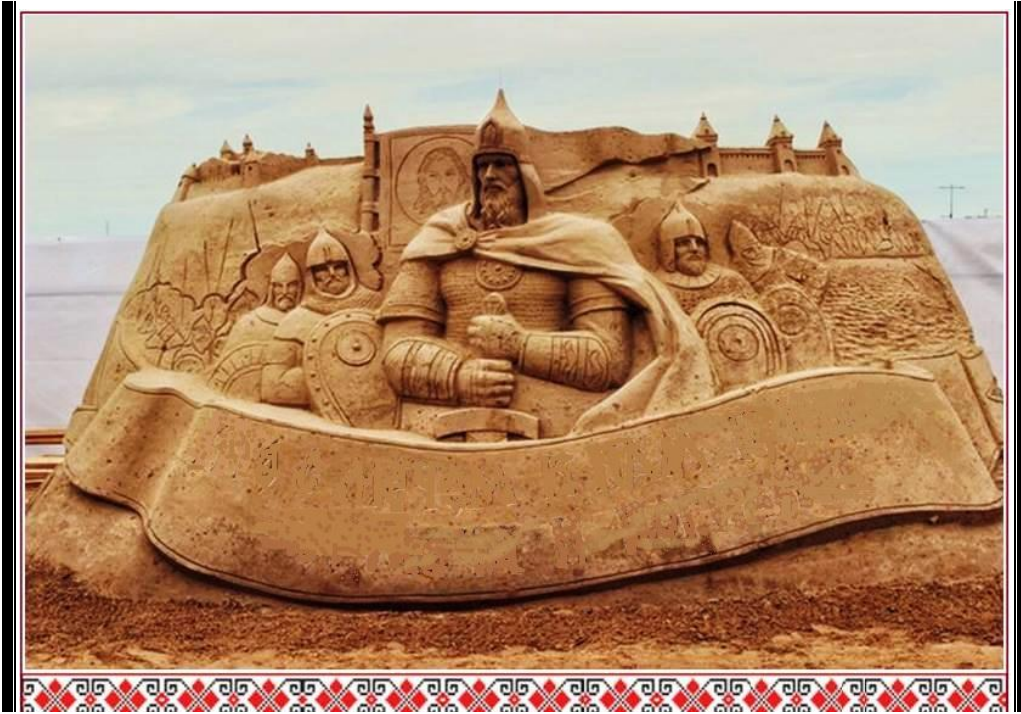


Chai Chats



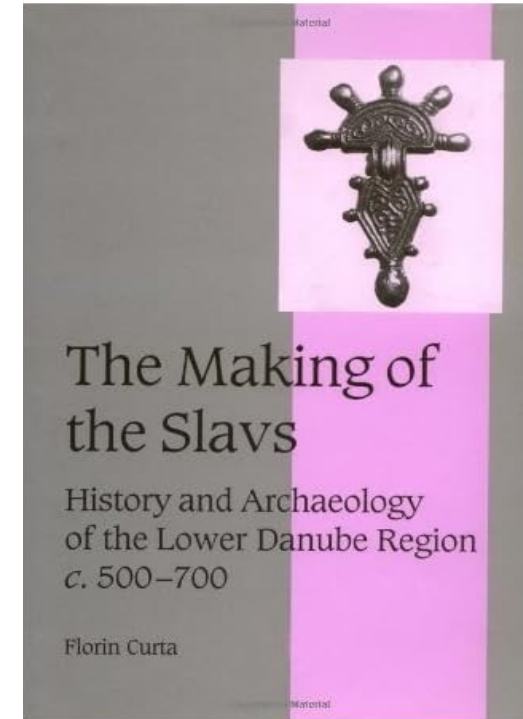
March 3rd, 2pm - 4pm
Canadian Macedonian Place Lounge

The Invention of the “Slavic Fairytale”



Basil Chulev
2014

The Making of the “Slavs”



Florin Curta
2001

The Making of the Slavs – Florin Curta

- <https://catdir.loc.gov/catdir/samples/cam031/00052915.pdf>
- <https://www.cambridge.org/core/books/making-of-the-slavs/AFD2FC388080F2ADC408D15C2230E5E4>
- YouTube
 - <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=3lBSm87304Q>
 - <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=vzGRueusGtc>



Origins and Rise of the Slavs | Dr. Florin Curta

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Florin Curta: The Making of the Slavs

In his presentation Dr. Florin Curta guides us thoroughly and intensely into not just the history of the early Slavs but into the very heart of the origins of the Slavic Peoples themselves.

He draws from archaeology, primary sources, material culture, DNA and so very much more to show the foundations of the Slavic world in the Early Middle Ages.

He explores a variety of issues and topics such as:

- Did they have their own origin stories?
- Was there actually Slavic migrations?
- Who were the Slavs before they were Slavs?
- And how did Slavic culture actually spread?
- What did outside sources like the Eastern Roman Empire and Western European authors have to say about them?
- What made them unique?
- How influenced were they by Steppe peoples like the Avars or Sarmatians?
- What were their religious customs and practices before the eventual Christian conversion?

