

Between the Danube and the Caucasus: a collection of papers concerning the oriental sources on the history of the peoples of Central and South-Eastern Europe.

The vast plains and highlands of Ciscaucasia stretch from the northern foothills of the Greater Caucasus to the Kuma-Manych Depression, running from the Sea of Azov to the Caspian Sea. Western Ciscaucasia consists largely of plains, such as the extensive lowland north of the Kuban River that slopes gradually upward to the foothills of the mountains farther south. Central Ciscaucasia includes the Stavropol Upland, characterized mainly by tablelands of limestone or sandstone separated by deep valleys; the Mineralnye Vody-Pyatigorsk zone to the southeast, where Mount Beshtau rises to 4,100 metres from the surrounding plateau; and, still farther to the southeast, the Terek and the Sunzha ranges, separated by the Alkhanchurt Valley. Eastern Ciscaucasia is a lowland traversed by the lower Terek River and, to the north beyond the sands of the vast Nogay Steppe, by the Kuma River. Both rivers flow into the Caspian Sea. The northern slopes of the Greater Caucasus are not as steep as the southern. The middle of the system is comparatively narrow, but its western and eastern ends have widths of miles km or more. The main axis of the system contains, in addition to Mount Elbrus, Mount Dombay-Ulgen Dombey-Yolgen; 13,000 feet [4,000 metres], in the western sector; Mounts Shkhara, Dykhtau, and Kazbek, all over 16,000 feet 4,000 metres, in the central sector; and Mounts Tebulosmta and Bazardyuzyu, both over 14,000 feet 4,000 metres, in the east. Spurs tonguing north and south from the main axis occasionally reach elevations approaching 10,000 feet 3,000 metres. At the centre of this extensive depression the Kura River receives its major right-bank tributary, the Aras Azerbaijani: West of the Kura-Aras Lowland rises the Lesser Caucasus range, which is extended southward by the Dzhavakhet Range and the Armenian Highland, the latter extending southwestward into Turkey. From their western sources in the Armenian Highland, the Kura and Aras rivers both flow around the Lesser Caucasus – the Kura to the north of the range and the Aras to the south – to their confluence in the east. Northern and central Ciscaucasia have a platformlike construction, with a foundation of folded structures dating from the Hercynian orogeny early in the Carboniferous Period. The surface of most of Ciscaucasia is composed of Cenozoic rock. Structurally the Greater Caucasus represents a great anticline upfold uplifted at the margin of the Alpine geosyncline about 25 million years ago and subsequently altered by fresh cycles of erosion and uplift. Hard, crystalline, metamorphosed rocks such as schists and gneisses, as well as granites that predate the Jurassic Period. The spurs of the Greater Caucasus are composed of younger limestones, sandstones, and marls. The Kolkhida and Kura-Aras lowlands are both structural depressions linked to the Alpine geosyncline; the former is related to the formation of the Black Sea, the latter to that of the Caspian. In the Kolkhida Lowland, the overall surface of deposits laid down less than 25 million years ago is broken, at the foot of the mountains, by the protrusion of slightly older sedimentary rocks. Younger rock also underlies the Kura-Aras Lowland. The structures of the Lesser Caucasus, the Talish Mountains, the Dzhavakhet Range, and the Armenian Highland likewise originated from folds uplifted from the Alpine geosyncline. Whereas the western sector of the Lesser Caucasus and the Talish in the far southeast are formed chiefly of deposits laid down about 50 million years ago during the downwarp episode of the geosyncline, the central and eastern sectors of the Lesser Caucasus consist of sedimentary strata with areas of intrusive volcanic rock that is at least twice as old. Geologically recent volcanism and contact metamorphism the intrusion of molten material into preexisting strata everywhere have played a great role in shaping the landscape. The folded base of the Dzhavakhet Range and of the Armenian Highland, for example, is masked by volcanic debris from eruptions that occurred in the Cenozoic Era, but to the east much older rocks emerge between the middle course of the Aras and the latitude of Lake Sevan. In the spring, when snow and ice begin to melt, the rivers of the Greater Caucasus and some of those of the Lesser Caucasus begin a flood cycle that may last for six months. Other Transcaucasian rivers are characterized by shorter-term spring flooding, while the rivers of the southern slopes of the Greater Caucasus generally have summer floods as well. The rivers of Ciscaucasia, except those flowing from the Greater Caucasus themselves, characteristically freeze over in winter, flood in spring, and become extremely

