

Contemporary Kazakhstan Medieval Studies of the Periodization of the History of Early Medieval Europe

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Abstract: The problem of periodization of both global and national history is amongst the most important problems of historical science. As is well-known, periodization is the establishment of chronologically successive stages in social development. And the basis for specifying these stages should be determinant factors, epochal events that are common to all countries or to the leading countries of the world. Soviet historiography (1917-1991) considered the year of 476 AD to be the end of the ancient history and the beginning of the Middle Ages. But it is just a conditional date, the year of deposition of the last Western Roman Emperor. The background was founded a century before, in the second half of the fourth century, when the Great Migration in Europe began, and the Hunnic invasions of Europe agitated the entire Eurasian continent, Europe. This was an epochal event, common to all the countries of Europe and Asia. Therefore, we have compelling reasons to date the beginning of the medieval history on a global basis, including the history of Kazakhstan, just from the second half of the fourth century (375 AD) - the turning point of the Great Migration in Eurasia.

[Zhumagulov K. **Contemporary Kazakhstan Medieval Studies of the Periodization of the History of Early Medieval Europe**. *Life Sci J* 2014;11(11):223-226] (ISSN:1097-8135). <http://www.lifesciencesite.com>. 31

Keywords: Kazakhstan medieval studies; the Huns; the Great Migration; the Middle Ages; civilization

1. Introduction

In 1991, after the collapse of the Soviet Union, Kazakhstan acquired state independence and became a member of the United Nations and many other international organizations. Now, the sovereign Republic of Kazakhstan has faced with the task to prepare its own scientific and research and teaching personnel for one of the main areas of historical studies and history education - world history. Specialists in World History are aimed to study the past and present of various regions of the globe, tracing the relationship of peoples, nations, eras and cultures.

In recent years, continuing study of the problems of the genesis of feudalism since the era of the Germans (Zhumagulov, 2002), I have been deeply involved in the history of the Huns in Europe. This is the beginning of medieval history and is an example of interaction between East and West, and besides that it is the history of Central Asia, the Turkic peoples. However, it should be noted that history of the Huns in Europe has scarcely been given coverage to in academic literature written in the Russian language, including the Soviet medieval studies. Apparently, one of the reasons is the influence of a number of generations of Western authors who have characterized the movements of the Huns as that of "Asians" allegedly destroying European culture.

Having existed for about one hundred years in the turbulent era of the Great Migration, the Hunnic

Empire with the centre in Pannonia had an objective impact on the fate of European, Eurasian history in terms of the transition to the new era and civilization of the Middle Ages. After the fall of the Roman Empire, the band of civilization expanded wider, and it developed in the regions that lay northward the Alps – in Western, Central, Northern and Eastern Europe. In the early Middle Ages the importance of "Europe" itself increased, which replaced the old Roman Empire. The Huns were the first Eurasians, and they participated in the ethnogenesis of the peoples not only in Asia.

2. Material and Methods

Our research methods are based on the use of rarest written sources in Latin. We especially widely involved the data of archeology, ethnology, historical linguistics and modern interdisciplinary research. The rarest written sources for the period of late antiquity and the early Middle Ages came to us in the original in the Latin, Greek, Early Germanic and Scandinavian languages. Our research methods are based on the use of rarest written sources in Latin. We especially widely involved the data of archeology, ethnology, historical linguistics and modern interdisciplinary research. The rarest written sources for the period of late antiquity and the early Middle Ages came to us in the original in the Latin, Greek, Early Germanic and Scandinavian languages. The book stacks and holdings of the one of the first universities in Europe – the University of Tübingen,

founded in 1477, have 4 million volumes. Here I did search and analytical work.

First of all, in the rich library holdings of the University of Tübingen, I found the rarest source materials on the history of the Huns, the majority of which is dated to the IV-V centuries, i.e. to the heyday of the Hunnic Empire in the West. They are the Chronicles of Late Antiquity and the Middle Ages, written mainly in Latin and Greek. The works of chroniclers such as Pytheas, Sidonius Apollinaris, Ambrose, Olympiodorus, Herodianus, Hidatii, Orosius, Priscus of Panium, Prosper Tiro, Claudius Claudianus, Isidore of Seville, Jordanis, Victor of Tonnena, Beda Venerabilis, and a number of other late antique and medieval authors are particularly noteworthy.

3. Results

The early history of Kazakhstan is part of Turkic history. Here, it is important to elaborate on the history of the Huns and their relationships with both the Roman Empires. In essence, the history of the Huns in Asia and Europe marks the beginning of the history of Eurasia and Eurasianism. In addition to wars and migrations, it is an example of a multifaceted interaction between East and West, the synthesis of traditions and cultures, which had numerous consequences, affecting, in turn, the formation of a qualitatively new civilization and public relations.

In general, world history can be divided into four main periods:

1. The Ancient World (from the end of IV millennium BC to the beginning of the Great Migration of the Peoples in the 70s. of IV century AD).