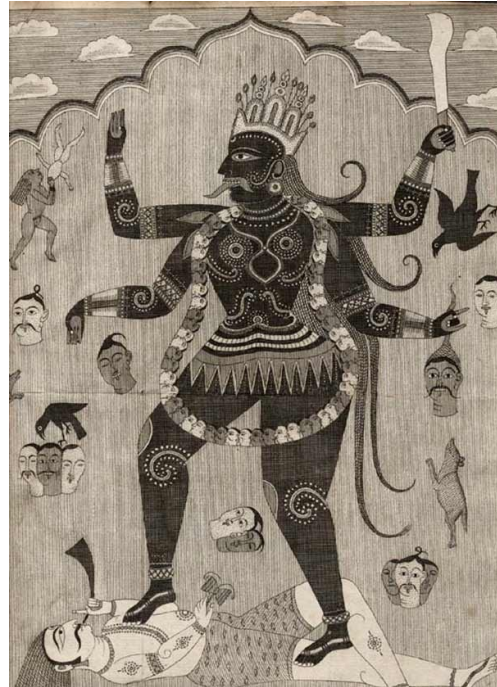
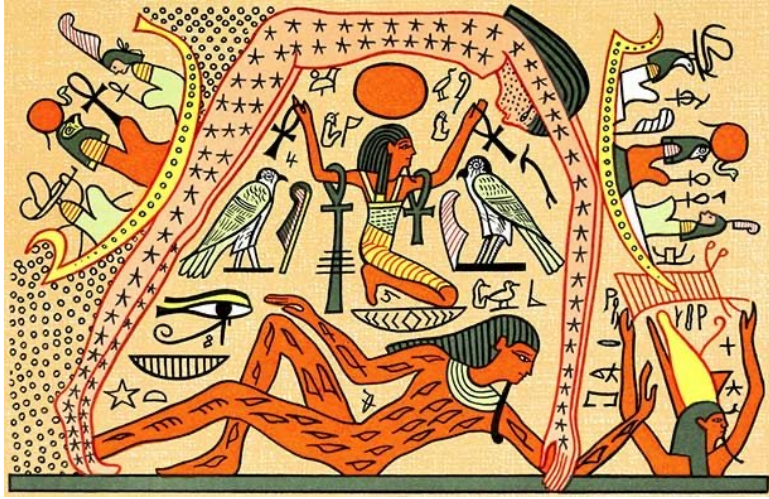
The Invention of the “Slavic Fairytale”

- The fairytale of the "Third Rome"
- Forgery of the 6th century Latin term “Sclaviniaē/Sclavonia” (i.e. 'Enclave') into utterly deceptive exonym “Sclavus/Sklaven” (anglicized “Slavic”)
- The “Fake News” from the past debunked
- The “Greek Project”
- The “Slavic Project”



https://www.pollitecon.com/Assets/Ebooks/The_Invention_of_the_Slavic_Fairytale.pdf

Did the Slavs have their own origin stories?



Did the Slavs have their own origin stories?

- There are no known origin stories of the Slav's and the first use of this term "SLAV'S" is very vague and distorted as to when, how and for whom it was used
- Speaking the language meant you received Christianity which then made you a Slav.
- It had nothing to do with race or ethnicity but religion.
- This brings us to the meaning of Slav/Slava/ Sclaveni
 - To Receive the Word of God – was to become Christian
 - Glory – the celebration of God in the Slava (Saints name day)

Were there actually Slavic migrations?

Contrary to the idea of a migration from the outside of the presumed homeland (Ukraine and Belorussia). There are no signs of a big population leaving this area and moving south and into Macedonia.

As we move from the 5th, 6th and 7th centuries, the areas of this supposit homeland of the Slavs, we have an increase in population not a decrease which is against the model of a migration from the outside.



Were there actually Slavic migrations?

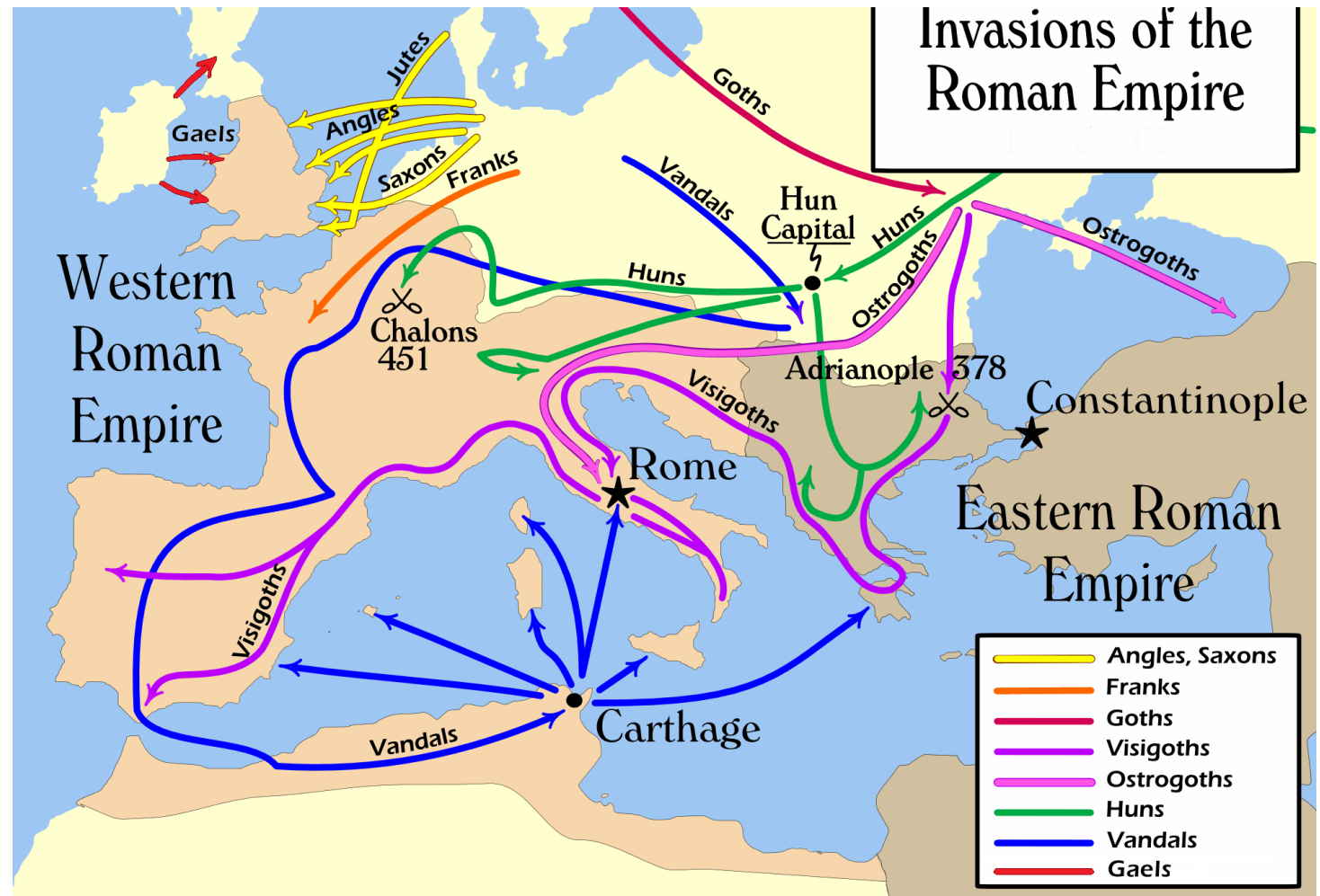
There is no archeological or historical evidence of this origin of the Slavs being at the border between present day Ukraine and Belorussia and there is no evidence of migration either.



