

BULGARIANS ARE DESCENDANTS OF THE MOST ANCIENT POPULATION ON THE BALKAN PENINSULA ¹

Autochthonous-Migration Theory as a Synthesis between the ThracoCimmerian, the Hunnic and the Pamir Theories of Ethnogenesis of the Bulgarians in the light of the archaeological finds in the second half of the 20th century

Interdisciplinary research by Vladimir Hristov, MD

Scientific truth passes through three stages in human consciousness: This cannot be; Maybe there's something here; How could we not have known it before!

Alexander von Humboldt

Contemporary Bulgarian historical science has yet to come up with a definitive answer as regards the origins of Bulgarians. The recent hypothesis by Petar Dobrev that the Pamir Mountains were the birth place of Bulgarians², seems to be gaining the most traction among scientific circles. The Hunnic hypothesis by Dimitar Susulov, which points to the Tarim region as the cradle of Bulgarians, which were

a Hunnic nation³; the Thraco-Cimmerian hypothesis by Gancho Tsenov, PhD. Insisting on an autochthonic origin of the Bulgarian nation⁴, as well as the theory of the now a little forgotten G. S. Rakovski, who was labelled a „romantic” by socialist-era academics, and who was the first to propose an autochthonic

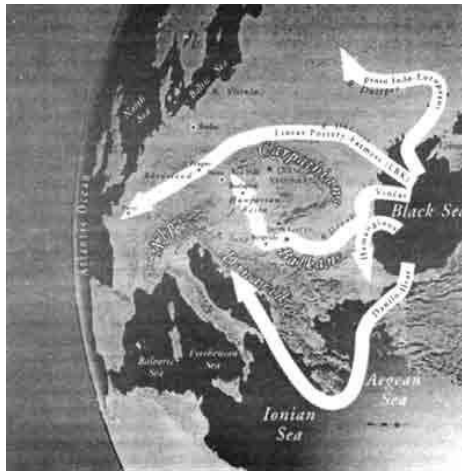
1 This article is an edited and expanded version by **Vladimir Hristov**. Българите са потомци на найдревното население на Балканския полуостров, published in Avi-Tohol. Исторически сборник. Т. II. Нов прочит на българската древност. Sofia, published by Сдружение „Авитохол“, 2006, page 375-390. **2 Petar Dobrev**, Името Българи: ключ към древната българска история. Sofia, ИК ТАНГРА Тан-Нак-Ра, 2002. 159 page; **by the same author**: Сага за древните българи. Прародина и странствания. Sofia, ИК „Кама“, 2005. Page 128.
3 Dimitar Susulov, Пътят на България, Sofia, Придворна печатница, 1936. Page 450.
4 Gancho Tsenov, Произходът на българите и началото на българската държава и българската църква. Sofia, published by „Хелиопол“, 2005, page 474, First Edition, 1910.

Theory of the origins of Bulgarians¹ as early as mid-19th century, all turn out to be mutually complementary pieces of the puzzle of the ancient history of Bulgaria.²

It may sound like heresy, but we believe that the aforementioned theories are linked by the sensational findings of the end of the 20th century by Pitman and Ryan, who talk about the so called Black Sea deluge some 7,500 thousand years ago³, along with the discovery of Caucasian mummies in the desert of Taklamakan in northwestern China and the Altai mummies (see below).

BLACK SEA DELUGE

The flooding of the Black Sea region has been dated back to 5,500 BC by American geologists William Ryan and Walter Pitman and their theory has been corroborated by oceanographer and discoverer of the wreck of The Titanic Dr. Robert Ballard. According to their thesis, the oldest inhabitants and protocultures of the world were located on the Balkans and the Black Rea region. Plagued by a series of recurrent natural disasters, these people migrated in several directions. Having settled on the shores of the Caspian Sea, they domesticated horses and 1,600 later, they invaded Eastern Europe on horseback. Another branch of these people left the southeastern parts of the Black Sea region and through Eastern Anatolia reached the Tigris and Euphrates Rivers. Others reached as far east as Tarim, which at the time was a large sea surrounded by fertile plains. Pitman and Ryan show on their map that this latter branch later became the Tocharian culture (**pictures 1a, 1b**).



Picture 1a and Picture 1b.

1 G. S. Rakovski. Works, Vol. III. Историография, compiled and edited by V. Traykov, Sofia, published by „Български писател“, 1984. Page 598; same author, Works, Vol. IV. Езикознание, етнография, фолклор. Sofia, 1988, page 646.

2 Note by the editor: We would like to add the names of two more prominent Bulgarian chroniclers who support the autochthonic theory of the Bulgarian nation: **Nikola Yonkov-Vladikin.** Зачатките на българската история, Татар-Пазарджик, Publishing house „24-ий Април“, owned by Tsvetan Radulov, 1901, page 130;

Same author. История на древните Траки от новокаменния период до цар Борис, Plovdiv, Publishing House Труд, owned by P. Belovezhzdov, 1911, page 135; **Same author.** Зачатки и растеж на арийската цивилизация. Т. I, 1911; Т. II, 1912; and **Archimandrite Cyril of Rila (Cyprian Stefanovski).** Българската самостоятелна църква в Илирия на Балканския полуостров и нейната апостолска древност, Sofia, 1930. **3 W. Ryan and W. Pitman.** Ноевият потоп, Varna, published by „Славена“, 2000, page 273.

Here, we would like to recognize the invaluable contribution to this scientifically founded theory by Professor Petko Dimitrov of the Oceanology Institute with the Bulgarian Academy of Science, who proposed the flood concept for the first time in the mid-1980s. In 1993, he supported

Pitman and Ryan's Deluge theory because it was initially his, too. Professor Dimitrov took part in a series of research expeditions in the Black Sea. In 1985, during a dive to the sea shelf, at a depth of 90 to 120 meters he discovered the now famous Noah's Plate, which dates 6 to 7,000 years. In 2002, he took part in Doctor Ballard's expedition in the Black Sea. The same year, off the coast of Sozopol the world's oldest dugout boat was found. Dating back 6,000 years, it was documented by the historian Bozhidar Dimitrov. It is beyond dispute that the world's oldest fabricated gold artifacts, which were discovered in the Varna Chalcolithic necropolis and date back 6 to 7,000 years, indicate that a highly developed culture inhabited the Black Sea region. Its presence here fits seamlessly in the Deluge Hypothesis, as this event is believed to have impacted this region specifically. According to Professor Petko Dimitrov: „... it was these people who survived the Flood who laid the foundations of the Cimmerian (Sumerian) culture and civilization in Mesopotamia. A significant part of them remained here on these lands

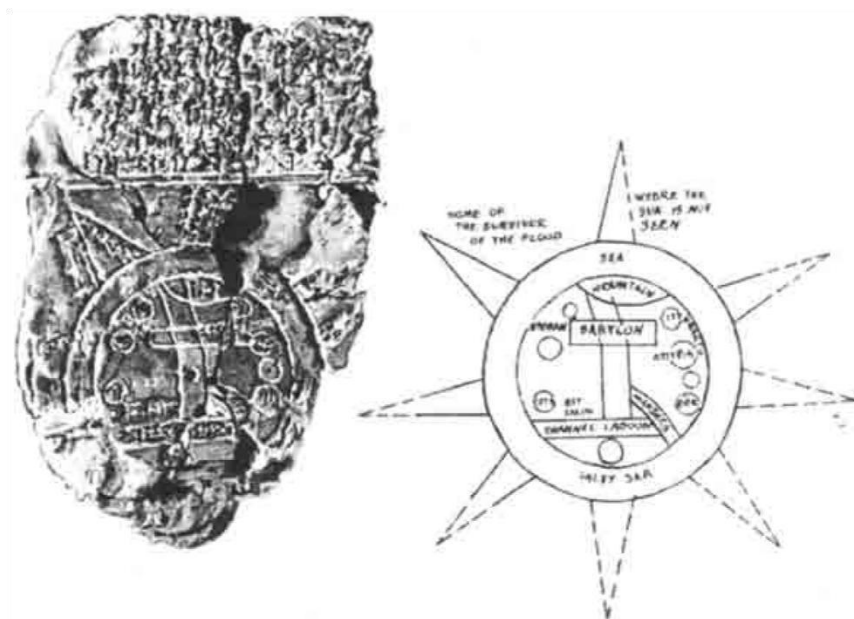
to lay the foundations of the THRACIAN CULTURE and to survive all the vicissitudes of the Great migration of peoples“¹ This thesis of Professor Petko Dimitrov is complemented and corroborated by the Babylonian Map of the World, which Pitman and Ryan used as evidence (**picture 2**).

In addition, we would like to note that the oldest copper mines in the world were discovered in the area of the mineral-water bath houses in Stara Zagora. There, around 5,000 AD, more than 2,000 tons of pure copper was produces. According to the Russian scientist V. M. Masson, the first proto-coins were found near Varna. These were shells from the Mediterranean species Dentalium and Spondilus. Furthermore, the oldest homo sapiens remains in Europe were found in the Mirizlivka Cave near Oreshets.

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In 2012, near the town of Provadia, as reported by the Bulgarian paleo-historian and archaeologist Professor Vasil Nokolov, a research expedition discovered Europe's earliest city, dating back 7,000 years as well as the earliest Chalcolithic salt mines dating back to 5,400 AD. Inside the boundaries of the Provadia Salt Mine archaeological complex they discovered a necropolis with preserved skeletal remains from 4,300 BC (late Chalcolithic).

1 W. Ryan and W. Pitman. Ноевият потоп. Varna, published by „Славена“, 2000, page 263-265; P.Dimitrov and D.Dimitrov. Черно море, Потопът и древните митове. Varna, published by „Славена“, page 61-72.
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Picture 2. The Babylonian Map of the World carved on a clay tablet from the 6th century AD. An arrow pointing to the northwest of Mesopotamia indicates the direction from which the ancient Sumerians came. Overlaid onto a modern map, the arrow points to the region of the Balkans. Moreover, a paragraph of the Cuneiform text reads: *...from there our forefathers hail...* /**The Atlas of Mesopotamia** has been published in English by Thomas Nelson and Sons Ltd, London and Edinburg, 1962/.

In May 2006, Professor Nikolay Ovcharov announced that grape seeds had been found during excavations of early-neolith mounds near the modern-day villages of Kranevo, Chavdarovo and Kapitan Dimitriev. Evidently, these early inhabitants of modern-day Bulgaria were familiar with the raw material used for wine-making as early as 8,000-9,000 years ago. At the temple near the village of Tatul in the Rhodope Mountains which dates back to the Stone-Copper Age (Vth-IVth millennium BC) researchers found and studied wild grape vines that yielded significant amounts of fruit. It was proven that these plants descended from varieties cultivated for winemaking and were closely related to the present-day Mavrud variety. Excavations at the site yielded large amounts of pottery, indicating that the mysterious basins and channels carved into the rock were made during the late Copper to early Iron Age (15th to 6th century BC). Experts believe they were used in winemaking as grape-pressing devices. In other words, the grape syrup extraction facilities in the Eastern Rhodope Mountains and Perperikon were used to make the sacred wine of the Thracians.

In September 2011, during an underwater expedition by the National Museum of History inside the ancient port to the west of Sts. Quiricus and Julietta Island near Sozopol, divers found ancient hard limestone anchors. These objects had two or three holes bored into them. One was used for the anchor cable while the others had wooden spikes going through them whose purpose was to dig into the bottom of the sea and stop the boats from moving. Each of those weighed about 200 kg and was apparently used on boats with relatively large displacement for the time (150 to 200 tons). The shapes of these anchors suggests that they were used between the 15th and 7th century by Creto-Mycenaean, Carian or Phoenician seafarers some time before the Trojan War.

