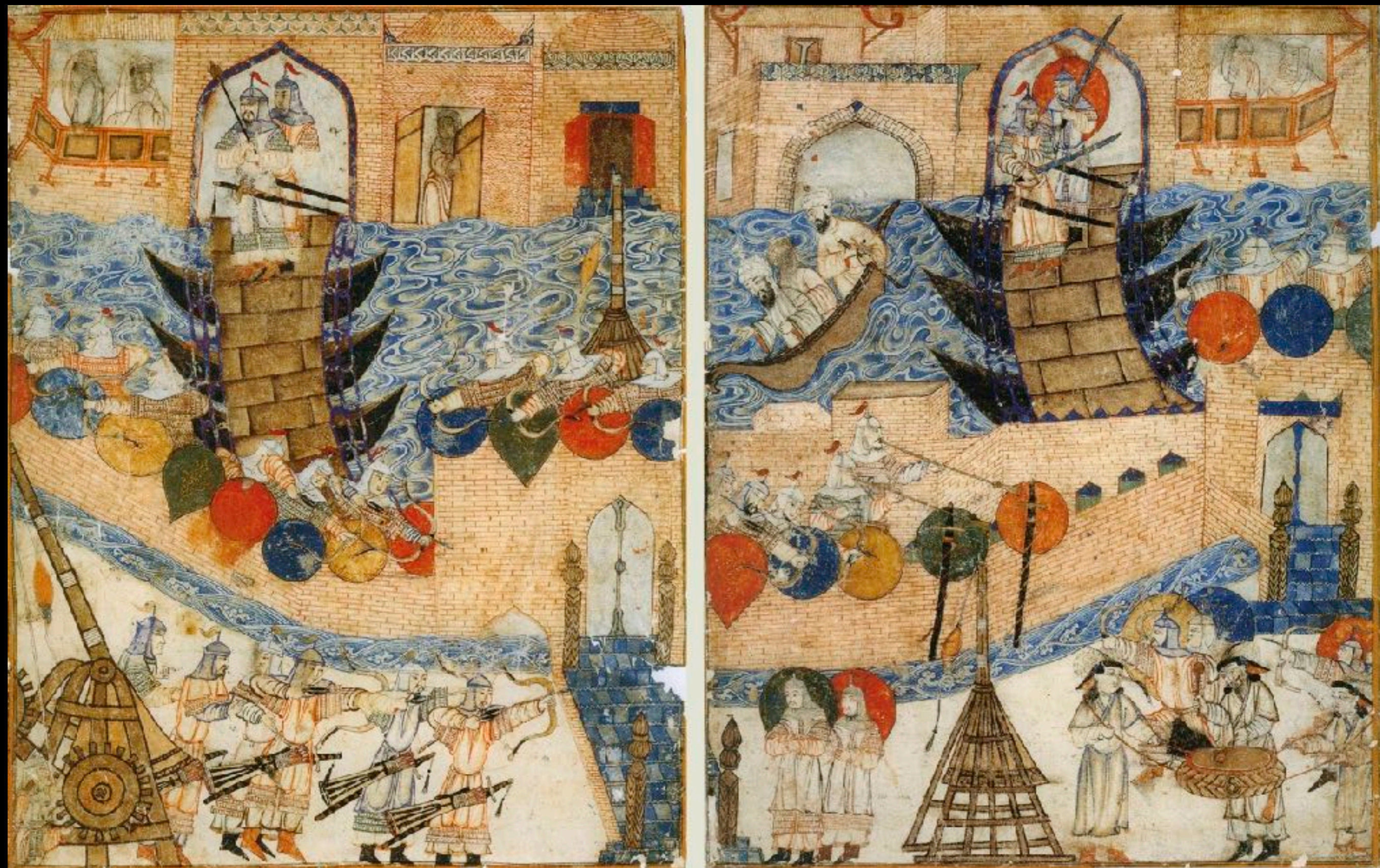
**Conversion from Shamanism/Animism to Buddhism & Islam...**

Conversion of Ghazan Khan (r. 1295-1304) to Sunni Islam

## **The Mongols' entry into Islam**

- **FAST adaptation to Persianate traditions**
- **strong connection with pre-Islamic past, particularly Sasanian Iran**
- **economically sustained by overland trade: eastward & westward connections**
- **Chinggis (Genghis) Khan as a legitimizing figure, even more than Muhammad (!)**

