

PASTORALISM AND THE ROMANIAN HISTORY. SHEEP BREEDS- PEOPLE, LANGUAGES, GENES IN NORTHERN CARPATHIANS AND PANNONIA BASIN

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Abstract

In SE Europe there are 4 local Romanian groups of sheep breeds. Old, useful genetic resources, they also are historical and archaeological documents. One of them, Valachian (erroneously named 'Zackel') reflects the Daco-Thracian descent of the Romanians; the other (Corkscrew horns Vallachian, erroneously named 'Racka', Tsigai; and Ruda) are of Roman descent. These breeds could be useful to clarify some controversial history literature in SE Europe regarding the relationship between the peoples, their genes, and the languages they speak, especially since the genetic and linguistic trees of the human population in this region can be different.

The North Carpathian countries are believed to be populated by people of Slavic origin. The old Vallachian and Tsigai sheep presence in this area is connected to an old presence of immigrant or autochthon Valachs who may have lost forcefully or willingly their language, and being assimilated produced different deviations of Slaves from their genetic type to the Romanian one.

Hungarians, inhabitants of the former Roman Pannonia, are classified language-wise as Magyars, "which imposed its language on the local Romance-speaking population." (Cavalli-Sforza 2000). Palaeogenetically it is demonstrated that modern-day Hungarians are genetically just only about 10% Magyars and according to some estimation about 50% Slavic, 30% Romanian (an underestimation), and some 10% German and Gypsy. The Vallachian (Zackel) sheep, present in Pannonia at least since the Middle Ages, Corkscrews horns Vallachian (erroneously named Racka), Tsigai and Ruda attest the former presence of Romanians in this region and attest that "Hungarians" are ethnically somehow also Romanians.

The Slav populations of the South Pannonia Basin countries, north of Jirecek lineare, according to some historical data (Noel Malcom 1994), some admixtures of Slavic people, Vlachs, and Valachs. Practically all the sheep breeds from the area are Vallachian ("Zackel", named Promenka), Tsigai, Corkscrew horns Valachian, and Ruda.

In spite of their linguistic diversity, the "nations" which immigrated during the Middle Ages from this part of Europe are perhaps somehow genetically similar to the assimilated Valachs, perhaps themselves with a former large intertribal variation, reflected by the intra and inter sheep group breed variation.

Key words: Archaeological document, assimilation, pastoralism, native sheep breeds, indigenous, immigrant, Pannonia.

INTRODUCTION

Pastoralism, one of the oldest agricultural areas, had a great weight, not exclusively in the history of Romanians, but also in the miraculous conservation of their national and linguistic traits. Sheep milk and wool had a great role in the difficult survival of the Proto Romanians. Four local groups of sheep breeds registered in a vast SE Europe area suggest an actual or former Romanian presence. Thus these breeds, old, useful genetic resources, and even the sheep production system can also be regarded as historical and archaeological documents (Draganescu 1997). They could be

useful for a clarification of some controversial historical literature in SE Europe regarding the relationship between the peoples, their genes, and the languages they speak.

We analyzed the situation of sheep breeds, peoples, languages, ethnicity in the areas located in the North-East of the Black Sea and in the Balkans. On these first findings we proposed a scheme (fig 1) of Romanian community organizations evolution in the large territory of their sheep breeds dispersion. We hope that the obtained data will help the paleogenetical, and historic research in clarifying the genetic relationships between people and even between the sheep breeds.

As the identification of language – genetic (ethnic) people relation, even the breed taxonomy in SE Europe seems to be more complex and has many unsolved complication and mysteries aspects, we continue the investigations in the Pannonia Basin. In this paper we will try to (1) remind and clarify

some historical data on pastoralism and sheep breed extent in this area; (2) make a connection between the native sheep breeds and the former Roman and Romanized population; (3) reveal some aspects of people, language and genes in this area.