So far it was thought that the first seafarers from the Mediterranean to venture into the Black Sea were the Hellenes in the 12th century BC.

The anchors found in the port of Sozopol shatter this notion, proving some legendary information that local shipping in the Black Sea existed at least a millennium earlier.

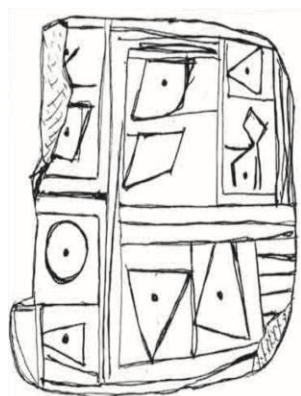
„Also, the Trojan War was not waged because of Hellen, but because of the duties and tributes the Trojans imposed on ancient seafarers leveraging their control over the Dardanelles Strait, the gateway to the Black Sea“, a note by the National Museum of History reads.

* * *

Harald Haarmann from the Research Centre on Multilingualism (Brussels) caused a sensation in the scientific community with his symposium paper entitled „Origins of Writing“, delivered in Milan in 2000, and with his book „Universal History of Writing“. According to Haarmann, the first writing system did not originate in Sumer, as convention dictated, but in the lands of the Thracians between 5,300 and 3,500 BC. Moreover, he insists that the writing system used on Crete was influenced by it. He bases his hypothesis on a clay vessel with inscriptions found near the village of Gradeshnitsa, Vratsa Province (early IVth millennium AD); the clay seal found in the village of Karanovo, Stara Zagora Province, which was engraved with pictograms and characters (the second half of the 4th millennium BC); as well as on epigraphic monuments found in the Rhodope Mountains. As far as the characters inscribed on „Noah’s Plate“, Haarmann has said the following in a letter to Professor Petko Dimitrov: „Your find is extremely interesting. The symbols on the „Noah’s Plate“ are highly abstract, although the inscription is older than the tablets of Tartarya (5300 BC). I believe you are on the right track when you compare the signs of „Noah’s Plate“ with the Proto-Sumerian signs. I am currently developing a hypothesis according to which there was probably a historical connection between the Old European and Ancient Sumerian civilization.“

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In August 2006, the archaeologist Professor Nikolay Ovcharov published a sensational material regarding a tablet with pictographic characters found at a prehistoric settlement near the former village of Tochilare (currently a district of the town of Saedinenie) which was dated back 7,000 years, i.e. older than the finds from Gradeshnitsa and Karanovo. Experts believe that the tablet is the oldest evidence of writing in the world so far and consider it a prototype of the linear writing system.



„Avi-Tohol“ Magazine had published an article dedicated to the tablet in question as early as Issue 22 of 2002.

Inscribed on the tablet is a circle with a dot inside it, a symbol of the sun, similar to what has been found in ancient Egypt and China, and also a popular rune symbolizing the sun and the god Tangra worshipped by ancient Bulgarians.

TARIM VALLEY MUMMIES

In 1995 „Avi-Tohol“ Magazine was the first in Bulgaria to cover the groundbreaking discovery of Caucasian mummies in Taklamakan Desert in China. However, these findings have not yet garnered the attention of the Bulgarian historical establishment. What makes this lack of interest especially unfortunate is that this significant discovery could prove exceptionally fertile ground for anthropologists, economic historians, ethnographers, military historians, archaeologists and general historians. The Avi-Tohol team (see volume I of „Avi-Tohol“ ¹) managed to find a link between this discovery and the ancient history of Bulgaria based on data from Western media and the two documentaries by the BBC on the Chinese expeditions of the research team of Professor Victor Mair of the University of Pennsylvania, which were shown on the National Geographic Channel.

1 Avi-Tohol. Historical Collection. Vol. I (Selected articles from Avi-Tohol Magazine published between 1995 and 2005). The New Reading of Bulgarian Antiquity. Sofia, published by „Рал-Колобър“, 2005. 498 p.

Let us go back to how this all started and go through the facts a little. The Chinese researcher Wang Binghua was interested in the mummies discovered by the travelling researchers Sven Gedin from Sweden and Sir Marc Aurel Stein (Austro-Hungary/Britain) in the early 20th century. The mummies of Caucasians were discovered in the Xinjiang Uygur Autonomous Region in the valley of the Tarim River in Taklamakan Desert in Northwestern China. At the time, no one was able to offer a plausible explanation as to how Caucasian people ended up this far East along the Silk Road and so their existence was forgotten. In 1934, the Swedish archaeologist Folke Bergman found in the same area more than 100 well-preserved mummies of tall, blond, Caucasians. Then, in the 1960s the discovery of Asian mummies in the vicinity of the castle at Gaochang posed certain questions. Wang Binghua wanted to know what linked the Asian and the Caucasian mummies. In

1979, the team of Wang Binghua studied the oases along the Tarim, where an extensive 3000-kilometer network of underground aquifers still exists to this day and whose builders remain unknown. The team interviewed local people and their legends of ancient burials led them to the forgotten city of Wupu in the Gobi Desert. Here, he made his first striking discoveries of multiple Caucasian mummies. In 1985, significant excavations in Taklamakan yielded some 130 more well-preserved mummified remains of Caucasians. Since then, very little information regarding these discoveries has been officially disclosed (**pictures 3, 4**).



Pictures 3, 4. The body of this man was discovered on the southern fringes of the Taklamakan Desert. He has blond hair and beard and a sun drawn on his temple, likely with some religious significance. The mummy dates back 4,000 years.

On 28.03.1990, a Swedish team, including several Japanese scientists, arrived in the city of Loulan (Xinjiang Province), which once was the main outpost on the Silk Road in the region. Here, the team conducted its largest-scale excavation during which it discovered the ruins of an ancient castle and a facility (necropolis) with a peculiar shape. Wooden stakes formed a circle around a burial mound where six bodies were found (**pictures 5, 6**). This was the burial site of the now famous „Beauty of Loulan“.



Picture 5. Burial mound containing six Caucasian bodies surrounded by wooden stakes. **Picture 6.** Stone fortification dating back 3,000 years.

At the Institute of Geology of Ürümqi, Chinese scientists used Carbon 14 to date the mummies. The results were shocking. The mummy known as the „Cherchen Man“ was dated back 3,000 years, the child mummy, 3,500 years, and the „Beauty of Loulan“ – 4,000 years.

What is also remarkable about these mummies is that they had blond hair and were quite tall, at 180 cm, which at the time was a lot, especially compared to Asian people. The scientists concluded that the dry desert air, the salty soil, the hot climate and the free circulation of air inside the original burial chambers were the reason why the bodies were mummified and were in such good condition.

The Chinese scientist Wang Binghua mentioned in his monumental work the discovery of Caucasian mummies in Xinjiang along the Silk Road. The publications attracted the attention of Professor Victor Mair, an expert in Early Chinese History from the University of Pennsylvania who travelled to China and, with the express permission of the Chinese authorities, conducted several scientific expeditions. First on his route was the area of the Bar Li Kan salt lake, where he found evidence of more salt lakes adjacent to it (an abundance of salt crystals), remnants of a large inland sea that was here thousands of years ago.

Next, the scientist studied the Long Dzhu Wansa site – the only surviving stone fortification built by Caucasians some 3,000 years ago, according to official Chinese sources. However, in Xinjiang Province dozens of cities have been found dating back to the so called Tocharian and Hunnic periods.

At the museum of Ürümqi, Professor Mair had the opportunity to see many exceptionally wellpreserved findings: a mummy with evidence of an abdominal operation (horsehair used as surgical suture); saddle and whip; harness; double-recurve bow with arrows; tools and equipment; leather items; exceptionally well-preserved fabrics; seeds placed ritualistically inside wooden bowls, etc. He visited one of the „forgotten“ cities of the so-called Tocharians, which existed until 300 BC (see **pictures 7-18**). What was noteworthy about it was that it was built with fired bricks and had some 30 000 citizens.



Picture 7. Bronze surgical knife, Museum of Ürümqi.



Picture 8. Post-operative cicatrix from a chest-cavity operation, incision sutured with horse hair.



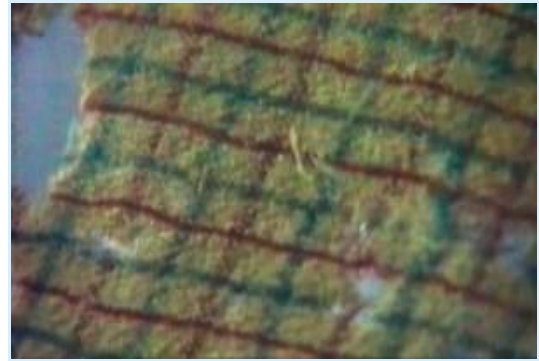
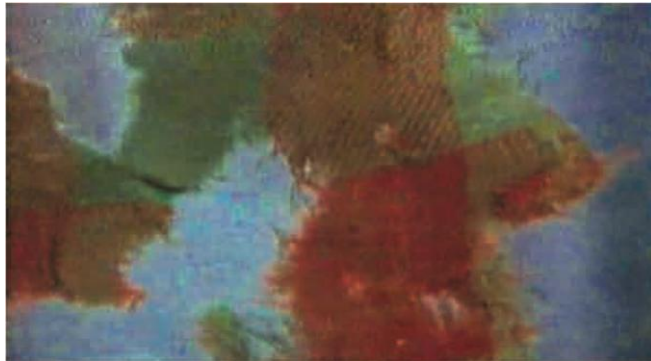
Picture 9. Perfectly preserved double-reflex bow.

Picture 10. Arrows, hunting and battle arrowheads. Three-pronged battle arrowhead (so called tripera) – typical for Thracians, Huns and Bulgarians.



Picture 11. Leather boots, Ürümqi.

Picture 12. Household tools and equipment and agricultural items.



Pictures 13, 14. 3,000-year-old wool fabric, city of Wupu.



Picture 15. Embroidered fabric.



Picture 16. 3,000-year-old apron, city of Wupu.



Pictures 17, 18. Forgotten city, inhabited by Tocharians until 300 AD.

Inside a cave that served as a religious temple, which was discovered in the nearby mountain, Professor Mair found thus far unknown writings and drawings of dancing figures (**pictures 19, 20**). According to Mair: „The mountain was an ideal venue for performing fertility ceremonies. I see drawings of female figures performing ritualistic dances, some of whom are ecstatic. What is surprising about those female figures and their dances and stylized positions is that they are almost identical to figures found in Bulgaria and Ukraine.”



Pictures 19, 20. Dancers performing rituals.

Note: Evidently, Professor Mair is referring to the rock paintings from the Magura Cave (**pictures 21, 22**). Experts date those at least 7,000 years back. The paintings depict sacral and hunting scenes. The solar annual calendar from the late Chalcolithic with additions made during the early bronze age is very accurate and gives precise readings.



Pictures 21, 22. Ritualistic scenes with dancers from the Magura Cave, Bulgaria.

The meaning of the rock drawings can be deciphered based on the fact that prehistoric people drew real objects. Among the „paintings“, there is a rather interesting group of several related scenes.

