



The Mongoliad (The Mongoliad Series Book 1)

By Greg Bear, Neal Stephenson, Mark Teppo, Erik Bear, Joseph Brassey, Cooper Moo, Nicole Galland

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With bonus material! This Kindle edition features extra content only found in the Collector's Edition of *The Mongoliad: Book One*, including an illustrated character glossary, a Foreworld map, and Sinner, a prequel to the *Mongoliad* series.

The first novel to be released in The Foreworld Saga, *The Mongoliad: Book One*, is an epic-within-an-epic, taking place in 13th century. In it, a small band of warriors and mystics raise their swords to save Europe from a bloodthirsty Mongol invasion. Inspired by their leader (an elder of an order of warrior monks), they embark on a perilous journey and uncover the history of hidden knowledge and conflict among powerful secret societies that had been shaping world events for millennia.

But the saga reaches the modern world via a circuitous route. In the late 19th century, Sir Richard F. Burton, an expert on exotic languages and historical swordsmanship, is approached by a mysterious group of English martial arts aficionados about translating a collection of long-lost manuscripts. Burton dies before his work is finished, and his efforts were thought lost until recently rediscovered by a team of amateur archaeologists in the ruins of a mansion in Trieste, Italy. From this collection of arcana, the incredible tale of *The Mongoliad* was recreated.

Full of high adventure, unforgettable characters, and unflinching battle scenes, *The Mongoliad* ignites a dangerous quest where willpower and blades are tested and the scope of world-building is redefined.

A note on this edition: *The Mongoliad* began as a social media experiment, combining serial story-telling with a unique level of interaction between authors and audience during the creative process. Since its original iteration, *The Mongoliad* has been restructured, edited, and rewritten under the supervision of its authors to create a more cohesive reading experience and will be published as a trilogy of novels. This edition is the definitive edition and is the authors'

preferred text.

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Editorial Review

Amazon.com Review

A Q&A with Mark Teppo, co-author of *The Mongoliad: Book One*

Q: How did you get the idea for *The Mongoliad*?

A: It all started with sword fighting, of course. My co-authors and I are part of a Western martial arts study group that practices in a non-descript loft in Seattle. A lot of the initial impetus for the group came from Neal Stephenson who had realized the sword fighting in his earlier novels was lacking the input from individuals with actual expertise. In the course of learning about the history of Western martial arts, he coaxed a couple other writers into the same circle. From there, the idea of writing a saga about the complex history of Western martial arts was born. Since the idea grew out of a group experience, it seemed best to continue the collaborative aspect of the project, and that was how the core team of Neal, Greg Bear, E.D. deBirmingham, Joseph Brassey, Erik Bear, Cooper Moo, and myself came together.

Q: The Mongoliad trilogy began as an online subscription service. How would you describe this first incarnation of the trilogy?

A: At the time, we were also talking about new ways of interacting with our audience, and an online subscription service seemed like an interesting experiment. The edition that grew out of that experience is best characterized as a serialized work-in-progress. Not only were we conducting an experiment in writing collaboratively, but we were also learning what it was like to interact—in near real-time—with our readers. It was, in many ways, not unlike the manner in which Charles Dickens wrote his own novels. The first iteration of many of his classics were serialized, with Dickens shaping and revisiting his plots based on readers' responses to the episodes. He even started to think of the episodes differently—writing more cliffhangers than one would normally use in a traditional novel format.

Q: How is the Mongoliad trilogy different from the serialized version of *The Mongoliad*?

A: We wrote the serialized narrative in one long rush, constantly shifting stories and plotlines in response to writer availability and to what our audience was talking about. I don't know how well it will read after the fact as I think there was a certain amount of inescapable frisson that went on during that process. But it was a serialized experience and much of that emphasis is a weekly cliffhanger, which doesn't necessarily translate well to three separate volumes.

The trilogy that is being released via 47North is a much more coherent narrative where the emphasis is now on world-building and story-telling. *The Mongoliad* has a beginning, middle, and end, but it's also the starting point of a huge explosion of stories and characters—in the medieval world and beyond—that is still forthcoming. We know so much more about Foreworld now (the world in which *The Mongoliad* takes place) that we are able to properly understand these characters' place within the larger narrative that has yet to unfold.

Q: What are the strengths of this book-length version of *The Mongoliad*?

