The first Bulgarians called Kimmerians  
  
In the footsteps of a forgotten chronicle (with small abbreviations)  
  
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Page for the proto-Bulgarians. Language, origin, history and religion in articles, books and music.  
  
With this paper we do not raise a new theory about the origin of the Bulgarians, but seek to review and supplement previous research on this issue. The great disagreements on the question of the origin of the Bulgarians are indicative of the lack of a serious historical school in our country. The reasons for this are rooted in the overall socio-political development of Bulgaria from the Liberation to the present day. Institutions alien to his spirit were imposed on the Bulgarian people, who established rulers and public figures alien to their traditions. They diverted the people from its historical path and inflicted lasting damage on the Bulgarian national consciousness. In other words, we, the Bulgarians, were not ourselves, and that is why we suffered so many troubles and disappointments during the past twentieth century.  
  
The retreat from the national traditions also led to gross perversions in Bulgarian history. As academic historians, people without an inner spirit and vocation for this sacred work for the National Community have risen. With a light hand, these "scientists" passed in their works various foreign clichés and suggestions and thus created an extremely distorted image of the Bulgarian ancestors. At the same time, they underestimated the few surviving fragments of our national memory, preserved in medieval chronicles and folk songs and legends. This is how a nihilistic attitude to Bulgarian history and mythology was nurtured, which today bears its poisonous fruits.  
  
Our path is different. We believe in ourselves and in the historical memory of our people. Our principle is: The people remember. Yes, the Bulgarian people remember everything most sacred from their past - their ancestors, kings and heroes, as well as the most important events in their history. That is why the folk tales and the chronicles, written by the Bulgarians for themselves, are the fulcrums of our research work.  
  
In order to build a sound doctrine of the origin of the Bulgarians without hesitation to one-sided and mutually exclusive ones, it is necessary to thoroughly study all traces and hypotheses related to the origin of the Bulgarians - Hun, Cimmerian, Celtic, Iranian and even Turkic. For this purpose, all possible historical and ethnographic material about the peoples considered to be the ancestors of the Bulgarians should be collected and compared with the available sources for the ancient Bulgarians. From now on, all the pros and cons must be weighed, giving paramount importance to the kinship between peoples, and not only to the cultural parallels between them. Only in this way will we find ourselves among the nations of our blood.  
  
We support the thesis of the great Bulgarian revolutionary and national awakener Georgi Rakovski about the origin of the Bulgarians (1) The Bulgarian people originate from two main ethnic groups - KIMERI (BOLGI) and ARII. They created a state in the lands of present-day Afghanistan, known as Balhara, according to ancient Indian sources.  
  
Petar Dobrev refers the ancient Bulgarians to the peoples of East Iran, referring to the linguistic and cultural parallels between us and the peoples of the Pamirs. (2) Indeed, there are many words of Iranian origin in our language. We also notice Iranian traces in Bulgarian folk customs. But the ancient Bulgarians had special state titles unknown to the Iranian peoples. Their parallels are found in the legacies of ancient Sumer and the Celtic peoples. (3) These traces lead to the most ancient layer of our cultural and historical heritage, to that proto-people who stands at the foundation of our people and civilization. A nation with a strong state and military organization and a high spiritual culture. For such a people we accept the Chimeras, mentioned in some sources as the ancestors of the Bulgarians. The Chimeras are one of the most ancient eastern Iranian peoples who inhabited the northern Black Sea coast before the next eastern Iranians, the Scythians and Sarmatians. This is the subject of our current study.

The Cimmerians in the Old Bulgarian History

The modern German culturologist and philosopher Pierre Krebs dates back to European civilization about 4,000 years ago, when Indo-European nomadic tribes became Celtic, Germanic, Hellenic and Roman peoples and through the high cultures of pagan antiquity (European civilization). reached its heyday. ”(5) The only historical document that sheds light on this distant epoch is a Bulgarian chronicle entitled“ Briefly about the Bulgarian-Slavic people ”, published by Georgi Rakovski. It examines the oldest history of the Bulgarians, presented as one of the oldest peoples of Europe - a truth that was tirelessly defended by the worthy Bulgarian historian Gancho Tsenov (6). The chronicle begins as follows: “In ancient times, the Bulgarian people came to the Black Sea to the Volga River from the great Scandinavia, and they were called GIMERI and KIMERI, where they multiplied and before Alexander the Great came first to this country. Illyricum was the first king after 3522 from the Creation of the World (1986 BC), and after him reigned King Bladilius, and he defeated Philip the Macedonian king and made him his subject. Then in 3685 (1823 BC) the two brothers Brem and Bolg were kings, and because many kings overcame and conquered many lands, the people were named after them. Bram conquered the West, and remained there along the West Sea, the Baltic to Pomerania, and were called Pemi and Slovaks, and then Brandi-Buri. Bolg conquered and took over the land of the Eastern country, and settled there with his people, and called themselves Bulgarians, who then fought with Alexander the Great and his Macedonians. ”(7)

In its significance for Bulgarian history, Rakovski's Chronicle is comparable to the Name Book of the Bulgarian Kings, but unfortunately it is still not recognized as authentic by official historical science. The obvious reason for this is the mixing of events from different historical epochs in it:

The migration of the Chimeras in the beginning of the II millennium BC. and the reign of the Celtic kings Brem and Bolg in III BC. In all probability, the mixing of historical events was allowed in the transcript of this chronicle from an older original, but this evil does not seem irreparable at all. Because the reign of Brem and Bolg has been documented by some ancient historians such as Polybius and Pausanias (8). In general, it is associated with the Celtic conquests of the Balkans and Asia Minor. In the IV-III century BC. Celtic tribes descended from Central Europe to the Balkans and settled in the lands they conquered. The two brothers-kings Brem and Bolg founded a Celtic kingdom in Thrace with the capital Tile (Thule, today's Tulovo, Stara Zagora region), which lasted nearly 60 years. They are actually at war with Alexander the Great.