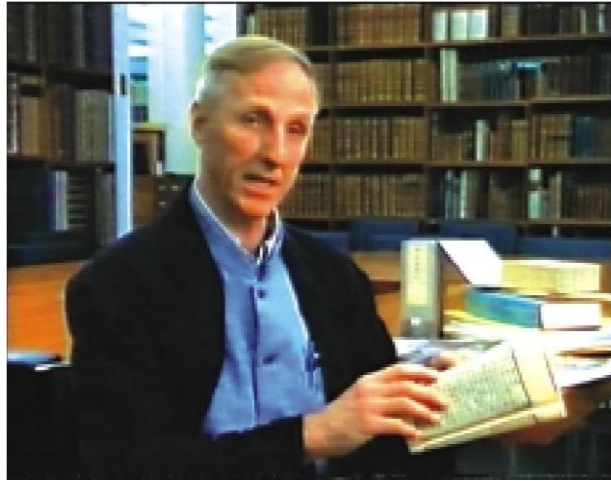
The first is a depiction of a dancing couple, a man and a woman in typical positions. The woman is taller and has her arms raised above her head. The man is schematically represented and is smaller. Interestingly, between this scene and the next one, at eye level, there is a drawing of a mushroom. In the next drawing the man is presented in a sexual pose and above his head and above the woman there is a halo. A plausible interpretation of all this would be that these people used psychedelic mushrooms that set them into a trance.

Furthermore, Professor Mair discovered an unstudied ancient Chinese treatise, which he read without translation, describing surgical methods brought into China by Caucasians from the west (**picture 23**).

Thus, as it turns out, right in China's backyard some 3,000 years ago, there was a highly developed civilization, created by Caucasian people. Professor Mair fully supports the revolutionary theory of Caucasians settling in the East all the way to China.

This conclusion is supported by the anthropologist David Anthony ¹ who, while on a dig with Russian archaeologists in the area of Batay in the Southern Urals, examined the skeleton of a domesticated horse from 5,000 years ago, as evidenced by typical features found on the animal's jaws.

¹ David W. Anthony, Professor of anthropology, Hartwick College, NY, US.



Picture 23. Professor Victor Mair holding an ancient Chinese treatise describing surgical methods that were brought to China by people from the west (referred to as „white nomads“).

The scientist conducted an experiment in conjunction with experts from the University of New York to determine the effect of leather bridle – the same as the one found with the mummies of Tarim – on the jaws of a horse that has never been ridden. After several months, David Anthony took a plaster impression from the jaws of the horse and found that an x-ray of the jaws of the Batay horse showed the same features. It is worth mentioning that horses were „imported” to China and many Chinese emperors waged wars afterwards just so they could get the horses they needed. The so called „celestial horses” were especially sought after.

The sensational discoveries do not end there. When the Museum of Ürümqi invited the textile archaeology expert Irene Good from the University of Pennsylvania to examine the plaid fabrics found with the mummies, the US scientist reportedly did not believe that the fabrics were so old when she saw them at the museum. The items were simply in too good of a condition, prompting her to jokingly say that she herself wore a wool item of clothing with the same patterns just a few years ago. Imagine her amazement when the electron analysis came back saying that the fabrics were made from 3,000-year-old wool which was typical of Iron-Age Europe but was foreign to China. The diagonal threads that were used in the fabric required a type of loom that has never been found in Central Asia. The wool fabrics were simply stylistically and technologically identical with fabrics from that age discovered in Central Europe. Interestingly, the type of weaving, forms and colors, according to Irene Good, were still practiced to this day in Europe and were known as Scottish.

When another scientist, Professor Paolo Frankalazzi from the University of Molecular Genetics in Sardinia, got permission by the Chinese authorities to conduct a DNA analysis of the mummies, he took 25 samples of muscle tissue (from the thighs and forearms). However, due to bureaucratic issues he was allowed to export only 11 samples. In conjunction with a team from Stanford University in California, US, he compared the molecular signature of the samples from the mummies to samples from Europeans and Asians (**picture 24**).

Frankalazzi’s conclusion is that the mummies are **Europeans of the Caucasian type, from the so-called „Pontian group” – i.e. ancient inhabitants of the areas**

surrounding the Black Sea. According to the scientific convention, these were Scythians, Thracians and Bulgarians!



Picture 24. Professor Frankalazzi taking DNA samples from a mummy.

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In 2012, the results of an international Y-chromosome study came out which revealed that some 20% of Bulgarian men carried a 7,800-year-old gene. In other words, these individuals are direct descendants of the autochthonic population of the Balkans which never migrated. Professor Ivo Kremenski believes that Bulgarians are among the oldest inhabitants of Europe. The EM 78-alpha genetic marker, which was dated 7,800 years back, originated in the Balkans before spreading throughout Europe.

In 2010, archaeologists found a necropolis near present-day Vratsa where they discovered skeletal remains dating back 7,000 years. In 2011, in the same area, an altar was unearthed dating back 8,000 years. The discovery was made during a dig in an early Neolithic settlement in the Valoga area near the village of Ohoden.

The clay altar was buried two meters from the skeletal remains of a prehistoric man which were discovered in 2010 along with a variety of grave goods. After one year of analysis of the finds, archaeologist Georgy Ganetsovski announced that the religious site and the ritualistic offerings – deer heads – was unlike anything found before in Europe and the Middle East. The only other find, to which a distant parallel could be made, is an altar found near the city of Toulouse in France, which was made some 400 years later.

Several meters further away from the altar, there is another religious object dated 8,000 back, which archaeologists dubbed „Temple of the Sun“. Archaeologists from the city of Vratsa explained that prehistoric people offered as a tribute to fertility some of their hunting trophies. Georgy Ganetsovski has ventured a theory according to which deer antlers were an offering to nature for abundance.

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Mixed funerals of Europeans and Asians have been discovered in several regions of Xinjiang. The oldest Chinese mummy found at these burial places dates back only 2,500 years. Typically, some 90% of the discovered remains were Europeans.

According to Victor Mair, the migration of these Europeans started somewhere on the northern shores of the Black Sea. He calls these people „white nomads“ and believes they are linked to the so-called Tocharian culture which „...played a key role for the development of the Chinese civilization“ (**picture 25**). The earlier runes of the Tocharians found in Banshan, Machang and Majiayao, which resemble Phoenician writing, were dated back to the first half of the IIIrd millennium BC.

According to the scientist, this wave of migration started around the turn of the IInd millennium BC and lasted until about the turn of the first millennium BC when climate change led to the drying up of Tarim River and the once fertile land turned into a desert. This made the local European population look for new lands in their vicinity, which was accompanied with multiple military campaigns against the Chinese and other peoples. Ultimately, the European people were driven back west, which in world historiography is defined as The Great Migration of Peoples.



Picture 25. Direction of the migration of Europeans 2,000 BC, according to Professor Victor Mair.

Based on fabrics discovered, several cave paintings depicting individuals with light to red hair, and cranial reconstructions, Professor Mair believes that the Tocharians were the ancestors of the Celts. However, the author of this article believes that the descendants of the Tocharians were none other than the Bulgarians or at least tribes related to the Bulgarians. This hypothesis is supported by Tocharian artifacts such as everyday household items, clothes, foods, weapons, saddles and bridles, etc., which have direct Bulgarian counterparts. Additionally, it has been established that Thracians had fair complexions, blond or chestnut hair, sometimes even with reddish hues, and blue, hazel or green eyes. The expression „blue-eyed Thracians“, which was used by Greek poets to refer to beautiful Thracian women, is evidence to that. We believe it was Mair’s lack of expertise in Bulgarian history, military tradition, ethnography and mythology that led him to believe that the people he was studying were Celts and we will try to prove it with facts. Like Thracians, ancient Bulgarians were quite tall. When it comes to the transformation from a fair to a darker complexion, in Genetics such developments are attributed to the accumulation of multiple recessive characteristics in the genome, which, influenced by the phenotype (environmental factors), become dominant. It is not a coincidence that there are two types of Bulgarians, white (silver) and dark.

What we find especially obvious is the striking similarity between the patterns used in the wool fabrics discovered and Bulgarian Rhodopean blankets. Some of the aprons whose colors, embroideries and ornaments were preserved also have their Bulgarian counterparts. It would be hard to make the case that it is “a simple

coincidence” that today, in the Rhodope Mountains, known as the birthplace of the legendary Thracian Orpheus, people still make the so-called Rhodopean blankets, which are strikingly similar to the wool textiles found at Wupu.

Although random coincidences do happen, when there are enough of them, patterns start to emerge. Let us proceed with the facts. The shoes and boots worn by the mummies are completely identical to boots and shoes found in both Volga Bulgaria and the Danubian Bulgaria. What is more, both the cut and the technology used is a complete match to those used by ancient Bulgarians. The soles and the heels are stitched and glued on with fish glue (a special type of hide glue), which was a key export of Volga Bulgaria. Some of the female mummies have tall black hats (gugla). Similar hats, decorated with gold applications, have been found near the city of Subashi (Kazakhstan and Tian Shan). A similar hat-like headdress is worn by the mummy of the so-called Princess of Ukok in Altai. Similar hats, also known as Phrygian (Thracian) hats have been discovered in Pamir and Hindu Kush, both regions having been inhabited by ancient Bulgarians (**pictures 26, 27**).



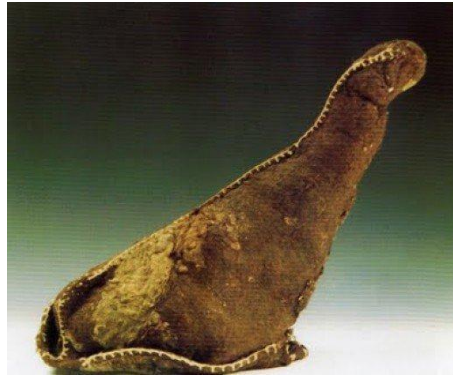
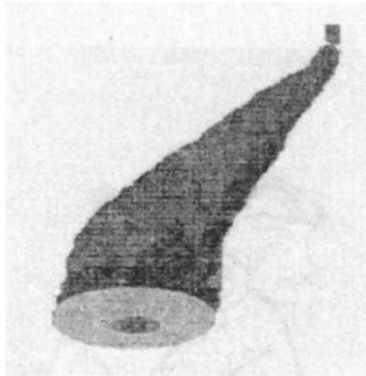
Picture 26. Hurrian deities wearing „tall hats”.

Picture 27. Sumerian deities depicted on a cylindrical seal from 3,000 BC.

Professor Petar Dobrev has offered some detailed descriptions of these hats:

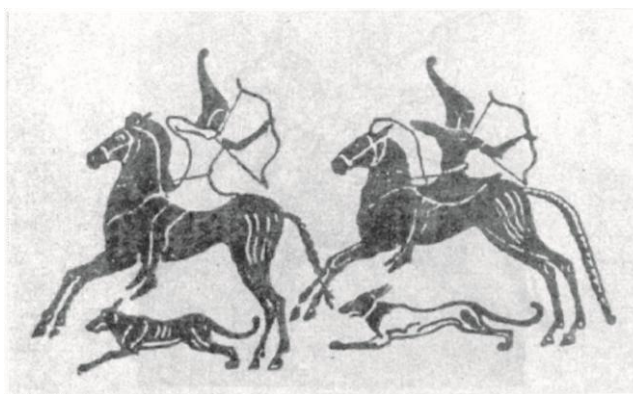
„...All deities depicted on the cylindrical Sumerian seals from the third millennium BC wear tall, cone-shaped hats, similar to what Hittite and Hurrian deities have been drawn wearing. Even the Egyptian god Osiris and the reformer-pharaoh Akhenaten have been depicted wearing „tall hats”, and so has the sacred Egyptian cow goddess Hathor in at least several drawings. Interestingly, written records from Arab chroniclers describing the typical clothing of Volga Bulgarians show that one of the most impressive part of the ensemble of these people were their „tall, pointy hats” referred to by the ancient Bulgarian word *kalansuv*. In „Cosmography“, the natural science encyclopedia by Zakariya al-Qazwini from the

10th century, there is a drawing of a typical Bulgarian kalansuv. The reason why the author was so interested in this type of hat was because its shape reminded him of a particular species of fish found in the Caspian Sea, which Zakariya al-Qazwini dubbed „the fish shaped like a Bulgarian hat” (SAMAKA ALA AL KALANSUVA VA AL BULGARIA).“ (Pictures 28 a, 28 b).