Were there actually Slavic Invasions?

- Documented movements of invaders into the Eastern Roman Empire such as the:

- Goths (378)
- Visigoths (410)
- Huns (420)
- Vandals (435)
- Ostrogoths (454)
- Avars (600)
- Bulgars-Tatars (680)
- Avars (800)
- BUT no movement of Slavs



Were there actually Slavic Invasions?

First use of the term/s “Sclavus/Sklaven” (anglicized “Slavic”) were in 597CE when Thessalonika was attacked by Avars not Slavs.

It is written that after being repelled by the Thessalonians the Sklaveni went back to farming their lands around the city and region. Very odd account of invaders, or were they the indigenous inhabitants revolting against their urban oppressors?

G. SOTIROFF

THE ASSASSINATION OF
JUSTINIAN'S
PERSONALITY

LYNN
1974

- Justinian (527 – 565 CE)
- **Procopius of Caesarea (500-565)** was a prominent late antique Greek scholar and historian. Accompanying the Roman general Belisarius in Emperor Justinian's wars.
- Anecdota (Secret History) of Procopius also possessed the **original Slavonic** , manuscript of Vita Justiniani

The Assassination of Justinian's Personality

G. Sotiroff 1974

- **The Life of Justinian by Theophilus (Bryce & Jireček 1887)** - One of these facts is the Slavonic origin of the family of Justinian, a circumstance not only interesting in itself, but important as showing that Slavonic tribes had settled in Upper Macedonia or Western Thrace in, or soon after, the middle of the fifth century, a date considerably earlier than we should otherwise be entitled to accept.
- https://penelope.uchicago.edu/Thayer/E/Journals/EHR/2/Life_of_Justinian_by_Theophilus*.html

Glagolitic - Old Church Slavonic

- Old Church Slavonic manuscripts are written in two alphabets: Glagolitic or Cyrillic.
- Scholars debate as to which of the two alphabets was designed by St. Cyril (827-869 CE).
- Glagolitic letter-shapes emphasize the non-Greek identity of their writing system and origin

Table 1. Comparative table of Glagolitic characters and Scytho-Sarmatian runes

	Gsv	G	R	SIC	SIL	L		Gsv	G	R	SIC	SIL	L
1	у	У	У	В	У	У	13	о	О	О	О	О	О
2	ѣ	ѣ	ѣ*	Г	Г	Г	14	шт	Ш	Ш	Ш		
3	д	Д	Д	Д	Д	Д	15	с	С	С*	Ц	С	
4	е	Е	Е	Е	Е	Е	16	ш	Ш	Ш*	Ш	Ш	
5	ж	Ж	Ж	Ж	Ж		17	ч	Ч	Ч*	Ч	Ч	
6	dz	Дз	Дз	Д			18	ѣ	ѣ	ѣ*	ѣ		
7	и	И	И	И	И	И	19	ѣ	ѣ	ѣ*	ѣ		
8	л	Л	Л*	Л	Л	Л	20	ен	Е	Е*	Е		
9	м	М	М*	М	М	М	21	он	О	О*	О		
10	н	Н	Н	Н	Н	Н	22	ѣ	ѣ	ѣ*	ѣ		
11	с	С	С*	С	С	С	23	ѣ	ѣ	ѣ*	ѣ		
12	у	У	У	У	У	У							

G. s. v. – sound value of the Glagolitic character

R – Scytho-Sarmatian Runes

SIL – Slavic Latinic

G.– Glagolitic character

SIC – Slavic Cyrillic

L – Latin character

Archaeo- astronomical Site Kokinovo

- The megalithic observatory "Kokino" is located in the north-eastern part of the Republic of Macedonia, at 19km to the northeast of the town Kumanovo and in the vicinity of the village Kokino.
- The ancient observatory was used by the ancient "astronomers" for daily marking of the rising of the Sun and the Moon. The marker cuttings were intended to mark the rising of the Sun in the day of the summer solstice, the autumn and the spring equinox and the winter solstice.
- <https://whc.unesco.org/en/tentativeli sts/5413/>



Archaeo- astronomical Site Kokinovo

- The archaeological artefacts and runes etched into the rocks have been dated to the Early Bronze Age (19th - 17th century BC).
- The runes have similarities to Glagolitic and Linear "A", some of the earliest writing in Europe.