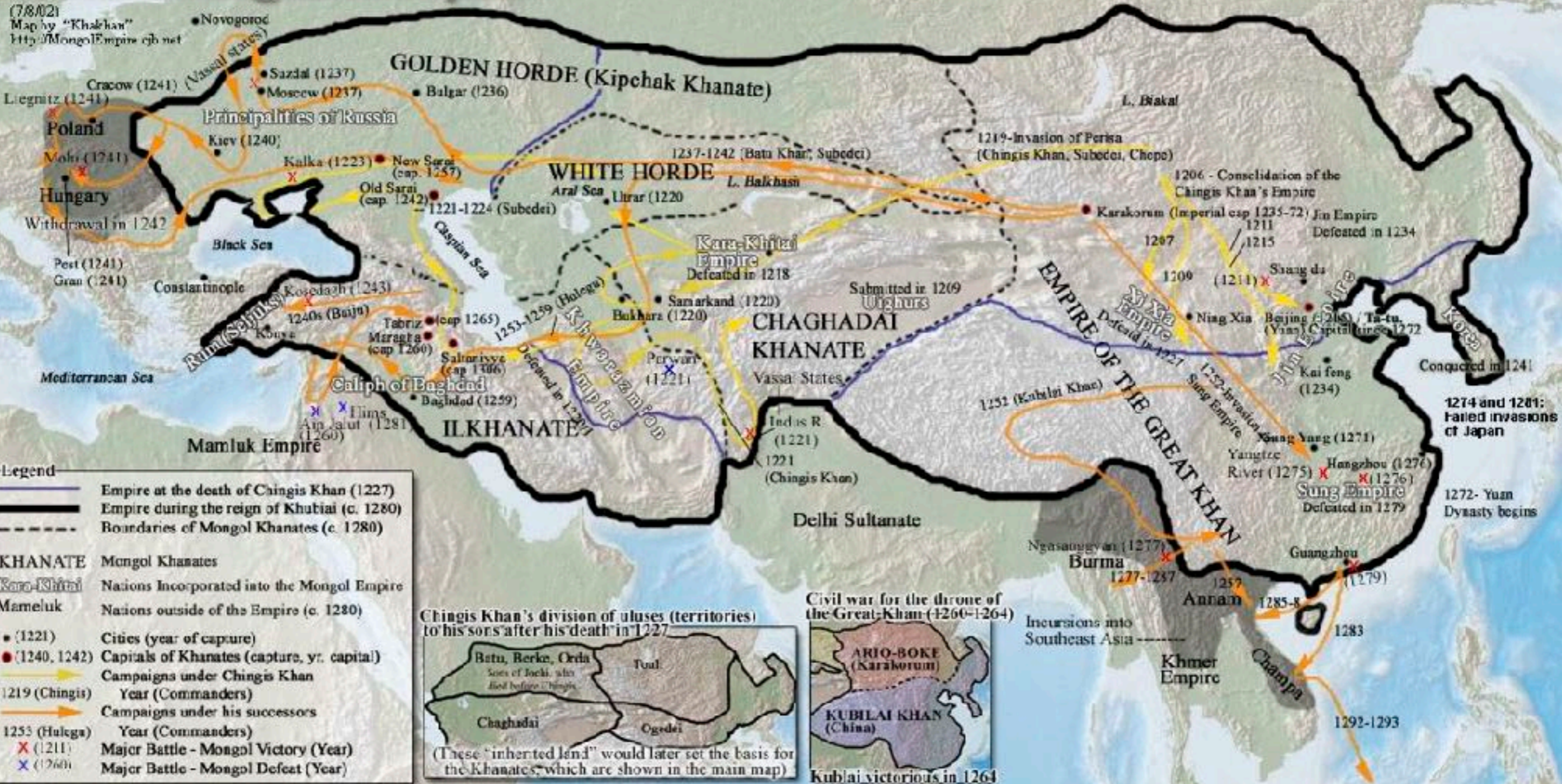
# Multiple “Pasts” & “Presents”



**Conquest of Baghdad by the Mongols in 1258.  
Double-folio paintings from *Jami' al-Tawarikh*, early 14th c., Tabriz.**