Picture 28 a. Drawing from *Cosmography* by Zakariya al-Qazwini of a „Bulgarian hat”. **Picture 28 b.** Gugla made of leather found in the burial place of the Tarim mummies.

These impressive guglas, which were as tall as 70 cm in some cases, were sought after by Arab merchants trading with Volga Bulgaria, as attested to in an early Arabic list of exports by Volga Bulgarians where the word kalansuv appears close to the very top. These hats appear on an Etruscan vase with Eastern motifs dated back to the 6th century BC (**picture 29**); similar hats were worn by the envoys of the Eastern peoples, bringing gifts to the son of King Darius – Xerxes (**picture 30**).



Picture 29. Horsemen with tall hats appearing on an Etruscan vase with eastern motifs from the 6th century BC. **Picture 30.** Three men with tall hats depicted on Xerxes' column.

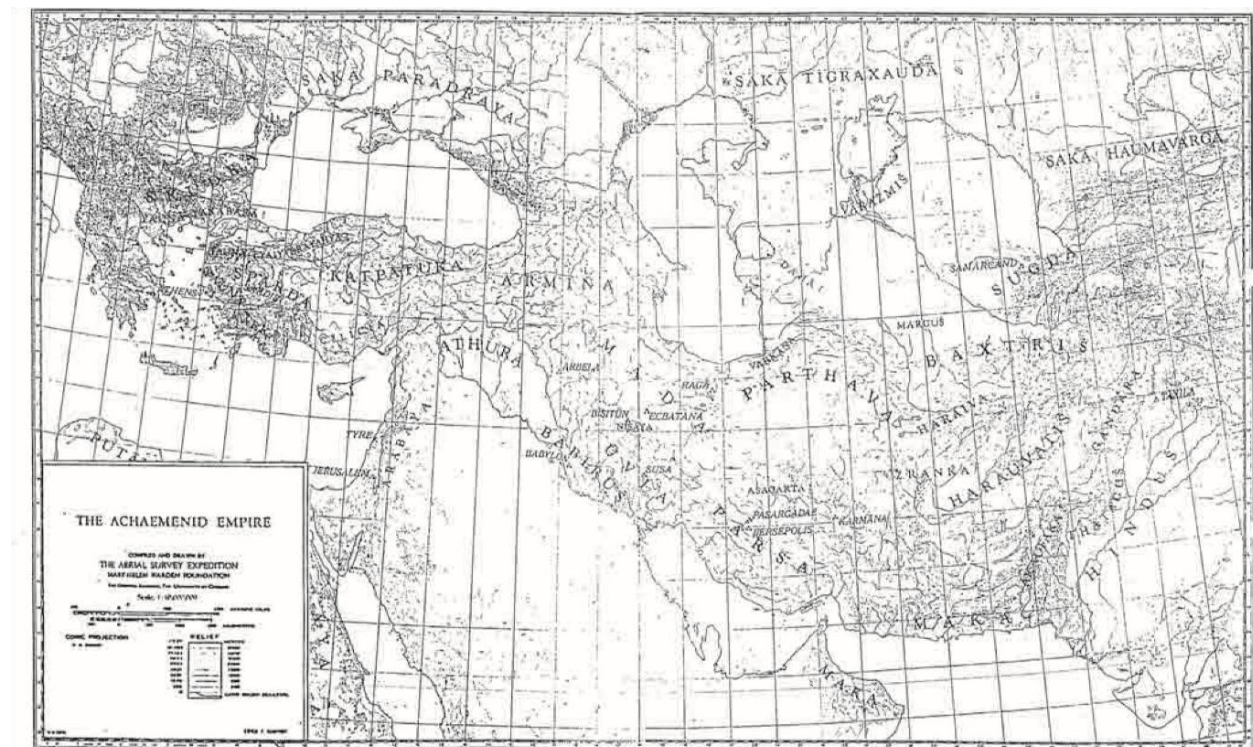
The once-fabled „Bulgarian hats“ can be found to this day in areas that were inhabited by Volga Bulgarians, however, the tradition of wearing tall hats (guglas) has been preserved even better among the Bulgarians that inhabit the Balkans. As Petar Dobrev has noted, „...no matter where we look in the lands of Bulgarians – Moesia, Thrace or Macedonia, we will invariably find a tall black or white gugla“.

Persian chronicles from the time of the Achaemenid Empire refer to Thracians and Scythians using the common name SAKA. Thracians were known as the Westernmost of the SAKA. The lands of the SAKA spread between Lake Okhrid and Lake Balkhash (Balgaş). As noted by the Russian Academic B. B. Piotrovsky: „...the Scythian habitat developed on a territory of more than 7,000 kilometers and archaeologists have gradually unearthed a host of culturally consistent items from the Danube in the west to the Great Wall of China in the east, a large area of steppe foothills and mountain pastures that spreads between the 40th and the 50th parallel“.

If we turn to Herodotus, we will see that pointy hats were common amongst the Sakas, which are Scythians, „...**because Persians called all Saka Scythians**“ (**Herodotus**. Histories, vol. 2, Sofia, 1990, page 177-178). Also in volume 2, Herodotus quotes Egyptian priests according to whom the oldest people on earth were the BRYGES (PHRYGIANS, which means THRACIANS). It is extremely interesting that ancient Persians referred to the people wearing tall, cone-shaped hats using the descriptive and indirect SAKA TIGRAHAUDA, which translates literally as „**the Sakas with tall hats**“.

According to Petar Dobrev, who bases his conclusions on ancient Armenian sources, the best known among the **SAKA peoples were the Masagetae, the Bulgarians, the Choresmians and the Sogdians**: „...The area between Turkistan and the lands of the Arians – a copy of the „Ashkharhatsuyts“ reads – is inhabited by fifteen old nations, which are wealthy and developed in terms of their crafts. Of those, „the Masgetae and the Bulgarians are the best known“.

This shows, according to Petar Dobrev, that, „...the mysterious SAKA TIGRAHAUDA (the Saka with tall hats), whose proper name the Persian sources neglect to mention, were none other than the ancient Bulgarians – one of the largest, oldest, and most influential peoples in Central Asia at the time“. (**picture 31**).



Picture 31. Map of the Achaemenid empire.

It is worth noting here that Arab chroniclers from the 9th and the 10th century, as well as AtTabari and Ibn Fadlan, who visited Volga Bulgaria in 922, refer to Bulgarians as SAKAliba (SAKlaba), and use the same name to refer to Slavs, which means that they used the names Bulgarians and Slavs interchangeably.

Another key piece of evidence of a Bulgarian connection to the mummies are the weapons and the horse trappings, which are very similar to those used by ancient Bulgarians, Thracians and Scythians and which could hardly be mistaken for items that appeared elsewhere, lie the compound reflex bow; the typical arrows with three-pronged arrowheads (triperes) described by Homer in his „Iliad“ as Thracians; the stirrups and other equestrian accessories foreign to China and Western Europe at the time.

As far as the name **Tocharians** is concerned, if Professor Mair had been familiar with the 12cycle Bulgarian calendar, he would have probably known that the name derived from the ancient Bulgarian term **TOCH** (rooster) and the plural suffix **ARI** (meaning „man“ or „mens“). In other words, the ethnonym Tocharians meant „man-roosters“ or „roostermens“.

It is interesting how the rooster as a solar symbol has become a symbol of the Gauls, and now also a favorite symbol of France? ¹

1 Note by the editor: from Gallus – Latin, „rooster“, „priest of Cybele“; Gallus – a river in Phrygia /see **Mihail Voynov, Alexander Milev**. Latin-Bulgarian Dictionary. Third Edition. Sofia, Izd. „NI“, 1980, p. 285/.

The two facts:

that part of the Gallic druids were considered priests of the goddess Cybele, worshipped in Thrace and Anatolia (the historical region of Cappadocia or Galatea); as well as the Phrygian hydronym Gallus; are categorical indications of the ancient homeland of the Hittite tribe of the Gauls.

* * *

So, aren't the above facts enough to understand that the mummies from Tarim belong to ancient Bulgarians from the Late Bronze and Early Iron Ages?

The thesis of Europeans migrating east is supported by the Khakasian historiographer Professor Leonid Khazlasov. In his book, „History of Khakassia from ancient times to 1917“, the author refers to information about the **di li (din lin)** people from Chinese sources such as the chronicles „Hou Hanshu“, „Sanguo Zhi“, „Taishigongji“ by Historian Sima Qian (145-86 BC). According to Khazlasov, European population migrated en-masse to Western China from the Urals and the Banks of the Volga between 3,000 and 2,000 BC moving along the so-called Jade Road. Archaeologists consider this to have been the largest human migration in history.

Chinese chronicles describe these white settlers as tall people with round sunken eyes, bushy beards and thick eyebrows. Their hair was fair or sometimes red and their eyes were blue.

However, what seems to have shocked the Chinese the most were these people's large and pointy noses. The Caucasians were so numerous they formed the nucleus

of the nation which in the 7th century AD took over the throne in China and started the Zhou dynasty. It was at that time that the new Sky cult – Tian – was introduced replacing the cult of the dead forefathers. Since then, China has been known as the „Celestial Empire“ and the Chinese emperor ruled under a mandate from heaven, „Tien-ming“.

After 771 BC, in China they started to persecute people with pointy noses and round eyes as a result of which people with such features were driven west towards Tian Shan and north toward Altai. Here, we would like to note that the philosopher Laozi, who worked at the library of the Chinese emperor, has been described in several sources as having round eyes, protruding nose and bushy beard, all features typical of the **Di Li**. His birth name was written as Poian (Boian). At the end of his life, Laozi also moved west where he wrote his famous treatise „Tao Te Ching“.

Di Li, who were referred to as „Central Asia’s white race“, are linked to the so-called Afanasievo culture, whose burial sites from the 3rd millennium BC were discovered by archaeologists in the area of Lake Baikal. Scientists such as Andrey Nikitin, A. Khalikov, etc. believe **Di Li**, Bulgarians and Kumans (referred to in Russian chronicles as Polovtsi, have also been called „The swans of the Great steppe“) were related tribes. The **Di Li** people had European appearance and were strongly individualistic, which is a distinguishing feature later on for the white race in Europe, writes Grum-Grshimailo, who visited China in 1908. They very easily separated from each other and lived in fragmentation, with only the danger of war being able to unite them.

ANCIENT MEDICINE ON THE BALKANS. SHATTERING THE MYTH OF THE WILD THRACIANS AND BULGARIANS

In 2000, Vanya Ilikina from the National Historical Museum at the Bulgarian Academy of Sciences pointed out to the author of this article that on some artifacts from Thracian finds and on human and animal figurines from the Chalcolithic there were strange dots and lines, coinciding, according to her, with known acupuncture points. Having examined artifacts from different Thracian treasure troves, the author (who is versed in acupuncture) came to agree with his colleague about some of the artifacts. For example, the silver nose piece from the horse trappings found at Sveshtari (Shumen Province), which were dated back to the 5th century BC, in the lower part of the piece, which sits between the eyes of the horse, there is an indentation marking the so-called extra-meridian point „in-tan“, which in Hinduism and Yoga is considered an important energy center, chakra (**picture 32**).