2. The Middle Ages (the period from the beginning of the Great Migration, and to the English Bourgeois Revolution in the middle of XVII century).

3. The New Age (from the English Bourgeois Revolution of the XVII century to 1918, i.e. to the end of the First World War).

4. Contemporary history (from 1919 to the present day).

In Russian historiography, following a number of trends in European medieval studies, they have considered the year of 476 to be the end of Ancient History and the beginning of the Middle Ages. But it is just a conditional date, the year of deposition of the last Western Roman Emperor that was not a major historical event. The background was founded a century before from the beginning of the Great Migration in Europe, when the Hunnic invasions of Europe agitated the entire Eurasian continent, Europe. The process had global far-reaching

consequences and contributed to the transition from one era to a next one, from one civilization to another one. This was an epochal event, common to all the countries of Europe and Asia. Therefore, we have compelling reasons to date the beginning of the medieval history just from the second half of the fourth century (375 AD) - the turning point of the Great Migration in Eurasia. Such an approach to the question of the end of Ancient History and the beginning of medieval history has been approved, in particular, at international conferences held in KazNU and fixed in the sample academic program for the history of the Middle Ages, developed and published by the Chair of the History of the World History, historiography and source studies of Al-Farabi Kazakh National University for all humanities at the universities of the Republic of Kazakhstan. The program was approved by the Ministry of Education and Science of the RK (Zhumagulov, 2001). In Kazakhstan, beginning from 2000, in the standards of education, training programs, manuals, methodical introduced a number of innovations. So in the course of a model program "Ancient History," "History of the Middle Ages" for university students of Kazakhstan including a completely new separate section as "The Roman Empire and the Huns in the era of the Great Migration in Europe". I also gave special courses "Relations of the Roman Empire and the Huns in the West IV-V centuries", "Huns in the history of Eurasia."

In my textbooks and lectures I objectively show that Attila the Hun and his time left an indelible mark in the history of Eurasia, which has been preserved not only in historical works, chronicles and epic works. Reading and analyzing rare historical evidence in the Latin, the early Greek and Scandinavian languages, I was able to establish that the great deeds of the Huns and their ruler were featured in 18 works of the German heroic epic and Scandinavian sagas. Attila's (Etzel) name and the places where the Huns encamped have been remained in the toponymy of Europe since the Middle Ages, although they have been exposed to some linguistic changes with the course of time (Panites, 1851; Callinicus, 1867).

The greatest territorial expansion and the greatest power of the Hun Empire in the West was when the centre of their activities reached Pannonia under the leadership of Attila. In the middle of V century the relations between Western Roman Empire and the Hunnish state is deteriorating. Gigantic collisions of these forces are becoming evident.

Events in the middle of V century show the military power Hun Empire. Concentrating power, ruler Attila organized a campaign against Western

Europe, aims to expand its territory. A contemporary chronicler of that tumultuous era Prosper Tiro wrote, "that as soon as he (Attila) crossed the Rhine, and numerous Gallic town seized with fear. And we decided to quickly: the Romans and the Goths combined forces to meet the brazen enemy (Tiro, 1892). Following Catalonians battle, just a few months Attila made a new campaign. Now he was sent to the heart of the Roman Empire - Italy.

In the end, it was decided to use a well-tested Eastern romei people (Byzantine) admission: delegation of embassy to Attila. It was headed by the Pope Leo I; in its composition were also Avin consul and prefect of Rome Trigetsy.

Attila and Leo I met at Ambuley field in the middle reaches of the lake Mintsy (now Mincho): "igitur dum eius animus ancipiti neotio inter ire et non ire fluctuaret secumque deliberans tardaret, placida ei legatio a Roma advenit. Nam Leo papa per se ad eum accedens in agro Venetum Arabuleio, ubi Mincius amnis commeantium frequentatione transitur. qui mox deposuit exercitatu furore et rediens, quo venerat, iter ultra Danubium promissa pace discessit ... " ("And so, until the spirit of Attila hesitated on this dangerous business - or go - no go - thinking to himself, hesitated, could come to him from Rome embassy peace proposals. Went to him to the Pope Leo Ambuley field in the province of Veneto, where the river meets Mintz crowds of travelers. Attila then stopped rampage of the army, and, turning back to where you came from, set off for the Danube, promising to keep the peace" (Jordanes, 1882).

At the same time, we note that relocations and migrations in Europe had taken place even before the Huns. The Germans should be first mentioned. The written evidence of Pytheas of Massalia (IV c. BC), a Greek author and a student of Aristotle were the earliest ancient source on the middle and northern European areas. Pytheas was the first to emphasize the difference between the Celts and Scythians (Skythen) and to give evidence of the lands that later called German ones and their inhabitants (Pytheas, 1959).