shallow and sometimes even dry up in summer. In the eastern and central Caucasus, brief storm flooding occurs frequently. The karst regions along some spurs of the Greater Caucasus contain rivers that intermittently plunge beneath the earth into caverns within the soluble limestone bedrock. Lake Sevan in the eastern Lesser Caucasus is the largest lake of Caucasia; its overflow drains into the Hrazdan River, a tributary of the Aras. The higher elevations of the Greater Caucasus contain numerous small mountain lakes, while a number of saltwater lakes occur in the arid regions of northeastern Caucasia. The Greater Caucasus has more than 2, glaciers , occupying about 1 percent of its total area. Some 70 percent of them occur on the cooler northern face, with a concentration on the higher central slopes. The largest— notably Dykhsu, Bezingi, and Karaugom glaciers, on the northern face, and Lekzyr and Tsanner glaciers, in western Georgia—are about 8 miles 13 km long. The desolate flanks of Mount Elbrus are streaked by many glaciers. Climate The crest of the Greater Caucasus forms a barrier between the temperate mid-latitude and the subtropical climatic zones by impeding the movement of cold air masses from the north into Transcaucasia and, conversely, that of warm air masses into Ciscaucasia from the south. Ciscaucasia has a semiarid climate in the west and a drier, more desertlike climate in the east. In Transcaucasia, the Kolkhida Lowland has a humid subtropical climate with mild winters and an annual rainfall of 47 to 71 inches 1, to 1, mm. The Middle Aras Trough in the Armenian Highland has a climate like that of the lowland downstream but is not so warm. In the Greater Caucasus, temperatures decrease and the growing season becomes correspondingly shorter with an increase in elevation; and more total precipitation falls on the mountain slopes than on the neighbouring plains. Because the Greater Caucasus stands at an angle to the westerly air currents, the heaviest precipitation, reaching a maximum of more than inches 4, mm , accumulates on the south- and southwest-facing slopes. In the higher elevations, a cold, alpine climate with high humidity prevails, and perennial snow cover shrouds the highest crests. Along the northern Black Sea coast, the climate is typically Mediterranean, with mild, rainy winters and dry summers. The northern slopes of the Lesser Caucasus facing the southern slopes of the Greater Caucasus have a climate similar to that of the latter at corresponding elevations, with rainfall concentrated in the west. On the slopes of the Talish Mountains in the southeast, the climate is humid, with annual precipitation reaching 68 inches 1, mm. Snow cover throughout the southern highlands lasts for four to five months, while annual precipitation averages about 20 inches mm , with a spring maximum. Overall, the climate of the upland plateaus is moderately cold and continental, giving rise to semiarid steppe grasslands, whereas the climate of the heights is more humid and alpine, with cool summers and cold, prolonged winters. Forest-steppe vegetation, with oaks and beeches dominating the overstory forest canopy , is found on the higher ground of the Stavropol Upland, around Mount Beshtau, in the western part of the Sunzha Range, and in the northern foothills of the Greater Caucasus. Eastern Ciscaucasia is semidesert, with grasses and sagebrush *Artemisia* on the richer chestnut soils and saltworts where the soil is saline. *Artemisia*, saltworts, and ephemeral species characterize the arid Kura-Aras Lowland, and similar vegetation occurs in the Middle Aras Trough. At the lower elevations of the mountains themselves, between 2, and 3, feet and metres , arboreal brushwood and broad-leaved forest predominates. On the Black Sea slopes of the Greater Caucasus and in the mountainous hinterland of the Kolkhida Lowlands, there are mixed forests of beech, oak, hornbeam, chestnut, and alder, with lianas and an evergreen undergrowth on terra rossa and yellow soils. In the Talish Mountains, forests of chestnut-leaf oak and *Parrotia persica* flourish on yellow soils, while farther north on the heights backing the dry Kura-Aras Lowland grow forests and brushwood of xerophytic drought-resistant species. On the northern face of the Greater Caucasus, oak forests predominate with a brushwood understory community of low-growing plants. At higher elevations of up to 6, feet 2, metres , both the Greater and the Lesser Caucasus support forests of oak, hornbeam, and beech on brown soils; these are superseded at yet higher elevations by forests of Caucasian elm and Nordmann fir in the west and southwest and, occasionally, by pine forests farther east. Feather grass and needlegrass cover the black soil of the steppes on the lava plateaus and plains of the Armenian Highland. Steppes and tall-grass meadows are also widespread among the mountains of Dagestan. Above elevations of 6, feet 2, metres in the Greater Caucasus and in the Transcaucasian ranges, mountain meadow vegetation covers three successive belts: Finally, at about 10, feet 3, metres begins the zone of glaciers and perpetual snow. Animal life The fauna of the Greater and Lesser Caucasus includes certain

endemic species—the West Caucasian and the Dagestanian mountain goat, or tur, the Caucasian black grouse, and the Caucasian mountain turkey, or ular—and even some endemic genera, such as the long-clawed mole vole *Prometheomys schaposchnikowi*. Other common mammals include the chamois, red deer, bear, lynx, and fox. The fauna of the Talish Mountains, which includes leopard and porcupine, is related to that of more southerly territories, while that of the Armenian Highland is related to that of Anatolia, with its ground squirrel, or suslik *Citellus*, and mountain jerboa *Allactaga williamsi*. The Rioni River valley and several smaller valleys in Transcaucasia are intensively cultivated and support large farm populations, and the foothills of the mountains also have a considerable population density. The alpine regions of the Caucasus and the arid steppes and lowlands of the Caspian coast, however, are sparsely populated. Urban dwellers account for nearly three-fifths of the entire population, and in Armenia and North Ossetia the proportion is even greater. Three cities—Baku, Tbilisi, and Yerevan—have populations of more than one million. Caucasia long has played a major role as a link between Europe and Asia, and through it the culture of ancient Mesopotamia spread northward. Indigenous cultures also arose; in particular, Caucasia was one of the most ancient centres of bronze working from the first half of the 2nd millennium bce. Autochthonous peoples of the Caucasus are mentioned by Herodotus and by later writers such as Strabo. In the centuries between pre-Classical antiquity and the 14th century ce, Caucasia underwent successive invasions by various peoples, including Scythians, Alani, Huns, Khazars, Arabs, Seljuq Turks, and Mongols. The region also remained in contact with the Mediterranean world. This history of invasions and distant contacts has left its imprint on the culture of the Caucasian peoples; Middle Eastern influences, in particular, disseminated Iranian languages on the one hand and Christian and Islamic religion on the other. The later history, beginning with a long period of rivalry between Ottoman Turkey and Iran, is marked by the advance of Russian culture, which penetrated farther and farther into Caucasia from the 16th century onward. Throughout this process, individual ethnic groups, under pressure from stronger neighbours, took refuge in the ravines of the mountain ranges to preserve themselves in isolation. More than 50 different peoples inhabit Caucasia. Russians and Ukrainians, who constitute more than four-fifths of the total population of Ciscaucasia, speak Slavic languages of the Indo-European family. The language of the Armenians is also Indo-European but distinct from other groups of languages in the family. The most important Caucasian language is Georgian, spoken by a nation into which numerous groups have long been amalgamated. Georgian and its many dialects belong to the Kartvelian family, the other groups being the Abkhazo-Adyghian and the Nakho-Dagestanian divisions of the North Caucasian family. The Abkhazo-Adyghian group comprises the languages of Kabardian Circassian, Adyghian, and Ubykh, as well as Abaza and Abkhaz both of which have been strongly influenced by the neighbouring Georgian. The Dagestanian group of Caucasian languages is quite distinct from the Turkic languages spoken in Dagestan—namely, those of the Kumyk and of the Nogay.