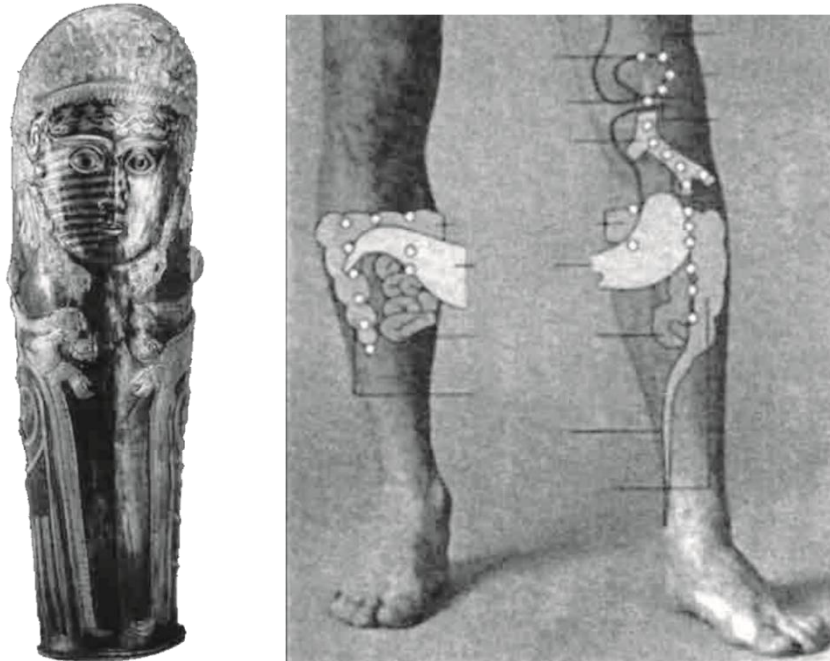
Picture 32

Dr. Angel Kayadzhiev, member of the Bulgarian Society for Traditional Chinese Medicine, author of books and guides to Eastern medicine with more than 210 publications in periodicals, with 22 scientific publications in the US, Japan, Russia, Latvia, South Korea and Bulgaria, is also interested in Vanya Ilinkina. In his own study in the matter, he shines a light on several interesting new details. For example, the knee guard from the Mogilan mound (in downtown Vratsa) is adorned with a representation of the great Thracian goddess (in her hypostasis of Cybele). There, the right half of her face shows gilded lines which accurately coincide with the acupuncture meridians on the human face, which were rediscovered 30 years ago by Vietnamese acupuncture experts (**pictures 33 a, 33 b**).



Picture 33 a Picture 33 b.

Taking a more careful look at the acupuncture points on the ear of the image on the knee guard, Dr. Kayadzhiev realized there were several acupuncture diagrams across several levels. What is more, the images on the knee guard coincide with projections of internal organs on the knee and calf (**pictures 34, 35**).



Pictures 34, 35. Projections of internal organs on the knee and calf. Compare them against the knee guard from the Mogilan mound. The schematics of the lower legs are by **Ulrich Hecker**. *Neue Punktuelle Schmerz – und Grandterapie*, 1998.

Another example of acupuncture points and metal and electricity-based treatment methods can be found on a female figurine from the village of Lovets, Stara Zagora Province, whose legs were wrapped with copper strips. A similar artefact is a marble statuette from the village of Blagoevo, which is currently at the Museum of Razgrad. Her ears are pierced in four places each for copper rings and there are several acupuncture points marked around the navel and mouth (**pictures 36, 37**).



Picture 36. Chalcolithic female figurine from the village of Lovets, Stara Zagora Province. An example for medical treatment using metals and electric potentials (bioelectricity) and acupuncture.

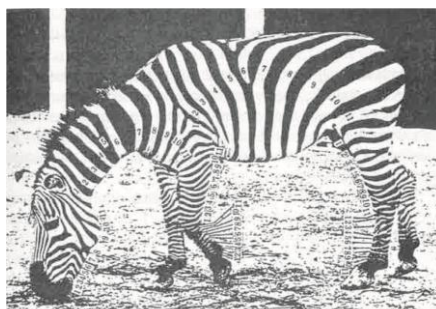
Picture 37. A 32-centimeter tall marble statuette from the village of Blagoevo, Razgrad Province. The acupuncture points on the ears, mouth and the lower back are clearly visible on the restored copy.

A zoomorphic vessel found at the Kodzha Dermen mound near Shumen also sports acupuncture meridians, muscle dermatomes and an energy center (two concentric circles with points) in the front of the body (**pictures 38, 39 a, 39 b**).

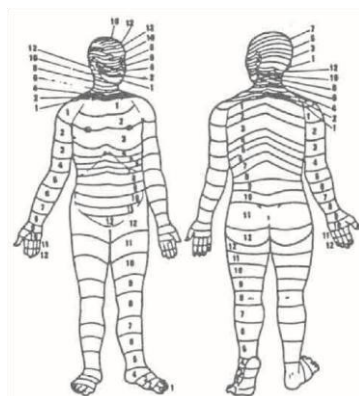
In another Thracians mound near the village of Madrets, archaeologists unearthed medicine bottles and acupuncture needles made from ivory with sculpted heads as handles. All of this, however, due to the lack of awareness by the archaeologists and historians and, more importantly, the absence of an interdisciplinary approach to their analysis, deprived these artifacts from finding a more central place in Bulgarian historiography. According to Dr. Kayadzhiev, archaeological finds from across Bulgaria unequivocally point to the practice of acupuncture and reflexotherapy in Eastern Europe 2,000 years before they appeared in China. This hypothesis is supported by Dr. Francisco Miguel, President of the Spanish Association for Veterinary Acupuncture and Dr. Francesco Longo, Vice President of the Italian Veterinary Acupuncture Association, who in 2012 spoke at the Fifth Bulgarian Acupuncture Congress in Sofia. They affirmed that the oldest image featuring acupuncture points known so far is a drawing of an elephant, which has been dated back to 5,000 BC and was discovered in India. It is followed by a drawing from Sri Lanka, dated to 3,000 BC. At the same time, the earliest evidence of acupuncture in China came from 2697 BC. Acupuncture is known to have been performed on elephants and horses to mitigate their fear of battle. Initially, therapists were not specialized and performed acupuncture on both humans and animals.



Picture 38



Picture 39 a.



Picture 39 6

Picture 38. Ceramic zoomorphic vessel from the Kodzha Dermen mound.

Picture 39 a. A Dzhan Initsin scheme (1988) and its application in animals – ECIWO (bioembrioinformation system of the entire organism) and its connection to the zoomorphic vessel from the Kodzha Dermen mound near Shumen.

Picture 39 b. Zones per K. Hirata (1912): 1. Trachea, bronchi; 2. Lung; 3. Heart; 4. Liver; 5. Gallbladder; 6. Pancreas; 7. Stomach; ... 12. Genitals.

The body of the frozen prehistoric man (dubbed Ötzi) which was discovered in 1991 in the Austrian Alps and was dated back to 5,000 BC, shows lines and evidence of punctures in known acupuncture points. Evidently, the dominant belief that China was the birthplace of acupuncture must be re-examined.

In Bulgaria, as in many other countries around the world, medical archaeology is underdeveloped. That is unfortunate, because it could help shed light onto many questions regarding medicine that remain unanswered to this day. Such is the case with the necropolis in the village of Karanovo, which was discovered in November 2008 by the archaeologist Veselin Ignatov. His team came across 26 burial mounds from the end of the first century and the beginning of the second. Archaeologists discovered a chariot with 4 large wheels and the skeletons of two horses.

In one of the Thracians burial mounds, the body of a distinguished doctor was found buried with a set of 18 medical tools (**pictures 40 a and 40 b**). They were made of bronze and were inlaid with silver and gold. They look similar to modern tools but are slightly bigger.



Picture 40 a. The medical instruments are kept at the Archaeological museum of Nova Zagora.



Picture 40 b. Ancient Thracian surgical instruments discovered by a team of Bulgarian archaeologists in the village of Karanovo. Photo by K. Koev.

This is what was discovered by Associated Professor Krasimir Koev, an ophthalmologist from the Medical University of Sofia. According to him, the

surgical instruments that were unearthed are a testament to the high level of development of Thracian medicine.

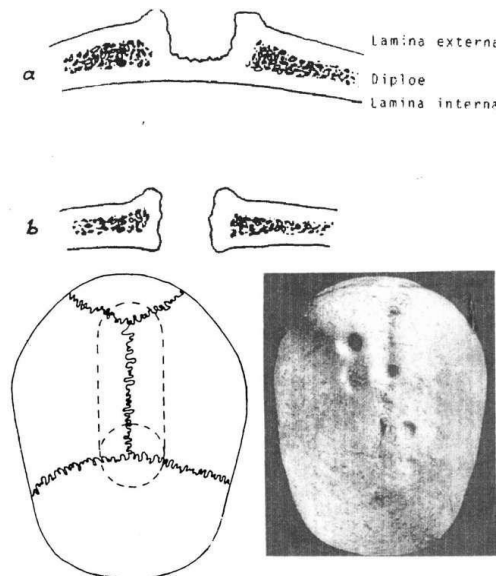
One of the tools looks remarkably similar to a Daviel cataract spoon, an instrument used for the removal of interior cataracts. It was used for the first time in 1741 by Jaques Daviel, personal physician to King Louis XV. Another tool, curette, is similar to what is used to surgically remove hordeolums (chronic sty). A similar tool, only larger in size, was used by the Thracians in the first century. It was found in the Karanovo necropolis. The kit featured several sets of pincers, identical to those used by medical doctors in the 21st century.

The prominent Bulgarian ophthalmologist agrees that these finds merit more detailed study. So far we have no evidence of similar instruments being discovered elsewhere. Associated Professor Koev believes that the tools of the ancient Thracian doctor were used to perform complicated surgical operations by a team of several people. This, in turn, would support a conclusion that Thracians most likely had some form of organized hospital treatment.

Koev was impressed by the high social status enjoyed by medical professionals at the time of the Thracians – on par with kings. This fact also speaks of the high level of social importance, which Thracians ascribed to the medical science and practice, Associated Professor Koev has noted. The medic has also referred to numerous other examples proving the high level of development of medicine in antiquity. In the northeastern most Bulgarian settlement, Durankulak, scientists have found human skulls from 10,000 years ago which bear the signs of very precise trepanation. However, no tools have been found.

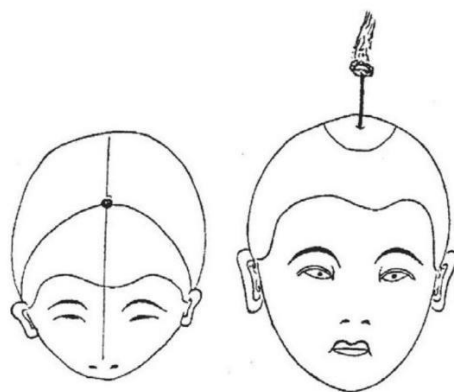
Similar trepanations are known to have been performed by ancient Bulgarians in all areas they inhabited, as proven by archaeological finds in Volga Bulgaria and Danubian Bulgaria. These have been studied and described by Dr. Petar Boev. It was because of his work that the international scientific community now accepts skull trepanations as a ritual specific to Ancient Bulgarians in all regions inhabited by them.

