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The Involvement of the Pechenegs in the Ethnopolitical Processes of the Southern Russian Steppes

Abstract

Examining the involvement of the Pechenegs in the ethnopolitical processes of the Southern Russian steppes is crucial for understanding the formation of the ethnic and political map of Eastern Europe during the 10th and 11th centuries. The impact of the Pechenegs on the political situation in this region remains significant for historians and ethnologists. The purpose of this study is to analyze the role of the Pechenegs in the ethnopolitical processes of the Southern Russian steppes from the mid-10th century to the mid-11th century. The research focuses on the Pechenegs' contributions to ethnopolitical changes and their interactions with other peoples and states in the region. The study utilizes the works of prominent historians such as N. M. Karamzin, P. A. Golubovsky, S. M. Solov'ev and G. Manuku-Adameshteanu, as well as research by Turkish and Hungarian scholars. The analysis is based on primary sources, including chronicles and archaeological data, as well as secondary historical materials. The study addresses the origin of the name "Pecheneg" and their early homeland. Historians like Tatishchev, Karamzin, and Solovyov present different views on the origins and initial territories of the Pechenegs. Tatishchev associates the Pechenegs with the Sarmatians, while Karamzin and Solovyov identify them as Turkic peoples. The research examines the Pechenegs' influence on ethnopolitical processes in the Southern Russian steppes, including their conflicts with the Bulgars, Hungarians, Khazars, and the Rus state. Golubovsky and Manuku-Adameshteanu highlight the Pechenegs' significant impact on the Hungarians and other regional peoples. The article also



explores the Pechenegs' settlement in modern Hungary and their roles as both vassals of the Kievan state and independent political actors in the region's political life. The article concludes that the Pechenegs played a significant role in the ethnopolitical processes of the Southern Russian steppes during the 10th and 11th centuries. Despite losing their political power by the mid-11th century, they had a considerable impact. Further research is needed to fully understand their role in the history of Eastern Europe.

Keywords: *Southern Russian steppes, Pechenegs, Kievan Rus state, Danube Bulgars, state, etymology*

Peçeneklerin Güney Rusya Bozkırlarının Etnopolitik Süreçlerine Katılımı

Öz

Peçeneklerin Güney Rusya steplerindeki etnopolitik süreçlere katılımını incelemek, 10. ve 11. yüzyıllarda Doğu Avrupa'nın etnik ve siyasi haritasının oluşumunu anlamak için çok önemlidir. Peçeneklerin bu bölgedeki siyasi durum üzerindeki etkisi tarihçiler ve etnologlar için önemini korumaktadır. Bu çalışmanın amacı, Peçeneklerin 10. yüzyılın ortalarından 11. yüzyılın ortalarına kadar Güney Rusya bozkırlarının etnopolitik süreçlerindeki rolünü analiz etmektir. Araştırma, Peçeneklerin etnopolitik değişimlere katkılarına ve bölgedeki diğer halklar ve devletlerle etkileşimlerine odaklanmaktadır. Çalışmada N. M. Karamzin, P. A. Golubovsky, S. M. Solov'ev ve G. Manuku-Adameshteanu gibi önde gelen tarihçilerin eserlerinin yanı sıra Türk ve Macar akademisyenlerin araştırmalarından da yararlanılmıştır. Analiz, kronikler ve arkeolojik veriler de dahil olmak üzere birincil kaynakların yanı sıra ikincil tarihi materyallere dayanmaktadır. Çalışma, "Peçenek" adının kökenini ve erken dönemdeki anavatanlarını ele almaktadır. Tatishchev, Karamzin ve Solovyov gibi tarihçiler Peçeneklerin kökenleri ve ilk toprakları hakkında farklı görüşler sunmaktadır. Tatishchev Peçenekleri Sarmatlarla ilişkilendirirken, Karamzin ve Solovyov onları Türk halkları olarak tanımlamaktadır. Araştırma, Peçeneklerin Bulgarlar, Macarlar, Hazarlar ve Rus devletiyle olan çatışmaları da dahil olmak üzere Güney Rusya bozkırlarındaki etnopolitik süreçler üzerindeki etkisini incelemektedir. Golubovsky ve Manuku-Adameshteanu, Peçeneklerin Macarlar ve diğer bölge halkları üzerindeki önemli etkisini vurguluyor. Makale ayrıca Peçeneklerin modern Macaristan'a yerleşmelerini ve hem Kiev devletinin vasalları hem de bölgenin siyasi yaşamında bağımsız siyasi aktörler olarak oynadıkları rolleri incelemektedir. Makale, Peçeneklerin 10. ve 11. yüzyıllarda Güney Rusya bozkırlarının etnopolitik süreçlerinde önemli bir rol oynadığı sonucuna varmaktadır. Siyasi güçlerini 11. yüzyılın ortalarında kaybetmelerine rağmen, hatırı sayılır bir etkiye sahiptiler. Doğu Avrupa tarihindeki rollerini tam olarak anlamak için daha fazla araştırmaya ihtiyaç vardır.