A: Firstly, each of the three volumes of *The Mongoliad* have been polished, re-structured, and re-edited into

the definitive edition of the narrative. The 47North publication is the authors' preferred text. As we said, throughout the serialization a book is never really done for the writers until they can hold it in their hands. We're old school, that way. It's done when you put it on the shelf.

Secondly, having been the guy who had to take it all apart and put it back together across three volumes, I think it's a much stronger narrative now. There are four story branches that move back and forth across the year 1241, and lining up intersection points between the branches was complicated in a serialized non-linear format. The 47North edition allowed us to build a better pace and structure for the narrative.

For example, the Rome branch, which began immediately in the serial, doesn't begin in the 47North edition until Book Two. Which makes sense in a linear story-telling fashion because the events that occur in Rome take place much later than the initial events in Book One. In the serial, we didn't do it that way—much to our chagrin. But we couldn't do anything to fix that misstep. Until now.

Review

"This off-beat alternate history of Eurasia could be your new obsession." –i09.com

"This story is pure adventure, with much swordplay and swashbuckling." –Kirkus Reviews

"A terrifically engaging book that pulled me along at least as quickly as *The Hunger Games*. Think *Lord of the Rings* without all that pesky fantasy...Five frighteningly accurate historical sword fights out of five." –Fanboy Comics

"While there might be some truth to the saying "too many cooks spoil the broth", it doesn't apply to *The Mongoliad: Book One*. In fact it's a distinct advantage in a book where we see the world through the eyes of such a diverse group of people. Differences in voice make each character a distinct individual while not detracting from the story's coherency or cohesion. The overall narrative actually flows far more smoothly than usual for a book covering as much ground as this one, as events build upon themselves naturally and logically. While there's no indication as to who wrote which parts it ends up being irrelevant. After the first few pages you'll find yourself so wrapped up in the story you'll no longer care who the author is, you'll just want to turn the page to find out what happens next." -Blogcritics

About the Author

Neal Stephenson is primarily a fiction author and has received several awards for his works in speculative fiction. His more popular books include *Snow Crash*, *The Diamond Age*, *Cryptonomicon*, *The Baroque Cycle*, and *Anathem*.

Erik Bear lives and writes in Seattle, Washington. He has written for a bestselling video game and is currently working on several comic book series.

Greg Bear is the author of more than thirty books, spanning the thriller, science fiction, and fantasy genres, including *Blood Music*, *Eon*, *The Forge of God*, *Darwin's Radio*, *City at the End of Time*, and *Hull Zero Three*. His books have won numerous international prizes, have been translated into more than twenty-two languages, and have sold millions of copies worldwide.

Joseph Brassey lives in the Pacific Northwest with his wife and two cats. He teaches medieval fighting techniques to members of the armed forces. *The Mongoliad* is his first published fiction.

Nicole Galland is the author of *I, Iago*, as well as *The Fool's Tale*, *Revenge of the Rose*, and *Crossed: A Tale of the Fourth Crusade*. An award-winning screenwriter, she is married to actor Billy Meleady and, unlike all her handsome and talented co-writers, spends no time at all hitting people with sticks in Seattle.

Cooper Moo spent five minutes in Mongolia in 1986 before he had to get back on the train — he never expected to be channeling Mongolian warriors. In 2007 Cooper fought a Chinese long-sword instructor on a Hong Kong rooftop — he never thought the experience would help him write battle scenes. In addition to being a member of The Mongoliad writing team, Cooper has written articles for various magazines. His autobiographical piece "Growing Up Black and White," published in the *Seattle Weekly*, was awarded Social Issues Reporting article of the year by the Society of Professional Journalists. He lives in Issaquah, Washington, with his wife, three children, and numerous bladed weapons.

Mark Teppo is the author of the *Codex of Souls* urban fantasy series as well as the hypertext dream narrative *The Potemkin Mosaic*.

Users Review

From reader reviews:

Brian Street:

Book is written, printed, or illustrated for everything. You can recognize everything you want by a reserve. Book has a different type. We all know that that book is important matter to bring us around the world. Adjacent to that you can your reading ability was fluently. A reserve *The Mongoliad* (*The Mongoliad Series Book 1*) will make you to end up being smarter. You can feel considerably more confidence if you can know about almost everything. But some of you think which open or reading the book make you bored. It is far from make you fun. Why they can be thought like that? Have you trying to find best book or acceptable book with you?

James Chapman:

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Mathew Jones:

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George Chadwick:

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