Trepanations came in two types, symbolic (with magical or ritualistic character) and actual, surgical trepanations. Symbolic trepanations of the skull differ from actual trepanations in that they removed only the outer layer of the skull and some of the sponge-like substance (diploë) below without penetrating the lower layer of the skull. Symbolic trepanations were typically performed in one spot and only by exception in more than one spot (for example the medieval necropolis near the village of Odartsi, Dobrich region). The marks left by symbolic trepanations are typically oval, 8 to 20mm in diameter and 0.5 to 2mm in depth. Also, they are most often found on top or adjacent to the sagittal suture on the calvaria, mostly around the point of connection to the coronal suture (the Bregma; **pictures 41 a and 41 b**).



Pictures 41 a and 41 b. Extraction of bone matter during symbolic (a) and actual (b) trepanation (per Y. Yordanov) – above. The area around the Bregma and the sutura sagitalis is where symbolic trepanations were performed most frequently – dotted line and a male skull found in the necropolis near the village of Odartsi, Dobrich Region, which bears evidence of 11 symbolic trepanations (per Y. Yordanov).

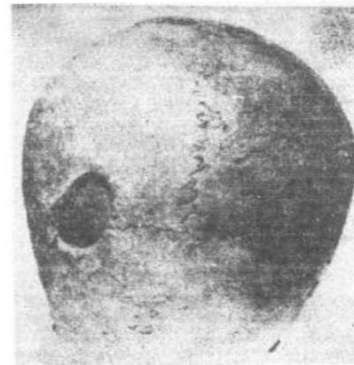
The male skull found at Pliska (7th-9th century), which bears three scars of ritual trepanation, was most likely of someone treated for neurological or psychiatric condition. Based on human remains discovered over the years, it has been theorized that trepanations performed to treat psychiatric conditions were most often performed on the top of the skull (crown). There, according to Tibetan and Chinese traditional medicine, is an important energy center called Bai Hui (one hundred meetings). It is also referred to as point 20 of the so-called „dorsal intermediate meridian” and has been used to treat headaches, neurasthenia, memory loss, ringing in the ears, epilepsy and so on (**picture 42**).



Picture 42. Acupuncture point 20, Bai Hui („One hundred meetings”) used in Tibetan traditional medicine with the application of a gold burning needle (per Namkay Norbu).

Evidently, the symbolic trepanations performed by ancient Bulgarians were not only therapeutical but also had religious or mystical meaning purpose to perhaps lift

the individuals to certain states of consciousness and were related to the esoteric practices of the Kolobri. In actual trepanations, the interior layer of the skull (lamina interna) was removed as well. The actual trepanation of the skull of a 7-year-old child found at the necropolis near the village of Odartsi, Dobrich Region (9th-10th century) was performed on the left parietal bone. The pyramid of the left temporal bone was destroyed as a result of an inflammation process, which was most likely the reason why the procedure was performed in the first place (**picture 43**). Trepanations were most often performed to treat serious traumatic injuries to the head (for example as a result of blows by a mace, sword or a battle axe) by removing bone fragments exerting pressure on the brain. The skull from the Lovetch necropolis (8th-11th century) shows evidence of en-vivo trepanation which was survived by the patient. In this case, it is believed that the intervention was performed to extract bone fragments after trauma. The wound, having been carefully treated, did not lead to the development of a suppurative process (**picture 44**).



Picture 43. Skull of a 7-year-old child, Infans I, grave 92 of the medieval necropolis near the village of Odartsi, Dobrich Region (9th-10th century). Evidence of actual (therapeutic) trepanation on the left temporal bone. The pyramid of the left temporal bone was destroyed as a result of an inflammation process, which was most likely the reason why the procedure was performed in the first place, shown from the left side (per Y. Yordanov). **Picture 44.** Male skull from Lovech showing evidence of actual trepanation (per Apostolov).

This shows solid knowledge in aseptics and antiseptics, adequate tools to perform the intervention and the use of herbs for anesthesia – poppy, henbane (which contains scopolamine and is given as sedative in cases of psychomotoric excitation), mandrake, hemp, fly-agaric, wild rue and alcohol. Therapeutic trepanations were performed by ancient Bulgarian surgeons extremely carefully because, in case of failure, especially when the patient was a person of prominence, they were buried with them!

A similar instance has been described by Georgy Kostov and has been corroborated by the expert in ancient Bulgarian burial sites in Ukraine, Konstantin Krasilnikov (the necropolis near the village of Zholtoe). In the grave of a surgeon, whose hands and head were severed, they found surgical tools and special round silver templates for trepanations. The last item proves that Bulgarians were aware of the antiseptic properties of silver.

In a documentary on the great city of Troy shown on the History Channel, archaeologist Ralf Becks showed a recently discovered man's skull. It was found during the excavation of six new layers and belonged to a man who was 182 centimeters tall and lived at around 1,700 BC. The skull shows signs of an actual surgical trepanation. It is a known fact that the indigenous population of Troy were Dardanians, i.e. Thracians and not Hellenes as Greek historiography has tried to have people believe.

It would be fascinating to hear historians explain what connection could there be between ancient Bulgarians, Thracians and Egyptians, who all knew how to perform trepanations. Archaeological finds attest unequivocally to the extremely high level of development of Thracian medicine. So the question comes, where did Thracians learn such skills, which were absent with the Hellenes, as the lack of archaeological evidence would suggest? In fact, is it not more logical to think that these medical and surgical skills and knowledge, typical of Thracians and Bulgarians, these similarities in their clothing, way of life and traditions, are the consequence of continuity between the ancient inhabitants of the Balkans and the Bulgarians in Central Asia?

PEOPLE OF BOLG AND THE SCYTHIANS

Particularly interesting information is found in the Irish sagas of *Fir Bolg* – „the people of Bolg“, who left their homeland in the Balkans fleeing from slavery. The people of Bolg initially settled in Spain but later conquered Ireland, having vanquished the Fomorians (a race of demonic sea giants). Their capital was the city of Tara (48 kilometers to the northwest of Dublin). It was the people of Bolg who taught the Celts to enter battle with a particular dance (*horo*) under the accompaniment of... bagpipes. It is especially interesting that one of the famous kings of *Fir Bolg* was named „Semion Mac Stariat“ and there was a Bolg king by the name „Mac Buaian“, who vanquished his enemies with a sword named „Calad-Bolg“. The Bolgs were the first nation to establish statehood and legislation on the British Isles.

The Internet site „Irish History“, dedicated to the ancient settlers of Ireland, claims that the ancestral land of the people of Bolg was Thrace.

This is corroborated in the „Encyclopedia of the Celts“, which uses *fir bolg* and *fir vulag*, interchangeably thereby indirectly proving the story of the origin of Bolg. „Vulag“ is evidently a Greco-Latin transcription of the name „Bolg“ (as in *Bulgari* vs. *Vulgaris*).

Further clues to support this line of pursuit are offered in the tacitly ignored story of the clergyman Spiridon Gabrovski ¹, which was written in the Zograf Monastery on Mount Athos based on sources that have not reached us. In the story, it is claimed that Bulgarians got their name after the Illyrian King Bolg, son of Kolad, who lived on the Balkans as early as the 8th century BC. A similar clue appears in the other „forgotten“ history of Bulgaria, „Zograf history“, which was written by an anonymous author from the time of the Great Revival, a contemporary of Paisius ², which also names Bolg as a Bulgarian King. A Bulgarian king named Bolg is mentioned in the „Chronicle of father Yovcho from Tryavna“ ³.

1 Priestmonk Spiridon. History in brief about the Bulgarian people of Slavonic 1792. Translated by B. Hristova, B. Raykov. National Library „St. St. Cyril and Methodius“. Sofia, 1992. Electronic publication: <http://ziezi.net/spiridon.html>.

2 Note by the editor: it is about the review-compilation manuscript „History of the Bulgarian-Slavonic

People“, better known as „Zograf Bulgarian History“. The latter was copied in 1785 by the calligrapher monk Jacob, by order of Constantine, abbot of the Zograf Monastery. Its original has not been preserved, nor is its author known. „The Zograf History“ was discovered, used and published in 1865 by the leader of the Bulgarian National Liberation Movement **Georgi Stoykov Rakovski** in his magazine “Bulgarian Antiquity” /**Works**. Vol. III, pp. 392-396/.

3 Note by the editor: Father Yovcho (1786-1855) from town of Tryavna created „Chronicle and Genealogy“ /per **Yordan Valchev**. The Bulgarian calendar. Veliko Tarnovo, 2005, pp. 153-155/ in 1839-40, using Old Bulgarian Royal Genealogy Books from the walled *Royal Library* in the church of the Asenevtsi family „St. Forty Martyrs“. This library was opened in 1838, accidentally and unfortunately, by the Greek bishop of Tarnovo Hilarion, who later burned this literary treasure. Meanwhile, father Yovcho was secretly served by his friend Archimandrite Stefan, a protosingel of the bishop.

In 2003, Chinese scientists announced the discovery of the earliest analogue to Stonehenge in China, which was dated back 4,100 years. However, megaliths like that can be found all over the globe, including on the Balkans. The building of Stonehenge is believed to have been completed between 2,000 and 1000 BC. This megalith is located some 30 kilometers from a rocky hill with an ancient quarry, where the stone blocks were cut. In this area, English archaeologists have found a number of pre-historic burial sites dating back to around 2,000 BC. With the help of modern methods such as computer tomography and 3D rendering of the earliest skull found at the necropolis, it was discovered that the builders were Caucasian settlers from continental Europe. It is worth noting that the time of the building of the megalith coincides with the time when the ancient inhabitants of the Balkans migrated. The fact that the Irish sagas tell the story of the people of Bolg should also be remembered.

Giant megaliths with various shapes and functions abound in Europe, the islands of Malta and Crete as well as on other islands in the Aegean. According to the legends, they were built by the children of Poseidon, the Pelasgians, famed inhabitants of Aegeid and forefathers of the Thracians. Interestingly, from the lands of present-day Bulgaria, where Thracians burial mounds abound, the farther east one travels away from the Black Sea, the taller Scythian burial mounds become. Another meaningful fact is that the legendary Chinese emperor and unifier of China, Qin Shi Huang (who died in 210 BC), was buried the Scythian way, in a mound (picture 45).



Picture 45. Beneath this manmade hill (mound) lies the burial chamber of the first emperor of unified China. Initially, it is said to have towered 166 meters off the ground but more than 2,000 years later, it measures only 76 meters in height.

The burial sites for the members of the Han Dynasty that came after him were built in the same manner: the body was placed in a sarcophagus and around it were arranged their wives/mistresses, their chariots and horses and their gifts for the beyond. Around the mound of Qin Shi Huang everything has been excavated and studied. It was here that the world-renowned terracotta army was found along with the chariots of the emperor. However, the burial mount itself remains intact because, as the official version goes, „the spirit of the emperor should not be disturbed and excavations would start only if it can be guaranteed that any finds discovered would be fully preserved”.

It also begs the question why neither Chinese nor Foreign scientists who have studied these burials never paid any attention to the obvious similarities to the Thracian and Scythian burial traditions.

THE ALTAI MUMMIES: HUNS OR SCYTHIANS?

