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Sunil Kumar. « The Ignored Elites: Turks, Mongols and a Persian Secretarial Class in the Early Delhi Sultanate ». *Modern Asian Studies*, vol. 43, n° 1, 2009, p. 45-77.

- 1 The first part of this article discusses both the recruitment of frontiersmen by Delhi sultans to guard the Punjab from Mongol armies and the periodic seizure of power by frontier commanders. The second part explores the social and cultural backgrounds of these commanders. An analysis of Persian historical accounts from the period show that they ignored or misrepresented key characteristics of the Delhi sultans. According to the author, research on the objectives and prejudices of the Persian chroniclers is needed to “disengage their representations of a monolithic Islam, a hegemonic state and a timeless Persianate culture” (p. 49). By integrating the Delhi sultans’ past in histories of the sultanate, the developments of the state and its ruling elites can be reassessed. The author argues that periodic migrations of military commanders with their retinues from the Afghanistan-Punjab frontier helped shape Muslim society and culture of the subcontinent.

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