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### **THE FATE OF THE SETTLEMENT NETWORK ON THE TERRITORY OF TODAY'S SOUTH BULGARIA AFTER THE THIRD CRUSADE (1189–1190)**

*Abstract:* The article is devoted to the demographic changes that were caused by the passage of the Third Crusade through the lands of today's Southern Bulgaria (Northern Byzantium) in 1189–1190. Serious blow on the development of the infrastructure that led to major demographic changes came during the Third Crusade in 1189–1190 when the atrocities of the West European knights caused new migration waves, but this time from the south to the north, a fact that is unconditionally proven by the results of archeological excavations. The development of the medieval settlement network in the territory of today's South Bulgaria went through several stages. In this paper, I will not dwell upon each one of them but will focus my attention on the last stages, which were connected with the passing of the knights from the Third Crusade through the Bulgarian lands.<sup>1</sup>

*Key words:* Settlement network, Third Crusade, Pecheneg invasions, demographic changes, today's South Bulgaria

In the last quarter of the 10<sup>th</sup> century, significant demographic changes set in throughout the Bulgarian lands. The earliest of them actually occurred already in 968–969 and resulted from the campaign of the Russian-Varangian Prince Svetoslav after which a lot of settlements and fortresses in the territory of North-East Bulgaria and Dobruja suffered war destruction and were left for good. The data from archaeological excavations and research at a large number of archaeological sites, situated between the towns of Preslav and Drastar, show that in many of them traces of fires have been ascertained dating from the period 968–971.<sup>2</sup> Materials from the last quarter of the 10<sup>th</sup> century and the beginning of

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<sup>1</sup> Б. Д. Борисов, *Основные этапы в развитии системы поселений северо-восточной Фракии в XI–XII вв.*, Проблемы славянской археологии. Труды VI Международного конгресса славянской археологии., Т. 1, (Москва 1997), 130–139.

<sup>2</sup> Г. Атанасов, *Етнодемографски промени в Добруджа (X–XVI в.)*, Исторически преглед, 1991, 2, 75–89; eadem. *Нов поглед към демографските и етнокултурните*

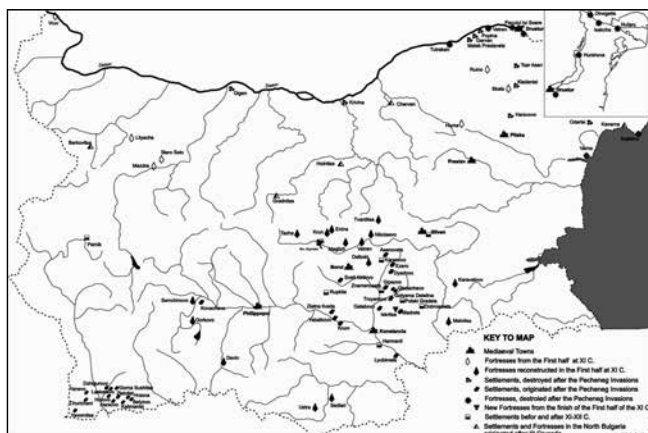


Fig. 1. – Map of today's Bulgaria with ethnic changes in the 11–12<sup>th</sup> century during Byzantine rule

Сл. 1. Мапа данашње Бугарске са етничким променама у XI–XII веку током византијске владавине.

the 11<sup>th</sup> century are missing in them. In the settlements, situated in the vicinity of the villages Popina, Nova Cherna, and Vetren – Silistra region, near the ancient fortress of Yatrus, as well as in many settlements situated along the road Drastar – Preslav there are no anonymous coins of class A-1 (969–976) which is a proof that they were not inhabited and their population had left them.<sup>3</sup> Information about those events could be found in *Tale of Bygone Years* in which it is recorded that Svetoslav captured 80 fortresses.<sup>4</sup>

The settlement network in today's North-Eastern Bulgaria also suffered seriously during the campaigns of Svetoslav and John I Tzimisce in Dobruja in 968–971. Many fortresses and settlements were abandoned forever. Others were restored and life in them continued. But these events did not cause a big migratory wave yet – they were only an overture to it.

A disastrous blow on the development of the settlement network in the territory of today's North Bulgaria and Dobruja was delivered by the Pecheneg invasions from the first half of the 11<sup>th</sup> century. Unfortunately, the data from archaeological research has not given an answer to the following question: during which of the invasions – of 1027, 1032, 1034, 1035, 1036 or 1048 – those settlements ceased to exist. It is not quite clear whether this happened at once for all the settlements or the end of each one of them came during different campaign.

Some researchers think that the great migratory wave took place in 1032<sup>5</sup>, others insist that this happened in the year 1034<sup>6</sup> and still third ones connect it with the period 1032–1036<sup>7</sup>. However, I think that the great migratory wave followed

промени в Добруджа през Средновековието, Изследвания в чест на чл. кор. професор Страшимир Димитров, (София 2001), 191-192.

<sup>3</sup> Л. Дончева-Петкова, *Добруджа в края на X–XII в.*, Българските земи през средновековието (VII–XVIII в.), Acta Musei Varnaensis, III-2, (Варна 2005), 64.

<sup>4</sup> Г. Атанасов, *Op. cit.* 191.

<sup>5</sup> Г. Атанасов, *Нов поглед към демографските и етнокултурните промени...*, 193.