Economy
Resource utilization
The geologically recent rock layers around the Greater Caucasus, notably in the Kura-Aras Lowland and beneath the Caspian Sea, contain oil-bearing deposits. These also occur, with natural gas, in the older rocks of Ciscaucasia, while in Dagestan there are oil, natural gas, and coal deposits. Metallic ores are associated with magmatic rocks thrust up from deep in the crust: Building materials include the cement marls of Novorossiysk in Ciscaucasia south of the Taman Peninsula and the rose-coloured tuffs tufas of Mount Aragats in Armenia. The mineral-water springs of the Caucasus are known throughout eastern Europe. This abundance of resources allowed the Caucasus to become one of the more economically developed regions of the Soviet Union. Nonferrous metals, hydrocarbons, and coal are extracted in large quantities. Hydroelectric power has been well developed and is intensively used. A number of large industrial centres in the Caucasus region produce cast iron and steel, locomotives, trucks and automobiles, rubber and other chemical products, cement, hard-metal alloys, textiles and footwear, and food and tobacco products. The Caucasus region has some of the best conditions for agriculture in Eurasia. Mixed agriculture is practiced on the rich black soils of western and central Ciscaucasia. Tea, citrus fruits, the tung tree, and bamboo are grown in the humid subtropical lowlands and foothills regions of Transcaucasia. Other areas produce tobacco, grapes, and various fruits. Water from the numerous rivers of the Caucasus is used to irrigate the arid areas of eastern Ciscaucasia, the Kura-Aras Lowland, and the lands around the Middle Aras Trough. In the higher elevations

of the Caucasus, the primary activity is livestock raising mainly sheep and cattle , although the people there also grow some mountain crops and pursue a few domestic crafts. With its beautiful beaches along the coasts of the Black and Caspian seas, the Caucasus also has become a popular resort area. Its mineral springs and year-round mild climate make it a conducive environment for the treatment of many illnesses. Millions of people from Russia and other countries come to the Caucasus each year to rest, receive medical treatment, and enjoy such recreational activities as mountaineering and skiing.

Chapter 2 : BETWEEN THE DANUBE AND THE CAUCASUS, Ājrak

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Additional factors combined Russian goals of recovering territorial losses endured during the Crimean War , re-establishing itself in the Black Sea and supporting the political movement attempting to free Balkan nations from the Ottoman Empire. The Russian-led coalition won the war. As a result, Russia succeeded in claiming several provinces in the Caucasus, namely Kars and Batum , and also annexed the Budjak region. The principalities of Romania , Serbia , and Montenegro , each of whom had de facto sovereignty for some time, formally proclaimed independence from the Ottoman Empire. The initial Treaty of San Stefano, signed on 3 March, is today celebrated as Liberation Day in Bulgaria, [10] although it somewhat fell out of favour during years of Socialist rule. For example, the jizya tax was abolished and non-Muslims were allowed to join the army. Although local level relations between communities were often good, this practice encouraged exploitation. Abuses were at their worst in regions with a predominantly Christian population, where local authorities often openly supported abuse as a means to keep Christians subjugated. In southern Lebanon , where Maronite peasants worked for Druze overlords, Druze peasants sided with their overlords against the Maronites, transforming the conflict into a civil war. Although both sides suffered, about 10, Maronites were massacred at the hands of the Druze. Nevertheless, French and British intervention followed. In the end, between 7, and 12, people of all religions[citation needed] had been killed, and over villages, churches, 40 monasteries, and 30 schools were destroyed. Christian attacks on Muslims in Beirut stirred the Muslim population of Damascus to attack the Christian minority with between 5, and 25, of the latter being killed,[citation needed] including the American and Dutch consuls, giving the event an international dimension. Ottoman foreign minister Mehmed Fuad Pasha came to Syria and solved the problems by seeking out and executing the culprits, including the governor and other officials. Order was restored, and preparations made to give Lebanon new autonomy to avoid European intervention. The Greek press claimed that Muslims had massacred Greeks and the word was spread throughout Europe. Thousands of Greek volunteers were mobilized and sent to the island. The siege of Moni Arkadiou monastery became particularly well known. In November , about Cretan Greek combatants and around women and children were besieged by about 23, mainly Cretan Muslims aided by Ottoman troops, and this became widely known in Europe. After a bloody battle with a large number of casualties on both sides, the Cretan Greeks finally surrendered when their ammunition ran out but were killed upon surrender. Although the Cretan crisis ended better for the Ottomans than almost any other diplomatic confrontation of the century, the insurrection, and especially the brutality with which it was suppressed, led to greater public attention in Europe to the oppression of Christians in the Ottoman Empire. Small as the amount of attention is which can be given by the people of England to the affairs of Turkey The financial strain on the treasury forced the Ottoman government to take a series of foreign loans at such steep interest rates that, despite all the fiscal reforms that followed, pushed it into unpayable debts and economic difficulties. It came apart completely as a result of the wars of German Unification , when the Kingdom of Prussia , led by Chancellor Otto von Bismarck , defeated Austria in and France in , replacing Austria-Hungary as the dominant power in Central Europe. Britain, worn out by its participation in the Crimean War and diverted by the Irish question and the social problems created by the Industrial Revolution , chose not to intervene again to restore the European balance. France responded by supporting self-determination movements, particularly if they concerned the three emperors and the Sultan. Thus revolts in Poland against Russia and national aspirations in the Balkans were encouraged by France. Russia worked to regain its right to maintain a fleet on the Black Sea and vied with the French in gaining influence in the Balkans by using the new Pan-Slavic idea that all Slavs should be united under Russian leadership. This could be done only by destroying the two empires where most non-Russian Slavs lived, the Habsburg and the Ottoman Empires. The ambitions and the rivalries of the Russians and French in the Balkans surfaced in Serbia, which was experiencing its own national revival and had ambitions that partly conflicted

with those of the great powers. Russian international prestige was damaged, and for many years revenge for the Crimean War became the main goal of Russian foreign policy. The newly appointed Russian chancellor, Alexander Gorchakov depended upon alliance with Prussia and its chancellor Bismarck. Russia consistently supported Prussia in her wars with Denmark, Austria and France. In March, using the crushing French defeat and the support of a grateful Germany, Russia achieved international recognition of its earlier denouncement of Article 11 of the Paris Peace Treaty, thus enabling it to revive the Black Sea Fleet. Other clauses of the Paris Peace Treaty, however, remained in force, specifically Article 8 with guarantees of Ottoman territorial integrity by Great Britain, France and Austria. Therefore, Russia was extremely cautious in its relations with the Ottoman Empire, coordinating all its actions with other European powers. A Russian war with Turkey would require at least the tacit support of all other Great Powers, and Russian diplomacy was waiting for a convenient moment.