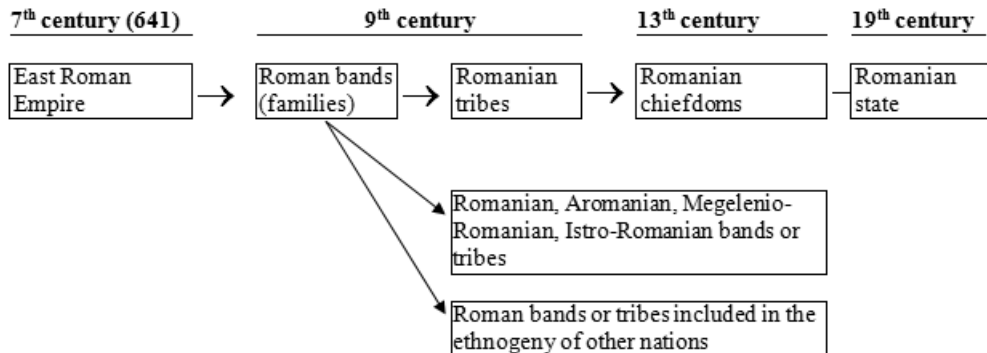


Figure 1. Society** evolution of the Proto Roman and Romanian population after the disappearance of the former East Roman Empire. (Draganescu 2007). One of their native sheep breeds started its formation before and three during the Roman Empire and evolved during the existence of Romanian bands, tribes and possible chiefdoms societies (Archiva Zootechnica 2007, 10:1-10)

RESULTS AND DISCUSSIONS

I. Some facts on pastoralism and sheep breeds in SE Europe.

“Please excuse me for persisting in my ideas that most sheep breeds of this part of Europe are connected to the former Vlack Valack existence.”

Noel Malcolm. 1999

I.1. Proto Romanian pastoralism

The Romanized population from the former East Roman Empire, descends from the former Thraco-Geto-Dacian populations, and Roman immigrants, the ProtoRomanians, maliciously named by the new Byzantine power and by the new immigrants peoples Vlachs or Valachs, had to leave the history in the 7th century, when the official imperial language was changed in Byzance from Latin to Greek (641 year), and most of the peninsula has been occupied by Slavs. They retired for many centuries from the state, „imperial”, social organization, to an *obscured anonymous rural band and tribal life* (fig 1). That can be an explanation of the absence of script material on them, fact which allowed many historical speculations.

The former Romans settlers and Romanized natives have managed to exist through the centuries, as Matley (1968) stated, *“almost exclusively by herding of livestock on mountain pastures”*. In fact, so strong has herding become associated with the Vlachs that in part of Greece the term Vlahos is used to denote a shepherd and “Vlachostrata to denote transhumance routes,” “with no ethnic connotations”. Since the Middle Ages the term of Vlach has been used in Serbia and Bosnia as synonymous with mountain herder of any ethnic group”. Perhaps this is what the Russian Tsar Nicolas II (1870) meant when he said that “Romania is not a nation, not a state, but a profession” witch is really a paraphrase of Bismark’s words.

“The survival of the former Romans under these circumstances seems something of a miracle”, noted Winnifrith (1985), “and perturbed the modern ‘national’ historians of this part of Europe. A large amount of ‘historical’ studies are dedicated to them”. Seldom transhumance was mistaken by chance or deliberately to nomadism or to migration, their territorial location and even presence

contested. Winnifith (1985) however concluded ***“It seem not to rash to guess that the Vlachs in the absence of any evidence to the contrary may have lived in the same way and in the same place for the previous fourteen hundred years”*** The transhumance, imposed by the mountains conditions (not possible to have forages for wintering in mountains), made possible the breeds dispersion and the tribal relations, the pasture disputes (the case of Vlachs and Saracatsans), but also the historical speculation by mistaking transhumance to nomadic and migration.

People, language, genes palaeogenetics. Ages, as Matley (1968), Malcom (1996, 1999), Winnifith (1985) noticed, referring to the south Pannonia Slavs area that *“most of the Romanized and Latin-speaking population had become spontaneously or deliberately assimilated by the surrounding newcomers others nationalities, but in spite of losing their language they still maintained the old way, pastoral of life”* and their breeds. As a result of forced assimilation appeared a difference between people name, language and their ethnicity (genes). ***Some people have a name, speech a language but really they have a different ethnicity, gene fund. The language designs a people and the genes another.*** A new genetic branch – **palaeogenetics** -appeared lately, allowing the clarification of the true relations (similarities, differences, evolution) between populations. The problem is scientifically interesting and sociological useful in establishing good inter-peoples relations. Sometimes it seems that genetic research (palaeogenetics) is more difficult (in intra breed people) and we supposed that some other cultural and economic indicators can help problem clarification. It is the case of local sheep breeds produced and utilized by different people. We note however that **there is no doubt that the conquering immigrants, from the Migration Period, didn't bring any sheep breeds to SE Europe.**