# The Mongol Empire

(7/8/02)  
Map by "Khakhan"  
http://MongolEmpire.rjb.net

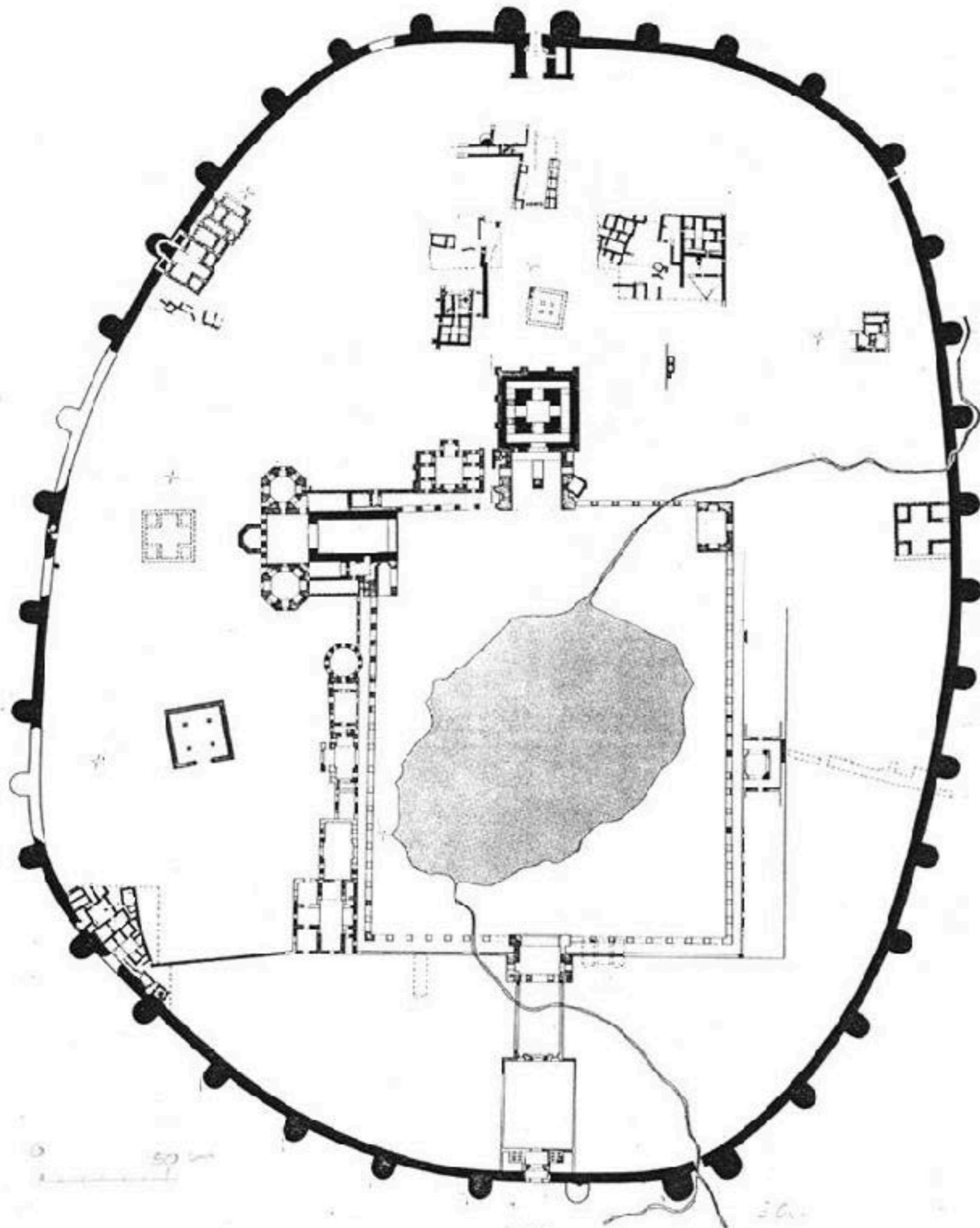


## Multiple “Pasts” & “Presents”



**Takht-i Suleiman, near Tabriz (Zanjan province, northwest Iran), Abaqa Khan (r. 1265-85), 1270-75.**

- **FAST** adaptation to Persianate traditions
- strong connection with pre-Islamic past, particularly Sasanian Iran
- subtle maintenance of ancestral patterns