4. Discussions

In connection with the periodization of world history under study, I would like to draw your attention to the following fact. In the western historiography, including that of Soviet times, they have always spoken about the movements of German, Celtic and other tribes in the West in the era of the Great Migration, which, as we have already noted, began with a movement of the Huns to the west of the Eurasian continent. But almost the same phenomenon can be observed in the example of the

East. I mean, first of all, the movement of the Arabs and the Arab conquests in Asia, Africa and Europe in the VI-VIII centuries, which were also a milestone in its scope and impact for world history. In the new environment, the medievalists of Kazakhstan should pay due attention to this in their studies.

The deepened study and development of the history of Central Asia, Eurasia from ancient times should become the most important task for medieval studies in Kazakhstan.

In this connection, I would like to draw your attention to the following circumstance.

To study the problems of medieval history competently, the specialists need appropriate language qualification, i.e. knowledge of the classical and modern western and eastern languages. For example, in the reconstruction of the history of the Hunnic Empire in Eurasia and Europe we use such sources as writings especially of late antique and early medieval authors (chronicles, history, papal correspondence, etc.), most of which were composed in Latin, as well as the ancient Turkic sources. However, it is necessary to involve data archeology, ethnology, linguistics, anthropology and other related science disciplines.

During the age-long existence (the IV-V centuries) in Europe, in the turbulent era of the Great Migration, the Hunnic Empire centered in Pannonia objectively had an impact on the fate of European history in terms of the transition to a new era and the Middle Ages civilization. Wars and confrontations between the Huns and the Western Roman Empire undermined the latter all the more, bringing its decline. It happened in 476 AD, when the last Western Roman Emperor was deposed by Odoacer, the leader of German mercenaries and the son of Edeko (Edikon), which at one time held a high position under Attila.

After the fall of the Roman Empire, the importance of "Europe" itself increased, which replaced that of the old Roman Empire. Germanic, Celtic and other communities suffused that "vacuum" that developed after the Hunnic intrusions. After Attila, another outstanding person of I millennium - Charlemagne – the Emperor of the Frankish Empire centered in Paris and Aachen came the historical arena. That Carolingian Empire in the West laid the foundation of three future major European countries - France, Germany, and Italy.

And then, in the history of Europe and Eurasia itself, the medievalist Kazakhstan need to continue to study the long-standing problems of the history of the Turkic world of that period. First of all, it is the history of the Avarian Kaganate of the VI - VIII centuries, the Turkic speaking Avars, who came from the Eurasian steppes to the former Hunnic

settlements in Pannonia. A powerful state – the Avarian Kaganate that had been found here and in the border areas played a significant role in international relations in the early Middle Ages.

Archaeological materials of the last decades of the XX - early XXI centuries give evidence of the farming, crafts, material culture of the Avarian Kaganate. The Avars brought from the east two innovations related to each other: iron stirrups and single-edged sabers, slightly curved blades, designed for making glancing blow. Rich graves of leaders and noble people dated to the time of Hagan the Bayan, particularly in the areas between the Tisza and the Danube, were known to the archaeology of the last decades of the XX century (Zhumagulov, 2009).

There is a need in special studies of the history of the Bulgarians and the Khazars following the collapse of the Turkic Khanate. Special attention should be paid to the Ashina and the Dulo Clans. Khan Asparuh and the Danube Bulgaria. The Khazar Khanate. Farming and social system. Relations with the Byzantine Empire. Economy. Foreign and domestic trade. Religious ideas.

There is also a need for an objective presentation of the Western and Eastern history of the time of the Crusades. The Soviet medieval studies used to cover these chapters of history based on Eurocentric positions. It is necessary to show deep prerequisites and genuine reasons of the crusader wars in the East, as well as their results and objective consequences. It is also necessary to focus on the history of the Mamluk state and the Kipchaks, including the reign of Sultan Baybars, based on a comprehensive analysis of the historical evidence and special literature in foreign languages.

Specialists in the history of the Middle Ages should study in detail the history of the Golden Horde, which originally was part of the Great Mongol Empire. The Horde was the most powerful country in Central Asia and Eastern Europe for a long time. In addition to the vast steppes of Kazakhstan, it possessed Russia, Khorezm, the Crimea, the Northern Caucasus, Western Siberia. European kings and Popes, the Byzantine emperors and Turkish sultans tried to keep friendly relations with the Golden Horde Court. This is confirmed by the charters that the Golden Horde khans Tokhtamysh granted to Polish king Jagiello and Ulugh Muhammad granted to Turkish sultan Murad II and which have survived to our time, and more others. It is necessary to study carefully the evidence of literary sources, including written in the foreign languages of western and

eastern origin involving data of archeology, ethnology, linguistics, and other related sciences.

Eliminating old stereotypes, it is necessary to make a big emphasis on the problems of the world culture and world civilizations as a whole, since ancient times, the Middle Ages and up to the present day. They are the classical cultures of the ancient world, the Renaissance in the West and East, the Enlightenment, etc.

It is a general outline of the study of the Roman Empire and the Huns in Kazakhstan. This issue is part of the history of late antiquity and the early Middle Ages in world history.

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6/30/2014