Balkan crisis of 1875-1878 The state of Ottoman administration in the Balkans continued to deteriorate throughout the 19th century, with the central government occasionally losing control over whole provinces. Reforms imposed by European powers did little to improve the conditions of the Christian population, while managing to dissatisfy a sizable portion of the Muslim population. Bosnia and Herzegovina suffered at least two waves of rebellion by the local Muslim population, the most recent in 1875. Austria consolidated after the turmoil of the first half of the century and sought to reinvigorate its longstanding policy of expansion at the expense of the Ottoman Empire. Meanwhile, the nominally autonomous, de facto independent principalities of Serbia and Montenegro also sought to expand into regions inhabited by their compatriots. Nationalist and irredentist sentiments were strong and were encouraged by Russia and her agents. At the same time, a severe drought in Anatolia in 1877 and flooding in 1878 caused famine and widespread discontent in the heart of the Empire. The agricultural shortages precluded the collection of necessary taxes, which forced the Ottoman government to declare bankruptcy in October, and increase taxes on outlying provinces including the Balkans.

Balkan uprisings Main article: By August almost all of Herzegovina had been seized and the revolt had spread into Bosnia. Supported by nationalist volunteers from Serbia and Montenegro, the uprising continued as the Ottomans committed more and more troops to suppress it. In 1876, a Bulgarian uprising was hastily prepared to take advantage of Ottoman preoccupation, but it fizzled before it started. In the spring of 1877, another uprising erupted in the south-central Bulgarian lands despite the fact that there were numerous regular Turkish troops in those areas. A special Turkish military committee was established to quell the uprising. Regular troops Nizam and irregular ones Redif or Bashi-bazouk were directed to fight the Bulgarians May 11 - June 9, 1877. The irregulars were mostly drawn from the Muslim inhabitants of the Bulgarian regions, many of whom were Circassian Islamic population which migrated from the Caucasus or Crimean Tatars who were expelled during the Crimean War and even Islamized Bulgarians. The Turkish army suppressed the revolt, massacring up to 30, [23] [24] people in the process. The Turkish military carried on horribly unjust acts upon the vast Bulgarian populations. The majority of the students were Bulgarian, and many received news of the events from their families back home. Soon the Western diplomatic community in Constantinople was abuzz with rumours, which eventually found their way into newspapers in the West. He was able to coordinate with British diplomat Edward Malet to bring the matter to the attention of the Sublime Porte, and then to the British foreign secretary Robert Gascoyne-Cecil the Marquess of Salisbury. MacGahan to report on the massacre stories firsthand. Widespread sympathy for the Bulgarian cause led to a nationwide surge in patriotism on a scale comparable with the one during the Patriotic War of 1875-1876. From autumn 1877, the movement to support the Bulgarian uprising involved all classes of Russian society. This was accompanied by sharp public discussions about Russian goals in this conflict: Anti-Russian cartoon depicting Russia as a vicious octopus. Russia preparing to release the Balkan dogs of war, while Britain warns him to take care. In July and August, the ill-prepared and poorly equipped Serbian army helped by Russian volunteers failed to achieve offensive objectives but did manage to repulse the Ottoman offensive into Serbia. No written agreement was made, but during the discussions, Russia agreed to support Austrian occupation of Bosnia and Herzegovina, and Austria-Hungary, in exchange, agreed to support the return of Southern Bessarabia - lost by Russia during the Crimean War - and Russian annexation of the port of Batum on the east coast of the Black Sea. Bulgaria was to become autonomous independent, according to the Russian records. A joint ultimatum by the European

