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STUDYING OF THE ISSUES OF HUNNIC ARMY AND MILITARY CULTURE

The presented article is devoted to the problem of the Hunnic army and the military art of the Hunnic Empire, which stood at the origins of the Kazakh statehood. Now there is a need to prove the power of the Hun army from an objective point of view, not only to imperial researchers, but also to representatives of the Eurocentric milieu. Therefore, the purpose of this article is to study the issues of the number of the Hun army and the military art of the Huns. The authors introduced into scientific circulation for the first time, the views of various scientists and the records of ancient authors found in the leading archives of European countries to reveal the topic. In the research were used the methods of analyzing sources and significant historiographical works, as well as an interdisciplinary approach that uses archaeological data.

The army of the Hun Empire of the Huns actually numbered several hundred thousand warriors, and it became a powerful force against the gigantic empire in the West. As vivid examples of the military art of the Huns, their weapons and strategic tactics had a huge impact, gaining worldwide recognition.

Keywords: Huns, Hunnic army, Speyer Museum, military art.

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Ғұн әскері мен әскери өнері мәселелерін талдау

Ұсынылған мақала қазақ мемлекеттілігінің бастауындағы Ғұн империясының алып күшінің айғағы болған әскері мен әскери өнері мәселесіне арналған. Ғұн мемлекетінің әскерінің мықтылығын біз тек империялық саясат ұстанған ғалымдармен қатар, еуроцентристік көзқарастағы ғалымдарға да дәлелдеп, объективті тұрғыдан айқындап беруіміз керек. Сол себепті ұсынылған мақаланың мақсаты ғұн әскері және ғұндардың әскери өнері туралы мәселелерді зерттеу болып табылады. Тақырыпты ашу мақсатында түрлі ғалымдардың көзқарастары мен Еуропа мұрағаттарында табылған антикалық авторлардың жазбалары алғаш рет ғылыми айналымға енгізілді. Зерттеуде деректер мен маңызды деген тарихнамалық еңбектерді талдау әдістері, пәнаралық ізденістер тұрғысынан, яғни археологиямен ұштастырған ғылыми талдау әдістері пайдаланылды.

Ғұн империясының әскері шын мәнісінде бірнеше жүз мың жауынгер санын құрап, Батыстағы алып империяға тойтарыс бере алды. Ғұндардың әскери өнерінің көрінісі болып табылатын соғыста пайдаланылған қару-жарақтары мен тактикасы әлемді мойындатқан ерекше күшке айналды.

Түйін сөздер: ғұндар, ғұндар армиясы, Шпейер мұражайы, әскери өнер.

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Изучение вопросов гуннской армии и военного искусства

Представленная статья посвящена проблеме гуннской армии и военному искусству Гуннской империи, которые стояли у истоков казахской государственности. Сейчас назрела необходимость доказать с объективной точки зрения мощь гуннской армии не только имперско настроенным ученым, и представителям евроцентристского направления. Поэтому целью данной статьи является изучение вопросов количества гуннской армии и военного искусства гуннов. В целях раскрытия темы впервые в научный оборот были введены взгляды различных ученых и записи античных авторов, найденные в ведущих архивах стран Европы. В исследовании применяются методы анализа источников и значимых историографических трудов, также междисциплинарный подход, в рамках которого используются данные археологии.

Армия Гуннской империи гуннов фактически насчитывала несколько сотен тысяч воинов, и она стала мощной силой, противостоявшей гигантской империи на Западе. Как яркие примеры военного искусства гуннов их оружие и стратегическая тактика имели огромное влияние, получив мировое признание.

Ключевые слова: гунны, гуннская армия, музей Шпейера, военное искусство.

Introduction

Currently, if we look at World Development, we can clearly see examples of the continuation of the Cold War in reality. Now we are living in the conditions of geopolitical game between the USA and Russia. And comparing with Cold War period there are more actors in this geopolitical game as the European Union, China and others.

