

# A Study on the Costumes of the Mongol Naadam Festival

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**Introduction:** The Mongolian empire was pushed back to the Mongolian plateau by China after 14th century. By this time, Mongolia crumbled down to a nomadic lifestyle and this characteristic stuck from then on.

The Naadam festival is Mongolia's biggest summer festival which has its origins from the beginning of Chinggis Khans reign and centers on competitions that tests the courage, strength and the progressive spirit that are needed during nomadic life and war.

This study revolves around the costume worn in the opening ceremony, during competition and the costume of the public. their purpose are two fold. First, they are to be the main reference for the diverse Mongolian costumes that have been researched. Secondly, they will help us understand better the culture that revolves around Mongolian costumes.

**Methods:** This research is attained by the data from the actual field of Naadam festival that was celebrated on July of 2000. This reserch include the ceremonial costumes that adhere to tradition and the present costumes of the public that attended the ceremony

**Conclusion:** Though the Naadam festival is a festival that possesses all the traditions of the nomadic culture of Mongolia, it was a ceremony that celebrated a victory after battle and a religious sacrificial ceremony. In 1921, Mongolia obtained its independence from China. To celebrate this day, the Naadam festival added on a military significance to the meaning of the festival. The festival consists of an opening ceremony that inspires morale among the public and 3 traditional sport events. The costumes for these events are as follows:

## 1) The opening ceremony costume.

The opening ceremony starts with a pro-

cession of soldiers with 9 flags. The flags are made from the hairs of white horses and they signify peace and tranquility, ever since the beginning of Chinggis Khans time. The costumes resemble a European military uniform and reflect the remnants of the Russian influence.

## 2) The costumes for competition.

① Wrestlers' costume comprises of a jacket with sleeves but no front, snug shorts, a traditional hat and traditional boots. The main material are red or blue colored silk fabrics with white threads embroidered into them

② Archers' costume mostly put on their traditional costume, deel and hats. The hats are of two kinds: the traditional ones or the European-style ones for men, which were introduced around 1930s.

③ Horse riders who are usually children rather than adult wear a comfortable, bright and colorful uniform that comprises a simple jacket and pants.

## 3) The costume of the public.

The general public that attended the festival were dressed in a western fashion but differ according to different age groups

① The costumes of the younger Mongolian : The majority of the men wore traditional costumes that were appropriate to the festival, the women did not as they were more prone to the influence of fads of western cultures and dressed in a more daring fashion. In addition, the children also dressed in a more modern western fashion.

② The costumes of the elderly Mongolian : The elderly, oblivious of whatever season it was, were dressed in a more traditional fashion which is the deel