powers forced the Porte to give Serbia a one-month truce and start peace negotiations. Turkish peace conditions however were refused by European powers as too harsh. In early October, after the truce expired, the Turkish army resumed its offensive and the Serbian position quickly became desperate. On October 31, Russia issued an ultimatum requiring the Ottoman Empire to stop the hostilities and sign a new truce with Serbia within 48 hours. This was supported by the partial mobilization of the Russian army up to 20 divisions. The Sultan accepted the conditions of the ultimatum. To resolve the crisis, on December 11, , the Constantinople Conference of the Great Powers was opened in Constantinople to which the Turks were not invited. A compromise solution was negotiated, granting autonomy to Bulgaria , Bosnia and Herzegovina under the joint control of European powers. The Ottomans, however, refused to sacrifice their independence by allowing international representatives to oversee the institution of reforms and sought to discredit the conference by announcing on December 23, the day the conference was closed, that a constitution was adopted that declared equal rights for religious minorities within the Empire. The Ottomans attempted to use this manoeuvre to get their objections and amendments to the agreement heard. When they were rejected by the Great Powers, the Ottoman Empire announced its decision to disregard the results of the conference. On January 15, , Russia and Austria-Hungary signed a written agreement confirming the results of an earlier Reichstadt Agreement in July This assured Russia of the benevolent neutrality of Austria-Hungary in the impending war. These terms meant that in case of war Russia would do the fighting and Austria would derive most of the advantage. Russia therefore made a final effort for a peaceful settlement. After reaching an agreement with its main Balkan rival and with anti-Ottoman sympathies running high throughout Europe due to the Bulgarian atrocities and the rejection of the Constantinople agreements, Russia finally felt free to declare war. Course of the war Opening manoeuvres Dragoons of Nizhny Novgorod pursuing the Turks near Kars , , painting by Aleksey Kivshenko Russia declared war on the Ottomans on 24 April and its troops entered Romania through the newly built Eiffel Bridge near Ungheni, on the Prut river. On April 12, , Romania gave permission to the Russian troops to pass through its territory to attack the Turks, resulting in Turkish bombardments of Romanian towns on the Danube. On May 10, , the Principality of Romania , which was under formal Turkish rule, declared its independence. The Russians could send a larger army into the Balkans: The Ottomans had about , troops on the Balkan peninsula, of which about , were assigned to fortified garrisons, leaving about , for the army of operation. The Ottomans had the advantage of being fortified, complete command of the Black Sea, and patrol boats along the Danube river. Russian crossing of the Danube, June , painting by Nikolai Dmitriev-Orenburgsky , In the event, however, the Ottomans usually resorted to passive defense, leaving the strategic initiative to the Russians, who, after making some mistakes, found a winning strategy for the war. The Ottoman military command in Constantinople made poor assumptions of Russian intentions. They decided that Russians would be too lazy to march along the Danube and cross it away from the delta, and would prefer the short way along the Black Sea coast. This would be ignoring the fact that the coast had the strongest, best supplied and garrisoned Turkish fortresses. There was only one well manned fortress along the inner part of the river Danube, Vidin. It was garrisoned only because the troops, led by Osman Pasha, had just taken part in defeating the Serbs in their recent war against the Ottoman Empire. The Russian campaign was better planned, but it relied heavily on Turkish passivity. A crucial Russian mistake was sending too few troops initially; an expeditionary force of about , crossed the Danube in June, slightly less than the combined Turkish forces in the Balkans about , After setbacks in July at Pleven and Stara Zagora , the Russian military command realized it did not have the reserves to keep the offensive going and switched to a defensive posture. The Russians did not even have enough forces to blockade Pleven properly until late August, which effectively delayed the whole campaign for about two months.

Chapter 3 : Serbia, The Iron Gates of the Danube – Postcards from the Transition

*BETWEEN THE DANUBE AND THE CAUCASUS. 4 Ft 0 Ft. A Collection of Papers Concerning Oriental Sources on the History of the Peoples of Central and South-Eastern Europe*Szerkesztette: Kara GyörgyAkadémiai Kiadó³, JÁ³ Ájllapot^o használt kinyv.

July 1, July 5, About two months ago I stumbled upon a gem in archaeological studies related to Proto-Indo-Europeans, the book , , : On sceptres, on horses, on war: Studies in defence of M. About Scepters Typological classification The genetic and chronological relationship of horse-head pommel-scepters is classified with incredible detail, to the extent that one could divide subregions among those cultures using them. Scheme of regional distribution –” chronological –” typological development of the carved horse-head stone scepters. Simplified conclusions of this section include emphasis mine: The [horse-head pommel-]scepters arose originally in the depth of the Khvalynsk culture. Following the now well-known finds, they are definitely related to those of the Middle Volga group. General scheme of genetic and chronological development of carved scepters by visual assessment of morphological details. In their next modifications, these scepters continued to evolve and develop into the area of the Khvalynsk culture in its latest stages, and possibly later. The simultaneous presence in the areas of the Ciscaucasian, Carpatho-Danubian, and especially Novodanilovka cultures, whose carriers continue the Khvalynian traditions of making stone scepters, and the scepters themselves in their non-functional implication in the local cultural environment , all definitely allow us to view these findings as imported Novodanilovka objects. Schematic depiction of the spread of horse-head scepters in the Middle Eneolithic. See a full version with notes here. Cultural relevance of scepters The text goes on to make an international comparison of scepters and their relevance as a cultural phenomenon, with its strong symbolic functions as divine object, its use in times of peace, in times of war, and in a system of ritual power. Here is an excerpt from Illiad II. Then among them lord Agamemnon uprose, bearing in his hands the sceptre which Hephaestus had wrought with toil. About the horse His studies on horse remains show an interesting, detailed quantitative and statistical approach to the importance and cultural and chronological origin of horses and likely horse domestication in each culture. Although the part on horse remains is probably a bit outdated today, after many recent studies of Eneolithic steppe sites see here one example , it still shows the relative distribution of horse bone remains among different steppe cultures, which is probably similar to what could be reported today: Territorial distribution of horse remains in the Middle Eneolithic period. Absolute and relative numbers. Even more interesting is the relationship of the distribution of horse remains with archaeological complexes and horse-related symbols. Some excerpts from the conclusions of this section: Accounting and analysis of archeo-zoological and archaeological data proper for a horse for a vast area from the Tisza and the Middle Danube to the Caucasus and the Urals which includes the main cultures of the western agricultural, Caucasian, and Eastern European cultural zones clearly points to the eastern cultural zone as a zone of the originally the most important social significance of a horse as the only possible zone of the earliest domestication, horseback riding and all-round use of a horse. In relation to the eastern, the western land –” the ancient Carpatho-Danubian or the Caucasian cultural zones –” are secondary and subordinate to the first on the phenomenon under consideration. Horse-shaped hanger-amulets made of bone. The first quantitative leap in the manifestation of the remnants of a horse, marking itself and the first qualitative changes in the social status of this animal, is due mainly to the Middle Volga culture of the developed Neolithic of the Middle Volga region in part, the Southwest Urals , which, accordingly, determine the cultural context, time and geographic region –” or, the initial, single and main epicenter of the process of taming and domestication of a horse. On the one hand, the subsequent substantial increase in the number of horse remnants, and, on the other, the wide inclusion of the horse in cults, rituals, funerary rituals horse pendants, ornamented metacarpus, horse bones, sacrificial altars in the Samara culture of the Early Eneolithic of the same region definitely indicates the continuing increase in the social significance of this species of animal, which was most likely expressed in the final design of a specialized horse breeding culture and, accordingly, in a wide range of applications using a horse for riding. At the same time, we can observe the beginning of the