<sup>6</sup> В. Тъпкова-Займова, *Долни Дунав – граничната зона на византийския Запад. Към историята на североизточните български земи в края на X–XII век*, (София 1970), 72-75

<sup>7</sup> P. Diaconu, *Les Petchenegues au Bas-Danube*, Bucarest 1970, 47-49.

the greatest Pecheneg invasion of 1048 when, according to Ioannes Scylitzes, 800 000 Pechenegs headed by Tirach crossed the frozen Danube and devastated not only the lands of North Bulgaria (Paristrion) but of Thrace and Macedonia as well and separate detachments even reached to the capital of Constantinople.<sup>8</sup>

During the disastrous Pecheneg invasions many settlements ceased to exist forever: those near the villages Popina, Tsar Assen, Garvan, and Malak Preslavets – Silistra region; near the villages of Odartsi, Skala, Ruyno, and Kladentsi – Dobrich region; near the village of Huma, Razgrad region; near the village of Harsovo, Shumen region; near the village of Krivina, Russe region; near the village of Gigen, Pleven region; and also the fortresses near the town of Mezdra and the villages of Vrav, Staro Selo, and Lilyache – Vratsa region, and many, many others. The results of field work in the territory of today's North-East Bulgaria are an exact illustration of this. Especially definite in this respect are the data from Silistra region on whose territory 72 settlements and 8 earthen fortifications have been recorded but only three survived after the invasions<sup>9</sup>. In the territory of today's Tutraкан municipality the number of the inhabitants was sharply thinned down and only one early medieval settlement survived out of 16.<sup>10</sup> The situation in the territory of the today's Dobrich region was analogous. There only 11 of the registered 121 settlements and fortresses survived the invasions. Similar depopulation affected also the territory of Razgrad region where 41 early medieval settlements and fortresses have been registered in which life was interrupted in the first half of the 11<sup>th</sup> century.<sup>11</sup> During the invasions, all the 6 fortresses in the vicinity of the town of Isperrich, which were inhabited in the period of the First Bulgarian Kingdom, ceased to exist.<sup>12</sup> The same destiny shared the settlements round the capital city of Preslav: only 3 out of 56 all together survived.<sup>13</sup> The situation in the territory of the today's Russe region was analogous. There only 4 of the registered 41 settlements and 2 earthen fortifications survived after the fatal Pecheneg invasions. Similar was the situation in the territory of North-West Bulgaria. Only one of the 10 early medieval settlements situated in the valleys of the rivers Tsibritsa and Ogosta survived.<sup>14</sup> During the Pecheneg invasions of 1032–1036, the follow-

<sup>8</sup> В. Златарски, *История на българската държава през средните векове*, София 1934, II. Придворна печатница, 91.

<sup>9</sup> К. Апостолов, Г. Атанасов, Ст. Бонев, Г. Дзанев, М. Димитров, Я. Димитров, В. Йотов, А. Конаклиев, П. Петрова, В. Плетьнов, Д. Станчев, *Материали за картата на средновековна България. (Територията на днешна Североизточна България)*, Плиска–Преслав, 7, (Шумен 1995), 155–332.

<sup>10</sup> Л. Вагалински, В. Динчев, *Археологическа карта на община Тутракан, Тутракан в историческото развитие на Добруджа*, (Тутракан 1995), 37.

<sup>11</sup> *Op. cit.*, 37.

<sup>12</sup> Й. Стефанов, *Археологически паметници и история на проучванията в Исперихски район*. София 1997, 151.

<sup>13</sup> Т. Балабанов, *Новооткрити ранносредновековни селища в околностите на Плиска*, Проблеми на прабългарската история и култура, (София 1989), 287.

<sup>14</sup> Ж. Въжарова, *Средновековни обекти по долините на реките Цибрица и Огоста (по материали от разузнаването през 1962–1963 г.)*. ИАИ, 1965, XXVII, 231–246; К. Станев, *Миграция на българи през 30-те г. на XI в. от Северна България към западните български земи. Нов поглед към предисторията на въстанието на Петър*

ing settlements ceased to exist: the medieval settlement near the antique town of Eskus<sup>15</sup>, the fortresses near the villages of Staro Selo<sup>16</sup> and Lilyache<sup>17</sup> – Vratsa region; the fortress near the village of Vrav, Vidin region.<sup>18</sup>

After the invasions, life continued only in some fortresses along the Danube and at the Black Sea coast: Vetren, Drastar, Tutrakan, Păcuiul lui Soare, Dinogentsia, Nufaru, Harsovo, Isaccea, Kaliakra, Varna and others.

The population that survived after the Pecheneg invasions was forced to seek rescue and this caused large-scale migrations to the south. Archaeological data show that part of the population settled in naturally protected regions in the Fore-Balkan and the Balkan Mountain Range where many settlements were founded in the middle of the 11<sup>th</sup> century.