Excluding these artificially layered events from the content of the chronicle - namely the reign of Brem and Bolg and their relations with the Macedonian rulers, we see completely different events that took place in a much more distant era. It is about the migration of the Chimeras from Scandinavia to the Volga and the Black Sea in the beginning of the II millennium BC, not of the Celts from Central Europe during the time of Philip of Macedon. The Chimeras conquered many lands and created two kingdoms - the kingdom of Brem in the West, in Pomerania and Brandenburg, and the kingdom of Bolg in the East. These kingdoms have nothing to do with Thrace, where the Celtic kings Brem and Bolg ruled together. It is especially important for us that Tsar Bolg gives the name of our people - Bulgarians. According to the chronicle, we come from those Chimeras who are his subjects and accept his name. Indeed, King Bolg is revered by the Bulgarians as an ancestor, he has become a myth, immortalized in the famous carol "Bolg was born, Christmas." (9) But at the same time the Celtic king Bolg is not known as an ancestor of the Bulgarians.

These findings show that in different historical epochs there were two kings named Bolg - one Cimmerian and one Celtic. Their common name caused the unknown chronicler to mix their deeds. The question of the connection between the Celts and the Chimeras also arises, which we will consider below.

Paisii Hilendarski also tells about the migration of the Bulgarian ancestors from Scandinavia to the Volga and Brandenburg in his Slavo-Bulgarian History. There, however, instead of Kimmerians, they are called Scandinavians after Scandinavia. (10)

Valuable information about the early Bulgarian history is also contained in the "History of the Bulgarian Slovenian people", written by Hieromonk Spiridon. Although he briefly mentions the Cimmerians, Spiridon does not regard them as the ancestors of the Bulgarians. According to him, the Bulgarian people originate from the so-called "Misigiti" or "Misageti", named after their ancestor Mosoch, one of the sons of Japheth. (11) Apparently Spiridon meant the ancient Massagetes, who are still related to the Bulgarian equestrian people. However, the most ancient history of the Bulgarian people presented by him tells of the same kings and events known from the Chronicle of Rakovski, but here the reign of Tsar Bladiliy dates back to 986 BC, and the Kimmerians are not mentioned at all. mentions. At the same time, some details omitted in Rakovski's Chronicle are explained here, and in general the movement of the Bulgarian ancestors - the misaggets, exactly corresponds to the distribution of the Chimeras according to the classical sources. Excluding the Bible-influenced account of the coming of Mosoch from Babylon, the oldest Bulgarian homeland is the lands along the Volga River and the Black Sea, ie. old Cimmeria, mentioned by Herodotus.

As for the Scandinavia in question, it later became the conquest of King Brem, who actually conquered many lands in Central, Northern and Eastern Europe:

"Brem took (the lands) north of the Danube and west of the conquered lands even to the Baltic Sea and Pomerania, and settled there and (his people) named himself after his king - Bremi and Pemi - the current Czechs. Pomerania, which is the land of Brandiburia and not only Brandiburia, but also Sweden and the great Scandinavia, which is now called Danimarko. And when he returned from there, he went against the Sarmatians and the Russians and defeated them, and built a city in their land and called it the New City. ”(12)

Apparently, by "great Scandinavia" Spyridon did not mean the Scandinavian peninsula, but Denmark, and it was there, on the Jutland peninsula, that Chimeras lived, according to Roman historians. Brem's conquests in the lands of Russia could explain the origin of the name of a city 100 km north of Moscow - KIMRI.

The story of King Brem's conquests necessitates a serious rethinking of our knowledge of the ancient history of Europe. According to the stories of Rakowski and Spyridon, the two kings Brem and Bolg conquered a significant part of the European continent - they held a powerful empire comparable to that of Attila in the IV century. Apparently these chronicles recreate the memory of a distant historical epoch, passed under the rule of the Cimmerian kings Brem and Bolg. Much later, the Celtic kings who ruled Thrace were named after them, as a sign of continuity with their mythical greatness. In doing so, we also raise the fateful question of the true history of European civilization. To this day, for official European historians, the rich "Haldstadt culture" in the Upper Danube remains a dead archaeological concept, as if it has somehow fallen into oblivion, and no legends remain about it. It is as if the peoples of Europe are some kind of unremembered crowds who lived in fragmented tribes in antiquity, as the authors of the famous "Protocols of the Sages of Zion" wish ... And they still hold the view that European civilization began in Greece and Rome.

No, for us Europe starts from the Empire of Brem and Bolg!

When it comes to the Кimmerians, we can't help but think of the famous hero Conan the Barbarian, portrayed as a Cimmerian. In his image, the writer Robert Howard sings the hero of his Cimmerian ancestors, whom he considers descendants of the Atlanteans. "In the veins of Conan flows the blood of the ancient Atlanteans, swallowed by the seas eight thousand years before his time." (13)

It is known from the Plato-Critius dialogue that Atlantis sank in the 10th millennium BC, so Conan must have lived in the 2nd millennium BC. Hr. - at a time when the Chimeras are entering the historical scene. From nowhere, Robert Howard knew of the distant events described in Rakovsky's Chronicle.