Anahtar Kelimeler: *Güney Rusya bozkırları, Peçenekler, Kiev Rus Devleti, Tuna Bulgarları, devlet, etimoloji*

Introduction

Since the middle of the 10th century, a militarily powerful Nomadic Alliance has developed in the South Russian steppes, which Arab authors call the “Desht-i Qipchaq”. They were called in the sources “Pechenegs”, “pachanikats”, and their country - “pachanikatia“, ”patsanikatia". They exerted an important influence on the ethnopolitical processes of the South Russian steppes, until in the middle of the 11th century they were displaced by the Kipchaks to the territory around the Danube. Even after the Pechenegs lost political power in these territories, they continued to participate in the political life of the Southern Russian steppes. But this time as vassals of the Kievan Russian state. The purpose of this article is to consider the role that the Pechenegs play in the ethnopolitical processes taking place in the South Russian steppes.

1.Objective and Methodology

This work is based on the research of many world historians, including "History of the Russian State" by N. M. Karamzin, "The Invasions of the Pechenegs in the Lower Danube" by G. Manucu-Adamesteanu, "Rus and the Steppe before the Tatar Invasion" by P.A. Golubovsky, "History of Russia from the Earliest Times" by S. M. Solovyov, "Turkological Studies" by Y. V. Pilipchuk, "Pechenegs" by Redjeb Aycicek, "Pechenegs" by Huseyin Namik, among others.

2.Research results

First of all, it would be appropriate to talk about the origin of the name "Pechenegs" and their early homeland. Although opinions on this matter are similar, it was still necessary to take into account some nuances. The Russian scientist Tatishchev, who first reported on the history of the Pechenegs, identifies them with the Sarmatians, indicating as their homeland the basin between the Volga and Ural rivers. Tatishchev considered the Pechenegs to be one people with the Oguzes. However, it remains unclear which criterion he took as a basis when considering the Pechenegs from the ancient Sarmatians (Menuku, 2000, p. 36). N. M. Karamzin gave broader information about the Pechenegs. In the "History of the Russian State" he wrote, he refers the Pechenegs and Oguz to the Turkomans, as he himself wrote. And their homeland is the basin of the Tobol, Irtysh, Volga and Ural rivers. In addition, he refers to the data of Konstantin Porphyrogenitus that the Pechenegs, under pressure from the Oguz, left their places of residence and settled in the South Russian steppes (Karamzin 1878, p. 82-83). According to Karamzin, they subsequently split into two parts, the first of which was located between the Khazars and the Kievan Russian state, and the second - around the Danube. Although Karamzin does not say a word about the meaning of the