At that time, the greater part of the early Byzantine fortresses, which had suffered destruction during the barbarian invasions in the 6<sup>th</sup>–7<sup>th</sup> centuries, were reconstructed. About the middle of the 11<sup>th</sup> century, the fortress in the Kaletu countryside near the village of Kran, Kazanlak region was rebuilt.<sup>19</sup> Again in the 11<sup>th</sup> century the fortress Tvarditsa was reconstructed as well.<sup>20</sup> At the same time, the following fortresses were populated again: in the Hisarya countryside near the town of Nikolaevo<sup>21</sup>, in the Ada Bair countryside near the village of Vetren, Kazanlak region, “the Town” and “Gramada” near Maglizh, “the Monastery” near the village of Tazha, “Chilechito” near the village of Enina, Kazanlak region, “Sechen Kamak” near the village of Dalboki, Stara Zagora region<sup>22</sup> and others.

Another part of the population crossed the Balkan Mountain Range in seeking of safe places for settling and entered the territory of today’s South Bulgaria. As a result, a great number of new settlements were founded in places, which had

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Делян, Минало 2004, 3, 43.

<sup>15</sup> М. Аспарухов, *Проучвания върху топографията на средновековното селище от X–XII в. при античния и късноантичен град Colfina Ulpia Oescensium*, ИМСЗБ, 1992, 19, 33-34

<sup>16</sup> П. Иванов, *Крепостта Големият град при Старо село, община Мездра (теренни обхождания през 1994)*, ИМСЗБ, 1996, 24, 81; К. Станев, *Op. cit.* 43.

<sup>17</sup> П. Димитров, Б. Николов, *Разкопки на крепостта “Градищено” при с. Лиляче, Врачански окръг*. Археологически открития и разкопки през 1983, (Смолян 1984), 239.

<sup>18</sup> И. Щерева, *Принос към проучването на Ранното средновековие в Северозападна България*, Историко-археологически проучвания в памет на проф. д-р Ст. Ваклинов, (Велико Търново 1994), 67-71; К. Станев, *Op. cit.* с. 43.

<sup>19</sup> А. Попов, *Крепостни и укрепителни съоръжения в Крънската средновековна област*, София БАН, 1982, с. 11; П. Гатев, Д. Янков, К. Стефанова, *Разкопки на средновековния град Крън*, Археологически открития и разкопки през 1981 г., (Михайловград 1982), 99.

<sup>20</sup> А. Попов, *Op. cit.* 37-40, обр. 7.

<sup>21</sup> А. Попов, *Op. cit.* 47-48; С. Лисицов, О. Миланова, *Разкопки на крепостта в м. “Хисаря” край гр. Николаево, Старозагорски окръг*. Археологически открития и разкопки през 1986, (Разград 1987), 226; Ibidem. *Предварителен отчет на разкопките на късноантичната и средновековна крепост Хисаря в района на град Николаево, Хасковска област и теренни обхождания в района*. Археологически открития и разкопки през 1988, (Кърджали, 1989), 129-130.

<sup>22</sup> А. Попов, *Op. cit.* 50-51, 53, 59, 61, 83, 104.

not been inhabited before in the Middle Ages. The following settlements belong to this group: the settlements over the Thracian town of Seutopolis at the bottom of Koprinka dam lake<sup>23</sup>, near the village of Kovachevo, Pazardzhik region<sup>24</sup>, near the villages of Dyadovo and Ezero, Nova Zagora region<sup>25</sup>, near the villages of Galabovo, Madrets<sup>26</sup>, and Sveti Kirilovo<sup>27</sup> – Stara Zagora region; near the village of Zlatna Livada, Chirpan region<sup>28</sup>, near Lyubimets<sup>29</sup>, and others. Some of them have been entirely excavated, others have been only partially archaeologically researched and on the territory of others, only *drill* cores have been taken.

In the 11<sup>th</sup>–12<sup>th</sup> centuries, alongside with the new settlements, life continued in a number of settlements, which had been founded in the second half of the 11<sup>th</sup> century. Here the first to be mentioned is the settlement in the “Gradishteto” countryside near the village of P. Gradets.<sup>30</sup> The following settlements belong to this group: those near the villages of Karanovo, Nova Zagora region<sup>31</sup>, near the town of Radnevo<sup>32</sup>, near the villages of Znamenets<sup>33</sup> and Gledachevo III<sup>34</sup>, near the ancient road station of Karasura<sup>35</sup>, near the town of

<sup>23</sup> Й. Чангова, *Средновековното селище над тракийския град Севтополис XI–XIV в.*, София, БАН, 1972, 138.

<sup>24</sup> П. Гатев, *Средновековно селище и некропол от XII в. край с. Ковачево, Пазарджишки окръг.*, София 1985 = Разкопки и проучвания, XII, 55.

<sup>25</sup> В. Borisov, *Djadovo I. Mediaeval Settlement and Necropolis (11th–12th Century)*. – Tokyo 1989, Tokai University Press, 379.

<sup>26</sup> Б. Борисов, *Керамика и керамично производство през XI–XII в. от територията на онешина Югоизточна България.* – Раднево, 2002 = Марица-изток“. Археологически проучвания, 6, 229.

<sup>27</sup> Г. Кацаров, *Антични паметници от Тракия.* – ГНБПл, 1930, 314.

<sup>28</sup> Д. Янков, Р. Колева, *Спасителни разкопки на средновековно селище с. Златна Ливада АМ “Марица” км 19+900 – 20+250. Резултати от спасителните археологически проучвания през 2001 г.*, Археологически открития и разкопки през 2002, (София 2003), 134–135.; Д. Янков, Р. Колева, Ч. Кирилов, *Средновековно селище и некропол край с. Златна ливада, км 19+900–20+400 от АМ „Марица“.* Археологически открития и разкопки през 2011, (София 2012), 488–490.