The origin of the Bulgarians is derived from the Chimeras and according to the history of the Volga Bulgarians "Jagfar tarihi" (History of Jagfar). There they are called KAMIRTSI: “The Kamirs are a branch of the Sindhi tribe. (14) Here the Sindhis are called the peoples who inhabited the mountains north of India, once called by the common name Sindh. (15) It is further described of the wanderings of the Chimeras in Central Asia, where they were separated from various peoples considered their descendants - massagets (masguti), Armenians (Armani), Alans, Saki (Saklans), including Bulgarians. "And the settlers from Idel (Volga - b.a.) who went the furthest from all, were called Bulgarians. In Jagfar Tarihi, however, it is specified that this story is based on" Khazar Tarihi "(History of the Khazars). A similar pedigree of the Bulgarians is brought by the Khazar kagan Yosif, who presents them as descendants of Homer. He complements the biblical genealogy of Japheth-Homer-Togarm with the names of Bolgar and his nine brothers. It is known that after the establishment of Christianity and Islam (and Judaism among the Khazars), the derivation of the genealogies of different peoples from the sons of Noah became commonplace. It seems that the Khazars knew the history of the origin of the Bulgarians, and due to the close extinction of CHIMERI (GIMERI) and HOMER, it is reproduced in this genealogy, derived from the biblical. However, it is possible that Homer was indeed the ancestor of the Cimmerians, not their great-grandmother. Close to this genealogy is recreated in an unspecified source, entered in the "Oriental Library" of Erbelo de Molenville (1697): Volga - b.a.), where he settled and had two sons: Bulgar and Bertis… ”(16) Here, too, the events are connected with the Volga River, as well as in Jagfar Tarihi. It is possible that the Volga was named after the Bulgarians, and not the other way around, as Paisii Hilendarski claims.

Valuable information about the ancient Bulgarians is contained in the work of Procopius of Caesarea "History of Wars". He examines the genealogy of the Bulgarian Utiguri and Kutriguri tribes, which he refers to the Huns: “In ancient times the Huns, then called Cimmerians, lived there (beyond the Sea of ​​Azov) and all obeyed one king. Once upon a time there was a tongue that had two sons. The name of one was Utigur and the other was Kutrigur. After the death of their father, they divided their paternal states and gave names to their rulers, because according to them, even today one part is called Utiguri and the other Kutriguri ”(17).

The crossing of the Sea of ​​Azov was of crucial importance in the life of the Utigurs and Kutrigurs. That is why they connect this event with a legend, which Procopius presents as follows:

"If what people are saying is true, a large number of Cimmerian boys, while hunting, chased a deer and it jumped into the water before their eyes. The boys, motivated either by ambition or by love of hunting or some divine predestination, followed the deer and did not leave it until they reached the other side of the shore with it. What they were pursuing has disappeared - who can say what it was! … The boys really did not bring home hunting, but an occasion for fighting and loot. When they returned to their homeland, they informed all the Cimmerians that the water was passable. They immediately took up arms and, without much thought, crossed to the other shore. ”(18) The same legend was recorded by Jordan and other historians, and this shows that it became famous in Europe in the Early Middle Ages.

In his own way, the Russian historian Vasily Tatishchev studied the origins of the Bulgarians and defined the Bulgarian ancestors as Celtic-Brahmins, and also found similarities between them and the archipelagos described by Herodotus. (20) With his thesis Tatishchev also raises the question of the historical connection between the ancient Bulgarians and the Brahmins, as well as the origin of the Brahmins themselves. Indeed, the Latin chronograph indicates the common origin of Bulgarians and Brahmins (Gymnosophists) - "they are all Bactrian", ie. (21) The Brahmins themselves also derive their origin from there and worship the two sacred mountains rising in their old homeland, Su Meru and Mandara. They are also revered by the ancient Bulgarians under the names Samar (in Volga Bulgaria) and Madara, as the main sanctuary of Danube Bulgaria is called.

The surest proof that Bulgarians and Kimeri are one people is found in the history of Mesopotamia. At the beginning of the II millennium BC. in its northern part the people of BALHARIS settled, with a ruler named CIMBERIS. (23) The connection between these two names supports our thesis. The settlement of the Bulgarians in Mesopotamia at the time agreed with the information about the Kimmerians by Rakovski and Robert Howard.

So far, we present the main historical evidence of the Cimmerian origin of the Bulgarians, along with discussions on their content. Most of these sources are known from the historical literature, but to this day they are overlooked by superficial remarks by both academic historians and independent researchers. It is as if the Cimers are not an ancient people with their own cultural identity, spreading their military power and civilization throughout the Old World. Moreover, the Bulgarians themselves have written about their Cimmerian origin. Indeed, in world historical science, the Cimmerians remain a poorly studied people. But this should not disappoint us, on the contrary - to encourage us to seek the truth about our ancestors. The main focus of the Cimmeri is on the Celtic literature, as it is known that some of them are part of the Celtic people. Because of their connection to the Celts, some scholars, such as Tatishchev, define the Cimmerians as Celtic Kimmerians. Rakowski uses the same definition and examines the history of the Cimmerians in relation to the Celts of Brem and Bolg, accepting uncritically the mixing of historical events in the chronicle he sought. However, he remains the only Bulgarian historian who seeks to comprehensively clarify the question of the Cimmerian kinship of the Bulgarians.