After the withdrawal of American troops from Afghanistan, the geopolitical game changed. In some way the strategically important region – Middle Asia became open for the struggle. Throughout thousand years, Middle Asia was a theatre of war between different tribes and peoples. After the changing of military balance of Middle Asia there were happened political events as January situation in Kazakhstan in 2022, the beginning of the Russian conflict with Ukraine which came to the continuing of the war until nowadays. New tasks emerged by Trump administration who really now demonstrating its interests concerning Middle East, especially concerning Iran. In order to determine the balance of geopolitical forces, Russia is looking at Ukraine, and the United States is looking at Iran, which is classified as a “belt of evil” in accordance with the message of the Great George W. Bush administration, which was called “New World Order” in 1989.

In this geopolitical game, what should we developing states do when large empires began the new geopolitical game in world politics, which provides them with natural materials and spheres of influence? Our main instrument is only unity and cooperation. In particular, it is necessary to strengthen the unity of the Turkic-speaking peoples, first, the Central Asian states. From this point of view, the recent visit of our president K.K. Tokayev to the meeting of the organization of Turkic-speaking peoples, the visit to Hungary, where the history of the Magyars began, is especially important. As geopolitical leader, Mackinder emphasized who has the key to Eurasia its controls world. Mackinder as British researcher offered the Heartland theory, which principles were:

Who rules Eastern Europe commands the Heartland

Who rules the Heartland commands the World Island

Who rules the world Island commands the world (Mackinder, 1904. 421-437).

And in this concern what are the Eurasia now?

Eurasia is the Middle Asia, Central Asian and Caucasus countries. In this regard, the uniting of Eurasian countries on the base of Eurasian idea will be important. Maybe sometimes it looks utopia, but it is possible if Central Asian countries will cooperate first with each other and join internally. There are many factors, which contributes to integrate.

From this point of view, the relevance of the presented scientific article is beyond doubt. There is no doubt that the main evidence of this idea is the Hunnic Empire, a common history dating back to the Saks, which is a clear manifestation of the unity of the Turkic-speaking peoples. The origins of the statehood of modern Turkic-speaking peoples lie precisely in the Huns, Saks, and various khanate. In addition, the problem of the army and military culture of the Huns could give a clear objective answer to the chauvinist view that there was no truly Kazakh statehood. For the same reason, the relevance of the topic of the presented article is beyond doubt.

Materials and methods

The authors used methods of empirical analysis that studied several aspects and directions of military policy to analyze the significant issues of Hunnic army and military culture policy, which is contributed to the victories of the troops of the Hunnic Empire and its flourishing. The materials for the studying of the research topic obtained from the Vatican library official sources and European archives, museum of Speyer. A large number of sources are in Latin.

In addition, to show the different approaches concerning the number of Hunnic army and features of its military tactics were analyzed research articles and books of foreign researchers, Russian and Kazakhstani historians on this topic based on theoretical approaches and concepts.

Authors were used the written sources of the authors of late antiquity and the early Middle ages period. These are the works of Jordanes, Procopius

of Caesarea, Sidonius Apollinaris. As the important written source were made an introduction the "The Song of the Nibelungs" as Scandinavian source.

Historiography of the problem

This issues of Hun Empire in the West were attractive topic for studying in the Western history from Modern times period. The problems of Huns' role and Attila in the world history are studied for a long time. The first researcher who conducted a voluminous study of the Huns was the French scientist Degin. In his 1748 work "Memoire sur l origine de Huns et Turks", he was the first to assess the distinctive role of the Huns in the history of mankind (Deguinges, 1748).

Among the many nineteenth-century studies written in an objective realistic approach on the history of the Huns, the most valuable is Amedei Thierry's work about the history of Attila and his followers, published in two volumes in Paris in 1856. He radically studied the history of Attila and the Huns and revolutionized World Science (Thierry, 1856).

And in the twentieth century, the number of researchers who interested on Huns problem increased. This topic began to arouse interest from Western authors. At the first half of XX century from the Eurocentric view they described the Huns as Barbarians came from swamp. Among them were Otto Maenchen-Helfen (Maenchen-Helfen, 1978), Thompson (Thompson, 2006), Pirenne (Pirenne, 1963).

In Soviet historiography the issues of Huns in Europe were not as the research topic for special attention. Soviet ideology restricted the studying of the Hunnic Empire, describing them as nomads which didn't have any statehood. Just some mentioning words we can see from the collective work of the soviet authors as Gunter and Korsunski: "but the situation in Italy turned out to be dangerous for the Huns themselves, as the country was suffering from famine and an epidemic began. This provided the Roman embassy, headed by Pope Leo I, with negotiations with the Huns" (Korsunskii, Gunter, 1984. 115).