<sup>29</sup> R. Koleva, *Rescue Archaeological Excavation at the Orta Burun Site in 1993.* Maritsa Project, 1, (Sofia 1997), 245–252.

<sup>30</sup> Б. Борисов, *Полски градец I, Археологически проучвания*, В. Търново 2013, „Фабер“.

<sup>31</sup> Б. Борисов, *Сравнителна характеристика на кухненската керамика от средновековното селище, край с. Караново, Новоагорско*, ИМЮИБ, XVII, 1994, 105–106

<sup>32</sup> С. Саватинов, *Сондажни археологически проучвания в местността „Старото селище“ край гр. Раднево*, „Марица-изток“. Археологически проучвания, 3, (Раднево 1995), 152–153.

<sup>33</sup> Б. Борисов, *Средновековно селище и некрополи край с. Знаменосец.* „Марица-изток“. Археологически проучвания, 1, (София 1991), 248.

<sup>34</sup> Б. Борисов, *Кримско-български културни връзки и влияния през XI–XII в. в рамките на Византийската империя (по данни от керамиката)*, Българите в Северното Причерноморие, IX, (Одеса 2006), „Друк“, 33–48.

<sup>35</sup> M. Wendel, *Bemerkungen zur Mittelalterlichen Keramik des 11 und 12 Jh. aus Karasura (Südbulgarien)*. Archaeologia Bulgarica, VIII, 3, 2004, 74.

Harmanli<sup>36</sup>, near the village of Dobroselets, Yambol region<sup>37</sup> and many others. To this group also belong the medieval fortresses Markeli<sup>38</sup>, Hisarlaka at Sliven<sup>39</sup>, Constantia,<sup>40</sup> the one near the village of Iskritsa in the vicinity of Galabovo<sup>41</sup> “Hisarya” in Haskovo<sup>42</sup> and many others.

As we mentioned above, unfortunately the results of archaeological research still do not give a clear answer to the question whether those settlements too were inhabited again during the great migratory wave from north to south or continued their life without a break. This problem is due to the fact, that in most of them no hiatus between the cultural layers has been established before and after the Pecheneg invasions. This, of course, is quite natural since even if those “old” settlements had been abandoned during the Pecheneg invasions and had been populated with new inhabitants, this must have happened within no more than 10 or maybe even less years – a period quite short to be possible to establish a hiatus by archaeological means. On the other hand, a number of settlements and fortresses in the territory of today’s South Bulgaria suffered destruction during some of the Pecheneg invasions. In that period, the settlement near the village of Sadiovo, Nova Zagora region<sup>43</sup> and the fortress “Hisarya” in Haskovo<sup>44</sup> perished for good. At the same time, the town at “Hisarlaka” in Sliven was taken by the Pechenegs.<sup>45</sup> A proof of this is the Pecheneg ceramics (cauldrons with inner lugs and pots) and a find of coins among which the oldest ones belong to class A-2, 3, i. e. they date back to the period 976–1030/35.<sup>46</sup> During the Pecheneg invasions, the settlement above Karasura<sup>47</sup> suffered severely too as well as a number

<sup>36</sup> В. Игнатов, Т. Кънчева-Русева и К. Велков, *Археологически разкопки на обект “Шиханов бряг” до гр. Харманли, по трасето на АМ “Марица”, от км. 73+000 до км 73+500*, Археологически открития и разкопки през 2002, (София 2003), 65-66.

<sup>37</sup> И. Крайчев, *Разкопки на некропол край с. Доброселец, Ямболски окръг*. – Археологически открития и разкопки през 1982, (Плевен 1983), 129-130.

<sup>38</sup> Д. Момчилов, *Маркели в политическите, военните и културните контакти между България и Византия. Култура и геополитика. Исторически и философски интерпретации*, Бургас, 2012, Университетско издателство „Проф. Д-р Асен Златаров“, 29-31.

<sup>39</sup> И. Щерева, К. Вачева, Д. Владимирова-Аладжова, *Туида – Сливен*, 1, София, 2001. „ГАЛ-ИКО“ = Разкопки и проучвания, XXVIII, 120-121.

<sup>40</sup> Д. Аладжов, *Резултати от археологическите проучвания в Констанция. Марица-изток*. Археологически проучвания, 3, (Раднево 1995), 186-197.

<sup>41</sup> Б. Борисов, *Керамиката от средновековната крепост край с. Искрица и мястото ѝ в керамичния комплекс на Североизточна Тракия през XI–XII в., Североизточна Тракия и Византия през IV–XIV в.*, (София – Сливен 1993), 140-141; Г. Шейлева, *Разкопки на средновековно селище, крепост и некрополи край с. Искрица, Гълъбовско, през 1989–1994 година*, „Марица-изток“. Археологически проучвания, 3, (Раднево 1995), 244.

<sup>42</sup> Д. Аладжов, *Селища, паметници, находки от Хасковския край*, Хасково 1997, 275.

<sup>43</sup> Г. Шейлева, *Средновековна керамика от с. Съдиево, Новозагорско*. – ИМЮ-ИБ, XIX, (Стара Загора 1998), 104.