Supporting the thesis that the ancient Bulgarians are Chimeras, we do not underestimate the name BULGARIANS and its sacred meaning in our national self-determination. It is true that Bulgarians have always kept their name, as Peter Dobrev concludes. But he also claims that the Chimeras are not the ancestors of the Bulgarians, but only a people related to us. However, the historical development of nations is a comprehensive and dynamic phenomenon that does not tolerate unambiguous definitions. In this respect, Rakovski's Chronicle is more than a historical document. It testifies to the great truth about the genealogy of the peoples: how a proto-nation - in this case the Chimeras, multiplied and settled, and from its branches new peoples emerged - Bulgarians, also Slovaks-brandiburi. But this chronicle shows that and how the Bulgarians have not forgotten their older name. Just as the Persians and the Indo-Aryans (bharata) continued to bear the sacred name of their proto-people - the Aryans, recorded in the Avesta and the Vedas. On the other hand, the name of the Bulgarian ancestor - Bolg, is not only Bulgarian. It also passed through the Chimeras to the Celts. It still exists today in the Welsh name tradition. These conclusions show that the two names - KIMERI and BOLG (BULGARIAN) go hand in hand in the Cimmerian national heritage.

The path of the Cimmerians through the centuries

According to well-known sources, the Kimmers appeared on the historical stage in the VIII century BC. AD, after leaving their homeland north of the Black Sea, expelled by the Scythians. Herodotus narrates these events as follows:

“The Scythian nomads lived in Asia, but the Massagetes pressed them with war, and they crossed the Araxes River and headed for Cimmeria; it is said that the land where the Scythians lived once belonged to the Cimmerians. (IV; 11) Herodotus goes on to tell a sad and incredible legend: how the Chimera people decided to leave their land in the face of numerous enemies, and the kings decided to die rather than survive this disgrace. "When they made these decisions, they split up - they were equal in number, and started fighting with each other. After all the kings were killed, the people of the Cimmerians buried them by the river Turas (and their tomb is still visible) and so, after burying them, left the country. " (24)

However, Georges Dumesil found a similar legend in Ossetian mythology, considered a successor to the Scythian one. There, instead of Cimmerian nobles, there is talk of the Narti heroes, the main protagonists in the Ossetian epic. In such circumstances, they chose to commit suicide by building mounds in advance. Thus Dumesyl concludes that Herodotus tells a Scythian legend connected with the Chimeras after the conquest of Cimmeria. (25)

“And now in Scythia there are more Cimmerian walls, and there are Cimmerian fords, and a country called Cimmeria; there is also a Bosphorus called the Cimmerian. ” (IV; 12) (26) Of all these ancient names attesting to the former Cimmerian kingdom, only the name of the Crimean peninsula is preserved today - it is indeed a derivative of Cimmeria. As for the Cimmerian Bosphorus, this is the ancient name of the Kerch Strait, connecting the Black Sea with the Sea of ​​Azov.

Herodotus goes on to describe how the Chimeras withdrew from their old homeland on the eastern shores of the Black Sea, passed through the Caucasus, and settled on the peninsula where the Greek city of Sinope, on the Black Sea coast of Asia Minor, was located. He does not specify the time of the Cimmerian migration. However, his account agrees with the information of the Greek poets Archilosus and Kalinus about the Chimeras who entered Asia Minor in their time. Archilossus is known to have lived from 720 to 660 BC (27).

The movement of the Cimmerians is also confirmed in the historical chronicles of Assyria, where they are called GIMIRAI. Sargon II fought the Chimeras, who invaded the northern provinces of his empire. In 706 he moved to Tabal, where he met the Kimmerians. Sargon died in 705 in one of the battles with them. During the reign of Assyrian King Ersarhaddon, who ruled from 681 to 668, the northern borders of Assyria were attacked by Chimeras allied with Safarads, Medes, and Mines. This military alliance in the Assyrian chronicles is known as Uman-Manda (numerous hordes). For his part, Ersarhaddon allied with Bartata, king of the Ishguts (Scythians), and with his help repulsed the invasion of the Chimeras and their allies. In the battle of Hubusha in 677, the Cimmerian king Teuspa died.

During the war with Assyria, the Chimeras destroyed the Phrygian kingdom of Midas and conquered part of Asia Minor for at least 30 years. In 685 they reached the northern borders of the Lydian kingdom, and in 660 the Lydians were threatened with defeat. King Lydia Giges called on the Assyrians for help, hoping that they would attack the southern flank of the Chimeras and thus repel their invasion of Lydia. According to Assyrian sources, Giges won a victory over the Chimeras. But Giges' attempts to form a strong alliance with Assyria proved futile. In 652, the Chimeras defeated Lydia and conquered its capital, Sardis, and ravaged Greek cities on the Aegean coast of Asia Minor. Some ancient historians claim that long before the historic attack on Sardis, Lydia was attacked from the north by a tribe called the Chimera. Eusebius launched these attacks in the 12th century BC. Hr.

The success of the war against Lydia gave confidence to Tugdam, the king of the Chimeras, to resume the war against Assyria, advancing through Cilicia. However, the Chimeras failed to hold Cilicia. In the ensuing fighting, Tugdam was killed and replaced by his son Sandakshatra. Later, the son of the deceased Giges - Ardis, as well as his grandson Aliates repelled the Chimeras from Western Asia Minor.