I.2. Phyletic native group of sheep breeds and the Proto Romanian ethnogeny

Sheep breeds. Generally each territorial community formed his breed. The name of breed was connected to the name of community the breeding region (Vlachico, Valachian) or to some breed characteristics (Corkscrew horns,

Ruda from Aruda = fine soft wool, Tsigai = fine soft wool). With such nomenclature systems, which practically presented a short standardized description of the breed, it was easy to identify it, some history and the relationship with others breeds. These were the first signals for the identification of four breeds as “Valachian” and the former territory of them. However history complicates the problems.

Despite Valachs assimilation, the name of breeds was seldom changed, by chance, or by, an unjustified “national pride” (the language and the ethnicity are different things and must not be mistaken) . **It is symptomatic that on many sides of the borders of Balkan countries (Albania-Greece, Bulgaria-Serbia etc.) there are the same breeds seldom with different name, even though the borders are just from the 19th or 20th century and the breeds are there for centuries.** As a result the breeds name do not reflect always now, with some exception, their characteristic, phyliation, relationship, and that is not just a scientific damage but also a damage for a cooperation in their improvement, conservation, utilisation.

I.2a. Valachian (“Zakel”) taxonomic heritage phyletic sheep group, attest the Thracogeto-Dacic descend and the territorial extension of Proto Romanians.

Valachian is the most important native heritage sheep phyletic group of Central and SE Europe, extended from Ural-Caucasus to Bohemia and Pindus mountains, adapted to low-input sustainable farming systems, still an integral part of most economy and ecology of this region, sustaining their natural landscape. According to Bokonyi 1974 p. 181, 182, quoting Zeuner (1963 p. 187) *“Zackelschaf”* appeared in Mesopotamia in the 4th millennium BC and occurred in South East Europe as early as in the 2nd millennium BC” (Brendjes B, 1965 p.29). The explanation of actual name (Valachian) and extension area can be explain perhaps by the fact that in was introduced in Europe by or to the Thracogeto-Dacians, and suggest possible language similarities of their language to the Latin of Vlachs.

Some errors persist in their identification, denomination, classification:

-Their phyletic old name *Zackel*, not used for any breed, is scientifically incorrect, being the translation into German of word “strepsiceros” from the Latin name of a breed (*O. a. strepsiceros* = Corkscrew horns Valachian) from the old Egyptian phyletic group.

-The breeds' identification, denomination and classification was made initially isolated in different country, not always on those criteria, and in some countries frequently changed by unclear reasons. As a result some errors persist creating some chaotic situation. In the phyletic group are included breeds from others phyletic group (Ruda group, Old Egyptian group) and not clear included his breeds.

-Genetic diversity of Valachian breeds is very large, produced by very many generation of evolution in divers ecological niches, divers pastoral systems (sedentary, transterminance, transhumance), and divers community breeding in small regions. Most breeds have an island structure and are possible that sometimes the very different “island of a breed” is denominated just “variety”, a not correct taxonomical category, and sometimes-different breeds. More or less empirical approach of the problem mislead to a “taxonomical” complication.

1.2.b The Corkscrew horns Valachian, Tsigai and Ruda breeds attest the Roman descend of the Proto Romanians.

Corkscrew horns Valachian It is a breed from the Egyptian-Mesopotamian phyletic sheep group. It seem that is the sheep of a former Roman colonizers brought to the Serbian, Montenegro, Pannonia area from the Middle east-Egyptian area, who survived there as Valach band or tribe until the 17-18th century, being gradually Serbicized, or Hungarcized. It is very well conserved in Hungary, where it was considered as national breed, in Romania and Serbia.