Soviet period researcher Bernshtam A.N. occupies a special place in the list of works that objectively reveal the problem of the Huns of the XX century. The publication of his book "Essays on the history of Huns" in 1951 became sensational for that time and still nowadays this work hasn't lost its significance so far. (Bernshtam, 1951).

Results and discussion

The Kazakh people played an essential role in world history establishing states from the period of antiquity which changed the geographical picture of Eurasia. The history of Kazakh statehood begins not only from the establishments of Kazakh Khaganate. As the first examples of Kazakh statehood we can go to the studying the the Great tribes as Saks, Huns.

Among these tribal formations the role of the Huns is especially distinguished. Because the Huns were the first peoples who managed to prove the greatness of our ancestors by migrating from Asia to Europe and creating an empire that occupied that territory.

The Huns originally appeared in Central Asia. Their formation as nomadic people is associated with the beginning of the III century BC. Most researchers attribute the emergence of Hunnic society with this period as the leading nation.

They played a crucial role in the history of Eurasia, particularly during the 4th and 5th centuries AD.). In modern historiography, the Huns are divided into the Huns in Asia and Europe. The Huns in Asia are mentioned as the main opponents of the Chinese in the data itself. The great representative of Neo-Eurasianism Lev Gumilev describes the relationship of the Huns with China as follows: "... The Huns were defeated and split into four branches, each with own destiny. One of them, the most rebellious, retreated through the steppes of modern-day Kazakhstan to the Ural-Volga region in search of a new homeland, while the second branch "the weak Huns" settled in the Tarbagatai Mountains and conquered Asia with their exploits. The third branch, the most passive, remained in their homeland and mixed with the conquerors, resulting in the Xiongnu language containing a significant number of Turkic words. Finally, the forth power settled on the both sides of the Great Wall, in Shanghi, in Ordos and Alashan. It was this branch of the Huns who took initiative to restore the former glory of the Xiongnu, despite the fact that their situation was the most difficult. They were cut off from their native steppe by the Xianbei and were in the hand of Chinese government that was not particularly friendly to them. It was only after the fall of the Han dynasty that they has a chance to gain their freedom, and even then it was not immediate" (Gumilev, 1974. 27).

The obvious point of strengthening the statehood of the Huns was reflected in their movement to the West. The presence of the Hun tribal movement at the beginning process of the Great migration

peoples in the IV-VII centuries is also not accidental phenomenon. In the course of this movement, with the arrival of the huns, not only the political, but also the social and cultural relations of Europe changed.

The main center of the Hun Empire in Europe was located in Pannonia. Its most powerful point was during the reign of Attila, who was in power from 434 to 453, is the legendary commander of that era. His name, along with historical data, is known in the literature and history of many peoples. It was spread under the name "Etzel" in German poems and historical sources, and "Atli" in Chinese sources. In our Kazakh literature, in the poems and stories his name are given the name "Edyl" and "Edyl batyr" as a manifestation of special heroism.

From "Das Nibelungenlied" («Песнь о Нибелунгах») we can read:

«König Etzels Herrschaft war so weit erkannt,
Daß man zu alien Zeiten an seinem Hofe fand
Die allerktlnsten Recken, davon man je ver-

nommen

Bei Christen oder Heiden; die waren all mit ihm
gekommen.

Bei ihm war allerwegen, so sieht man's nimmer-
mehr

So christlicher Glaube als heidnischer Verkehr.

Wozu nach seiner Sitte sich auch ein jeder
schlug,

Das schuf des Königs Milde, man gab doch alien
genug" (Das Nibelungenlied, 2005. 10).

Let's consider the issues of military development of the Huns. Military development of Hunnish Empire first based on powerful army. In addition, in this regard, we had to mention that in the scientific community the issue of number of Hunnic armies is very disputable.

«There is no exact information about the composition and discipline of the Hun's Army» the authors of that period write. However, Favstos Buzand writes in his works that a large part of the mascot troops under King Sanesan consisted of Hun Warriors, and they were numerous and consisted of units (Buzand, 1953. 15). Of course, we suppose that their military units must be tens, hundreds and thousands.

