

Factional struggles within the Second Türk Qaghanate as indicated
by the term 'Bug-čhor found in the Old Tibetan document P. t. 1283
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The remnants of the Second Türk Qaghanate (682~744), which was overthrown in southern Mongolia by a rebel alliance made up of Uighurs, Basmils and Qarluqs, are described as 'Bug-čhor in the Old Tibetan document, P. t. 1283, written after the fall of the Qaghanate. The name 'Bug-čhor has been identified with the name Mochuo 默啜, which is the Chinese rendering for Qapγan Qayan (691~716), although the reason why these remnants were called 'Bug-čhor, (i.e., Qapγan Qayan) has heretofore not been made clear. This article is an attempt to find out why and analyze the inner workings of the Qaghanate.

The author begins with the fact that one Ozmiš Qayan, who was killed by the rebels before the fall of the Qaghanate, was called Mochuo in a certain Chinese imperial proclamation and epitaph. That is to say, the followers of Ozmiš Qayan were continually referred to as Mochuo after the fall of the Qaghanate, which is why document P. t. 1283 refers to this group in Tibetan as 'Bug-čhor. Ozmiš Qayan was the son of Pan-que Tegin 判闕特勤 of the left šad under the reign of Deng-li 登利 Qayan; and the term 'Bug-čhor dates back to that period of the left šad.

'Bug-čhor can also be traced further back to Qapγan Qayan, after whose death Köl Tegin 闕特勤, the son of Qutluy 骨咄祿 (682~691) staged a coup d'état, purged the near relatives and the followers of Qapγan Qayan, and placed his elder brother, Bilgä Qayan (716~734), on the throne. During Köl Tegin's purges, the Qapγan family took refuge near the Kara Irliš River, which became the territory of Tuo-xi 拓西 Qayan, Qapγan's son, and a base of resistance against Bilgä Qayan. Although surrendering to Bilgä Qayan in 720, the Qapγan family rebelled against Deng-li Qayan after the death of Bilgä. The

Qapγan family called themselves 'Bug-čhor as the direct descendants of Qapγan Qayan. It was Ozmiš Qayan who became the last leader of this group and the Türk Qaghanate.

In conclusion, the author shows the existence of serious political opposition between the two ruling factions of the Türk Qaghanate, in that after the death of Qutluy, the throne was usurped Qapγan Qayan, then after the latter's death power was grabbed by Köl Tegin in a coup d'état expressing dissatisfaction with the Qapγan Qayan faction. The Qapγan family then organized itself as 'Bug-čhor in opposition to the coup d'état and launched a campaign of resistance against Bilgä and Deng-li Qayan.