With his name is a whole *comedy of errors*. Buffon (1768) after a description of Colinson presented it under the name of *Valachian* sheep (Brebis valachienne); Darwin (1865) presented the breed under the same name. The Serbs, knowing their owners, use to call the breed *Valaska Vitoroga* (Corkscrew horns Valachian) or in Montenegro “Baluska”. The Romanian peasants from Romania call this sheep “Serbian”, and the Hungarians and the

Germans from S-W Romania *Racka*, but most of them forgot that *Rakz* means in their language “Serb”, and thought that is a Hungarian national breed, brought by them. Maior (1899) spell the breed name *Raczka* and explain that it mean “Serbian”, but the Romanian scientist didn't notice the translation. Cornevin (1890) presented the breed as being “from Montenegro”. Nathusius (1890) wrote its history and, translating the Linnaean breed name- (*O. a. strepticerus*) into German, named it *Zackel* (strepsiceros=zackel), and created the basis of *confusions to Valachian*, because for the Germans living in Romania *Zackel* was synonymous to Valach (mountain peasant) and Corkscrew sheep had the wool a little similar to Valach sheep”. As a result the Valachian breeds have been named *Zackel*, and the Corkscrew horns Valachian sheep, the descendant from the old Egyptian-Mesopotamian sheep, have been erroneously introduced in some phyletic group with the descendant of Thraco-Geto-Dacic, clear morpho-ecological different taxonomical group.

The breed is still conserved by Romanian peasants on the Romanian-border, in Serbia and very well in Hungary, sometimes as a “Hungarian historical breeds”, (Draganescu 1997).

Tsigai. It is a breed from the Merino phyletic sheep group. Kulesov (1894) noted “The (Tsigai) skull was so similar to Merino that was possible to differentiate them just on the label”, and “If we consider Merino as it was 100-150 years ago, the differences to Tsigai are negligible”. The same findings were noted also by others scientist (Adametz, Teodoreanu etc).

It seems that this is the sheep of a former Roman colonists introduced during the Roman time (105-275 A.D.) to Carpathian Bend from where it was dispersed in SE Romania and by transhumance in North Carpathians, North Bulgarian, NE Pontic areas, possible in East Pannonia and sold to Turkey, Albania, Bulgaria. Other hypothetical origin is not valid because its name used in all countries is strictly a Romanian word, meaning soft, fine wool, and all dispersion routes are known. They have a semi fine wool, white dominant to black (as in Merino), brown, reddish or white face and legs.

Ruda is a sedentary, phyletic group of breeds, with a white uniform but coarser wool than

Tsigai, generally with black face and legs. A different conformation (lopped ears, Roman nose) and a larger weight is related to Italian Bergamasca. Introduced perhaps by Romans in more plain area of Balkan Peninsula and seldom confused to Tsigai (Serbia, Croatia, even Hungary) or to Valachian, was noticed just by Mason (1986) as independent phyletic group. We note that the confusion to Tsigai was facilitated by the fact that owners from Serb-Croat-Hungarian border were perhaps Valach and they don't have in their vocabulary the word Ruda, a Vlach synonym of Tsigai.

II. People, languages, genes in Northern Carpathians and Pannonia Basin

"They imposed their language on the province, a frequent outcome of conquest."

Cavalli Sforza 2000 p. 154

The historical document registered in prehistorically time on Pannonia Basin as well as in all Central and SE Europe a great diversity of tribes, seldom considered people even it is not clear if they had different languages not speaking of genes.

The acquaintance of the scientific truth, important in our era, imposes a clarification of real sociological, cultural and genetic structure of populations.

Old, useful genetic resources, the sheep breeds are also **historical and archaeological documents**. One of them-Valachian (erroneously named 'Zackel') reflect the Daco-Thracic descent of the Romanians; the other (Corkscrew horns Vallachian-erroneously named 'Racka', Tsigai; and Ruda) reflect their Roman descent.

These breeds could be useful for a clarification of some controversial history literature in SE Europe regarding the relationship between the peoples, their genes, and the languages they speak, especially since the genetic and linguistic trees of the human population in this region can be different.

II.1. Sheep breeds, people, languages genes in North Carpathian countries

The main local sheep breeds in North Carpathians, from the Romanian border to their end at Austrian border are Valachian and Tsigai.

Their name is conserved in Czechia and Slovakia. The Valachian name was changed in

Poland, were in denominated now Polish mountain breed, even in the years 1930 they imported for improvement rams from Romania (Draganescu 1995). In Ukraine, in the former Czechoslovak and Romanian area, the Valachian is named Ukraine mountain sheep breed. Actually, these breeds can be found not just in mountains but also in some lowlands.

The presence of these breeds can be connected to the mountain existence of a group of old diverse highland communities, "people", more or less assimilated to the country where they live, but with specific ethnographic and even linguistic characteristics.