names of the Pechenegs, relying on the work of Konstantin Porphyrogenitus, he uses the word “pachanikat” in the word as an early variant of their name. Another historian who studied the history of the Pechenegs, F. P. Sum divides the territories where they were located in the South Russian steppes into two parts and reports that the Dnieper River bordered between them. Although Sum does not report on the Homeland of the Pechenegs, it reports on their western borders after the settlement of the southern Russian steppes. In his opinion, the processes of settlement of the Pechenegs in the territory of modern Hungary began in the IX century. At the end of the 10th century, they also spread to the territories of Styria, Presburg and Drava, which became their western borders (Garustovich, 2013, p. 37). The Russian historian Solovyov also points out the territories east of the Khazars, that is, the Volga-Ural basins as the original homeland of the Pechenegs. In addition, Solovyov indicates that the Pechenegs belong to the “Angara Turkic tribe” (Solov'ev, 1959, p. 45). But the Hungarian scientist Nemeth puts forward a completely different opinion. In his opinion, the Pechenegs were a tribe of Finno-Ugric origin, they were more closely related to the Magyars. This is due to the presence in Hungary of ancient inscriptions in the Pecheneg language in the Orkhon alphabet. That is, Nemeth argues that the ancient Hungarians also used the Orkhon alphabet, and that this alphabet has been common in Hungary since time immemorial. However, according to a study by the Turkish scientist Huseyn Namik, the alphabet, which was actually written in ancient times as the Hungarian alphabet, refers to the Shekel Turks who previously settled in Hungary and later continued to live in these territories (Orkun, 1933, p. 34). The historian also expressed the opinion of historians about the etymology of the Pecheneg name. Therefore, from the point of view of the historiography of the Pechenegs, the work is important. Summing up the opinions of scientists, Huseyin Namik argues that the word “Pecheneg” was borrowed from the personal name of Beche, and later he adopted the suffix “nek”. In fact, this possibility was proposed by Hungarian scientist Kombok Zoltan, who also stressed that this idea is more widespread in science. Perhaps in the 30s of the XX century, this idea became more widespread (Orkun, 1933, p. 9). However, the author also gave Muslim authors his ideas about the etymology of the word “Pechenegs”. For example, in the work of Fazlullah Rashid al-Din “Uzlar Cami et tavarix” the word “Pecheneg” translates as virtuous, and the Ottoman author Ali Yazici oglu Efendi translates the word “Pecheneg” as virtuous (Orkun, 1933, p. 10). However, Arab authors provided more diverse information about the Homeland of the Pechenegs. Of these, Gadizi noted that the Pechenegs lived in the area of Lake Khorezm (that is, around the Aral Sea). But as

for the peoples with whom the Pechenegs bordered, the information about them by Gardizi echoes the data of the aforementioned historians. Konstantin Porfirogen (Porphyrogenitus) also indicates that the homeland of the Pechenegs was located in the upper reaches of the Volga and the Urals (Garustovich, 2013, p. 40). The researchers put forward the idea that the Pechenegs were forced out of their lands under the pressure of the Oguz. After that, the Pechenegs, heading West, encountered the Khazars and were able to take away significant territories from them. Another researcher, G. Manuku Adameshteanu, putting forward the idea that the suburbs of the Volga region and the Urals were the homeland of the Pechenegs, argues that the etymology of the word “Pechenegs” comes from the words “bajanak”, “baginag”, which means “one's own”, “close”, “relative”, “genus”. In fact, his opinion is confirmed by another researcher, Spinei (Menuku, 2000, p. 2). From all the above, it can be concluded that the word Pecheneg is of Turkic origin, meaning “close”, “relative”, “genus”. At the same time, although the Pechenegs were native to the basins of the Volga and Ural rivers, their settlement territory extended to the shores of Lake Aral, adjacent to the Oguz in the east, to the west with the Khazars and the Hungarians subordinate to them. There is also interesting information about which Turkic tribe the Pechenegs belonged to. Most historians agree that their origin was Turkish. But opinions about which Turkic people the Pechenegs belong to are somewhat curious. Of these, Russian scientists led by S.A. Pletnev put forward the idea of the Pechenegs belonging to the Kangeras or Kangly tribe (Pletniova, 2017, p. 115). The same idea is defended by the Turkish scientist Kurat (Kurat, 1937, p. 43). The Belarusian scientist Sakovich also writes that Latin authors referred to the Pechenegs as "kangar". Golubovsky also claims that the Pechenegs had a “Kanglian” origin, but, in his opinion, the Pechenegs and the Oguz were separate tribes of the same people.