In the Altai region, near the village of Pazyryk, in 1929 the Soviet military stumbled across the mummies of frozen people. The serious study of those mummies started between 1947 and 1949 by a team led by the archaeologist Sergey Radenko. Initially, he studied two mummies. One was of a tall man over 60 with short hair and the other, of a woman over the age of 40. Both had undergone trepanations located in the back of their heads ². In the abdominal area of the body of the man there is a long surgical incision. It was determined that a so far unidentified liquid was sprayed inside the before the incision was sutured. The female body also showed signs of surgical embalming procedures. Her hair was formed in a high bun around a dense mat. The same procedures were seen in all

² World science has testified that trepanations on skulls were a characteristic feature of the skills of the Old Bulgarians. On this point, see „Esotericism and Healing of the Ancient Bulgarians“ in „Collection of Avi-Tohol“, vol. I, 2005.

other burial sites found by the expedition, 5 in total. All men were surprisingly tall, between 181 and 186 cm, and had predominantly Caucasian features. Only the second grave contained the remains of a Mongoloid human. The remains found in the fourth grave were of a person with mixed features. The mummies have been dated 2,500 to 3,000 years back. What was especially peculiar to us, as Bulgarians, were the mummies that were buried with mats. Scientists have identified the technology that was used to make these mats. They were made from wool felted over a beam, a rare method that was never used by Turkic tribes. The wool was washed, combed and broken into small portions which were arranged in a complicated pattern on top of a rough hemp rug. Having added certain decorative features, the rug was rolled around a wide wood pole. The roll was then soaked in boiling water to heat up the wool. The Bulgarian ethnologist Rayko Sefterski studied between 1952 and 1963 homemade felted rugs from Koprivshtitsa, the Vidin region, the Sredna Gora region and the Strandzha-Sakar region (**picture 46**). As it turned out, in Sakar mountain people used the same technology to make felt rugs until the middle of the 19th century. They used boiling water and rolled them over a beam. Felted wool had a special meaning for Bulgarians. Newborns were placed on felted wool blankets after they were delivered.

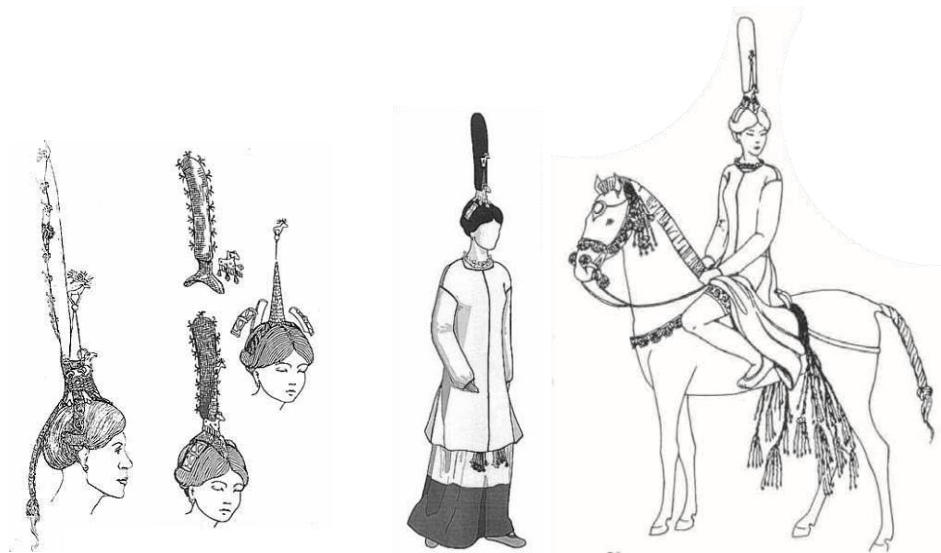


Picture 46. Felt rug on display at the Vidin Museum.

If an infant got sick, it was inevitably wrapped in a blanket made of felted wool. If a baby died, the blanket was burned. Until the middle of the 19th century, brides in the Sredna Gora, Haskovo and Strandzha regions of Bulgaria made a felted rug with a strict set of decorative details. As newlyweds, they slept on these rugs and the rugs were believed to hold all their secrets.

PRINCESS OF UKOK

In 1990, on the Ukok Plateau in upper Altai, Russian archaeologists discovered the mummified bodies of a man and a woman that were 3,000 years old. The female mummy was frozen. It was buried with six horses in a chamber identical to the one in Pazyryk. She was dressed in an exquisitely made fur coat, a blouse of fine wool and on her head she had a hat-like headdress with griffin and animal figurines made of gold. The mummy was dubbed the Princess of Ukok. On the shoulders of the mummy, there were tattoos of animals in the typical Scythian style (**pictures 47 a and 47 b**). The archaeologist Vladimir Kubaev was stunned to find out that the animal images and objects found with her were identical to some found in ancient Egypt. What is more, in the area of the burial site there is a monument like the Stonehenge as well as figures drawn on the ground like those on Nazca. According to the leader of the expedition, the archaeologist and Doctor of Historical Sciences Natalia Polosmak – Scythian-Siberian symbols crop up all the way between the Pacific and Atlantic oceans and Scandinavia.



Picture 47 a. Reconstruction of the Princess of Ukok according to archaeological data SO RAN.



Picture 47 b. Tattoo fragments from the left arm.

One of those symbols was very characteristic and commonly used by ancient Bulgarians, Thracians and Scythians – the swastika and its variation, the triquestera (three-module swastika). These types of swastikas are found on bronze talismans,

carved on rocks in Danubian Bulgaria (Pliska and Preslav), in Volga Bulgaria (Bolgar), on columns, applications, ritual breads used until present day for christenings, during Christmas festivals and also in the embroidery found on traditional clothing (swastika elbetics). Swastikas appear on statues of the Buddha. Carved on his chest, they are called the heart of the Buddha. In Sanskrit, the word swastika means good fortune and symbolizes the sun and its perpetual movement across the sky. The angled endings symbolize the elements. There were swastikas on the royal gown of Tsar Kaloyan as evidence that he was a descendant of the ancient Bulgarians. The donors for the church at Dobursko (Razlog area, Southern Bulgaria), which according to archaeologists was built in 1122, left their ancient seal, the swastika, in one of the mortar joints on the eastern wall of the church building. Also from this region, the village Katarino (Razlog area), a Thracian marble slab was discovered dating back to 2,000-1500 BC, which has carved on it a sun and beneath it, stylized versions of both types of swastikas, intertwined with one another (**picture 48**).



Picture 48. Section of a marble slab with a triquer engraved on it. The slab was discovered near the village of Katarino and dates back to 2,000-1,500 BC. It is kept at the Archaeological Museum of Razlog, Bulgaria. **Picture 49.** Trixel from Peichova Mogila, 5th century BC.

In Peichova Mogila, which is a Thracian burial mound, archaeologists discovered a silver application for horse trappings – trixel (three-module swastika) with stylized necks and heads of griffins (**picture 49**). It is hardly an accident that the earliest swastika in Europe, from 6,000 BC (early neolith), was found on a vessel fragment in Devetashka Cave (Lovetch Province, Bulgaria; **picture 50**).



Picture 50. Swastika and runes on a vessel fragment from the 6th millennium BC (early Neolith) found in Devetashka Cave.

Let us get back to what Russian scientists discovered about the Princess of Ukok. They established that the mummy was embalmed. However, unlike Egyptian embalming, here the procedure was performed using a special type of clay and grasses from the region. According to Natalia Polosmak, in book 4 of *Histories*, Herodotus describes a Scythian embalming. After six years of research and studies by a team of geneticists, anthropologists and archaeologists headed by Academic Vyacheslav Molodin from the Russian Academy of Sciences, it was determined that the ancient mummies belonged to people from the so-called Pazyryk Culture, which was ethnically Scythian. It was also discovered that the wool fabrics did not originate in China. A DNA analysis conducted in Moscow, showed that the Princess of Ukok was not Mongoloid and the reconstruction of her facial features based on the shape of her skull revealed typical Caucasian traits (**picture 51**).



Picture 51. At a laboratory at the Russian Academy of Sciences in the city of Novosibirsk, scientists study the mummy discovered on the Ukok plateau in Altai Mountain.

Based on everything laid out so far, I believe that the findings from Altai add some missing pieces to the puzzle and support the hypothesis of Professor Victor Mair and other scientists regarding the migration of Caucasian people east.

The author of this article is convinced that the mummies from Tarim and Altai are the missing link that unites the Hunnic, Pamirian and the Thraco-Cimmerian theories and puts the ancient history of Bulgarians in a new light.

In fact, the ethnonym Scythians is a collective term referring to one and the same people. The same is true of the so-called Huns (especially Western or Royal Huns). As far as the claim of Huns having Asian DNA, it is the result of mixed marriages which account for only 10% of the population. Evidently, the Chinese used the name Huns to refer to Scythians, which has been corroborated by the conclusions by Russian scientists regarding the dating and origin of the mummies.

Let us compare Thracians (Scythians) and Bulgarians according to the historical data (see the table below).

Thracians-Scythians-Bulgarians

Thracians-Scythians	Bulgarians
Orphism and Cult of the sun: the king is also the high priest	Tangraism, Cult of the sun: the Khan (ruler) is the supreme priest as well
Faith in the immortality of the soul	Belief in immortality: the world is bound by a special force that flows from man to animal and from the living to the dead and vice versa
Sending off through a sacrifice of the worthiest, who will bring the message to god (falling off heights in deep caves or spearing with three spears)	Sending off of the worthiest to the beyond where they would be one with Tangra (suffocation)
Horse-centric culture, they drink mare`s milk	Horse-centric culture, they drink mare`s milk
Main military force – mounted troops	Main military force – mounted troops
Cult to heros (rider)	Cult to the rider (Madara horseman)
Double-reflex bow and typical three-edged arrowheads (triperes)	Double-reflex bow and typical three-edged arrowheads (triperes)
Architecture – cut stones, square construction	Architecture – cut stones, square construction
Male hairstyles – chembas or three braids	Male hairstyles – shaved heads with chembas (chub)
Military victories are celebrated with toasting with a cup made from the skull of the vanquished king	Military victories are celebrated with toasting with a cup made from the skull of the vanquished king
Medicine – priests are doctors, they use herbs, psychosuggestion, surgery, needle-reflex therapy, bathing	Medicine – treatment is performed by priests through herbs, psuchosuggestion, trepanations, surgery, moxa, needle therapy, massage, iris diagnostics, steam baths

According to Academic Vladimir Georgiev, the language of ancient Bulgarians was related to the language of the Thracians. Here, we would like to note the similarity between the name of the ancient Irish ruler Ugaine More with the family name of the Bulgarian Ugain Dynasty. Also, ancient Irish name Murtagh sounds strikingly similar to the name of the Bulgarian ruler Omurtag. Furthermore, the names of many Irish settlements such as Borrisokane, Borris-Idrone, Borrisoleigh, Borris-in-ossory contain the traditional Bulgarian name Boris. Finally, an online publication entitled „Invasion Cycle of Ireland“, claims that Bolg divided Ireland

in five between five brothers, an allusion to the legacy of Khan Kubrat to his five sons.

Something interesting about the name of the „Slavic” god Perun. According to the Russian linguist and balkanist Leonod Gindin „...the oldest layer of the Balkan onomastics, ascending to the Indo-European *per(k)un or *per(k)u(n), is made up of the typically Thracian lexemes: Περκων (native *Perkun) – *god of thunder, related to the oak tree, resp. living inside an oak tree, in oak groves, etc.”¹

In other words, the name Perun (one of the names of Zeus, the Thunderer) is of Thracian origin.

How the name Perun from Thracian „became” Slavic I will leave to Slavic and Turkic theoreticians to explain!

¹ **L. A. Gindin.** The Oldest Onomastics of the Eastern Balkans (Thracian-Hittite-Luwian and Thracian-Asia Minor Isoglosses). Sofia, Publishing House of the Bulgarian Academy of Sciences – Institute of Thracology & Academy of Sciences-USSR – Institute of Slavic and Balkan Studies, 1981, page 88.