It is possible that the mountains were for them a refuge. **Survival of a language, of a people is more likely to happen in refuges (isolated place-like mountainous regions – resistant to invaders (Braudel 1985, Cavalli Sforza 2000).** In a word they are named Gorals there is highlanders. The main highlander communities of such indigenous people are the following.⁵

Moravian Wallachia. Located in the easternmost part of Moravia, Czech Republic, near the Slovakian border.

The name Wallachia was formerly applied to all the highlands of Moravia and neighbouring Silesia, although in the nineteenth century a smaller area came to be defined as **ethno-cultural Moravian Wallachia**.

It is the single community where is maintained his real communities name Vlachs. Are accepted as former Vallachians some more communities named **Gorals** along southern Poland (Podhale, Zywiec), northern Slovakia in 4 separate groups: in northern Spiš (34 villages subdivided in two groups), Orava and Kysuce (2 villages) and smaller groups in 7 other enclave villages and Czech Republic (Silesian Beskids, Zywiec Beskids) in northern.

They are considered, it seem with some subjectivity, as partially descended from Romance-speaking Vlachs who migrated into the region from the 14th to 17th centuries and were absorbed into the local population.

We accepted (1995) that in this centuries there were perhaps some transhumance shepherd from Meridional Carpathians, especially Tsigay owners who visited Nard Carpathians, but it is difficult to accept that there were no sheep, no autochthonous Vallach, even

lowlanders before the Slav immigration in this area.

In the remaining Carpathians area there are now 3 communities, **Hutsuls** (Ukraine, Romania) considered by some students as been original Romanians, Lemkos (in Poland, Slovakia, Ukraine), Boykos (in Ukraine, Poland, Slovakia) with a sort of Proto Slavonic languages but with some Vallachian ethnographic and even professional characteristics.

Language, Genes, People in North Carpathian area. The identification of genetic people differences in this area is somehow difficult because practically all of them belong to the Indo-European genetic family. For these reasons we insist for some clarification starting from others information, in special sheep production. The sheep breeds from the North Carpathian area suggest a great language similitude between the peoples of the area, but also suggest some genetic similitude with the Romanians, produced by the assimilated Vallachian. The last hypothesis seems to be by the small numbers of palaeogenetic studies published until now who didn't note significant differences between peoples. It is an interesting problem for genetic researches to clarify the problem, and also the small people's communities, possible descents from the old tribe who use to live in this area.

II.2. Sheep breeds, people, languages genes in Pannonia

The history of sheep breeds in the ancient Roman province of Pannonia, which correspond roughly to modern Hungary, are well presented by Bokonyi (1974) in an interesting study on the History of Domestic Mammals in Central and Eastern Europe. The indigenous breeds have been breed especially up to the middle of 18th century. They became almost extinct because of introduction and spreading of the merinos. We retain that from local breeds the **Vallachian (Zackel**, it seems name the Medieval breed of Hungarian sheep), were, present in Pannonia at least since the Middle Ages. In his place were introduced now from Romania so called "Gyiimes Racka" a variety of Romanian Valakian (Tsurcana). The most important local sheep breed seem to be now the **Corkscrew horns Vallachian** (it seem named **Hungarian Zackelschaft** or erroneous

Racka (=Serbian), named by Buffon-1768- and by Darwin -1865-"Valachian"and by Serbs Valaska Vitoroga). It is considered as national breed introduced by conquering Hungarians or other people and tribes – Avars, Pechenegs, Jazygians, Cumans"- (Boconyi 1962 quoted by Dunka, 1984). However its presence has been identified archeologically by bones only from 16th century (Bokonyi). The 3rd local breed, introduced perhaps from Romania (some students write erroneously that they came from Balkan and Asia Minor, were the breed doesn't exist), and now imported from Slovakia. The 4th local breed is **Ruda**, erroneously named Dairy Tsigai even on the Serb-Croat border from which it was imported. The presence of these breeds put the problem whether the "Hungarians" are somehow ethnically also Romanians. The paleogenetics studies of Cavally Sforza (1994, 2000) attest the supposition asserting that" *Latin was the administrative language in the ancient Roman province of Pannonia, which corresponds roughly to the modern Hungary, but Pannonia was invaded by the Uralic speaking Magyars at the end of ninth century A.D.* " (p.114) *"The conquest resulted in a Magyar monarchy, which imposed its language on the local Romance speaking population,"* (p.151). Some others recharges attest that "the number of conquerors was large but did not constitute the majority of population-perhaps less than 30 percent of the total" (p.151). According to some estimation about 50% Hungarian's genes fond are genetically Slave, 30% Romanian (an underestimation), and some 10% German and Gypsy. The identification of genetic people differences in this area is somehow difficult because practically all of them belong to the Indo-European genetic family. For these reasons we insist for some clarification starting from other information, particularly, the sheep production