3.Settlement of the South Russian steppes by the Pechenegs

The opinions of researchers regarding the settlement of the South Russian steppes by the Pechenegs, the influence they had on the ethnopolitical processes here, are actually the same. Only a relative discrepancy concerns the chronological framework of events. First of all, it should be said that there are some differences in the views of Russian scientists on this issue with others. The appearance of the Pechenegs around the Danube, according to Manuku Adameshtyanu, dates back to 896. Here they come into conflict with the Bulgarians and Magyars in the territories along the Danube (Manuku, 2000, p. 11). Konstantin Porfirogen (Porphyrogenitus) writes that the Pechenegs left their places: “it is necessary to know that the Pakhanikats settled between the Attila and Geik rivers, next to the Khazars and Uzbeks. 50 years ago, the mentioned bonds united with the Khazars

and moved against the Pachanikats, expelling them from their homeland. And these territories are still under the rule of the aforementioned Uzbeks. And the Pachinakites fled, wandered through the deserts in search of a place to live. They reached the territory of the Turks, defeated them, ousted them, and then settled on their territory, which still belongs to the Pachinakites.” (Marquart 2009, p. 15). Russian scientist Golubovskii believes that Russians learned about the Pechenegs from the Hungarians. However, this was possible only if the Hungarians were ousted by the Pechenegs from the north of the Black Sea (Golubovskii, 2011, p. 36). Poles and Czechs also heard about the Pechenegs from Russians. The Hungarians addressed the Pechenegs as “besenye”, “besseneu”, “bisseni”, “bicenati”. The Arab author Al-Balkhi also pointed out that the Pechenegs “were located between the country of the Greeks and the Khazars” (Golubovskii, 2011, p. 37). Kurat also notes that the Pechenegs were expelled from their places by the Oguzes. However, not all the Pechenegs left their places, and some of them took over the power of the Oguz. This is evidenced by the information of Konstantin Porfirovich about the Pechenegs, as well as the mention in Russian chronicles of later Pechenegs together with Russia. At the same time, Kurat notes that the Pechenegs consist of 8 tribes and lists their names as follows. These included the tribes Ertim, Chur, Yula, Yulbey, Karabai Talmat, Kopon, Shepherd Chug. At the head of the Ertim family stood Maychan, at the head of the Chur-Kuel family, at the head of the Yula-Kurkut family, at the head of the Karabai-Kaidu family, at the head of the Talmats-Kostan, in the kopons-a scribe, and at the head of the Churs-a shepherd-Batan. It is no coincidence that the Oguzes started a war against the Pechenegs. According to historians and sources, the relations of the Pechenegs not only with the Oghuz, but also with the Khazar state, as well as with the Hungarians, were very tense. This was due to the fact that the territories in which they were located were of great commercial importance for both the Caspian state and the Oguz. As a result, events unfolded in a way that was not expected. Thus, the Khazar kagan entered into an alliance with the Alans against the Pechenegs. The Pechenegs attacked them and seized their lands. Then the Pechenegs moved West, striking at the Khazar state and the great-grandfathers of the Hungarians, who for many years tried to keep their forces within bounds. The first blow fell on the Hungarians. The Hungarians, who had settled in the western territories of the Idyll River by that time, were subjected to sudden raids by the Pechenegs around 884. Unable to withstand the onslaught, they settled on the northern borders of the Black Sea, that is, on the rapids of the Dnieper River. This is evidenced by the state of archaeological sites in the territories inhabited by the Pechenegs in the past. So, there are traces of

fires and destruction on the monuments in the areas of the Pecheneg resettlement. At the same time, traces of destruction have been preserved in castles and settlements here. The reason for the destruction of these monuments, according to Pletneva, was that these places became pastures for the cattle of the Pechenegs (Pletniova, 2017, p. 116). However, the second Hungarian movement occurred around the beginning of 889. Under pressure from the Pechenegs, the Hungarians were forced to move for the second time, and this time to the basins of the Dniester, Prut and Sereta rivers (Golubovskii, 2011, p. 57). Konstantin Porfirogen reports on the split of the Hungarians into two parts after the wars with the Pechenegs. At the same time, the Byzantine Emperor points out that three tribes of the Pechenegs, led by the Khazars, participated in the attack on the Hungarians. The Turkish scholar Kurat notes that the Hungarians previously submitted to the Khazar Empire, quickly raided the Kiev Principality as subjects of the Khazars. These data that he gives are actually confirmed by many scientists, including Pilipchuk (Pilipchuk, 2018, p. 8). The same opinion is confirmed by the Russian scientist Rasovsky. In fact, it is becoming increasingly difficult to explain why the Pechenegs suddenly raided peaceful Hungarians who were leading their lives.