Now the Chinese, when they deal with the steppe nomads, speak with embarrassing frequency of nomad armies numbering 100000, 200000, 300000, and even 400000 men. Thus Parker, whose narrative in his book is closely based on the original authorities, writes, '[Bagdur] had 300000 troops under his command', 'Baghdyr let loose 300000 of his best troops', '[Mercho had a standing army of 400000

horse-archers always ready', and so on (Parker, 1924. 12,15,159).

Movkes Kalancatuaci, who wrote about the military composition, said about the army of Alp-Ilitver (the king of the huns): "... they take their large army armored warriors with the commanders, banners, regiments, armored archers and armored horsemount, wearing chain mail and helmets...". Also he writes that along with military order, the Huns had military ranks and flag for each unit (Kalancatuaci, 1984. 185).

According to Jordannes, Attila's army consisted of half of a million people (*cuius exercitus quintentorum milium esse numero ferebatur*) (Jordanes, 1882. 182). Gothic authors exaggeration of the Hun's army's size before their campaign in Gaul to half a million people is certainly an overestimation. However it is now clear that Attila's army could have numbered between 100000 and 120000 at most, as his opponents had approximately the same.

Attila had up to 25 large and small tribes on his side. Each of them could field up to 10000 warriors or 1 tumen. In case of war, about one-third of the cavalry usually remained to defend their homelands (the rear). Attila could muster a maximum of 25 x 6,600 cavalry for a campaign, or at most 165,000 warriors. The vanguard and rearguard units consisted of allied clans and tribes, who participated in battles only sparingly. Furthermore, we must take into account that the Hunnic ruler simultaneously planned military operations in the East, particularly in the Caucasus, where he did not personally participate. All this, ultimately, gives reason to believe that the given size of the Hunnic army (from 100,000 to 120,000 men) may actually correspond to the period of Hun empire existence. It is the late antiquity and the early Middle Ages period (Zhumagulov, 2020. 42).

The legacy of the Huns can also be judged by archaeological findings that have been excavated on the territory of the states of the Eurasian continent. However, why was this special exhibition opened in Germany? Authors of the article have asked themselves this question many times before. According to the view of authors of this article, the answer to this question is related to the current situation of that time. That is many peoples of Europe, including the Germanic tribes couldn't afford to resist the domination of the Roman Empire before the arrival of the Huns. Having military tactics and weapons they saw the Hunnic Empire as a saviour from the Roman Empire and decided to unite their military forces with them. In short, the Hunnic Empire occupied a

certain place in the history of Germany and Europe during the turning point in the transition from antiquity to the Middle Ages.

The history of the Hunnic Empire in Europe and Eurasia under the name «Attila und die Hunnen» («Attila and the Huns») was the subject of a large-scale thematic exhibition in Germany in the city of Speyer from June 17, 2007 to January 6, 2008.

The organizer of the exhibition is a large historical museum of Germany, located in the city of Speyer (Historisches Museum der Pfalz Speyer). This museum is large scale in terms of exhibitions from the museum of several European states. From its founding in 1910 to the present, the Speyer museum has a collection of historical exhibits from different countries.

The archaeological innovations reflected in the museum's exhibition provided important information about the military culture and public life of the Huns. These materials from the Hunnic era made it possible to recreate pictures of military art, economic life, religious beliefs and rituals.

The expositions of the Speyer Historical Museum occupied an area of up to 1800 m², where fragments from the history and culture of the Huns were presented. Visitors to the exhibition at the very beginning got an idea of the world of the Huns (die Welt der Hunnen). Illustrations are given that this is a nomadic people, whose original habitat was Central Asia. According to the anthropological type, this is a clearly expressed Asian ethnos. Explanatory texts indicate that archaeological finds concerning the past Hunnic tribal union cover a huge area with a distance of more than 7000 km. from east to west of the Eurasian continent (Attila und die Hunnen, 2007. 75-76).