transfer of the already domesticated horse from the original historical and geographic epicenter to other cultures of the eastern cultural zone and, in part, the cultures closest to the periphery of this zone, into the western agricultural zone Bolgrad-Aldeni P, Pre-CuCuteni-Trypillya A. Schematic depiction of cultures and regional-chronological distribution of percentage of horse remains. Depicted are arrows from Middle Volga and Samara culture to the rest Middle Eneolithic " early stages. One of the leading places in the remnants of the horse is in the Middle Volga region, the Khvalynsk culture. Genetically related to the Samara, the Khvalynsk I culture preserves the traditions of the ritual, cultural meaning, the treatment of the image of a horse in funerals altars, horse bones, funerary rituals. But, At the same time, it is in this precise culture that the image of the horse, included in the social symbolism horse-head pommel-scepter , for the first time it acquires a special, maximum social significance. That is why the appearance and subsequent widespread distribution of the social symbols in Novodanilovka-type objects can definitely be considered as another qualitative leap in the social significance of a horse " its use for military purposes for close and distant expeditions. And such an interpretation is fully confirmed from the analysis of Novodanilovka-type objects, which is the subject of discussion. Judging by the osteological data and the typological evolution of the horse-head scepters, the Khvalynian culture and remains of the Novodanilovka type are already associated with the relatively widespread and intensive findings of domesticated horses in various areas of the eastern cultural zone semi-desert regions of the Lower Volga and the Caspian region " Khvalynsk culture, forest-steppe and steppe from the Volga to the Dnieper " Sredni Stog, Repin cultures , and the western " agricultural Gumelnitsa, Cucuteni A-Tripolye B1 , and the Caucasus Pre-Maykop zones, where, however, the horse played a very modest role. Schematic depiction of cultures and regional-chronological distribution of zooarchaeological and ritual data on horses. Shaded are from top to bottom the Middle Volga, Samara, Khvalynsk, and Novodanilovka; in bold, other percentages of unrelated cultures: Since its domestication and the emergence of a specialized horse breeding, it has been also widely used for meat, milk and dairy products including the traditional hippace tradition of the later Scythians , and since the beginning of the early Eneolithic for transport and for riding purposes. Another thing is the horse as a means of war, a means of distant travel and expansion. The beginning of the use of a horse for these purposes, in the opinion of the author, is determined by the appearance of social symbolism in the form of horse-head scepters, and is most fully reflected in the memories of the Khvalynsk culture and, in particular, the Novodanilovka type. Concerning western or Caucasian cultural zones related to Khvalynsk, the horse is thought to have been linked to the eastern region, used mainly for riding, as a means of transport and for communication, which, however, does not exclude its use for meat. These are the main conclusions-interpretations, suggesting the analysis and archaeological and other sources containing information about the horse. And as for our pommel-scepters, then, as can be seen from these sources, the main thing is that the culture of the Middle Volga region, according to all the data, definitely accumulates in itself the longest traditions associated with the gradual increase of social significance of the horse. And if so, this circumstance motivates the possibility or necessity of appearing in the environment of the bearers of this culture of unique signs-symbols that carry within themselves or reflect the image of this animal as an extremely significant social reality. The revealed and characterized quality, as a matter of fact, fill or open by themselves the hypothetical elements we have previously identified, the meanings of that particularity, folded in the social sign-symbol, in our case " the horse-head-shaped scepter. Archaeological sites with objects signs-symbols related to horses. Horse-head scepters included in other maps are excluded from this one notice the conspicuous absence of such objects in Sredni Stog and neighbouring North Pontic regions. Taken together " and especially in combination with recent genetic studies " , though, they describe a clearer, solid model of how Proto-Indo-Europeans developed and expanded. Distribution of horse-head scepters, according to Dergachev, Sorokin Then with the expansion of Repin over the area, Sredni Stog peoples would have been absorbed. We also had three early Khvalynsk samples from Samara Eneolithic dated ca. This sample alone makes it quite likely that the expansion of R1a-Z subclades happened earlier than expected, and that it was associated with movements along forest-steppe cultures, most likely along the Upper Dniester or Dnieper-Dniester corridor up to the Forest Zone. We have now confirmation that Khvalynsk samples from the Yekaterinovka Cape settlement ca.

Zoomorphic carved stone scepter of the Ekaterinovka Cape burial With Wang et al. Although its direct connection to the expansion of early Khvalynsk with horse-related symbolism is not clear from the archaeological information shared none, this is what the paper has to say about them: On the specific burials, we have e. Possible evidence for a ritually motivated tradition of cranial surgery? J Am Phys Anthropol