Only the fact that the Hungarians were subjects of the Caspian state can explain the tension in the relations of the Pechenegs with the Hungarians. However, Solovyov points precisely to the fact that the Pechenegs violated their borders, as the reason why the Khazars entered into an alliance with the Pechenegs against the Khazars (Solov'ev, 1959, p. 149). So, in 889, the process of negotiations between the Hungarians and the Khazars on a joint struggle against the Pechenegs took place. Two issues are being discussed at these talks - the election of Hungarian rulers and the fight against the Pechenegs. The Khazar ruler puts forward the idea that the Hungarian Prince Levedi should be at the head of the government. However, Levedi refuses the principality because he is old, advising his son Arpad instead. According to the source, they raise Arpad on a shield according to the Byzantine custom and proclaim him ruler (Artamonov, 1962, p. 2469). Thus, the Arpad dynasty was founded among the Hungarians, which was in power in the early Middle Ages. In fact, the goal of the Khazar kagan in this step was to mobilize his power and resist the Pechenegs by strengthening the central government in Makary. However, these measures had practically no consequences (it should also be said that the homeland of the Magyars was Byzantium, in Muslim sources called Athelkuz, Ethelkuz). But the Pechenegs did not remain indifferent to the Khazar-Magyar (Hungarian) union either. Thus, the Russian historian Artamonov writes that the Hungarians were defeated by both the Pechenegs and the Bulgars, and from here retreated to Pannonia (Artamonov, 1962, p. 346). In 890, a war broke out between the Danubian Bulgars and

Byzantium. This time, the Caspian state is helping Byzantium. However, in the war, Byzantium is defeated, and the Khazars are captured by the Bulgars. The Bulgars are destroying all the Khazars. After that, the Byzantine emperor Leo VI sends ambassadors to the Magyars and tries to win them over to his side. The Hungarian rulers Arpad and Kursan promise to help him, and a large Hungarian military detachment crosses to the right bank of the Danube on Byzantine ships.

"In 893, the Hungarians defeated the army of the ruler of Danubian Bulgaria, Simeon, forcing him to flee." It is clear that this time Simeon is coming into contact with the Pechenegs. In 895 By joint attacks of the troops of Simeon and the Pechenegs, the Hungarians suffer a decisive defeat on the northern shore of the Black Sea – in Athelkuse. The Pechenegs completely annihilate families and tribes far superior to the Hungarians. According to the historian, when the Hungarian kings return from a campaign, they see their homeland destroyed. Therefore, they are forced to move to the territory of Pannonia together with their tribes and families (Artamonov, 1962, p. 347). The Hungarians, defeated by the Pechenegs, as already mentioned above, were divided into two parts. Some of them migrated to the west - to the Balkan Peninsula and Southwestern Europe. Their appearance created a shocking effect for Western Europeans, who, after the Avars, calmed down from the attacks of nomads across the Caspian Wall and almost forgot about these memories. Konstantin Porfirogen called the second part Savars, who migrated to the Caucasus (Artamonov, 1962, p. 347). But it's no secret that some of the Magyars (Hungarians) It also fell under the rule of the Pechenegs. Following the Magyars, the Pechenegs defeated several Slavic tribes- for example, the Ulich and the Tiverts. The defeat of the Magyars also allowed the Pechenegs to gain a foothold on the northern coast of the Black Sea, which was under the rule of the Khazars. This led to a sharp decline in the political influence of the Khazar Empire. The weakening of the Khazar Empire was not without political consequences on the Kipchak plain. The appearance of the Pechenegs in these territories led to the emergence of ethnic as well as political fragmentation instead of previously centralized relations. Because the Pechenegs themselves, despite their military might, had a politically confederate structure. However, some Russian historians generally point to the absence of politically developed state traditions among the Pechenegs. Konstantin Porfirogen pointed out that the Pechenegs did not have a centralized state -they were divided into eight tribes-circles, each circle-for five generations. However, Pletneva, pointing to a later recording of these instructions, concludes that during the conquest of the South Russian steppes, the Pechenegs simply had a form of tribal associations, later these tribal associations took the form