<sup>44</sup> Д. Аладжов, 1997. *Op. cit.*, 275.

<sup>45</sup> И. Щерева и др., *Op. cit.*, 121.

<sup>46</sup> *Ibidem*.

<sup>47</sup> M. Wendel, *Op. cit.* 74.

of fortresses and settlements in the East Rhodopes.<sup>48</sup> It is not quite clear to what extent those settlements in the territory of today's South Bulgaria suffered during the Pecheneg invasions and whether they were populated by newcomers from the north or whether descendants of the former Bulgarian population that had settled there already in the second half of the 11<sup>th</sup> century remained in them. However, it is for certain, that towards the end of the first half of the 11<sup>th</sup> century, the denseness of the settlement network to the south of the Balkan Mountain Range considerably grew (Fig 1).

The data from the archaeological research in South Bulgaria categorically show that after the middle of the 11<sup>th</sup> century a sharp rise was observed of the share of imported as well as of local ceramics manufactured on a treadle potter's wheel. This also has been entirely confirmed by the data of the studied mass ceramic material, which show an extremely high share of the ceramics manufactured on a treadle potter's wheel. A sure proof of the establishment of settlements at the end of the first half of the 11<sup>th</sup> century, also give the data from the studied numismatic material. In the entirely investigated settlement near the village of Dyadovo the earliest coins belong to classes A-2 and A-3 and were minted in 976–1028<sup>49</sup>. The situation in the settlement near the village of Znamenosets is similar. The earliest coins discovered there also belong to class A-2 (976–1025) and B (1030–1042).<sup>50</sup> In the settlement above Sevtopolis the earliest coins are anonymous folles belonging to class B (1030–1042) which were minted at the time of Michael IV (1034–1041).<sup>51</sup>

The example of the settlement near the village of Dyadovo could be added to the proofs which confirm that those settlements were founded about the middle of the 11<sup>th</sup> century. This settlement came into being on top of the ruins of an early Byzantine fortress whose walls were preserved at a different height in the different sectors and where it was possible, the ruins were used in the construction of residential and business buildings (dwelling No. 21 and business building No. 3).

The results of the excavations show that there are reasons for claiming that the settlement near the village of Dyadovo came into being after the great Pecheneg invasion in 1048.<sup>52</sup> In all probability exactly then the following settlements were established: those in the vicinity of Ezero, Nova Zagora region, near Galabovo, Madrets, Lyubimets, Sevtopolis<sup>53</sup>, near Yabalkovo, Dimitrovgrad region<sup>54</sup> and many others.

<sup>48</sup> Д. Аладжов, *Материалната култура на Югоизточна България през IX–X век*, Славяните и средиземноморския свят VI–XI век, БАН, (София 1973), 135–159.

<sup>49</sup> В. Borisov, *Op. cit.* 369–370, fig. 377.

<sup>50</sup> Б. Борисов, *Op. cit.* 245–247, обр. 33 а-и.

<sup>51</sup> Й. Чангова, *Op. cit.* 138; Пенчев В. *Монетите от средновековното селище над Севтополис*. Севтополис, 2, (София 1984), 137.

<sup>52</sup> В. Borisov, *Op. cit.* 378–379

<sup>53</sup> Б. Борисов, *Средновековното село през IX–XII в. на територията на днешна Югоизточна България*, Проф. д. и. н. Станчо Ваклинов и средновековната българска култура, (В. Търново 2005), Университетско издателство „Св. св. Кирил и Методий“, 310.

<sup>54</sup> К. Меламед, Ж. Аладжов, *Археологически разкопки до с. Ябълково, Димитровградско. Средновековно селище и некропол*, Спасителни археологически разкопки по трасето на железопътната линия Пловдив – Свиленград през 2004 г. (В. Търново

A new stage in the development of the settlement network at the end of the first half of the 11<sup>th</sup> century could be traced in the Rhodopes and the Strandzha Mountain. In the Rhodopes a great number of new settlements and necropoleis appeared and many fortresses were reconstructed – Devin, Dorkovo, Ustra, Semnichevo, Sedlare and others.<sup>55</sup> In the Strandzha Mountain at the same time the following fortresses were reconstructed: “Kaleto” near the village of Iglia, “Asara” near the village of Melnitsa and the one near the village of Karavelovo, Yambol region.<sup>56</sup>

Demographic explosion connected with the coming into being of many new settlements about the middle of the 11<sup>th</sup> century was determined in the territory of South-West Bulgaria. At that time, there appeared the medieval settlements near the villages of Belyovo, Gorna Sushitsa, Dzhigurovo, Zlatolist, Kalimantsi, Laskarevo, Lyubovka, Hotovo, Hrasna, Harsovo, Churichene, Yavoritsa and Yanovo.<sup>57</sup>

After the great demographic changes that spread over the Bulgarian lands towards the end of the 11<sup>th</sup> century, a relatively peaceful period set in, probably a result of the economic growth that spread throughout the Byzantine Empire.<sup>58</sup> Most probably, as a result of the economic upsurge, the settlements grew. This led to the appearance of new quarters in their near vicinity, i. e. certain “swarming” was observed. Exactly at that time – about the middle of the 12<sup>th</sup> century, new necropoleis appeared too. A proof that speaks for itself for that is the settlement in the Gradishte countryside near the village of P. Gradets where three necropoleis and new quarters were established, which were situated round the central settlement. The fortress near the village of Iskritsa was surrounded by three necropoleis too. New necropoleis have been discovered near the villages of Dyadovo, Karanovo, Znamenets, Karasura and many others.