During the late 5th millennium BC, cultural groups of the Eneolithic occupied the northern circumponctic area and the areas between the North Caucasus and the Lower Volga. For the first time, individual inhumations were placed below low burial mounds Rassamakin, During the 4th millennium BC, the area split into two cultural spheres. In the northern steppe area communities continued with the burial practice of crouched inhumations below low mounds, with this culturally transforming into the early Pit Grave culture. In contrast, in the Caucasian foothill zone and the neighbouring steppe, the Majkop-Novosvobodnaya culture emerged Kohl and Trifonov, Similarly, during the 3rd millennium BC, two cultural spheres influenced the area: The North Caucasian Culture dominated the Caucasian foothills for the next five centuries, while in the steppe area between the Lower Don and the Caucasus, regional groups of the Catacomb Culture existed side-by-side. Burials of the Eneolithic epoch late 5th millennium BC The oldest group of individuals with trepanations are found in the North Caucasian variant of the late circumponctic Eneolithic and date to the last third of the 5th millennium BC Korenevsky, Burials of this epoch are inhumations in shallow pits, chiefly without burial goods, but covered with large quantities of red ochre. Image modified from Wang et al. Previously known clusters have been marked and referenced. Without the datasets to test different models, you can only imagine what is happening with the processed, secondary data we have. Also interpreted in light of these early Khvalynsk-Novodanilovka migrations of horse riding chieftains and their close contacts with the Caucasus, you can clearly see where the similar CHG-like contribution to Ukraine Eneolithic and other North Pontic forest-steppe cultures which later contributed to Proto-Corded Ware peoples must have come from. The simplistically reported proportions of EHG: EEF ancestry might be similar in many of these groups, but the precise origin and evolution of such ancestral components is certainly not the same: The actual cultural-historical early Sredni Stog " Khvalynsk community, formed earlier than ca. Map of a steppe " forest-steppe border during the Eneolithic in the Pontic-Caspian region and b the border today, showing a more limited steppe zone in the North Pontic area reason for the specific ways of expansion of horse-related cultures and horse-related nomadic pastoralism during the Eneolithic. We have seen this problem arise in Bell Beaker samples expanding all over Europe, turning from a fully Yamnaya-like population to something else entirely in different regions, from more EEF-like to more CWC-like, sharing one common trait: We are seeing the same happen with Balkan groups and Mycenaeans, with Old Hittites, and with steppe MLBA from Andronovo peoples expanding over Central and South Asia, and we know that patrilineal clans and thus Y-chromosome bottlenecks were common after Neolithisation, especially with nomadic pastoralist steppe clans and probably also with many previous population expansions. Steppe Eneolithic peoples were thus no different to other previous and posterior expanding groups, and ancestry is going to be similar for people living in neighbouring regions, so Y-DNA will remain the essential tool to distinguish different peoples see here a summary of Proto-Indo-Europeans expanding R1b-L Because we need to explore in detail the continuation of Khvalynsk-related potential Proto-Anatolian cultures in the Lower Danube and the Balkans, e. There is a lot of work to do on proper definition of Bronze Age cultures and their potential dialects, as well as convergence and divergence trends, and not only of Indo-European, but also of Uralic-speaking communities derived from Corded Ware cultures. If we let the narratives of the s in Genetics in combination with the s in Archaeology dominate the conversation, then a lot of time will be absurdly lost until reality imposes itself. Some sentences corrected, and some information added to the original post.

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The Iron Gates are where the Danube narrows and flows between steep cliffs, marking the border between Serbia and Romania. This gateway has been fortified by and fought over by the Celts, Romans, Dacians, Byzantines, Turks, Habsburgs, Serbs, and Romanians for thousands of years. The Golubac Fortress marks the river entry to the gates. The fort has changed hands several times. When it was not used as fortress, protecting the gates, it served as a giant toll booth with a metal chain across the narrow portion of river, lowered once tribute is paid. Throughout most of its history the river was fast moving through the gates. The Romans built a road that was both a military road and a tow path where slaves and horses pulled boats against the current. Later steam locomotives pulled barges through the gates. I had always thought my first glimpse of the gates would be from the deck of a boat. Suzi and I had plans for a cruise last summer but the tour company got a better offer for a charter canceled the cruise. I certainly did not think that my first intimate experience with the Iron Gates would be from inside the turbine room of Iron Gates Dam. Last weekend Suzi and I traveled to Kladovo to look at one of the hotels we are considering for our summer school but because of fog down to the deck we saw nothing of the Iron Gates. This puzzled us because it was both foggy and getting dark. Pepe had contacted the manager of the Iron Gate Hydro project. Scattered around the entrance to the administration building were bits of the Roman Empire saved from the rising water behind the dam. The inscriptions and building friezes were all more than half a millennium older than the oldest exhibits in the Islamic Museum we saw in Doha the week before. We looked at the ship locks, which are under maintenance just now, but there are identical locks on the Romanian side, along with an identical powerhouse – mirror image industry – with a spillway in the middle. We walked down a long hallway lined with photographs of what the river looked like, behind the dam, before the water rose 90 feet. When we entered the long hallway we heard, and felt, a rumble coming from the other end. As we walked past the photo exhibits the rumble became a roar until we got to the powerhouse itself, you can feel the power through the soles of your feet, with six huge turbines geared at 72 revolutions a minute and a massive piece of very attractive Socialist Realist art anchoring the far wall. The Pictures of the Kladovo Rivera are from the summer, we did choose Kladovo for the summer school.

Chapter 5 : Earth Snapshot – Caucasus Mountains

DOWNLOAD BETWEEN THE DANUBE AND THE CAUCASUS A COLLECTION OF PAPERS CONCERNING between the danube and pdf pdf navigable waterway between the danube and the aegean sea.