At the exhibition, on one of the monitors, a computer image of a Hun warrior on horse combat were attracted. Viewers can see an equestrian at full gallop is able to release many arrows from his bow in an instant... On the other hand, in another case, a warrior who seems to be retreating suddenly turns sharply and at full gallop, lightning-fast strikes the enemy. This weapon of the warriors-horsemen of the East, as the highest achievement of their military art, could be found even 1000 years later, for example, in the army of the Ottoman Empire of the 17th century. The exhibition materials contain examples of Hunnic weapons: single-edged swords and daggers, arrows with coal-shaped tips, which the European world did not know about the arrival of the conquerors from the East.

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found even 1000 years later, for example, in the army of the Ottoman Empire in the 17th century. The exhibition materials contain examples of hun weapons: single-edged swords and daggers, arrows with coal-shaped tips, which the European world did not know about before the arrival of the conquerors from the East.

The Speyer museum exhibition featured not only items of the Hun's military art, but also examples of the Huns jewelry art. The tips hryvnia, brooches, and many other jewelry items have similarities with our culture.

The exhibition in Speyer is equipped with excellent modern audio-visual things and various artistic design techniques and images (panoramas, dioramas, collages, etc.) are used.

At the exhibition were reconstructed examples of dwellings, furniture, household utensils, and other items of the original material culture of the Hunnic era (Stickler, 2007. 10).

Also the superiority of the Hunnic technical weapons is written in the works of both ancient chroniclers and foreign studies.

Procopius of Caesarea in his work mentions that "the Huns invented a device that neither the Romans nor the Persians, nor anyone since the creation of the world, had ever thought of, although in both states there have always been, and still are, a large number of engineers" (Procopius of Caesarea, 1950: 407-408).

The military victories and advantages of dominance of the Hun Empire and Mongol Empire were analyzed in detail in the work of Samuel Rumschlag. In his article he emphasized: "to help explain nomadic successes, I will highlight one aspect of nomadic society that is not frequently discussed. I argue that superior military technology was as crucial to nomadic military victories as were other factors such as gifted leadership and extreme mobility. Improvements made to nomadic military technologies over time allowed successive nomadic groups to be increasingly successful vis-a-vis their sedentary enemies until the eventual invention of firearms leveled the playing field. Far from being a peripheral consideration, uniquely nomadic military technology operated simultaneously with good leadership and high mobility in successful nomadic armies, and each factor complemented the advantages conferred by the others. The loss of even one of these advantages would have seriously impoverished the ability of a nomadic society to mount successful campaigns against well-equipped sedentary foes.

An added benefit of incorporating technological improvements into our explanatory frameworks

is the potential for such a perspective to explain not only nomadic victories over powerful sedentary foes, but also differential successes between different nomadic groups over time. Using two comparative case studies, we will argue that the mediocre successes of the Huns in the 5th century and the dazzling successes of the Mongols in the 13th century are due to differences in archery and saddle/stirrup technology in addition to other factors such as quality of military leadership. Despite the tendency of posterity to assume that one mounted archer is equal to another, from a technological perspective, this is simply not the case” (Rumschlag, 2018. 79).