The aforementioned facts bear out the following conclusions:

1. The ancient inhabitants of the Balkan peninsula and the Black Sea shores migrated due to a natural cataclysm (cataclysms), the so-called Deluge around 5,500 BC. This took place in several sequential waves and in different directions.
2. The people who lived on the shores of the Black Sea was more affected by these migrations whereas the people who lived inland mostly remained in place.
3. The migrations continued between 3,000 and 1,000 BC, and the people who did migrate, took their ancient culture with them, creating states along the way. In a way, they performed civilization-making missions to the west and to the east to China and Japan (the earliest inhabitants of the Japanese islands are the Ainu people, they have Caucasian features but in present day there are only a few thousand of them left).
4. The regions of the far east inhabited by the so-called Scythians, are secondary settlements and so are Pamir, Hindu Kush and Tarim.
5. The numerous surviving toponyms, names of goods and everyday objects featuring the stem Bolg-Bulg (Bolgár) are grounds to claim that Bulgarians left a permanent cultural trace from their times in the west and the east and are in fact a much older nation than the official version of history would suggest.
6. As to why Bulgarians had a nomadic way of life, the explanation is that animal husbandry and breeding thousands of horses required large areas of grasslands. With such a lifestyle, leather clothes proved most suitable (such as those worn by the Scythians living in the so-called yurts – as depicted on numerous Scythian artifacts).
7. The hypothesis, which has so far been considered most relevant by historians, suggests that there was a great migration from the East of wild nomadic tribes. Also, according to it, the so-called Huns and Bulgarians were mongoloid people. Both tenets of this theory should be revised. The migrants from the East, driven out by Chinese and Mongols, were Caucasian tribes and their core was formed around the leading ancient Bulgarian dynasty of DULO, a descendent from

which is Khan Attila, the founder of the giant Hunnic Empire, which spread from the Urals to the Rhine and shook the Roman world. These were the descendants of the people from the Balkans and the shores of the Black Sea who had migrated thousands of years ago.

To sum up, as far as we can see, Bulgarians are descendants of the ancient Pelasgian nation (Belasgs), the earliest known inhabitants of the Balkans. In various periods, the Bulgarian ethnos has been referred to by foreign chroniclers by names such as Thracians, Cimmerians, Scythians, Sarmatians, Moesians, Huns, Burdjani, Bulhi. Additionally, the following names were also used to identify Bulgarians: Onogurs (Unogondurs), Utigurs, Kutrigurs, Oghondur-Bulgar, KupiBulgar, Kuchi-Bulgar, Barsils (Varsatsi, Berchul, Berziti), Khazars, Burtasi and so on.

Despite their multiple migrations, the descendants of the ancient Balkan population returned thousands of years later to their ancestral lands and their relatives.

Interestingly, the territory of the so-called Danubian Bulgaria surprisingly unites within its borders almost all of the Thracian cities. Furthermore, the name *Balkan* peninsula contains the words *Bolg* (*Bulg*) and the royal title *Khan*. The British Museum has in its possession an old map of the Balkans drawn by Saint Hieronymus (331-420), which was copied from an earlier map by Bishop Eusebius (270-338). On it, the lands south of the Danube is labelled „Moesia here and Bulgaria“.

The author believes that the name Bulgarian is related to a religious term and appears for the first time in the „Mahabharata“ epic, which describes events believed by scientists to have occurred between 18th and 16th century BC. To help one of the two warring kingdoms in India – Pandava and Kaurava – from the North, through Pakistan, came an army of horseback and chariot warriors riding on white steeds and wearing gold-plated armor. They were led by Balhara/Balghara princes. They were the Bolhars (**picture 52**).



Picture 52. Illustration from Mahabharata.

Later, Homer would offer a similar description of the Thracians of King Rhesus arriving to aid the city of Troy. Bolg-Arii meant belonging to a religious doctrine with a cult of the sun. Literally, „the ones upon whom a light is shining”, „the enlightened ones,” „the shining ones,” „the white ones,” „sons of light,” „people of the sun.” The native people of the Balkans were called BELasgians³ – the stem word being „Bel“ („White“).

policies. Herodotus (~484~425 BC) writes that at that time they ruled all of Hellas, including the city of Athens: „At the time when the Pelasgians ruled the country that is now called Hellas, the Athenians were Pelasgians, and their name was Cranaoi...” /**Herodotus**. History, vol. VIII, § 44/.

That is, the ethnonym Pelasgi of the most ancient inhabitants of Hellas arose, according to the mores of the time, from the name of their king-ancestor Pelasgus. It is no accident that Homer says: „a sacred tribe of Pelasgians“ . /**Odysseya**, XIX, 175/.

³ **Note by the editor:** The ethnonym of the ancient Pelasgians is actually an eponym: from the mythical

Pelasgus, son of Zeus and Niobe (daughter of Phoroneus, king of the city of Athens) /**Plato**. Timaeus: 22, a, c; See also note. 18. – In: **Plato**. Dialogues. Vol. IV. Sofia, 1990, p. 625/. After the death of Argus I, his grandfather's older brother Phoroneus, – Pelasgus was placed on his throne and originally reigned in his city Argos of Peloponnese Peninsula. He once showed kindness by granting refuge and protection to the king of Libya Danaus, who had arrived from Africa, and his 50 daughters, who were persecuted for marriage by the 50 sons of Egypt, the king of Egypt. However, when in the port of Argos landed the powerful fleet of the sons of Egypt, Pelasgus was forced to flee quickly, seeking salvation in his native city of Athens. There he was elected king, succeeding his grandfather Phoroneus. In Athens, King Pelasgus and Queen Cylenus gave birth to three sons: Hippotous, Haemon and Lycaon. In time, Haemon had a son, Thessalus, who became king of the vast region of Thessaly in Middle Hellas, and his brother, the king of Arcadia Lycaon, with 50 sons, who, together with their numerous descendants, scattered and settled the whole country, founding and building their

The geographer Strabo (63 BC – 23 AD) wrote the following: „Hecataeus of Miletus [~550-476 BC – note by the editor] says that the Peloponnesus before the Hellenes was inhabited by barbarians. But it can be said that in ancient times the whole of Hellas was a settlement of barbarians, if one judges from the traditions themselves: Pelops brought people from Phrygia to the Peloponnese, which received its name from him; and Danaus from Egypt; and the Dryopians, the Caucons, the Pelasgians, the Lelegians, and other such peoples divided among themselves the parts that are inside the isthmus – as well as the outer parts, because Attica was once ruled by the Thracians, who came with Eumolpus, Davlida in Phocis from Tereus, Cadmea by the Phoenicians who came with Cadmus, and Boeotia itself by the Aeons, Themices and Hyantes...” /**Strabo**.

Geography, book. VII, § 1/.

Later, after the Flood, and the conquest of Hellas by Hellenes and his sons Dorus, Aeolus, and Xutus (the latter had sons Achaeus and Ionus), the native population was forced to adopt the eponyms of the new invaders. Thus, the locals were renamed into Dorians, Aeolians, Achaeans, Ionians, and in general began to be called Hellenes. At that time, no one knew the tribe of Greeks, because they did not yet exist as an ethnos.

Belasgians means „The white“ ones, but the Hellenic transcription of the name, due to the problematic [B] sound for the Greeks, came to be *Pelasgians*. Similarly, the name of hero *Paris* from the „Iliad“ came from *Baris*. The birthplace of Alexander the Great is *Pela* (i.e. *Bela*), but the mountain slightly to the north from there remained *Belasgitsa/Belasitsa* instead of *Pelasgitsa*, because the native people here did not have difficulties pronouncing the [B] sound.

Let us not forget to point out that a number of Bulgarian tribes such as the *Kutrigurs*, *Onogurs*,

Utigurs, etc. have in their names the suffix *guri*, and the term *guru* in Sanskrit means „teacher“, „spiritual adviser“. Perhaps, initially such titles were reserved to the ones possessing esoteric knowledge such as priests (Kolobries) and the aristocracy. Later, their subjects took as their ethnonym the title of their leaders. A similar meaning hides behind the ethnonym *Bolgar*. During a trip to Altai in 1998, a team from the „Night work“ newspaper including journalists Maxim Karadzhov and Tsvetan Tonchev recorded an interpretation of the word *Bolgar* by an 89-year-old Altai shaman named Savu Artyian. According to her „Bolgar is a person who survives hardship. We believe that such people bear a mark and the spirits protect them because they have to be around...!“

According to the Arab traveler Abu Hamid al-Garnati, Bulgar means „knowledgeable“, „wise person“, „scholarly person“. He came to know this from the book „Bulgar Tarihi“ („History of Bulgaria“) during his visit to the city of Bolgar, the capital of Volga Bulgaria, in 1135.

* * *

Based on everything that was laid out above, it is my belief that the Thraco-Cimmerian, the Hunnic and the Pamir theories on the origins of the Bulgarian people do not contradict one another but, in fact, are different pieces of one puzzle. Therefore, they must be combined into a single *Autochthonic-Migration Theory* on the genesis of the Bulgarian ethnos. I also project that archaeological finds that will

be discovered in the near future both within Bulgaria and abroad, will flesh out the hypothesis offered above with new facts.

The pseudoscientific theory of the Slavic-Turkic origins of Bulgarians is not borne by facts. It is artificial, ludicrous and pathetic and, of course, is put together to serve third-party interests. It was launched in the 19th century by the Russian scientists Chertkov and other foreigners such as

Tomašek, Škorpil, Jireček, Géza Fehér, etc., and was reinforced in Bulgaria in the 20th century by the ideologues of Russian Panslavism, led by the leader of the Bulgarian historical scientific community, the Russian graduate Vasil Zlatarski.

Under the guise of academism, this theory was cemented in Bulgaria by the communist totalitarian regime (1944-1989). Most peculiarly, however, it still considered a paragon of scientific thought and professionalism among Bulgarian historians. Based only on the reconstruction of several skulls performed by a professor from the old Marxist school, it was asserted that Bulgarians were Mongoloids that were later “assimilated” in a “Slavic sea.” This nonsense continued until 2006, although there already was a competing hypothesis which claimed that Bulgarians were neither Mongoloids nor Slavs, but... Iranians? In other words, Bulgarians are anything and everything else *but* Bulgarian!

If anthropological methodologies are applied in the search for the origins of the Bulgarian people, a representative sample of skull remains would be reconstructed, including, for example, the skulls with artificial deformations found in Necropolis 3 near Devnya. However, a task this crucial should not be assigned to “scientists” burdened by beliefs from the near past and prone to dogmatic reasoning.

For a true scientist, such a study would be an opportunity to prove themselves. Science cannot exist without creative thinking and the spirit of discovery, reined in by scientific argumentation and discussion. Scientists in Europe and America have long ago embraced the interdisciplinary approach to solving some of history and archaeology’s most interesting questions and it is high time for the Bulgarian scientific community to do the same.

In conclusion, I would like to point out that as an author, I have been ignored by prominent historians with the arrogant argument that I am not a professional historian but an amateur. One of the few exceptions to this took place in 2007 when, having reviewed the first draft of this article, in a private conversation, the late Dr. Georgy Kitov told me: *‘Dear colleague, the hypothesis you have presented is cutting-edge! Despite a few controversial paragraphs, I believe you are going in the right direction. When I first said 50 years ago that the Thracians produced their treasures, they called me crazy!’*

These words by Dr. Kitov are important to me. I would like to remind the current generation of historical scientists that breakthroughs in science are often made by amateurs. For example, 130 years ago the archaeology enthusiast Dr. Isidoro Falke (a medical doctor like me), thanks to his intuition and perseverance, found the ancient capital of the Etruscans near the city of Toscani based on Etruscan inscriptions also discovered by him. After a long period of mocking and derision on the part of the then-leading Italian historians and archaeologists, official science had to concede and recognize his discovery.

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