

There have been several Ṭālaqān, or Ṭālqān, or Ṭāliqān (Ṭāleqān), but particularly two, one to the east being Polo's « Taican », the other to the west situated between Merv and Balkh. CHAVANNES, after some hesitation, came to the conclusion that the Chinese of the 7th cent. knew only the eastern one (*Doc. sur les Tou-kiue*, 278, 362); the 阻刺健 Ta-la-chien (Talakan) of Hsüan-tsang, the 多勒建 To-lo-chien (Tälakan) of the administrative organization of c. 660 would then be Polo's « Taican ». On the other hand, BRETSCHNEIDER (*Br*, II, 99) and MARQUART (*Ērānšahr*, 80) considered that Hsüan-tsang spoke of the western Ṭālaqān, and I think they are right. Ya'qūt's indications about Ṭālaqān (apart from a third Ṭālaqān much more to the west between Qazwīn and Abhār) suppose that, for his source, the western Ṭālaqān, a very important town, formed part of Toḥāristān; and, for Ya'qūt, the eastern Ṭāleqān appears only under the form Ṭāiqān as a place of no significance in the region of Balkh (cf. BARBIER DE MEYNARD, *Dict. Géogr.*, 376-377, 379, 389). It was also the western Ṭāliqān or Ṭālqān which was conquered by Chinghiz-khan in 1221, and the name of which is written « fortress of 塔里寒 T'a-li-han » in *Shêng-wu ch'in-chêng lu* (62 a-b, s. a. 1221) and *YS*, I, 9 a, s. a. 1222; Chinghiz-khan passed there the summer of 1222. This is at least the conclusion reached by an examination of the Mussulman documents, so that WANG Kuo-wei, as D'OHSSON and YULE before him (*Y*, I, 154), must be wrong in identifying that Ṭāliqān or Ṭālqān of 1221-1222 with Polo's « Taican »; cf. *Br*, II, 98 (who does not decide between the two); BARTHOLD, *Turkestan*², 439 (who is definitely in favour of the western Ṭālqān); A. WALEY, *Travels of an Alchemist* (where the chronology of Chinghiz-khan's campaigns is systematically moved up one year, and his summer-stay at Ṭālqān placed in 1221, instead of 1222).

On the Chinese map of c. 1330 and in the corresponding list of *YS*, 63, 16 b, a town of 塔里干 T'a-li-kan (*Tāligan or *Tālgan) is marked between Merv and Balkh; so it must again be the western Ṭāliqān (cf. *Br*, II, 99).

To sum up, while CHAVANNES thought that the Chinese had only known the eastern Ṭālaqān or Ṭāleqān (Polo's « Taican »), it seems on the contrary that all the mentions in Chinese texts refer to the western one.

350. TAIDU

gaidu V

taidu F, L; R

In Chinese 大都 Ta-tu, « Great Capital »; « Taido » in Odoric (*Y*¹, II, 217; *Wy*, 471); دایدو « Daidu » in Rašīdu-'d-Dīn (*Bl*, II, 457); « Daidu » and « Yäkä Daidu-ḥota » (read ḥoto or ḥoton ?) in the Mongol chronicle (SCHMIDT, *Gesch. der Ost-Mongolen*, 113, 137); 大 ta was still pronounced tai during the Yüan dynasty. One would expect « Daidu » in Polo and Odoric; they have transcribed the name as if it had been pronounced with 太 t'ai, of allied meaning, but which would not be correct here.

In 1261, it had been proposed to rebuild the walls of the ancient Chin capital, the « Cambaluc »