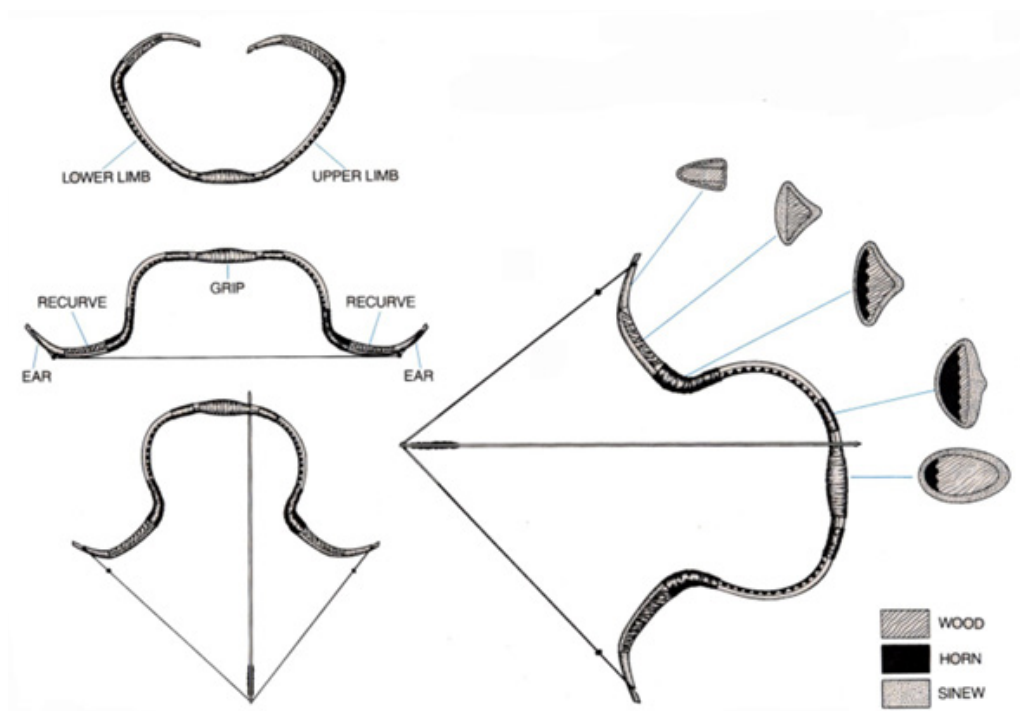
Weapons also played a special role in the military life of the Huns. Their main weapons were

daggers, spears, bows and arrows. One of the most unusual of these is the arrows. In the history of mankind, only the Huns had arrows that emitted voices, that is whistled. It was proved by all archaeological data. In addition to the iron tips of the arrowheads, arrowheads were found in the archaeological Tomb, processed from blued pointed bone. The arrowhead widened to towards the heads of the bullet and holes were punched in all sides. Such arrows make a sound when flying (Bichurin, 1950. 41-48).

Otto Maenchen-Helfen also refers to the works of Ammianus Marcellinus and other ancient authors and writes that the bow was the weapon of the Huns. In Ammianus description of the Hun’s armament, bow and arrow take the first place (Otto Maenchen-Helfen, 1979. 221.)

Figure

Diagram of a composite bow. (After: Hank Iken, in Grayson et al. 2007, Traditional Archery from Six Continental)



The Hunnic military art was remarkable for its sophistication. Their weapons and military tactics at the forefront of their time. Both Western sources archaeological innovations describe that no one was equal to the Hun army in their horse-drawn battles. The Huns developed his infantry cavalry in a special way, also he didn't reach the Rome. In each battle, in addition to advantages, the Huns also intended to

exert psychological pressure on their opponent. The enemy attacked his army unexpectedly to cause fear.

The Huns were excellent horsemen, as they were trained from an early age. When discussing the Hun's cavalry, it is important to mention their horses, which played a significant role in their daily lives. According to written sources, the Huns did everything on horseback including fighting, nego-

tiating, conferring with other, eating, drinking, and even sleeping (Nikonorov, 2002).

It should be noted that the horseheld a significant place in the Hun's religious practices. This is primarily indicated by the fact that in the burial sites of the Hunnic era, which have been excavated in southern Russia and Kazakhstan, along with items of horse equipment, there are sometimes buried hides and individual bones of horses and even entire steeds (Zasedskaya, 1994. 12-23). Apollinaris Sidonius compared the Huns to centaurs: "As soon as a child learned to stand without its mother's help, it found itself on horseback. One might think that the limbs of man and horse were born together, that the rider clung so tightly to the horse" (Sidonius, 2016. 262-266).

The Huns mastered horsemanship to perfection. Their lightning-fast attacks, astonishing maneuvering speed, and the clouds of arrows they unleashed from their terrifying bows – all of this was an integral part of the Hunnic art of war.

Also one of the interesting topics which requires serious studying is Huns military tactics. Their tacti-

cal methods in any of the battles amazed the peoples of Europe of that time. Although the huns fought from for a far or fought on approach, their skill and training prevailed.

Conclusion

Thus the study of the Hunnic army and their military art remains of great interest today. Currently, there are various views on this subject, which needs to be analyzed and objectively assessed. It's also worth noting that the Huns transformed European social and public life, leaving behind a vast legacy, including military art. Incidentally, the saddle and horse equipment in general were unknown to the people before their encounter with the Huns.

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