

SHORT ESSAY ON THE GREAT MIGRATION

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Abstract: This short article aims to briefly present the phenomenon of great migration that occurred from the 4th century B.C. to the 13th century A.D. It evolved as a constant movement of peoples to areas of Europe ruled by the Roman Empire. The great migration led to the destruction of the Roman civilisation. Another consequence was the birth of modern peoples of Europe. As regards the western part of the continent, Germanic peoples played an important role in the structure of the new modern peoples. In Eastern Europe, the Slavic peoples were the catalyser that contributed to the formation of modern peoples.

Key-words: migration, antiquity, the Middle Ages, development, consequences.

We have used the title “short essay” for it is impossible that a mere article should deal with all the issues raised by the demographic phenomenon known as the “great migration”, which took place between the 4th century B.C. and the 13th century A.D. throughout the entire Eurasian area. In support of this statement, we may show that some of the most renowned historians that have dealt specifically with this topic, such as Ferdinand Lot² and, recently, the Caen professor Lucien Musset³ and academician Victor Spinei⁴, have not reached final results, as they were forced to confine themselves to formulating some assumptions⁵. We have

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² Cf. Ferdinand Lot, *Les invasions germaniques, la pénétration mutuelle du monde barbare et du monde romain*, Payot, Paris, 1935, passim; idem, *Les invasions barbares et le peuplement de l'Europe*. Vol. 1 *Introduction à l'intelligence des derniers traités de paix*, vol. 2 *Slaves de l'est, Finno-Ougriens, Turcs et Mongols, États issus de la décomposition des empires du centre et de l'est*, Payot, Paris, 1937, passim;

³ Cf. Lucien Musset, 1. *Les invasions: les vagues germaniques*, Presses universitaires de France, Paris, 1965, passim; idem, 2. *Les invasions: le second assaut contre l'Europe chrétienne*, Presses universitaires de France, Paris, 1965, passim; also translated into Romanian as: L. Musset, *Invaziile, 1, Valurile germanice*, Ed. Corint, București, 2002, passim; idem, *Invaziile, 2, Al doilea asalt asupra Europei creștine*, Ed. Corint, București, 2002, passim.

⁴ For an attempt to treat the issue of migrations, also see Victor Spinei, *The Great Migrations in the East and South East of Europe from the Ninth to the Thirteenth Century*, Romanian Cultural Institute and Museum of Brăila Istros Publishing House, Cluj-Napoca, 2003, passim.

⁵ The causes of migration may be given as example: F. Lot presented the demographic phenomenon as a game of balls that moved, hitting one another, while L. Musset saw it as a vast