At that time too a group of settlements came into being near the villages of Gipsovo and Gledachevo, Radnevo region, near Assenovets as well as the isolated quarter of the settlement near Karanovo, Nova Zagora region, the settlements Krum I (in the “Kara dere” countryside) and Krum II (in the “Keramlika” countryside) – Dimitrograd region and others.<sup>59</sup> A proof that those settlements were

2006), 251-252.

<sup>55</sup> Н. Дамянов, К. Кисъов, *Разузнавателно обхождане и сондажи в района на град Девин*, Археологически открития и разкопки през 1983, (Смолян 1984), 123-124; К. Melamed, *Mittelalterliche Bestattungssitten in den Rhodopen*, Beiträge zur Mittelalterarchäologie in Österreich, (1993), 9, 5-39; К. Станев, 2004. *Op. cit.* 44.

<sup>56</sup> А. Попов, *Странджанско-Сакарският граничен район през средновековието*, Странджанско-сакарски сборник, II, кн. 2, (Малко Търново 1984), 79, 81; И. Крайчев, *Археологически разкопки и проучвания на късноантичната и средновековна крепост край с. Каравелово, Ямболско*. Археологически открития и разкопки през 1989, (Кюстендил 1990), 112-113.

<sup>57</sup> Б. Цветков, *Селищната мрежа в долината на Средна Струма през Средновековието IX–XVII век*, София 2002, 94-95; К. Станев. 2004, *Op. cit.* 44.

<sup>58</sup> В. Гюзелев, *Бележки върху историята на българските земи и българите половин столетие преди въстанието на Асеновци (1186–1188)*, Проф. д. и. н. Станчо Ваклинов и средновековната българска култура, (В. Търново 2005), 41.

<sup>59</sup> Б. Борисов, *Сондажни проучвания на ранновизантийско и средновековно селище в землището на с. Гипсово, в комплекса „Марица-изток“*. „Марица-изток“.



founded in a later period is also the increased share of ceramics manufactured on a treadle potter's wheel – it reaches 81.25 % in Gipsovo, 82.46 % in Assenovets, 91.99 % in the quarter in Karanovo, 96.53 % in Gledachevo I, and 98.2 % in Krum I.

The peaceful period in the 12<sup>th</sup> century and especially about the middle and the second half of this century was disturbed by the crusades. The third one (1189–1192) turned out to be fatal for the development of the settlement network in Thrace. In spite of the conducted negotiations with the Byzantine government this time, again the passing of the crusaders was accompanied with a lot of bloody skirmishes from which the Bulgarian population suffered worst. The sources show that military operations were conducted in the region between Philipopol and Beroe. The participant in the campaign Ansbert in his detailed description of the capturing and the burning down of Philipopol and Beroe asserts that “between Philipopol and Constantinople one could not find a dweller neither of a town nor of a fortification”.<sup>60</sup>

The great atrocities of the knights provoked a new emigrant wave, this time from the south to the north. A proof of this again are the results of archaeological research. A large number of the settlements that happened to be situated along the route of the crusaders were set on fire and this caused mass psychosis. Others were left by their inhabitants in an organized manner under the threat of the crusader peril. The population of Thrace migrated again to the north in great numbers where the Bulgarian Kingdom had already been restored. This explains the lack of burnt layers and traces of fires in the greater part of the settlements. However, Philipopol and Beroe were reduced to ashes. Exactly during the Third Crusade the following settlements ceased to exist: near the village of Kovachevo, Pazardzhik region, near the villages of Oyadovo and Ezero, Nova Zagora region, near Radnevo, Znamenosets, Gipsovo, Gledachevo I and III, and P. Gradets – Radnevo region, the fortress near the village of Iskritsa, Galabovo region, Krum I and II, Dimitrovgrad region, and many others. Proof of this could be found again in the archaeological research.<sup>61</sup>

In all the abandoned settlements, the last discovered coins date from the beginning of the reign of Isaac II Angelos (1185–1195) and among them are missing the so called Bulgarian or Latin imitations which are characteristic of the beginning of the 13<sup>th</sup> century.

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Археологически проучвания, 3, (Раднево 1995), 227-241; Eadem. *Керамиката от средновековното селище край с. Гледачево. Марица-изток*. Археологически проучвания, 4, (Раднево 1997), 129-183; Eadem, 2002. *Op. Cit.* 81-84; Б. Борисов, Г. Шейлева, *Средновековното селище край с. Крум, Димитровградско*, Приноси към българската археология, V, (София 2009) „Агато“, 248-249; Е. Евтимова, Ж. Аладжов, А. Каменаров, *Сондажни разкопки в м. Керамлъка до с. Крум, Димитровградско*. Спасителни археологически разкопки по трасето на железопътната линия Пловдив – Свиленград през 2004 г. (В. Търново 2006), 270; Е. Евтимова, *Средновековно селище в м. „Керамлъка“*, с. Крум, Димитровградско, Спасителни археологически разкопки по трасето на железопътната линия Пловдив – Свиленград през 2005 г. (В. Търново, 2008), 70.