Much later, the Cimmerians returned to the historical scene of Europe. They are threatening Rome, which is still in its prime. In Roman sources, the Chimeras are known as KIMBRI. In the Balkans, the Cimmerians allied with the Thracian tribe Treri, which is why Strabo identified them as Thraco-Cimmerians. He clearly indicated the path of their resettlement. They "moved west to Europe, passing along the Danube in (Moesia) and reaching (Pannonia). They immediately recognized the tombs of their ancestors, reminiscent of their Pontic origins. It is possible that the appearance of these foreigners, who brought with them a valuable breed of horses, influenced the emerging aristocracy in the West. ”(28)

Cimmerians appeared in Central Europe around 120 BC. and occupy the town of Teutoburgium, located between the Sava and Drava rivers in present-day Croatia. In 113, they defeated a Roman army at Noricum in the Austrian Alps. Rome sent two more armies to repel them, but they were also defeated. The Chimeras advance on Gaul. Two new armies were sent to stop them, but they also suffered a defeat in which the Romans lost a total of 80,000 men. The victorious offensive of the Chimeras continued to Italy, and it provoked the so-called "Cimbrian Panic" in Rome. Finally, Galius Marius managed to repel them from the city of Vercelli on the river Po in 101 BC.

Despite Roman resistance, the Kimers continued their invasion of Europe. Some of them crossed the Pyrenees and entered Spain, where they joined the Celtiberians. Another part of them passed through Gaul to the British Isles. The Cimmerian tribe VOLKS (VOLKS), whose name sounds close to (BOLGS) BULGARIANS, settled in Southern Gaul.

At the same time, Rome was attacked by the Germanic Teutonic tribe. Modern historians often classify the Cimbri as a Germanic tribe along with the Teutons. Indeed, according to Plutarch, the Cimbri are tall and blue-eyed men, which is why the Romans took them for Germans. But Strabo and Plutarch refute this misconception. They explain that the Cimbri differ from the Teutons in their clothing and armament, which is why they are considered Celts.  
  
At that time, the Cimmerian tribes Britons (Britons) and Logri, the ancestors of today's Welsh, settled in Southern Britain (named after them). They form a separate branch in the Celtic family, unlike the native Celts - gels that they pushed into the lands of Ireland and Scotland (gels are the ancestors of today's Scots and Irish). In the 5th century AD. the Anglo-Saxon invaders forced the Chimeras to retreat to the lands of Wales, Cornwall and North East England. Even today in England and Wales there are many local names derived from the name Chimera, an echo of the time of the Cimmerian power. Such as Cambridge, Cumberland, Cumberworth, Comberford, Comberback, Combermere, Comberton, Cummersdale, Cumrew ... (30)  
  
This is how the history of the Cimmerian invasion of Central and Western Europe is arranged, but Strabo clarifies that it is not the first of its kind in these lands. When in the II century BC. the Chimeras enter the Hungarian plain, they recognize the peoples of their ancestors, reminiscent of their Pontic origins. From this it should be understood that earlier Chimeras moved there from the Black Sea, probably in the VIII century BC, when the Scythians conquered their old homeland Cimmeria. It is at this time that archaeologists date the age of many gold and silver treasures found in Austria, Bohemia and southern Germany. They are a legacy of the Haldstadt culture developed in these lands, considered by archaeologists to be the earliest Celtic culture. These treasures seem to have been quickly buried and abandoned after their owners perished under the blows of some foreign invaders who conquered these lands. It is possible that these invaders were Kimers.

FIG. 2. Cimmerian ax in the shape of a horse's head  
  
From this brief historical review we cannot get a true idea of ​​the overall distribution of the Kimmerians. Cimeri also lived in other lands, far from the places of the considered historical events. Ancient chroniclers report on them very briefly. According to Roman classical authors, the Chimeras lived on the Jutland peninsula in present-day Denmark. Pliny reports that the Chimeras lived by the Parapamis River above the Baltic Sea in present-day Lithuania. (IV; 13) (32) That is why the Baltic Sea is called by their name - Cimmerian. In his Geography, Kluverius also traces the origin of the Chimeras to the northern countries. (33) Traces of Chimeras can also be found to the east of these countries. In Russia, 100 km north of Moscow is the modern city of Kimry.  
  
The question of the ancestral home of the Chimeras is still the subject of scientific controversy, and these controversies are not from yesterday. According to some, it was north of the Black Sea, and according to others - in Northern Europe. And the ancient Romans were not entirely aware of where these conquerors came from, as Plutarch points out: “Others, however, say that the Chimeras known to the ancient Greeks were a small part of the whole nation. .. while the greater and more militant part of this people remained at the end of the Earth, along the outer sea. From these areas then these barbarians went against Italy, and were first called Chimeras, and then Kimbrians, which is not at all wrong. "  
  