Old Church Slavonic

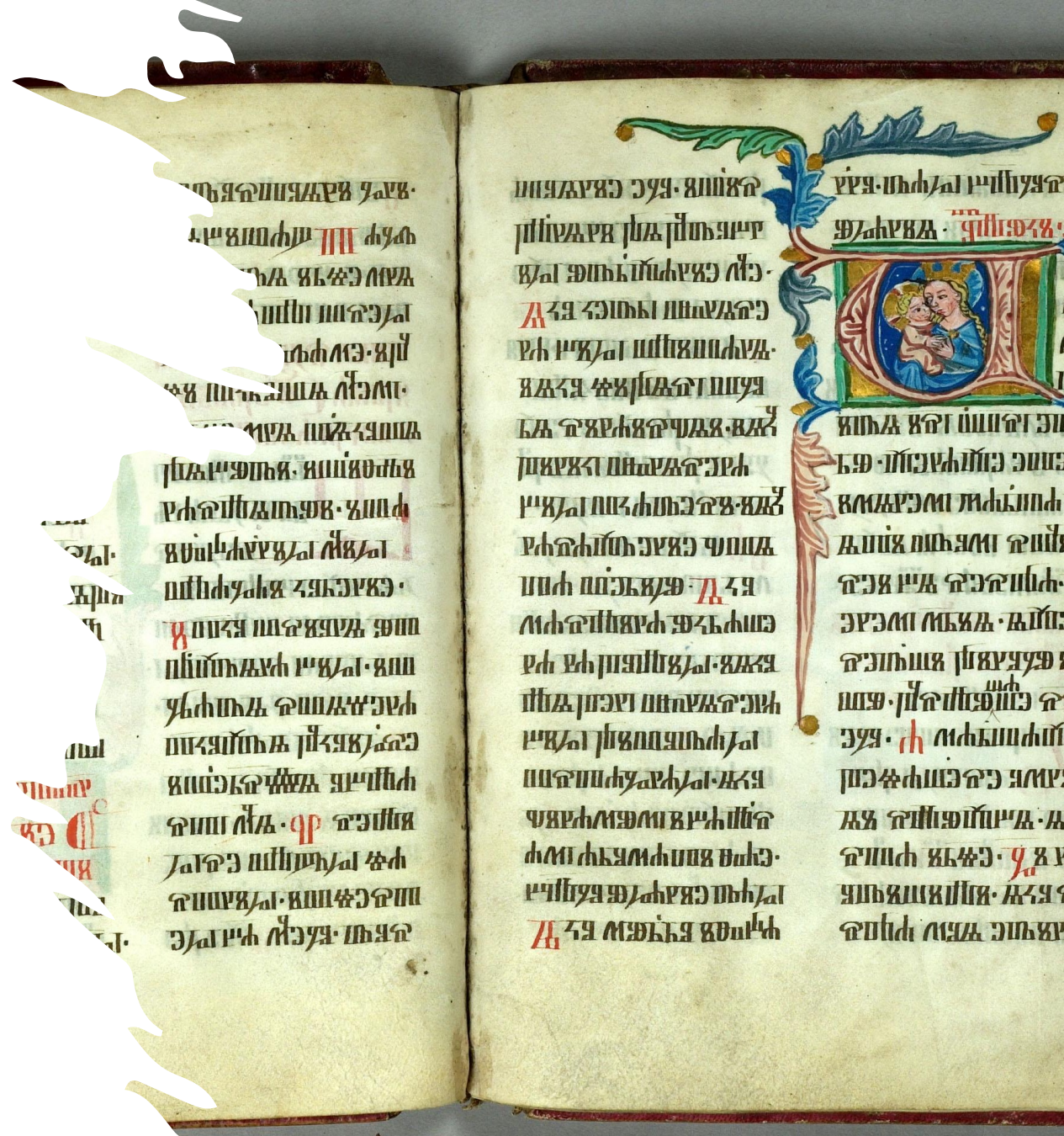
L'EVANGELIE de REIMS (the 'Reims Gospel') is a medieval Macedonic monument of the Glagolitic/Cyrillic alphabetization on which the French kings sworn in. This holy book from the 14th century miraculously is still well preserved and kept and in the Reims Library. The French kings were, according to the contemporary testimonies and sources, sworn in on this Glagolitic/Cyrillic bible.

[https://www.academia.edu/100968483/The Reims Gospel a Macedonic evangel on which the French kings sworn in](https://www.academia.edu/100968483/The_Reims_Gospel_a_Macedonic_evangel_on_which_the_French_kings_sworn_in)



The 'Reims Gospel'

The Cyrillic portion of this gospel firmly testifies its original Macedonian redaction. The famous Czech king Karlo IV of Luxemburg (anglicized: Charles IV) in 1347 built a Glagolitic Convent 'Emaus' in Prague, where eighty Dalmatian Benedictines from the Adriatic Sea islands of Pašman and Senj were invited to teach. It is remarkable that the convent is not far from the famous Karlov University, built the next year, in 1348 (Karlo IV also founded the University of Vienna in 1365).



Macedonian Dynasty 867-1056 CE

- The history of the Macedonian dynasty under the Eastern Roman Empire (Byzantine) falls into two periods, unequal in significance and duration.
- The first period extends from 867 to 1025, the year of the death of Emperor Basil II; the second, the brief period from 1025 to 1056, when Empress Theodora, the last member of this dynasty, died.
- This dynasty was part of Eastern Roman Empire and as such even though the majority of the emperors were of Macedonian descent, they promoted Roman values with Greek philosophy.