<sup>60</sup> Ansbert, *Historia de Expeditione Frederici Imperatoris*. ЛИБИ, III, 1965, 245-291.

<sup>61</sup> B. Borisov, *Features of Medieval Culture during the 11<sup>th</sup>–12<sup>th</sup> Centuries on Northeast Thrace*. “Maritsa-Iztok”. Archaeological Research., vol. 5, (Radnevo 2001), 147-148.

The analysis of the archaeological data and the written sources gives the opportunity to specify the date of the organized abandonment of the settlements. From some of the most reliable sources for the Third Crusade – the anonymous *Historia Peregrinorum* and *Historia de Expeditioe Frederici Imperatoris* by Ansbert – we learn that the knights stopped at Philipopol on 24.08.1189 and two days later (26.08.) they entered the city where they found great amounts of supplies for the army. They stayed there 11 weeks.<sup>62</sup> Both authors also maintain that meanwhile part of the crusader army led by the Marshal of the emperor's court, duke Henry and the duke of Meran took Beroe (today's Stara Zagora) and with the booty plundered there returned back to Philipopol.<sup>63</sup> (The same authors, not without pride, also relate that the crusaders devastated the whole country and came back overloaded with booty and foodstuffs, and that there was such a great number of sheep and oxen, and small farm animals too in the army that an ox was sold at five denarii, and a ram – at two or three denarii. In this way, by plundering the local population, all who aspired to accumulate booty quite easily gained gold, silver and a lot of money.<sup>64</sup> Without any doubts, the greater part of the booty was plundered from the vicinity of Philipopol and Beroe, i. e. from the population of Thrace.

Eleven weeks later, on 5.11.1189, part of the crusaders led by Emperor Frederick I Barbarossa, left Philipopol and set off for Constantia. They got there after a week. Part of the crusader army (headed by four bishops according to *Historia Peregrinorum*, and by five according to Ansbert) was left as a security guard of the town. Meanwhile in the winter of 1189, the crusaders took the town of Batkun and killed off 300 of the town's defenders.<sup>65</sup> Most probably exactly at that time the settlement near the village of Kovachevo, Pazardzhik region, which was situated not far away from the mentioned town, was abandoned in an organized manner because of the threatening danger.<sup>66</sup>

The sources, that have been analyzed so far, do not give the exact date on which the unit left to guard Philipopol quit the town. But according to presbyter Magnus this happened on 15.01.1190. The same author testifies that the crusaders arrived in Constantia a week later, i. e. on 21.01.<sup>67</sup> While advancing toward Constantia part of the crusader army turned off the road, entered Beroe, accumulated enough booty and burnt down the town.<sup>68</sup> The information about the burning down has been supported by archaeological data. During excavations in the town, a thick layer with traces of fire dating back to the period of the Third Crusade has been found out.

Besides, outside the fortress walls and quite next to them limekilns have been discovered dating back to the very end of the 12<sup>th</sup> and the beginning of the 13<sup>th</sup> century, which beyond doubt were connected with the reconstruction of the

<sup>62</sup> *Historia Peregrinorum*, 232.

<sup>63</sup> *Ibidem*

<sup>64</sup> *Ibidem*, 234.

<sup>65</sup> *Ibidem*, 241.

<sup>66</sup> П. Гатев, *Op. cit.* 157.

<sup>67</sup> Hronicon Magni Presbyteri. ЛИБИ, III, 1965, 213.

<sup>68</sup> Ansbert, *Op. cit.*, 283.

fortress walls after the disastrous Third Crusade. I think that exactly in this period – between 15 and 21 of January, 1190, a large number of settlements were abandoned in an organized manner: Dyadovo and Ezero, Nova Zagora region, Radnevo, Znamenets, Gipsovo, Gledachevo I and III, and P. Gradets – Radnevo region, the fortress near the village of Iskritsa, Galabovo region, Krum I and II, Dimitrovgrad region and many others<sup>69</sup>.

But still some settlements that remained aside of the crusaders' route, continued their existence. The greater part of them were situated in the south foot of Sredna Gora Mountain or near the Balkan Range Mountain. To this group belong the town at the "Hisarlaka" in Sliven, the settlement over the Thracian town of Seutopolis, Assenovets and Karanovo – Nova Zagora region.<sup>70</sup> Maybe the medieval settlement near the village of Yabalkovo, Dimitrovgrad region<sup>71</sup> could be added as well as some others which survived until the beginning of the 13<sup>th</sup> century when probably during the war of Kaloyan against the Latin Empire they were also abandoned forever.<sup>72</sup> This new migratory wave was not as great as the one from the second quarter of the 11<sup>th</sup> century, but still it marked a new stage in the development of the settlement network in the lands of today's North Bulgaria. At the end of the 12<sup>th</sup> century, or at the very beginning of the 13<sup>th</sup> century new settlements were founded and many fortresses were populated again: the settlement near the village of Hotnitsa, Veliko Tarnovo region,<sup>73</sup> "Chirakmana" near Kaliakra, the fortress "Prechista" near the village of Gradnitsa, Gabrovo region.<sup>74</sup> At the same time, the fortress in the "Kaleto" countryside near Berkovitsa was re-populated.<sup>75</sup> A proof of the beginning of a new stage in the development of the settlement network in North Bulgaria are again the results of field work. In the territory of the today's Razgrad region 10 new settlements came into being at the end of the 12<sup>th</sup> century; in Dobrich region at the same time another 11 settlements were founded. The culmination was in Russe region where 27 new settlements appeared.<sup>76</sup>

Thus the Third Crusade turned out to be catastrophic for the development of the settlement network in Thrace. After the crusade, the whole plane part of this considerable territory was depopulated for a long time, which has been confirmed by the data from archaeological research.