The northern ancestor of the Chimeras is also told in Homer's Odyssey, which is actually the earliest source for the Chimeras. As is well known, Homer lived before Herodotus - in the ninth century BC, but according to modern researchers, the Odyssey is based on legends from the much earlier Mycenaean era (XV-XII centuries BC) (34). In Homer's account, the land of the Chimeras is identified with the Kingdom of Hades (Pluto, the God of Death). It is covered with fog and cold, there the Sun does not shine and does not touch them with its rays (people - b.a.), it neither rises in the starry sky, nor returns back from the sky to the earth, but only a sad night. extends over the unfortunate people. ” By "unhappy people" here are meant the souls of the dead, who are doomed to an eternally grieving existence in the Kingdom of Hades according to Greek mythology. To go there, Ulysses, sent by the sorceress Kirk, had to take the long journey west of her island across the Mediterranean and continue along the Oceanus River beyond the Pillars of Hercules (Gibraltar). Geography and mythology are imperceptibly intertwined in the content of this story. In the realm of Hades, described in Greek mythology, geographical and natural features have a metaphysical dimension. This realm of death is located underground, beyond the waters of the icy Styx River, where the Sun of Life does not shine. These mythological notions are carried over into the story of a sea voyage recreated in the Odyssey. There, the Atlantic Ocean is called the "Oceanus River" by analogy with the Styx, and the land of the Chimeras is likened to the Kingdom of Hades. With the exception of these mythological layers, it is not difficult to guess that this country is somewhere on the northern shores of Europe.  
  
Very little is known about the eastern habitats of the Chimeras. When Ptolemy describes the peoples around the Caspian Sea, he states: "up live the Chimeras." By this he meant the lands around the Volga. Right there, in the Rostov region, on the left bank of the Volga, is the village of Kimra, as reported by Tatishchev. (35) The remains of ancient settlements located around are indicative of the historical continuity of his name.  
  
Chimeras also lived in Central Asia. Straltenberg finds traces of them in Bukhara. (36) In the lands near Imeon (Pamir) lived the Bulgarian tribes Utiguri and Kutriguri, according to Procopius of Caesarea, who so persistently called them Chimeras. They have been known since the time of Herodotus, who called them utia and boxes.  
  
In general, the origin of the Cimmerians is shrouded in mystery. The Welsh Mabinogion cycle states the following: “Hu Gadam came with the Cimmerian tribe to the British Isles. They came from the land of summer called Defrobani. ”(37) Defrobani, or Taprobana, is here to be understood as a legendary island in the Indian Ocean, described by Diodorus of Sicily, Pliny and Strabo. Today it is associated with the sunken continent of Lemuria. And according to an unnamed Latin source, the Chimeras came from Palus Maeotis (a swampy place) - a legendary place associated with the sunken Atlantis. (38)  
  
The legendary city of Gomorrah, described in the Bible, also sounds close to the name of Gomer, considered the ancestor of the Cimmerians. According to biblical tradition, the cities of Gomorrah and Sodom were located in Mesopotamia, but God burned them to ashes in retribution for the sins of their inhabitants.  
  
The name of a tongue from the Canary Islands - GOMERA also reminds us of GOMOR and GOMER. It is considered to be of local origin, from the language of the Guanches, almost exterminated by the Spanish conquerors. The Guanches are a people of the Cro-Magnon (Protonordic) race - tall, with blue eyes and light hair. They have developed a kind of civilization that has common features with those of Egypt and the Incas. The Guanches are considered the descendants of the Atlanteans, and the Canary Islands - the remnants of the sunken Atlantis. In their language and social structure, however, there are no significant features that remind us of the ancient Bulgarians. Since we also mentioned Egypt, it is not uninteresting to note that its own name is KIM.  
  
From the summary of the presented historical and geographical information we conclude that the Chimeras were a large and strong people, spreading in antiquity in Eurasia. This is exactly how they are presented in Rakovski's Chronicle. This chronicle gives us a true idea of ​​the settlement of the Chimeras. The historical presence of the Chimeras in all the lands mentioned in the chronicle - up to the Volga, the Black Sea, the Baltic Sea and Scandinavia, is confirmed by various sources and geographical names derived from the name CHIMERI. This proves the authenticity of this valuable for us, the Bulgarians, historical document.

Cimmerians - scary and unknown

Despite numerous historical sources, the Cimers still remain a poorly studied people. This is because only the notes of their enemies - Assyrians, Greeks and Romans - have reached us, while the Chimeras themselves have not left their own written monuments. From the ancient chronicles we learn about the movements and military actions of the Cimmerians, but about their language, culture and social order there is almost nothing mentioned. Undoubtedly, the Cimeri are a warlike and freedom-loving people, and an equestrian people like our ancestors. As a true equestrian people, the Cimmerians were famous for their valuable thoroughbred horses, which Strabo reported. Even today in the south of France, in the region of Provence, the famous Camargue horses are bred. They seem to be named after the Cimmerians, as the Cimmerian tribe of Volki (wolves) settled in this area.

The cult of the horse, characteristic of the Cimmerians and other equestrian peoples, is evidenced by some objects found during excavations of Cimmerian settlements: an ax in the shape of a horse's head and an ornament in the shape of a three-shouldered swastika composed of three horse heads (Figs. 2 and 3 ) (39)

FIG. 3. Cimmerian ornament - three-shouldered swastika, consisting of three horse heads

Strabo also hints at the high spiritual culture of the Kimmerians, through which they influenced the emerging aristocracy in the West. Which aristocracy did he mean? It is known that the descendants of the Cimers are the Celts of the Goydel group - today's Welsh and Cornish, so this is the Celtic aristocracy. Traces of the Cimmerian aristocratic tradition can be found in the epic of King Arthur and in the Welsh collection of legends associated with him - Mabinogion. They are a legacy of the Logres and Britons, Cimmerian tribes who ruled southern England before the Anglo-Saxon invasion. Moreover, the kingdom of Arthur - Logria, bears the name of the logri.