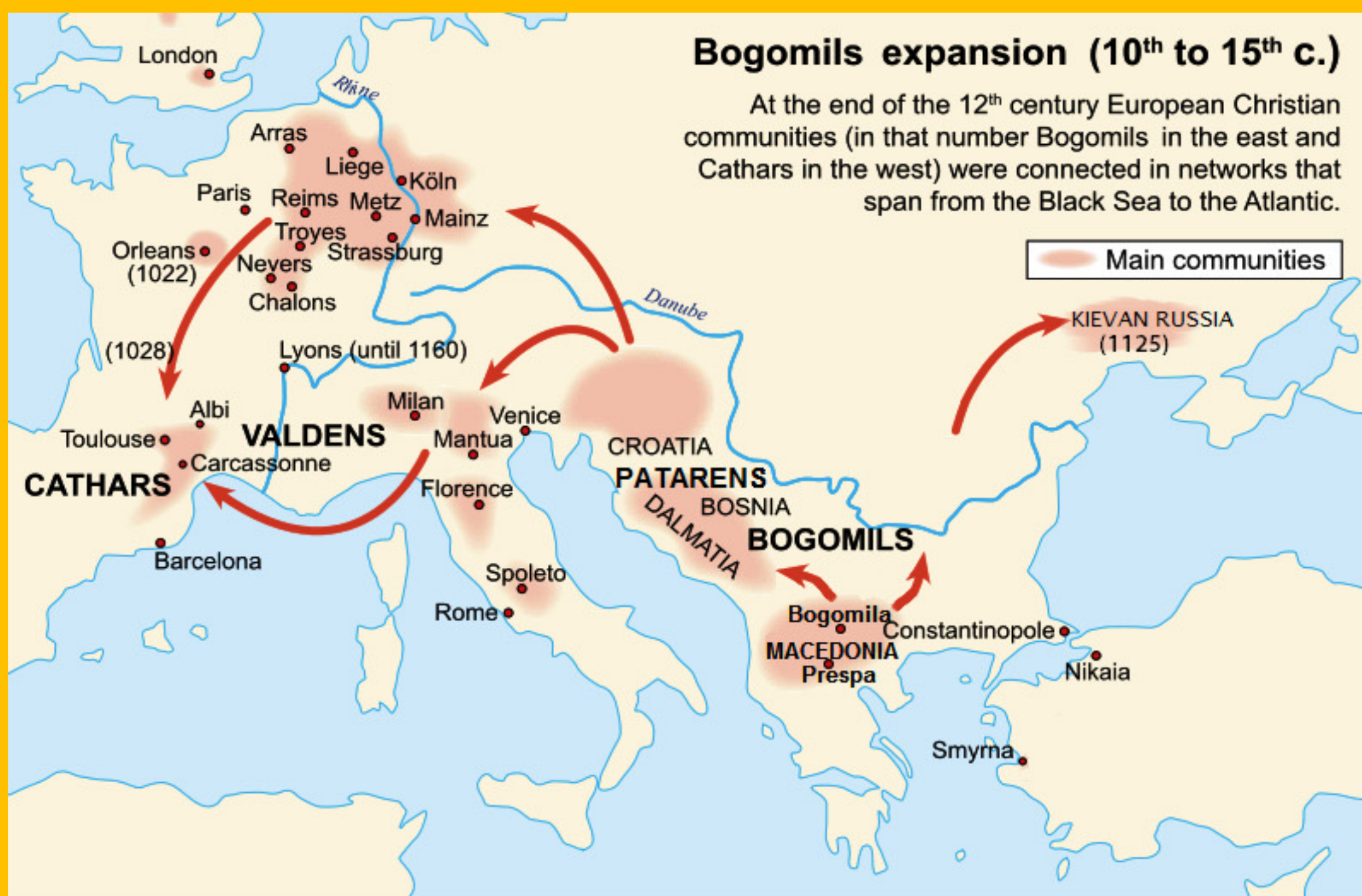
Bogomilism

- The neighboring Macedonian tribes to the north and northeast fell in the late seventh and early eighth centuries to the Bulgars—a Finno-Tatar horde of warrior horsemen. **The more numerous Macedonians, however, assimilated their conquerors but took their name.**
- A new Macedonian consciousness was awakened in the Balkans, one independent of Latin and Greek – **BOGOMILISM!** This movement began in Macedonia in 935 C.E.. Macedonia in that time was a subject state under Bulgar occupation, as it had been under Roman rule before.
- In 969 C.E. the Macedonians began an uprising against Bulgarian authorities and as a result of the squashing of the eastern Bulgarian region by emperor Tzimiskes, Bulgaria and Serbia were transformed into Byzantine provinces.



Bogomils expansion (10th to 15th c.)

At the end of the 12th century European Christian communities (in that number Bogomils in the east and Cathars in the west) were connected in networks that span from the Black Sea to the Atlantic.



Czar Samoil & Bogomilism

The revolt instigated by the Bogomils reached its peak in the Komitopuli rebellion (969-971), which marked the rise of the second Macedonic empire.

That Bogomilism had distinct features of a liberation movement is supported by the fact that the komitopuli David, Moysey, Aron and Samoil, sons of the komitai Nikola, accepted Bogomilism and began a rebellion in 869, resulting in breaking Macedonia free from the foreign Bulgar occupation, establishing the second great Macedonic state.



Czar Samoil and Bogomilism

According to French Byzantine historian Alain Ducellier, Samoils father belonged to an ancient Macedonian tribe. **What is indisputable, however, is that the State of Samoil was constituted by indigenous power in Macedonia, unrelated to Bulgaria.**

During his forty-years reign in Macedonia he incorporated the Bogomil movement in the reformed Macedonian church, with the See in Ohrid and Prespa.



Czar Samoil's Empire

- **Samoil's empire was not Bulgarian** as it was recognized by the Catholic Roman Curia and represented a new imperial dynasty, the empire was founded on a new state and legal basis, with new twin capitals at Prespa and Ohrid, and with a precisely defined core centred around Macedonia and the Macedonians as the fundamental element of the new empire.
- The empire was not merely a continuation of the First Bulgarian Empire recently shattered by Byzantium, but a new political entity which emerged independently as it broke away from the Eastern Roman Empire (Byzantine Empire).



The remains of the Basilica of Agios Achillios in [Lake Prespa](#), where Samoil's grave was found.



- <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=k4ijqw8-5nE>

Macedonian Emperor Basil II

The Roman emperor's stance in supporting and confirming the Ohrid Archiepiscopacy privileged and independent status was clearly directed against the Roman Papacy meddling into Eastern Ecumenical Congregation spheres of interest.

Basil II pleased the Macedonian
 episcopos and numerous
 eparchies by reconfirming their
 ecclesiastic positions under his
 imperial aegis.



Scholars place the Slavs in Macedonia so, what material culture can we find in the area?

- Contact Linguistics (new trend) when two languages come into contact with each other (looking at what words were borrowed from what language)
- There is clear evidence linguistically going both ways – in Germanic, Iranian, and Turkic (Avar) influences
- Social Linguistics – borrowing words from one language to create a new one (Spanglish)

Who were the Slavs before they were Slavs?