of a tribal confederation (Pletniova, 2017, p. 24). One of the arguments given by Pletneva is that the burial monuments of the Pechenegs discovered in the South Russian steppes appeared only from the 10th century. The scientist also explains this by the processes of ethnic and political centralization among the Pechenegs (Pletniova, 2017, p. 24). According to Pletneva, a more developed form of tribal political structure prevailed in the South Russian steppes only with the arrival of the Kipchaks. But even with all this in mind, looking at the further development of events, it is undeniable that the Pechenegs entered into political relations in the full sense of the word with the Kievan Russian state, with Byzantium, and with the Khazar state, and also used certain forms of diplomatic relations. This suggests that studies of the political structure of the Pechenegs in the X - XI centuries have yet to be carried out and clarified. The participation of the Pechenegs in political relations in Eastern Europe: For example, after the defeat of the Hungarians and the Khazar state around 894, the Pechenegs began to dominate the vast territories from the Idyllic River to the left bank of the Danube during the X-XI centuries. In these territories, the Pechenegs were neighbors with the Caspian State, the idyllic Bulgarian state, the Kievan Russian state, and through the Black Sea and Crimea with Byzantium. The appearance of the Pechenegs around the Russian state, according to Nestor, dates back to 915. According to the chronicle, they concluded a treaty with Prince Igor and retreated to the Danube River (Kiseleva, 2008, p. 322). Information about the first campaigns of the Pechenegs across the Danube in 917 is also given in the chronicles (Rasovskii, 2012, p. 41). This time, the Byzantine state called them to help against the Danubian Bulgars. From this step of the Pechenegs, it becomes clear that at that time they were already allies of Byzantium on the political scene of Eastern Europe. However, one interesting circumstance should be noted here, that the Nikon chronicle, referring to the Russians, writes back in 874 that the Pechenegs were defeated by the Kiev prince Askold. However, this information of the chronicle has not yet been confirmed by other sources (Garustovich, 2013, p. 104). The second attack of the Pechenegs on Kiev took place in 920. However, the attack was repulsed. But I must say that there was a certain symbiosis between the Kievan state and the Pechenegs. In the 60s of the IX century, the Pechenegs almost did not commit attacks on the Kievan state. If, on the contrary, we exclude some minor raids, then the relations between the Pechenegs and Russia are more confederate in nature. The Pechenegs, as part of the squads of the Russian state, participated in campaigns against Byzantium, against the Bulgars. This is usually confirmed by scientists from Russia and the USSR, who are used to accusing Turkish nomads of aggressive behavior towards the Russian state. In 941, Prince Igor was defeated in the war between Byzantium and the Kievan state. 3 years after this