In this key passage, Strabo mentions something else related to the culture of the Chimeras - funerals. After the Cimmeras, who entered the Hungarian plain, recognized the graves of their ancestors, here we are obviously talking about large and well-preserved tombs-mounds like the Thracian ones in our country. Such mounds, called mounds, are found in the lands of southern Russia and Ukraine, once inhabited by the Cimmerians. According to Herodotus, the Scythians connected the mound at the river Turas with the legend of the suicidal Cimmerian nobles. However, not all mounds are inherited from the Chimeras - in many of them are found burials of the Scythians, or of the early Indo-Europeans, creators of the so-called "Mound culture".

The name of the Chimeras is the subject of various definitions and mystifications. In ancient Celtic, Cimmerian means "predator" or "robber", which corresponds to the conquering nature of the Chimeras. In English, Cimmerian is also called "dark, gloomy, opaque". This seems to be related to Homer's mythical notion of the Chimeras as inhabitants of some dark land where the sun does not shine.

According to Dr. Svetlozar Popov, a Cimmerian comes from the Indo-European root KIM- (HIM-), meaning "winter" or something related to the north and cold (40). This hypothesis is consistent with the notion of the northern origin of the Chimeras.

There is no direct historical evidence for the Chimera language. Only the names of three of their kings have reached us: Teuspa, Tugdam and Sandakshatra. The first two names are not known among other peoples. One of them - TUGDAM, written by Strabo and as LIGDAM, is close to the name of the Bulgarian Khan KARDAM. And the name TEUSPA sounds close to the Thracian name DEOSPOR, obviously a derivative of the Indo-European concept of God - DEUS. To our surprise, Tugdam's son Sandakshatra was named after the Iranian name tradition. His name is close to that of the Median king Huvakshatra, who reigned during the same period. It has led some researchers to believe that the Chimeras are a people of Iranian descent. Indeed, in Asia Minor, the Chimeras had a close relationship with the Medes, and may have had some influence from them. It seems that during their migrations and travels the Chimeras also attracted tribes of Iranian (Median) and Thracian origin, and adopted elements of their language and national traditions. This may explain the differences between some Cimmerian branches. Thus Strabo called the Chimeras Thracian Chimeras, and the Persian king Xerxes, who ruled around 470 BC. AD distinguishes chimeras from Amirgia and Kimmers wearing pointed hats. (41)

Of particular importance to us Bulgarians is the question of the national identity of the Cimmerans, as a people who laid the foundations of Bulgarian civilization. We should not be discouraged by the lack of direct written evidence on this issue - his answer is primarily in our ancestral heritage. We are structuralists, and in determining the identity of peoples we are guided by the type of their social structure, as well as by the basic structure-determining concepts - in the structure of the family and the state, in the spiritual life and the chronology. This is the question of the identity of the Chimeras.

In all cases, the Cimmerians are Indo-Europeans - in "Jagfar Tarihi" they are placed in a community alongside other Indo-European peoples - Massagetes, Saki, Bulgarians, Alans, Armenians. There, the Cimmeras are also defined as a branch of the Sindhi tribe. The Sindhis can be understood as the Iranian peoples who made up the main population of the mountains north of India, once called the Sindh.

Rakovski also noticed that many words in the Bulgarian language, considered "Slavic", have parallels in Sanskrit and ancient Persian, as well as in the Celtic languages. In the language of the ancient Bulgarians Peter Dobrev distinguishes words from Celtic and Iranian roots. But while the Iranian words refer to ordinary things in life, the basic concepts of the state and spiritual life of the ancient Bulgarians have parallels in the Celtic languages. The meaning of these concepts will be clarified in the following table (based on the book by Petar Dobrev "The Rediscovery of the Proto-Bulgarian Calendar", p. 42):

Ancient Bulgarian terms and titles

Celtic and other concepts

Koled - Feast of the Bulgarian Forefather

Koled (Celtic) - "holiday"

KOLOBAR - priest

KOLL - "wise" - an address to a Celtic priest-druid.

KALL - sacred knowledge of the Druids

CANAS YUVIGI - sacred title of the Bulgarian ruler

KEAN or KANS - title of Celtic rulers

KANNAS - "Messenger of God" KONIG (German) - king

also KONUNG (scand.)

CANARTIRKIN - heir to the throne

CANARD (Celtic) - heir to the throne, also TEKIN

RIG - king; end of the names of the Bulgarian kings ISPERIH and TELERIG

RIG (Celtic) - king

also REX (Latin); RAJA (Samkr.)

-RICH (German and Gothic) - ending of royal names

DULO - the name of the Holy Bulgarian Dynasty

DULA (Celtic) - scepter

DUAL (Celtic) - legally inherited power; inheritance law

UKIL (VOKIL) - name of a noble Bulgarian family

UKEL (VOKHIL) - a high-ranking noble class of the Celts

BOILA - the main Bulgarian noble title

BOILA - senior government official

TARKAN - governor of a district or city, or judge

TARGAD (Celtic) - regional governor

BAGATUR - heavily armed horseman; senior commander

BAGADOR (Celtic) - Celtic warrior

BAGAIN is a junior military leader

BAGAID (Celtic) - military detachment

ONGAL - fortified place

ONGL (Cimr.) - fortified place

CAMPSY - teacher

KAMPA is a school of druids

YANKUL - the planet Jupiter; The lord of the heavenly lights

YANGU (CIM) - "chief", "great"

These structural concepts testify to the identity of our CimeraS ancestors. It turns out that they are a people from the Celtic group. The state titles listed above are characteristic of both the ancient Bulgarians and the Celts of the Goydel group, and less so of the Celts of the Gaelic group. The Goydel group includes the Welsh and Cornish, descendants of the Chimeras. Even today, the Welsh bear the ancient name KYMRO and call their language KYMRAEG (Cimmerian). In general, modern European scholars believe that the Chimeras are the basis of the Celtic people, formed in the lands of the Upper Danube in the VI century BC. AD, during the so-called "Haldstadt" culture. (43) And Zonara, quoted by Hieromonk Spiridon, derives from Homer the genealogy not only of the Cimmerians, but also of the Celts (Galatians). (44) So the ancient Bulgarian titles, common to Bulgarians and Celts, are exclusively Cimmerian heritage.

