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Abstracts

NICOLA DI COSMO, La «guerra giusta» nella conquista mancese della Cina

The essay focuses on the idea of *just war* within the context of the rise of Manchu power in the decades preceding the Manchu conquest of China and the establishment of the Qing dynasty (1644-1911). At this time of momentous political changes, the founders of Manchu power, Nurhaci and his successor Hung Taiji, issued proclamations in which they sought to justify their wars against China and Korea. The template of these «manifestos», known as the *Seven Great Grievances*, is analyzed here within the frame of the discussion of *just war* theory in European and non-European contexts as an example of a practice of *jus ad bellum* by a people normally associated with the war culture of steppe nomads, such as the Mongols. The investigation into the war ethics of the Manchus is extended also to the question of the *jus in bello*, based on proclamations issued to the army that contain rules and laws about the behavior of troops in combat and during a military campaign.

Not only are these proclamations comparable with similar manifestos issued in Seventeenth-century Europe, which have been read as instances of a praxis of *just war*, but contemporary European observers were also impressed by the Manchu justification of war. The last part of the essay will analyze Martino Martini's treatment of the Manchu «grievances» in his *Bellum Tartaricum* as a basis for waging war against China. The famed Jesuit recognized these as just causes and was then able to inscribe the conquest of China within a Christian view of history that was entirely different from the interpretation of a victory of barbarism against civilization that might have been inspired by Chinese and European notions of Tartarian invasions.