- *The so called 'late arrival' of the Slavs in Europe can now be replaced by the scenario of Slavic continuity from the Paleolithic period, and the demographic growth and geographic expansion of the Slavs can be explained, much more realistically, by the extraordinary success, continuity and stability of the Neolithic cultures of South-Eastern Europe. (Mario Alinei & Francesco Benozzo)*
- <http://www.continuitas.org/intro.html>



THE PALEOLITHIC CONTINUITY PARADIGM
FOR THE ORIGINS OF INDO-EUROPEAN LANGUAGES



THE PALEOLITHIC CONTINUITY PARADIGM
FOR THE ORIGINS OF INDO-EUROPEAN LANGUAGES

If the Slavs existed in Macedonia during the Paleolithic period, then can we assume that there is a strong connection between the ancient Macedonians, the Slavs and modern Macedonians today?



THE PALEOLITHIC CONTINUITY PARADIGM FOR THE ORIGINS OF INDO-EUROPEAN LANGUAGES

Overwhelming evidence (Alinei 1996, 2000), supports that the date of the earliest attestations and the earliest mentions of historians have absolutely no relevance for the problem of *dating the 'birth' of a language or of a people. Writing is an entirely separate phenomenon from speaking*, connected as it is to the forming of highly developed stratified societies, with a dominating elite needing writing to exercise its full power. Linguistic Imperialism

Alinei (2000, 2003) The totally absurd thesis of the so called 'late arrival' of the Slavs in Europe must be replaced by the scenario of Slavic continuity from Paleolithic, and the demographic growth and geographic expansion of the Slavs can be explained, much more realistically, by the extraordinary success, continuity and stability of the Neolithic cultures of South-Eastern Europe (the only ones in Europe that caused the formation of *tells*).

Tell settlements were villages that were densely concentrated near wetlands and rivers. These communities were first inhabited in 6,000 BCE by agricultural societies.



PALEOLITHIC

THE ORIGINS OF

Czar Vulkasin & Krajl Marko

The Eastern Roman Empire saw many invaders come and go. The same may be said in regard to Macedonia. Even the Crusaders (Fourth) ruled over the Eastern Roman Empire from 1204 until 1261. The Bulgarians reigned only 125 years in Macedonia during the ninth and tenth centuries, and disappeared without leaving any historical monument or tradition after Czar Samoil split from the Bulgarian Empire. The Serbians ruled over Macedonia in the thirteenth and fourteenth centuries for 140 years.

But, the local feudal princes ruled independently in their respective provinces without unity or mutual co-operation. The most powerful Vulkasin (1366-71) declared himself king of Macedonia and Greece. His reign was short lived as he had to face the advancing Ottoman forces in the Maritsa valley at Chernomen, between Philippopolis and Adrianople, on 26 September in 1371. In a surprise dawn attack, the Ottoman forces won decisively. The Christians suffered extremely heavy losses. Vulkasin's son and successor, Marko Kraljevic, a popular subject of Macedonian folklore, became an Ottoman **vassal**.



Krajl Marko

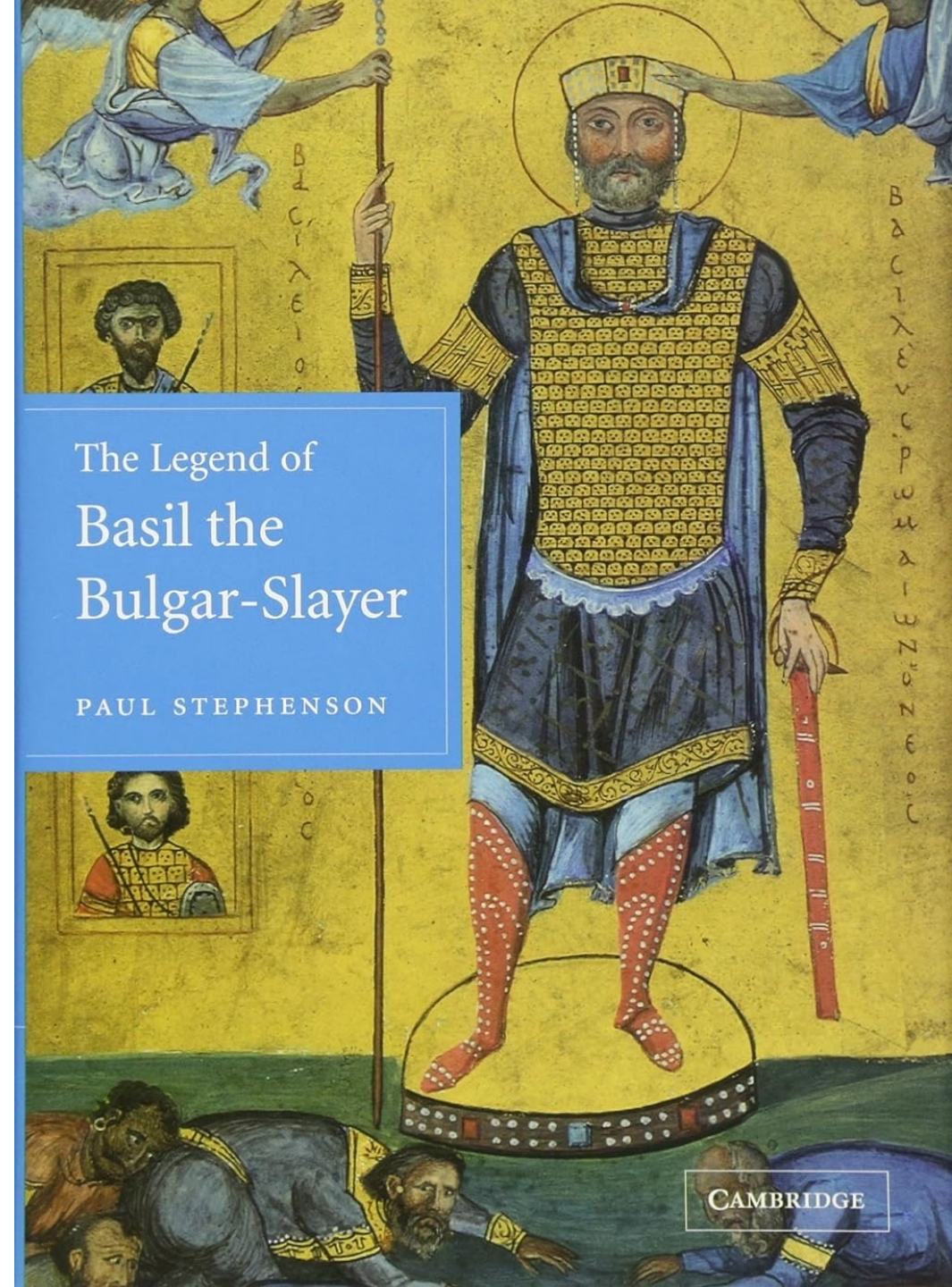
- *It is the folklore of Krajl Marko that is remembered in the oral history of the villagers of Sklithro-Zelenic-Sebalci. The original location of Sebalci, which is just north of lake Zazari has a number of landmarks identifying the Krajl Marko folklore. One identified as a huge flat rock with imprints of Krajl Marko, and his horse. Krajl Marko has been claimed also by Serbian and Bulgarian folklore but evidence points to his Macedonia connection.*