**Takht-i Suleiman, near Tabriz  
(Zanjan province, northwest Iran).  
1270-75.**

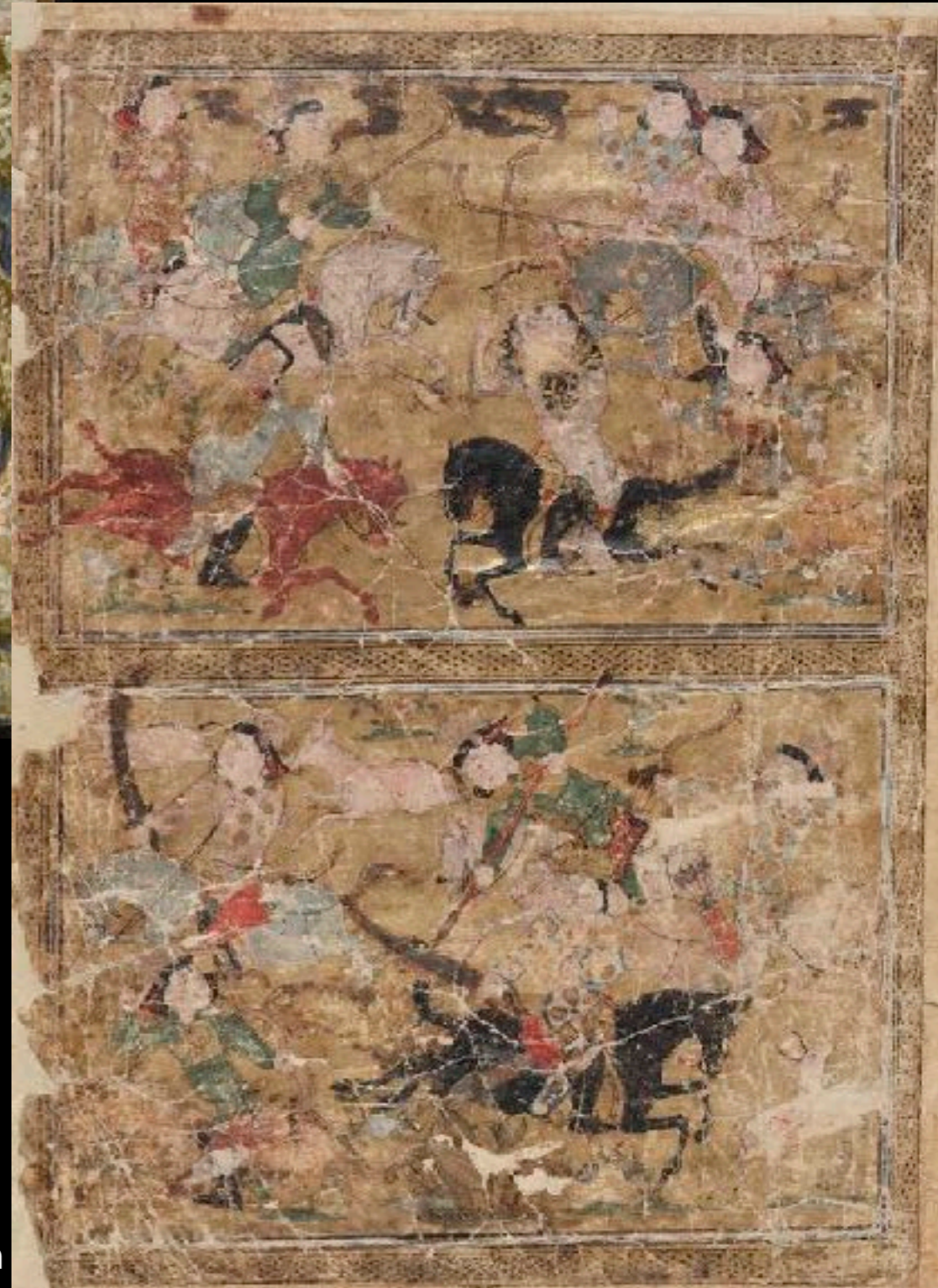
## Multiple “Pasts” & “Presents”



- FAST adaptation to Persianate traditions

Takht-i Suleiman, near Tabriz (Zanjan province, northwest Iran), Abaqa Khan (r. 1265-85), 1270-75.

Takht-i Suleiman, 1270-75.