This is how we should explain the formation of the Bulgarian people: it is based on the BOLG people, who speak the Celtic language, and it is joined by the ARI people, whose Indo-Iranian language is upgraded over the main Celtic language. Exactly in the same way the language of the Tocharians developed - a people related to the Bulgarians, who lived in the lands north of the Pamirs. The Tocharian language is basically close to the Celtic and Latin languages, but has subsequently been enriched with Indo-Iranian borrowings. (45)

From a racial point of view, the Cimeras are tall with brown and blue eyes.Both with dark and light hair. Therefore, they belong to the Aryan race characteristic of the northern European peoples, but also of the Bulgarian people.The majority of Bulgarians belong to the Pontid subrace also called Kurgan subrace (46) The ancient Bulgarians themselves are also carriers of this racial type, not some fictional "Turans" or "Mongoloids". , as various paid writers of anti-Bulgarian "theories" try to deceive us. This is evidenced by the images of medieval Bulgarian rulers on seals and color illustrations, as well as their subjects. However, from personal experience we Bulgarians know that we do not resemble the Swedes and Norwegians. And also in their heritage there are no significant traces of our tribal and state structure, so it is not serious to assume that our Cimmerian ancestors originated in Scandinavia. Obviously, the Nordic race is not a single entity, and this concept cannot unambiguously explain the identity of European peoples. Nor does it alone correspond to the concept of the Aryan race. In fact, there are three sub-races of the European large race, with the characteristic Aryan elongated shape of the skull - Cro-Magnon (Protonordic), Nordic (Northern) and Proto-Mediterranean. All three sub-races are found among the Bulgarian people, but especially characteristic of us Bulgarians is the so-called Pontic racial type, whose name suggests that it is widespread in the lands around the Black Sea, and we can connect this with the information about the Pontic ancestor of the Cimmerians. (47) In its external features, the Pontic race is close to the Cro-Magnon.

In the present study, we have examined all available sources on the Cimers in order to clarify in detail the question of the origin of the Bulgarian people. From the general information about the Cimmerians it is clear that they have very similar features to the ancient Bulgarians. Like them, our ancestors became famous for their high military virtues and aristocratic traditions, and spread their cultural influence among many nations around the world. The ancient Bulgarians were also an equestrian people, famous for their valuable thoroughbred horses - called "heavenly horses", for which, according to the ancient Indian epic Mahabharata, wars were fought.

Ancient chronicles and some geographical names confirm the story of the settlement of the Cimmerians, presented in the Chronicle of Rakovski - from the lands to the Volga and the Black Sea to the Baltic Sea and Scandinavia. In this way they prove the historical authenticity of the Chronicle, and together with it the other documents testifying to the Cimmerian origin of the Bulgarians - Jagfar Tarihi, the Genealogy of Homer and the history of Procopius of Caesarea. According to the Chronicle, the Bulgarians came from those Cimmeras who adopted the name of Tsar Bolg, who ruled in the "country of the East". By this country we should understand the lands around the Volga River, which seems to bear the name of Tsar Bolg.

This earliest history should be reconciled with the other early information about the Bulgarians in order to restore the entire history of the Bulgarian people. From their ancestral homeland between the Volga and the Black Sea, the Bulgarians must have continued their conquests to the west and south. This is the only way to explain the appearance of the Balkharis people with ruler Zimberis in northern Mesopotamia. And also the emergence of the ancient Bulgarian state in the lands of today's Afghanistan, known as Balkhara. The oldest information about it is given by the Mahabharata and some early Puranas, the compilation of which dates back to the VIII-VII century BC. From there, our ancestors began to move to Europe as early as II BC, when some Bulgarian captives reached the British Isles. In the earliest Welsh and Irish legends they were called bolgi, and Fir Bolg, respectively. The migrations of the Bulgarians continued in the 2nd century AD, when the foundations of Old Great Bulgaria were laid in the lands north of the Caucasus.

The question of the Chimeras does not end our research on the origin of the Bulgarian people. As we emphasized at the beginning, our people come from two ethnic groups - Chimera-BOLGI and Iranian-ARI. On the Iranian line, the ancient Bulgarians are related to the Massagetes and the Sakas - two ancient peoples who lived in Central Asia. In their heritage are found some things in common with the culture of the ancient Bulgarians. On the other hand, the definition of Thracian chimeras draws our attention to the Thracians, who are also our ancestors. It shows that the Thracians and the ancient Bulgarians were originally related peoples, and there is nothing accidental in the choice of Kanaz Isperih for the new Bulgarian homeland. Finally, we should note that in some chronicles the ancient Bulgarians are defined as related to the Magi/Iranians . All these issues are the subject of our further research.

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