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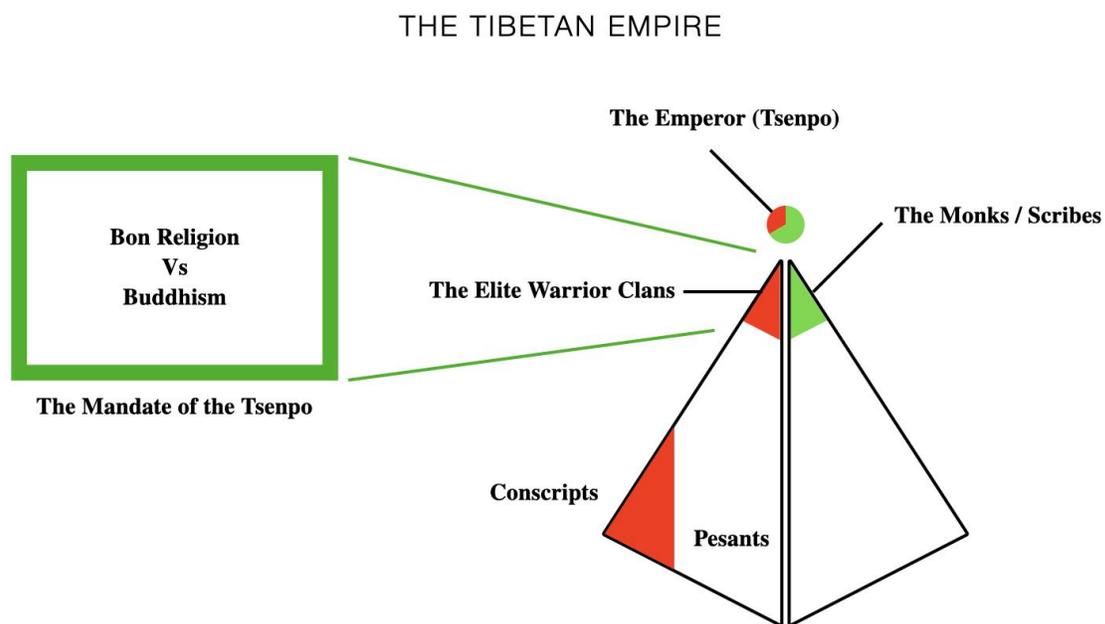
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The Tibetan Empire

The Tibetan Empire is a fascinating civilization to say the least, sandwiched between China, India and the nomadic steppe, the Empire reflects influences from all three religions.



The Emperor

The Chinese concept of the mandate of heaven probably had heavy influence on the Emperor of

Tibet. The Tsenpo, or alternatively spelled Btsan-Po, as they are addressed, believed that only their family group had the legitimacy to rule(). Meanwhile, considering themselves a separate, and superior social class, reflects Indian caste system influences.

Frame and Screen.

The indigenous Bon belief struggled against the imperial preference of Buddhism. Because the Tsenpo family believed that they were a fulfillment of Buddhist Prophecy, it was natural for them to prefer Buddhism. While the local elite clans would hold on to indigenous Bon belief, they would show hostility towards Buddhism in certain instances.

Steppe Warrior Clans

The empire maintained an army of conscripts with the Tsenpo as the militaristic leader. Not unlike his Turkic neighbors, the Tsenpo would lead elite clans in battles against other neighboring nations. Eastward against Azha Empire, and Northward against Tang China for control of the silk road.

Merchants

Little information about merchant activity is recorded. Based on the Tibetan Empire's interest in the Silk Road trade, there is no doubt that they understood the benefits of maintaining these trade networks. The Empire probably regulated merchants and benefited from taxations.

Bibliography

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