

A BRIEF HISTORICAL OUTLINE OF THE EVOLUTION OF THE HUNGARIAN KINGDOM BORDER

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Abstract. The title of this short article requires, from the very start of the discussion *sine ira et studio*, a number of clarifications. They are needed, as documents show, to remove any passionate views that are often encountered in the Hungarian historiography. We have used the term the Kingdom of Hungary for, ever since its emergence, the Hungarian state had taken the form of a monarchy. The rank of that monarchy was always that of kingdom, since its emergence until 1945, when the Republic was proclaimed.

Keywords: Hungarians, western/eastern Christendom, Hungarian Kingdom, boundary, expansion, conquests, etno-demographic realities.

As for the arrival of the Hungarians in Europe, that occurred later. This Finno-Ugric people¹ living in the central basin of the Volga River² was born from the mixture of two tribal unions, that of the Ugrians and of the Magyars³. The Turkic tribes of the Bashkirs would later join them⁴. Hence, the nickname “Bozgor” that appeared later on⁵.

Hungarian tribes pushed westwards, through the present-day territory of Ukraine. In 889 Turkic tribes of the Pechenegs were hit. The Hungarians would regroup. Following the Cossacks’ model, they would choose two leaders, namely Árpád and Kursan. They assumed the pompous, unjustified title of kings, although they led a mere union of tribes.

Basileus Leon VI skilfully used the Hungarians to fight against the Bulgarians, who had risen under Tsar Simeon (893-927). Consequently, in 895, the Hungarians led by Árpád and Kursan crossed the Wooded Carpathians and settled in the *puszta* where once the Roman province of Pannonia had been.

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¹ Cf. Lucien Musset, *Les invasions: Le second assaut contre l'Europe chrétienne (VIIe – XIe siècle)*, Presses Universitaires de France, Paris, 1965, p. 60.

² *Ibidem*.

³ *Ibidem*.

⁴ *Idem*, pp. 60-61.

⁵ Cf. Virgil Ciocâltan, *Informațiile lui Guillaume de Rubruck despre români și bașkiri în lumina izvoarelor orientale*, in *Românii în istoria universală*, vol. 2, Univ. Al. I. Cuza, Iași, 1987, pp. 19-26; *idem*, *Români, unguri și ...bașkiri*, in “Magazin istoric”, vol. 29, no. 7 (1995), pp. 65-66.