<sup>69</sup> Б. Борисов, *Демографските промени през XI–XII в. в днешните български земи...*, 39.

<sup>70</sup> B. Borisov, *Features of Medieval Culture during the 11<sup>th</sup>–12<sup>th</sup>...*, 147–148.

<sup>71</sup> К. Меламед, Ж. Аладжов, *Op. cit.*, 261.

<sup>72</sup> B. Borisov, *Op. cit.*, 147–148.

<sup>73</sup> Й. Алексиев, *Средновековното селище при село Хотница, Великотърновско, Средновековно Търново. Археологически проучвания. Юбилеен сборник*, (В. Търново 2004), „Абагар”, 64–65.

<sup>74</sup> А. Милчев, П. Димитров, Ю. Шюлева, *Разкопки на крепостта "Пречиста" при с. Градница, Габровски окръг*, Археологически открития и разкопки през 1980 г., (София 1981), с. 126.

<sup>75</sup> Д. Джонова, *Разкопки на късноантичната крепост "Калето" в Берковица. Археологически открития и разкопки през 1987*, (Благоевград, 1988), 114.

<sup>76</sup> К. Апостолов и др., *Op. cit.*, 155–332.

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# СУДБИНА МРЕЖЕ НАСЕЉА НА ТЕРИТОРИЈИ ДАНАШЊЕ ЈУЖНЕ БУГАРСКЕ НАКОН ТРЕЋЕГ КРСТАШКОГ РАТА (1189–1190)

Чланак је посвећен мрежи насеља на територији данашње Јужне Бугарске након Трећег крсташког рата (1189–1190. године). Најраније демографске промене повезане су са походом кнеза Свјатослава 968–969. године, који је задао први озбиљан ударац развоју инфраструктуре у североисточној Бугарској, нарочито у Добруци. Као резултат тога, многи градови, села и утврђења делимично су уништени, а велики број њих напуштен је заувек.

Други фаталан ударац развоју система градова и села у северној Бугарској задала је инвазија Печенега у првој половини XI века. Последица тога је да се живот наставио само у неколико утврђења дуж Дунава и Црног мора – Ветрен, Дрстар, Тутракан, Пакују луи Соаре, Диностратија, Нуфару, Хрсово, Исакча, Варна и други. У то време велики број градова и села је заувек разрушен – у близини села Попина, Цар Асен, Гарван и Мали Преславец у региону Силистре, Одрца и Кладенци у региону Добрича, Хрсово у региону Шумена, Кривина у региону Русеа, Гиген у региону Плевена, као и утврђења код Мездре, Скале и Рујна, Кладенци, Хума у региону Разграда, Врав, Старо село и Лиљаче у региону Враце и многа друга.

Део становништва који је преживео инвазију Печенега био је приморан да тражи уточиште, што је довело до масовне миграције на југ. Један део становништва населио се у природно заштићене регионе у подножју и самом Балканском планином, а други део прешао је планину и основао велики број градова и села – изнад трачког града Севтополиса, близу села Ковачево у региону Пазарџика, Ђадово и Језеро у региону Нова Загора, Тројаново-Голема детелина у региону Раднево, Галабово, Св. Кирилово, Мадрец, Златна ливада у региону Чирпан, Љубимец и друга. За процват градова и села крајем прве половине 11. века сведочи и нумизматички материјал.

Још један озбиљан ударац развоју инфраструктуре, који је довео до значајних демографских промена, догодио се током Трећег крсташког рата 1189–1190. године, када су упади западноевропских витезова изазвали нове миграционе таласе, али овога пута са југа на север. Тада су страдала села код Ковачева у региону Пазарџика, Ђадово и Језеро у региону Нова Загора, Раднево-Знаменосец, Гипсово, Пољски Градец, Гледачево 1 и 3 у региону Раднево, тврђава код села Искрица у региону Галабово, Крум у региону Димитровграда и многа друга, што је неоспорно доказано резултатима археолошких ископавања.

Становништво које је преживело зверства витезова нашло је уточиште на северу, где је до тада обновљено Бугарско краљевство. Крајем 12. века појавили су се нови градови и села, а живот у неким утврђењима почео је поново – у близини села Хотница у региону Велико Трново, „Чиракмана“ код Каварне, тврђава „Пречиста“ код Граднице у региону Габрова, „Калето“ код Берковице. Дефинитиван доказ за ову нову фазу развоја инфраструктуре пружају и резултати теренских истраживања. У XII веку на територији данашњег региона Разград подигнуто је 10 нових насеља, у региону Добрича – 11, а у региону Русеа – 27.

На крају се изводи закључак да резултати археолошких истраживања пружају дефинитивну потврду за информације из историјских извора, а за многе догађаје они су једини поуздани доказ.