II.2. Sheep breeds, people, languages genes in the South Pannonia Basin.

The "nations" from this part of Europe are more or less genetically related, their genetic and linguistic trees being different (As Cavalli Sforza noticed for Hungarians) "

Noel Malcolm. 1999

The Slav populations of the South Pannonia Basin countries, north of the Jirecek line are (Malcom 1994, 1999) some admixtures of Slavic people with Vlachs, and Valachs. At the Slav immigration the former Romanized population used to live in this area (1999 p 2328) and and now "after Greece, Yugoslavia has the second large number of Vlachs within its borders (45)

Practically **the sheep breeds** from the this area are: Vallachian, Tsigai, Corkscrew horns Valachian, and Ruda (2003 Sr. Stoianovic-Serbia and Montenegro, D. Koman-Slovenia, M.Posavi, Croatia-FAO reports). The sheep production system is Valach and many Vlach words connected with pastoral life were absorbed into Serbo-Croat dialects, as well as in all SE Europe. As some data can produce taxonomic confusion, we will present just some opinions on them.

In the **Vallakian phyletic group**, ("Zackel", named in Slavic languages "Promenka=long lock wool") are included many breeds from other phyletic groups; (Ruda, Corkscrew Vallachian etc.) and the breed name is often changed. The changed name hides the group and the breed's type, their origin, and their relationship. Mason (1988) presents the breed Piva from North Montenegro, as named also Durmitor (Romanian word). The Bosnian Vlastic, is clear, as Matley (1968) noted, the breed of some transhumance Vlachs, „completely Slavicized, many converted to Islam during the Turkish occupation"; more even in Malcom opinions the Valachia („Zackel") breeds from Bosnia are originally from Romania and have changed name.

For **Corkscrew horns Vallachian** breed, it is honourably for the Serbs the use the correct name, also accepted by Buffon and Darwin. The acceptance of Tsigai as immigrated from Romanian has however some scientific complications. The "Tsigai" have some complications. The "**Somborski**" **Tsiga**, named by Hungarian Milk Tsigai, from the Serbo-Croatian border is not Tsigai, but **Ruda** breed. It can't be imported from Romania, because in Romania it wasn't (it was introduced from Bulgaria where perhaps it came from Sombor). The second "Tsigai" "Cokanski", from the the Serbo-Romanian border is also Ruda perhaps,

and can also be the true Tigai introduced by the Romanian transhumant shepherds.

The Slavonic people from the area have more or **less different languages**, certainly different from Vlach Valach, and Istrian dialects of the Romanian language, assimilated people. Even the genic structure of each language was more or less identified and the conclusion seems to be that practically all of them belong to the **Indo-European genetic family**. (table 1) Intensive collaboration between experts of genetics, historians and archaeologists in the research of the ethnogenesis of populations"). Until a further research will clarify the problem, it is interesting to elucidate the magnitude of Vlach and Valach assimilation noted by some studies in the last decades excepting the presently not assimilated known **Romanian tribe (Istria, Timok Valley, Banat etc)**..

Malcom noted that, "this enables us to see that in the late fifteenth century there were at least **35,000 Vlachs in Hercegovina**, and in the sixteenth century as many as **82,692** mainly Vlach households (including some non-Vlach martolosi, with similar privileges) **in the Smederovo region to the south of Belgrade** For a time, as A.I. Popovici (1939) noted also, **Belgrade was almost a Vlach city**. Malcom noted also "So important was the Vlach element in the creation of this Bosnian Orthodox population that, three centuries later, the term 'Vlach' was still being used in Bosnia to mean 'member of the Orthodox Church.'

For Vlachs or Morlacks on the north and north-western frontier of Bosnians, Ferdinand II established in 1630 a document known as the '**Statuta Valachorum**' **Law of the Vlachs**'.

