

The Western Siberian homeland and the Onogur-Hungarian migration theory

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Abstract

The main issue of the dissertation is to examine, whether Németh Gyula's original theory – in 1930 stated, that the ancestors of the Hungarians lived in Western Siberia, where they created a common tribal federation with the Onogur people and wandered to the eastern part of the European steppe around 463 – can be seen today as a still valid theory? For this in the dissertation I analyze the most up-to-date archeological literature, in which it is stated, that the Hungarians did not live in the steppe region prior to the 9th century and the ancient homeland of the Hungarian people was in the Volga-Kama region or in Western Siberia, from where the Hungarians migrated in the middle of the 9th century. However in Russian archeological literature it is represented by more authors that besides Bulgars and Khazars, Ugric nomadic people were present on the European steppe from the 5th century, who, on the basis of the theory of M. I. Artamonov, can be seen as Ugric-speaking Ogurs.

The antecedents of the Western Siberian homeland theory in Hungarian literature can be shown from the second half of the 19th century, therefore it is necessary to collect all the works to show how this theory and its argumentation developed and how this theory started being refuted in the second half of the 20th century. Through the analysis of the literature in which authors tried to refute the Western Siberian homeland theory and the theory of the Hungarian-Onogur migration, it can be demonstrated, that this theory was never really refuted, even if it was Gyula Németh in 1966, who first gave up its main points. If we compare Németh's original theory and M. I. Artamonov's theory about the origin of the European Huns, we can see that they overlap in several points.

Keywords: Hungarian prehistory, Ugric language unity, Western Siberia, Saltovo-Mayak culture, M. I. Artamonov, Onogurs, Huns, Bulgars