**“Art” as a Primary Source**

**Style & Iconography**

**Multiple “Pasts” & “Presents”**

**Frontispiece from a *Shahnama*, early 14th c., Iran**

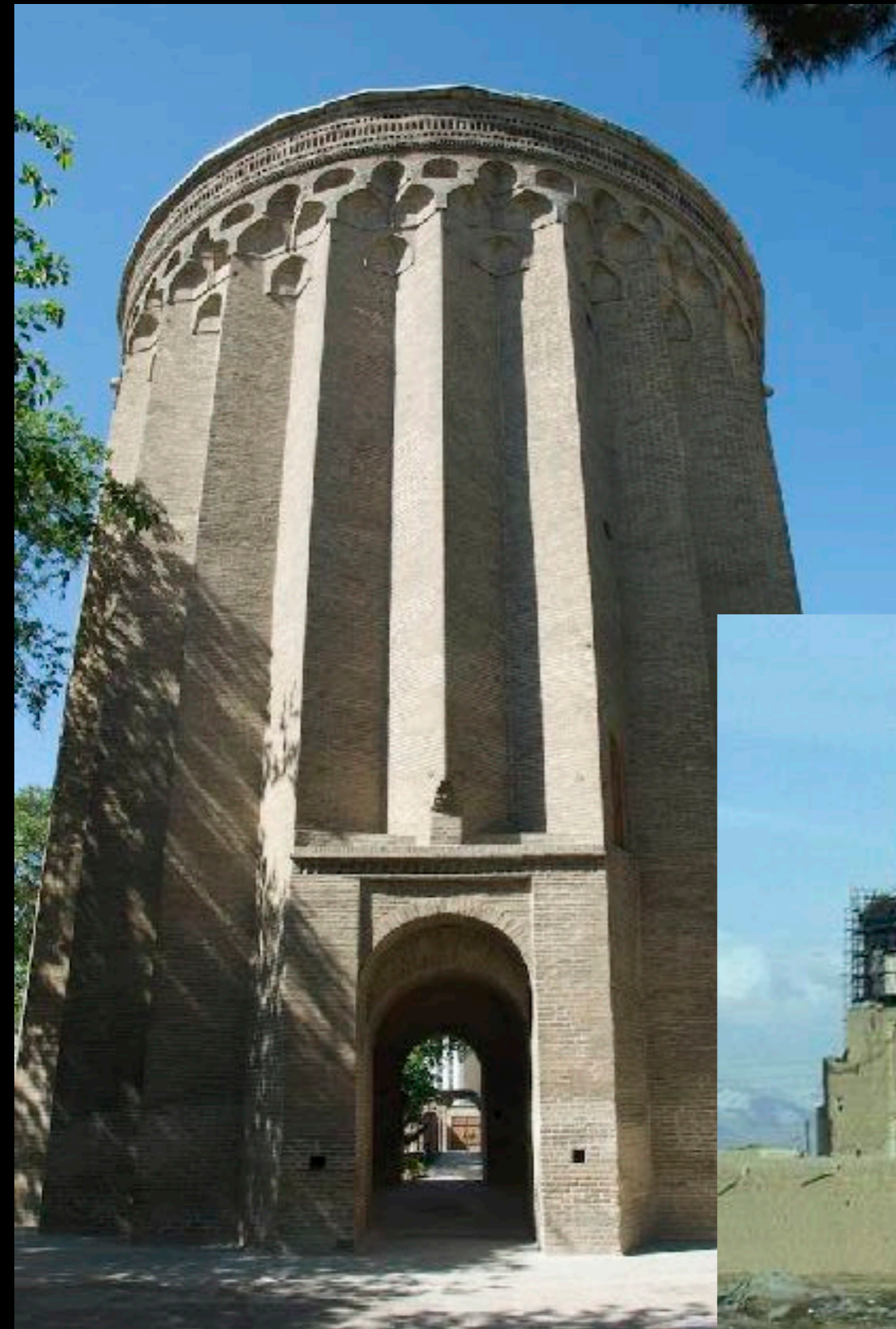


## Politics vs. Religion

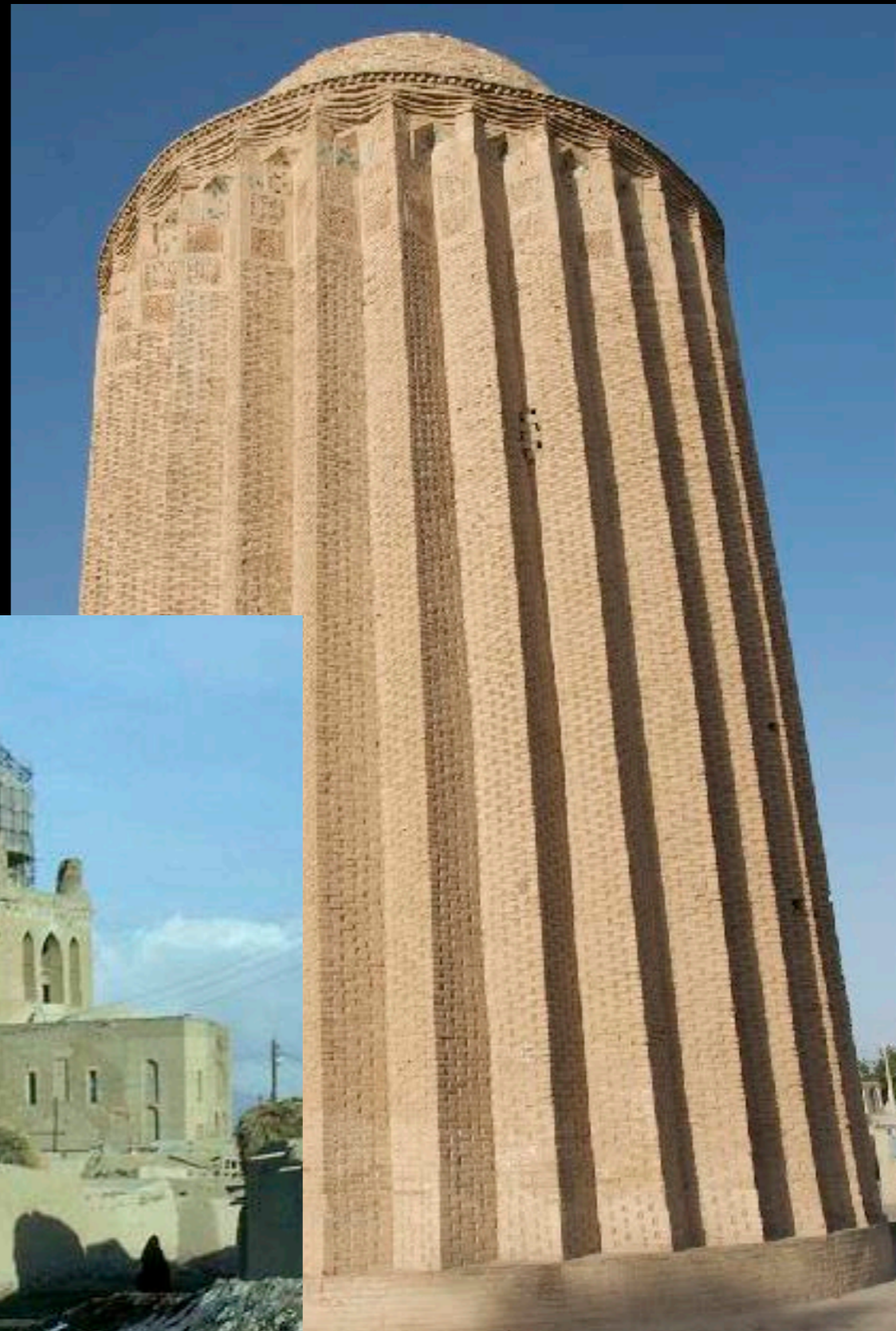


**Mausoleum of Uljeitu Khodabanda (r. 1304-1316), Sultaniyya, near Tabriz. 1313.**

**Gonbad-i Tughril, Rayy (south Tehran),  
1139-40. © Alka Patel 2011.**



