HMDC Presents...

Character Profile: Yelü Chucai

Committee: Mongol Empire 1225: Death of Genghis Khan

AT A GLANCE

Born	1190, so about 35 years old in 1225
People	Khitan (Encyclopaedia Britannica)
Role	Adviser to Genghis Khan
With the khan since	April 1218

WHY YELÜ CHUCAI MATTERS AT THE MONGOL COURT

In this committee we play real people, not countries. Yelü Chucai is a learned adviser who wants Mongol rule over North China to be less harsh, so he speaks for good government when the khan is close to death.

WHAT THE RECORD SHOWS

- Yelü Chucai was born in 1190. Britannica says he came from the Khitan people and advised Genghis Khan. (Encyclopaedia Britannica, Last Accessed: October 2026)
- In April 1218, he left Yunzhong in northern China for Genghis Khan's camp, and he was one of the khan's officials on the march west that began in 1219. (University of Washington Silk Road Seattle, Last Accessed: October 2026)
- The Metropolitan Museum of Art says he played a key part in making Mongol rule over North China less harsh. (Metropolitan Museum of Art, Last Accessed: October 2026)

OUR POSITION IN ONE SENTENCE

I am Yelü Chucai, a Khitan who has served the Great Khan since 1218, and my goal is gentler rule over North China.

THREE IDEAS OUR DELEGATE CAN PROPOSE

1. Gentler rule: protect the farmers and towns of North China so they keep working and paying taxes.

2. One united empire: support a peaceful choice of the next khan so the empire does not split.

3. Skilled officials: use trained officials and written records to run the empire well.

CAREFUL NOTE

Our character knows only events up to 1225. After Ögedei became Great Khan in 1229, Yelü Chucai convinced him not to destroy North China, but that is later, so we never speak as if it had already happened.

QUESTIONS WE STILL ANSWER OURSELVES

1. Who is our character, and what job does our character hold in 1225?

2. When Genghis Khan dies, what will our character want most?

3. Who are our character's friends and rivals, and what has our character done by 1225?

WHERE WE LOOK

Britannica, the Mongol empire: https://www.britannica.com/place/Mongol-empire/The-period-of-relative-unity-1227-60

Columbia University, the Mongols: https://afe.easia.columbia.edu/mongols/conquests/conquests_2d.htm

Every fact above names its source and date. We do our own research and write our own position paper, as the conference rules require. This profile is a starting point, not a script.