Slavic Identity Theory

The **Slavic ethnic identity theory** is a term that has been politicized and used in modern politics to support an outdated status of the 19th century territorial ambitions of non-“Slavic” groups. However, evidence both recent and historic, paints a different picture.

Slavic Identity Theory

- **Paul Stephenson in his book**, “The Legend of Basil the Bulgar-Slayer” reveals that the legend of the “Bulgar-slayer” was actually created long after his death. His reputation was exploited by contemporary scholars and politicians to help galvanize support for the Greek wars against Bulgarians in Macedonia during the late nineteenth and early twentieth centuries.
- And thanks to this subterfuge (deception), Greek or Bulgarian, historiography classified Samuel as the Bulgarian khans or tsars, and his state, which was made up of the indigenous Macedonian people, was called “Bulgaria”.



19th Century
Macedonian Folktales
by Marko Čepenkov



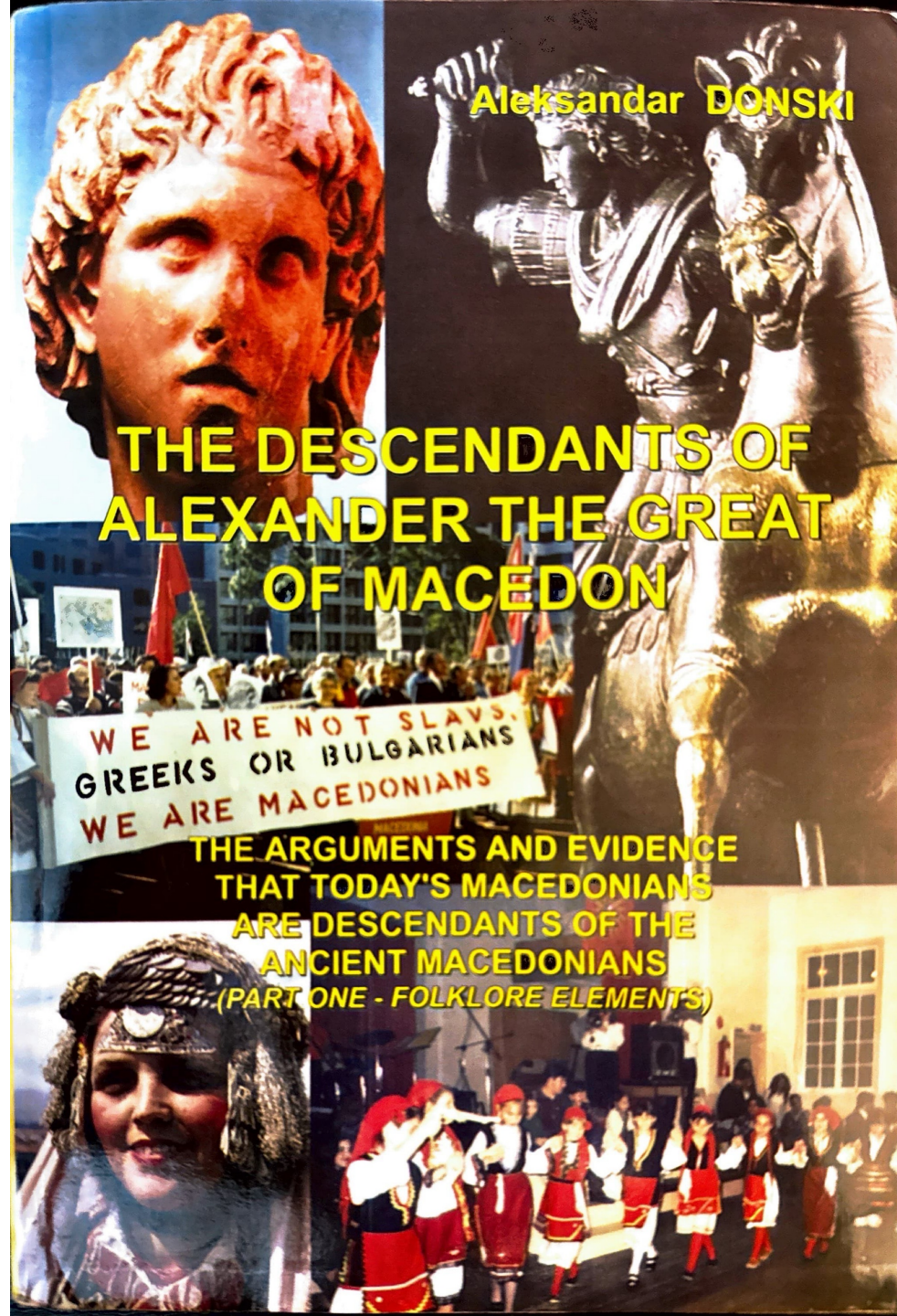
Identity

- According to Florin Curta, ETHNICITY is our **CULTURAL DNA**
- Marko Čepenkov – collector and recorder of Macedonian Folklore