**Burj-e Kashaneh, Bastam (northeast Iran), c.  
1280. © Alka Patel 2011.**



**Uljeitu's Tomb, Sultaniyya, 1313**

**- FAST adaptation to Persianate traditions via Islam?**



**Shrine of Imam Husain. Karbala, Iraq.  
Founded c. 680.**



**Conversion of Uljeitu from Sunni to Shi'a  
Islam...**

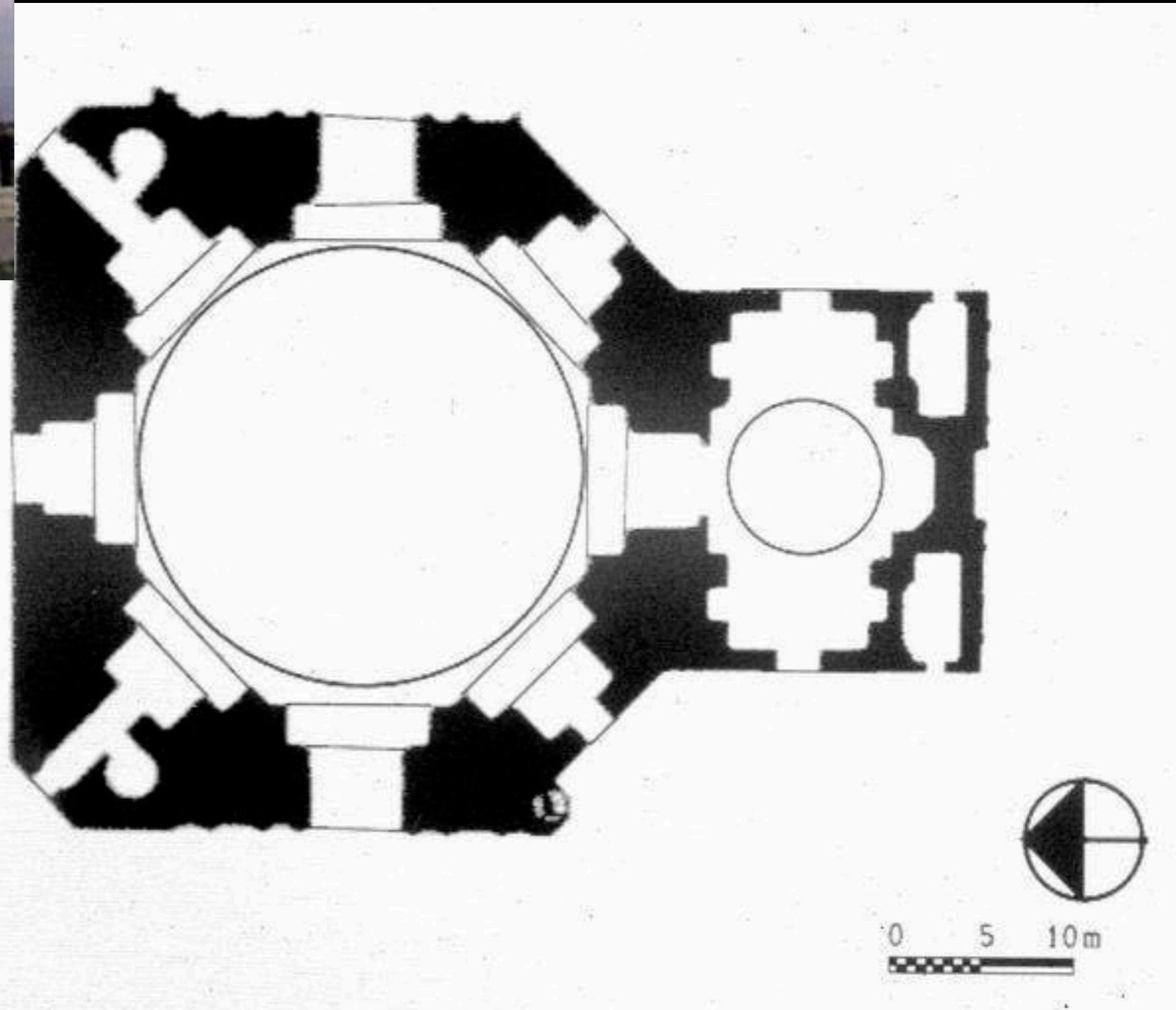
**“Art” as a Primary Source  
Politics vs. Religion**