In Zagreb, there is, from 13th, century a **Vlaška Ulica** (*Vicus Latinorum*). Some of these pastoral Vlachs also penetrated as far as the central Bosnia, where medieval place-names in the regions of Sarajevo and Travnik indicate their presence: Vlahinja, Vlakovo, Vlastic.

Most of these early Dalmatian and Bosnian Vlachs seem to have led quiet, secluded lives in the mountains.

But in Hercegovina itself, where there was a large concentration of Vlachs, a more military and aggressive tradition developed. There are many complaints in Ragusan records of raids by these neighbouring Vlachs during the

fourteenth and fifteenth centuries. The Vlachs of Hercegovina were horse-breeders and caravan-leaders

Giovanni Lovrich noted in the 1770s that the Croatian Morlachs all had flocks of 200, 300 or 600 sheep, and when he asked why they were so reluctant to till the soil, they replied: 'Our ancestors didn't do it, so neither shall we.'

Some writers, especially Serbian ones, have argued that the term 'Vlach' was used just to mean 'shepherd' and did not imply any ethnic or linguistic difference--so that most of these people were really just Serbs with sheep.

This view is rejected by the leading modern expert on Vlachs in the early Ottoman Balkans, who insists that they were regarded as distinct population

The great South Danubian Vlachs presence is attested also by the Turk Imperial law from 9/22 May 1905 by which they are recognized civil rights (schools, churches in their language

etc.), right which was not observed by the new national states.

One explication and method of Vlachs assimilation in all Balkan area is that they have always been bilingual (as today), since they were never the administrators, they haven't the right to have schools and churches in their language.

As a result of Vlachs assimilation many Slavs have, as Hungarians, Romanian ancestry, but one cannot possibly calculate precisely the percentages for the 'Vlach' ancestry of them. Some (mainly in Croatia) became Catholics, and quite a few were Islamicized in Bosnia.

To call someone a Serb today is to use a concept constructed in the nineteenth and twentieth centuries out of a combination of religion, language, history and the person's own sense of identification.

Table 1. Y_DNA haplogroup among SE Europe Region (A.Imreh synthesis)

on/Haplogroup	I1	I2a	I2b	R1a	R1b	G2a	J2	J1	E1b1b	T (+ L)	Q	N1c1
Bosnia-Herzegovina	2.5	50	0.5	13.5	4	2	6	1	14.5	2.5	0	0
Bulgaria	3	20	1	18	18	1	20	0	16	1	1	0
Croatia	8	42	1	29	8	1	3.5	0	6	1.5	0	0
Czech Republic	11	9	4	34	22	5	6	0	6	1	1.5	0.5
Greece	4	10	1.5	12	12	3.5	25	2	27	3	0	0
Hungary	8	15	2.5	32.5	17	5	7	0	9.5	1	1	1
Poland	6	9	1	56.5	16.5	2	1	1	3.5	0	0	0
Romania	1.5	17.5	2	22	22	1	24	0	6	2	2	0
Serbia	2	29	4	15	7	1	10	1	24	7	0	0
Slovakia	6	10	1	40	23	1	4	0	11	1	2.5	0.5
Ukraine	2	12	1	50	4	4	10	0	8	2	5	2

CONCLUSIONS

The 19th, 20th century **formation of national states** in SE Europe, a historical, human and ethical development necessity, also had some unpleasant effects, *tendency to denature the history* for vainly reasons or territorial vindication, some tendency to emphasise again the forced assimilation of foreign people. The modern international opinions and even legislation break such actions. Perhaps our findings tend to give a scientific basis for a break.

The peoples from this part of Europe are perhaps somehow relatives, genetically similar (table 1) by assimilating part of the Romanized

population from the former East Roman Empire. It seems that the inter people genetic variation is much lower than the intra peoples variation, cultural and economic development deserving more attention.

The *Proto Romanians* probably also had a **large intertribal variation** reflected by the 4 inter sheep group variation and by the intra group breed variation. The linguists studied this aspect, which is also reflected by the sheep breeds, aspect who deserve perhaps more scientific attention; the Moldavian Black and Grey Valachian (Tsurcana) sheep attest that the Moldavian ethnogenesis took place in

Moldavia; they didn't come from Transylvania, as an old legend asserts.

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