

referred to in Mongolian as Kitat, because they had replaced the true Kitat (a Mongolian plural of Kitan < Qītañ), *i. e.* the Ch'i-tan or Liao of Chinese texts; and in their turn the true Kitat, those who had remained in northern China as well as those who had migrated to Russian Turkestan, were henceforth known as Qara-Kitat or Qara-Ĥītai, the «Black Kitan» (see «Catai»). As to the name Ĵürčä, or in its Mongolian form Ĵürčät, it survived only as the designation of the original home of the nation in eastern Manchuria. In the *Secret History* the Ĵürčät of §§ 247, 248, 255, and 274 are only the Manchurian Ĵürčät. Such is the case also when Rašīdu-'d-Dīn (*Bl*, II, 498) speaks of Japan as of a great island in the ocean, «in the vicinity of the coasts of the provinces of Ĵürčä and Kōlī (Corea)». So Polo's use of «Ciorcia» is in perfect agreement with the custom of the time. His «Ciorcia» is in principle the country beginning east of the Liao River, and extending south of the Ch'ang-pai-shan to the Japan Sea, but it may also have extended to the north-east as far as the lower Amur, and even corresponded to the whole of Manchuria. About the time of the capture of Peking by the Mongols, the Chin officer 蒲鮮萬奴 P'u-hsien Wan-nu had started east of the Liao River an independent kingdom, which he first called 大真 Ta-Chên («Great [Nü-]chên»), and afterwards 東夏 Tung-Hsia («Eastern Hsia») and 東真 Tung-chên («Eastern [Nü-]chên»); he was reduced by the Mongols in 1233 (cf. GIBERT, *Dictionnaire*, 754-755). Prior to the downfall of P'u-hsien Wan-nu, Chinghiz-khan had allotted the whole of his territory as part of the appanage of his youngest brother Tämügä-otčigin, and Nayan (see «Naian») had inherited it as great-great-grandson of the latter (cf. T'u Chi, 75, 1 a). So Polo's information is once more correct.

While all commentators have agreed that, in the first two cases, Polo's «Ciorcia» represents the same name as \*Ĵürčēn and Nü-chên and is in principle a designation of south-eastern Manchuria, more hesitation has been felt about «the desert island named Ciorcia». YULE (*Y*, II, 262), citing RAMUSIO, speaks of «a certain island named Zorza (Chorcha?)», but does not seem expressly to identify the two names, and CORDIER's Index, while referring under «Zorza» to «Chorcha», and under «Chorcha» to «Churchin», leaves out the reference to II, 262, under this last name. BENEDETTO, who correctly identifies «Ciorcia» with the \*Ĵürčēn (*B*<sup>1</sup>, 441), says under «Zorza» (*B*<sup>1</sup>, 449): «Unidentified . . . I doubt that it can be the same as Ciorcia, since it is spoken of as being an island». Ross alone (*RR*, 417, 439), although separating under two different entries the names «Chorcha, Manchu country» and «Zorza, island Chorcha or Juchin», shows by his very explanation «Juchin», *i. e.* Ju-chen, that he held the two to be identical.

Leaving for the moment the name itself, I shall try to determine which was the place referred to by Polo. During the Mongol dynasty people were banished to various parts of the Empire. For instance (*YS*, 29, 3 a), on January 22, 1324, princes who were guilty of conspiracy were respectively banished to Yün-nan, Hai-nan, 奴兒干 Nu-êrh-kan, and «the Sea Islands» (海島 *hai-tao*). In Polo's text, «Yün-nan» is excluded, being neither in the sea nor near the sea. «Hai-nan» too is out of the question, since it designates the island of Hai-nan, which was not «desert» and the name of which was well known to Polo (see «Cheynam»). The anonymous «sea islands» might be taken into consideration if it were not that Polo would probably not have called them by a distinct name when the annals themselves do not; moreover these «sea islands» must have been off the coasts of China proper (perhaps the Chu-san islands, where Nayan's partisans had been