**Imam Ali Mosque. Najaf, Iraq. Founded  
mid-7th century CE.**



**Conversion of Uljeitu from Sunni to Shi'a Islam...**

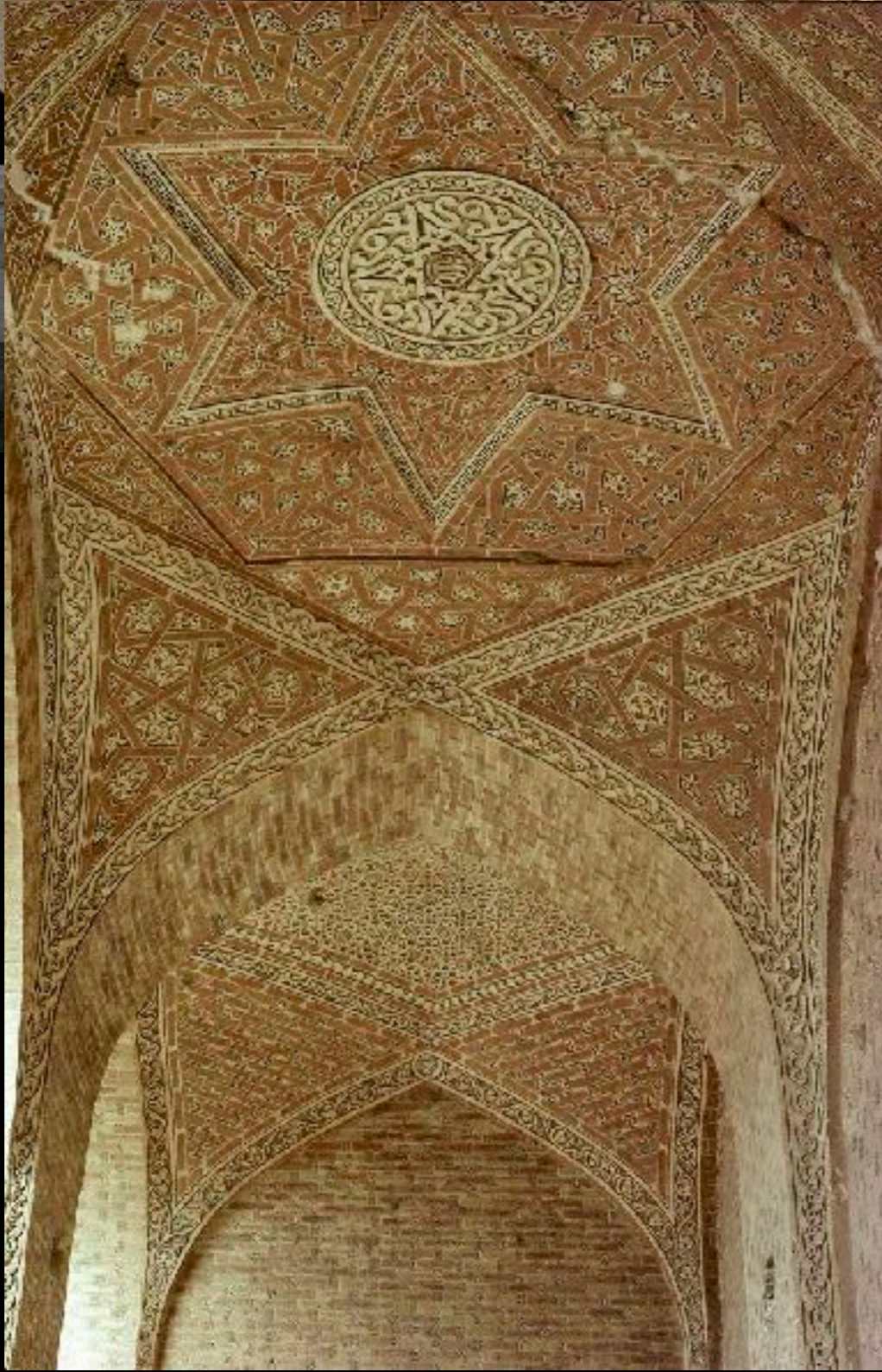
**“Art” as a Primary Source**



**Mausoleum of Uljeitu Khodabanda (r. 1304-1316), Sultaniyya, near Tabriz. 1313.**

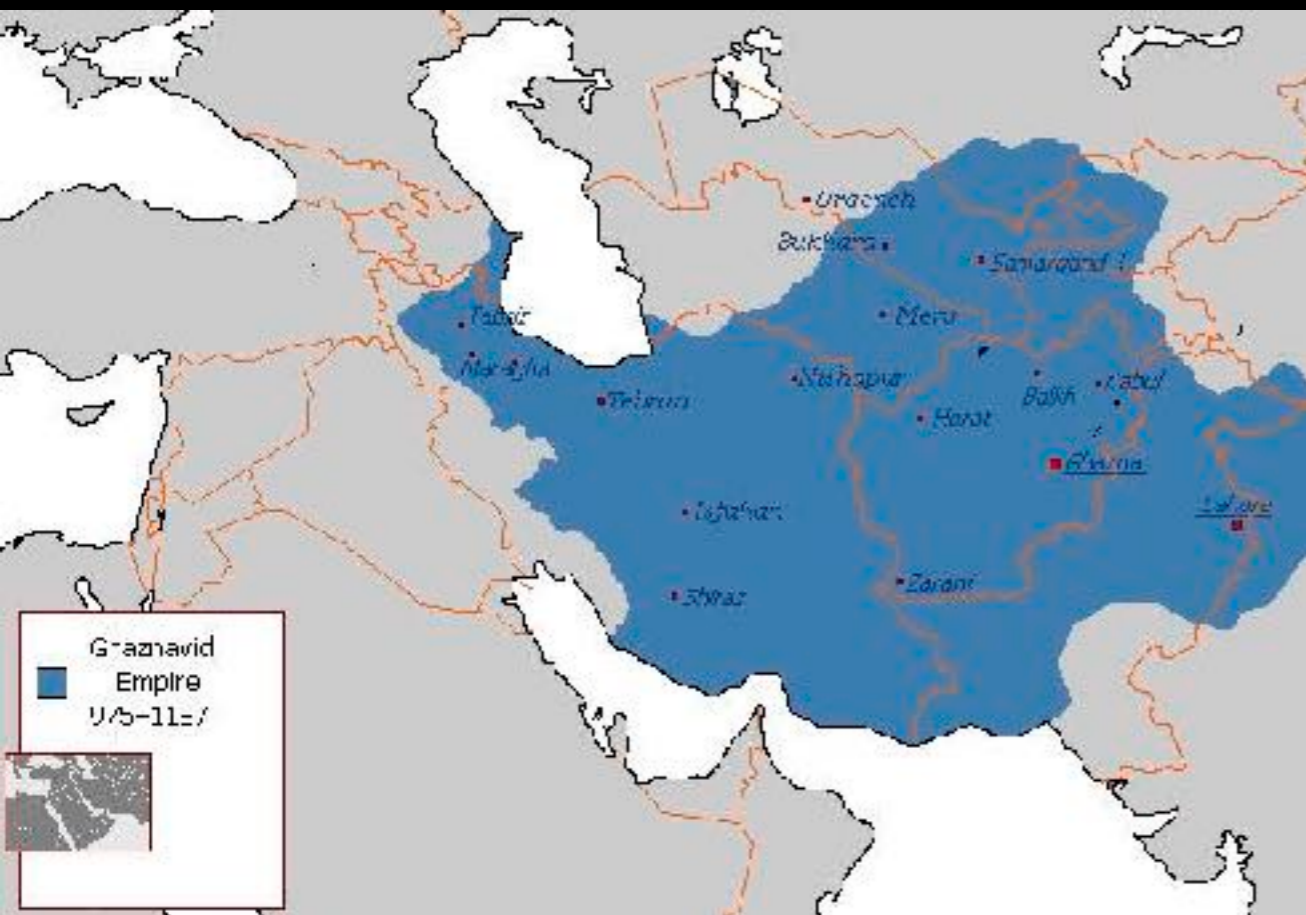


**Mausoleum of Uljeitu Khodabanda (r. 1304-1316), Sultaniyya, near Tabriz. 1313.**



**Mausoleum of Uljeitu Khodabanda (r.  
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**The most famous redaction of the *Shahnama*: by poet Firdausi (940-1020), patronized by Mahmud of Ghazna, c. 1010**





# “Art” as a Primary Source / Style & Iconography



*Shahnama* folio, 1330s, Iran.

- Maintenance of commercial relations to the west

Giotto, “Lamentation,” 1305, Padua, Italy.



صورت تابوت آند که کند



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بوی عشق از برون  
بکینک اوف شد کسب  
که مهر و زور آمد از بروج  
خراد استی بوشن ز سبوح  
و نهها نامدی برون تهن  
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**Defining "Islamic"**  
Persian "nationalism": glory of ancient Iran

**Alexander's Bier. Folio from the "Great Mongol" Shahnama, 1330s. Tabriz.**