Identity

Aleksandar Donski

- Connecting the past to the present with Macedonian Folklore



Ethnicity Our Cultural DNA

- Basil Chulev
 - The Reims Gospel, a Macedonic evangel on which the French kings sworn in
 - The Road to Konikovo (18 Century Gospel)
 - The Invention of the Slavic Fairytale
 - <https://vdocuments.mx/the-invention-of-the-slavic-fairytale-5659cee25a8c4.html?page=3>
- How did Slavic culture actually spread?
 - Florin Curta states that there is no evidence of any Slavic culture spreading (Language spread not people)

Ethnicity Our Cultural DNA

- **RELIGION OF PEOPLE**

- Worshiped divinities spirits of the water, lakes and rivers (Cult of Sveta Petka)
- The Cult of Saints (St. George & St. Demetrius)
- The Secret Knowledge of Folk Healers in Macedonian Traditional Culture
- Magic early Macedonic religion- under the hearth under the oven of any house there is a little pot with some seeds inside always millet. There is always the skeletal of an animal under the walls of the house, sacrificial Small statutes made of clay of an animals (Cow or horse) some in the form of humans



Ethnicity Our Cultural DNA

- Delineating a Circle as a protection against harm
- Origins of villages and sacrifices made for protection – Zelenich
- **As the Ottoman Empire was exempt from the early-modern witch craze, the ongoing practices of magical healing found in Macedonia provide a particularly rich site for such an investigation.**



Ethnicity Our Cultural DNA

Saints of the Balkans Edited by Mirjana Detelić and Graham Jones

The constant revision of our interpretations of data is demanded in the light of new discoveries and understandings.

Among the critical issues whose exploration can be particularly helped by examining material from the Balkans is the relationship between inherited beliefs predating Christianity and the Christian model of the world adopted later, for example as concerns the rural calendar, attitudes towards the dead, and the treatment of relics.

The intention of presenting the Macedonian folklore, is both concerned with the very beginning of Christianity in the Balkans, which came well before the generally supposed arrival of the Slavs.

https://www.academia.edu/7831514/Cult_of_the_Saint_in_the_Balkans

Cultural Rituals Still Permeate In Macedonian Celebrations Today

1. Eshka for new years
2. Martinka
3. Spring Equinox – Easter >>> Lazarini (Right of Passage of Females)
4. Sveta Petka – Life Giving Spring - waters
5. St. George day and the planting of crops – the ritual of men leaving for work outside the community
6. Summer Solstice (June 21) Jumping of fires – Christians adopted this to the feast of St. John The Baptist?
7. Fall Equinox (Sept.22 - Demetrius Day (Men had to come back home for the Harvest)
8. Koleda Babo and the Winter solstice Dec. 21 (Rite of Passage of Males)
9. Dudule ritual to make it rain
10. Babuna – Someone who is superstitious

Cultural Rituals Still Permeate In Macedonian Celebrations Today

Eshka for new years
(Vevcani Carnival which
is one of the oldest
cultural events in
Macedonia)



Cultural Rituals Still Permeate In Macedonian Celebrations Today

2. Martinka

In Macedonian tradition, women would fashion a small object of two twisted threads of wool, one red and one white. This Martinka is offered to loved ones on the first day of March. White is associated with strength and purity, while red symbolizes health and fertility.



Cultural Rituals Still
Permeate In
Macedonian
Celebrations Today

3. Spring Equinox –
Easter >>> Lazarini
(Right of Passage of
Females)



Cultural Rituals Still
Permeate In
Macedonian
Celebrations Today

4. Sveta Petka –
Life Giving Spring
- waters

Sveta Petka April 1, 1910 in Zelenich





Cultural Rituals Still Permeate In Macedonian Celebrations Today

6. Summer Solstice (June 21) Jumping of fires – Christians adopted this to the feast of St. John The Baptist?

Cultural Rituals Still
Permeate In
Macedonian
Celebrations Today

8. Koleda Babo
and the Winter
solstice Dec. 23
(Rite of Passage
of Males)



Cultural Rituals Still Permeate In Macedonian Celebrations Today

The ORO –
Strength, Unity.
One



Cultural Rituals Still Permeate In Macedonian Celebrations Today

9. Dudule A Poetic Ritual Invoking Rain and Well-Being

The girl who is dressed by an older woman or women in the branches of willow, maple, oak (i.e. of a sacred tree), or in sprigs of barley or lilac. All the rainmaking songs contain a chorus or refrain, either of the type “Oy-dodo, oy-dodo-le” or, in the Christianized versions, “Oh God,” “Dear God.”



Cultural Rituals Still Permeate In Macedonian Celebrations Today

- Mythological poems and chants occupy a prominent place among recorded folk songs and memorized customs and rituals. Collective memory, as the core of folk culture, has been preserved, protected, and passed down for millennia through the ritual performances of living folk traditions.
- Many of these ritualized-cum-literary performances have been modified in Christian times and have taken on numerous Christian elements, symbols, meanings, and functions.

DNA

“You can change history, but not your genes.”

- *With genotyping, which we will publish soon, we managed to prove whether our ancestors were Slavs or ancient Macedonians.*
- <https://www.vecер.press/%D0%B5%D0%BA%D1%81%D0%BA%D0%BB%D1%83%D0%B7%D0%B8%D0%B2%D0%BD%D0%BE-%D0%B7%D0%B0-%D0%B2%D0%B5%D1%81%D0%BD%D0%B8%D0%BA%D0%BE%D1%82-%D0%B2%D0%B5%D1%87%D0%B5%D1%80-%D0%B4%D0%B8%D0%BC/>

Quotes

“It is history making which creates opportunities – through an invented past – to reinvent the present ... My father, my grandfather and my great-grandfather were called Bulgarians by misunderstanding, but that doesn’t mean I have to stay in the dark like they do in terms of my nationality.” (Krste Misirkov)

Chai Chats

**Thank
You!**



March 3rd, 2pm - 4pm
Canadian Macedonian Place Lounge