Etymology[edit] Map of the Roman empire under Hadrian ruled – AD , showing the location of the Sarmatae in the Ukrainian steppe region Sarmatae probably originated as just one of several tribal names of the Sarmatians, but one that Greco-Roman ethnography came to apply as an exonym to the entire group. Strabo in the 1st century names as the main tribes of the Sarmatians the Iazyges , the Roxolani , the Aorsi and the Siraces. The Greek name Sarmatai sometimes appears as "Sauromatai", which is almost certainly no more than a variant of the same name. Greek authors of the 4th century Pseudo-Scylax , Eudoxus of Cnidus mention Sarmatae as the name of a people living at the Don, perhaps reflecting the ethnonym as it was pronounced in the final phase of Sarmatian culture. During the migration, the Sarmatians seem to have grown and divided themselves into several groups, such as the Alans, Aorsi, Roxolani and Iazyges. By BC, the Sarmatians replaced the Scythians as the dominant people of the steppes. Located in Tamoikin Art Fund In , Soviet archaeologist Boris Grakov [citation needed] defined a culture flourishing from the 6th century BC to the 4th century AD, apparent in late kurgan graves buried within earthwork mounds , sometimes reusing part of much older kurgans. It was a nomadic steppe culture ranging from the Black Sea eastward to beyond the Volga , and is especially evident at two of the major sites at Kardaielova and Chernaya in the trans-Uralic steppe. Grakov defined four phases: A paper on the study of glass beads found in Sarmatian graves suggests wide cultural and trade links. Graves of armed females have been found in southern Ukraine and Russia. By the 1st century BC, the Iranian tribes in what is today South Russia spoke different languages or dialects, clearly distinguishable. Sarmatian noblemen often reached 1. They had sturdy bones, long hair and beards. He wrote, "Nearly all the Alani are men of great stature and beauty, their hair is somewhat yellow , their eyes are frighteningly fierce". In the story, some Amazons were captured in battle by Greeks in Pontus northern Turkey near the river Thermodon , and the captives were loaded into three boats. They overcame their captors while at sea, but were not able sailors. After encountering the Scythians and learning the Scythian language, they agreed to marry Scythian men, but only on the condition that they move away and not be required to follow the customs of Scythian women. According to Herodotus, the descendants of this band settled toward the northeast beyond the Tanais Don river and became the Sauromatians. He credits the unusual social freedoms of Sauromatae women, including participation in warfare, as an inheritance from their Amazon ancestors. Their women, so long as they are virgins, ride, shoot, throw the javelin while mounted, and fight with their enemies. They do not lay aside their virginity until they have killed three of their enemies, and they do not marry before they have performed the traditional sacred rites. A woman who takes to herself a husband no longer rides, unless she is compelled to do so by a general expedition. They have no right breast; for while they are yet babies their mothers make red-hot a bronze instrument constructed for this very purpose and apply it to the right breast and cauterize it, so that its growth is arrested, and all its strength and bulk are diverted to the right shoulder and right arm. Polybius XXV, 1 mentions them for the first time as a force to be reckoned with in B. He uses both the terms of Sarmatai and Sauromatai, but never together, and never suggesting that they are different peoples. He often pairs Sarmatians and Scythians in reference to a series of ethnic names, never stating which is which, as though Sarmatian or Scythian could apply equally to them all. This statement indicates that the Alans already had a home in the Caucasus, without waiting for the Huns to push them there. Even more significantly, he points to a Celtic admixture in the region of the Basternae , who, he said, were of Germanic origin. The Celtic Boii , Scordisci and Taurisci are there. A fourth ethnic element interacting and intermarrying are the Thracians 7. Moreover, the peoples toward the north are Keltoskythai, "Celtic Scythians" Strabo portrays the peoples of the region as being nomadic, or Hamaksoikoi , "wagon-dwellers", and Galaktophagoi, "milk-eaters". This latter likely referred to the universal koumiss eaten in historical times. The wagons were used for transporting tents made of felt , a type of the yurts used universally by Asian nomads. Pliny the Elder writes 4. From this point the mouth of the Danube all the races in general are Scythian, though

various sections have occupied the lands adjacent to the coast, in one place the Getae Agrippa describes the whole of this area from the Danube to the sea. The name of the Scythians has spread in every direction, as far as the Sarmatae and the Germans, but this old designation has not continued for any except the most outlying sections. According to Pliny, Scythian rule once extended as far as Germany. Jordanes supports this hypothesis by telling us on the one hand that he was familiar with the Geography of Ptolemy, which includes the entire Balto-Slavic territory in Sarmatia, [citation needed] and on the other that this same region was Scythia. By "Sarmatia", Jordanes means only the Aryan territory. The Sarmatians were, therefore, a sub-group of the broader Scythian peoples. All Germania is divided from Gaul, Raetia, and Pannonia by the Rhine and Danube rivers; from the Sarmatians and the Dacians by shared fear and mountains. The Ocean laps the rest, embracing wide bays and enormous stretches of islands. Just recently, we learned about certain tribes and kings, whom war brought to light. Moreover, the Sarmatians exacted tribute from the Cotini and Osi, and iron from the Cotini ch. The geographer, Ptolemy, [citation needed] reports them at what must be their maximum extent, divided into adjoining European and central Asian sections. Considering the overlap of tribal names between the Scythians and the Sarmatians, no new displacements probably took place. The people were the same Indo-Europeans, but were referred to under yet another name. Later, Pausanias, viewing votive offerings near the Athenian Acropolis in the 2nd century AD, [34] found among them a Sauromic breastplate. On seeing this a man will say that no less than Greeks are foreigners skilled in the arts: They have, in fact, no dealings at all with the foreigners around them. To meet this deficiency they have contrived inventions. In place of iron they use bone for their spear-blades and cornel wood for their bows and arrows, with bone points for the arrows. They throw a lasso round any enemy they meet, and then turning round their horses upset the enemy caught in the lasso. Their breastplates they make in the following fashion. Each man keeps many mares, since the land is not divided into private allotments, nor does it bear any thing except wild trees, as the people are nomads. These mares they not only use for war, but also sacrifice them to the local gods and eat them for food. Their hoofs they collect, clean, split, and make from them as it were python scales. Whoever has never seen a python must at least have seen a pine-cone still green. He will not be mistaken if he liken the product from the hoof to the segments that are seen on the pine-cone. These pieces they bore and stitch together with the sinews of horses and oxen, and then use them as breastplates that are as handsome and strong as those of the Greeks. For they can withstand blows of missiles and those struck in close combat. In the late 4th century, Ammianus Marcellinus [35] describes a severe defeat which Sarmatian raiders inflicted upon Roman forces in the province of Valeria in Pannonia in late AD. The Sarmatians almost destroyed two legions: The latter had been sent to intercept a party of Sarmatians which had been in pursuit of a senior Roman officer named Aequitius. The two legions failed to coordinate, allowing the Sarmatians to catch them unprepared. Decline in the 4th century [edit] See also: Goths attacked Sarmatian tribes on the north of the Danube in Dacia, in what is today Romania. In very cold weather, the Romans were victorious, killing, Goths and capturing Ariaricus the son of the Goth king. After the Roman victory, however, the local population revolted against their Sarmatian masters, pushing them beyond the Roman border. Constantine, on whom the Sarmatians had called for help, defeated Limigantes, and moved the Sarmatian population back in. In the Roman provinces, Sarmatian combatants were enlisted in the Roman army, whilst the rest of the population was distributed throughout Thrace, Macedonia and Italy. The Origo Constantini mentions, refugees resulting from this conflict. The emperor Constantine was subsequently attributed the title of Sarmaticus Maximus. From bases in modern-day Hungary, the Huns ruled the entire former Sarmatian territory. Their various constituents flourished under Hunnish rule, fought for the Huns against a combination of Roman and Germanic troops, and went their own ways after the Battle of Chalons, the death of Attila and the appearance of the Bulgar ruling elements west of the Volga- current Russian territory. The Sarmatians were eventually decisively assimilated e.

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