event, the ruler of Kievan Rus moved to Byzantium with a large army, which included a significant number of soldiers, including from the Pechenegs. Seeing that the situation is getting more complicated, the Byzantine emperor can avoid the attack by admitting that he will give Igor the gifts that he will give to Oleg, who was in power before Igor. Following this, diplomatic negotiations begin between Byzantium and the Pechenegs. During the campaign, the Pecheneg detachments plundered Pannonia and the right bank of the Danube. Trade was also of great importance in the relations of the Pechenegs with the Kievan state. According to Konstantin Porphyrogenitus (Porphyrogenitus), in 950 the Pechenegs exported furs, animal products, honey, spices to Kiev. At the same time, the Pechenegs served as a transit point in trade between the Kievan state and Byzantium. This factor was also used by the Pechenegs to their advantage. The Pechenegs also took an active part in the military campaigns of the Kievan state against the Khazar Khaganate in 964-965. Scientists evaluate the relations of the Pechenegs with Kievan Rus, which were mainly accompanied by an alliance, in different ways. Russian Russian scientists, inclined to exaggerate the diplomatic moves of Prince Svyatoslav of Kiev, put forward the opinion that the Pecheneg-Russian union was an integral part of the Anti-Byzantine Union created by him (Garustovich, 2013, p. 112). In fact, this was an excessive exaggeration of Svyatoslav's diplomacy. The main reason for the Pechenegs' alliance with Russia was that both sides were interested in free trade with Byzantium, as well as in enriching themselves at the expense of territories, albeit partially subject to Byzantium. Therefore, the Pechenegs, other nomadic peoples, as well as Russians, from time to time made military campaigns against Byzantium. The first reports of the political presence of the Pechenegs in the Balkans were reports that the Pechenegs fought against the Hungarians as auxiliary units in the army of the Bulgarian ruler Glad. However, at the beginning of the 10th century, Glad's army was defeated by the Hungarians near Temesh. And two Pecheneg khans who were captured were executed by the Hungarians. But Konstantin Porfirogen in his work says that by 945, the borders of the Pechenegs were already beginning to the northeast of the Balkans (Rasovskii, 2012, p. 44). In the early years of Svyatoslav's reign, Kiev's relations with the Pechenegs were indeed almost allied. Therefore, the main striking force of the Kievan Russian state, which raided the Caspian Empire, was precisely the Pechenegs (Kiseleva, 2008, p. 323). Another area of political activity of the Pecheneg-Russian union was the Balkans. However, in 968, the Pechenegs raided Kiev and almost captured the city. Only the timely arrival of the Seversky

voivode Pretich, who raided the Pechenegs around Kiev, saved Kiev from complete destruction. This time the Pechenegs are leaving the borders of the state, having made peace with Kiev.

What was the reason for the opening of the border between the Pechenegs and the Kievan Russian state? There are different opinions among researchers about this. The reason for the rivalry between the Pechenegs and the Kievan Russian state, according to Pilipchuk, was the weakening of the Danube Bulgar power in the Balkans, the emergence of special opportunities for expansion to the east for both the Kievan state and the Pechenegs after the collapse of the Khazar Empire. And this, obviously, would have already led to a rupture in relations between Kiev and the Pechenegs (Pilipchuk, 2018, p. 7). However, some historians point to another reason, as the reason for the breakdown of relations between the Pechenegs and Svyatoslav. Thus, according to the Turkish scientist Kurat and Kiselyova, the true reason for the rupture of relations between Svyatoslav and the Pechenegs was Svyatoslav's desire to move the capital of his state to Preslav, the capital of Bulgaria, after the collapse of the Danube Bulgaria. The Pechenegs considered these territories in the Balkans to be their natural centers of influence. Therefore, the Pechenegs understood this step of Svyatoslav as a betrayal. Interestingly, this campaign of Svyatoslav took place at the request of Byzantium, and a significant number of Pechenegs participated in his army. Perhaps Svyatoslav was able to attract some of the Pechenegs to his side during the campaign in the Balkans (Kiseleva, 2008, p. 324). Perhaps the expansion of the territories of Kiev as a result of the invasions of Svyatoslav, as well as the attacks of the Kievan prince on the idyllic Bulgarian state in the late 60s of the 10th century worried the Pechenegs. So the relations of the Pechenegs with the idyllic Bulgars were not so bad. One of the facts confirming this was the authorization of the activities of Muslim missionaries from the idyllic Bulgars in the territory of the Pechenegs (Garustovich and Ivanov, 2001, p. 38). Obviously, the Pechenegs could not remain indifferent to the policy of the state, which was strengthening within its borders at that time, to weaken neighboring states and tribes. In 972, the Pecheneg commander Kura attacked Svyatoslav, who had returned from a military campaign, at the Dnieper gate, defeated his army and killed him. After Svyatoslav's death, internecine wars began in the Kievan Russian state. The princes, who relied on Kiev, Novgorod and Drevlyans, began the struggle for the Kiev throne. Nomads also took an active part in the struggle for power.

Conclusions

The resettlement of the Pechenegs led and led to the resettlement of not only them, but also another nomadic Turkic tribe, the Oguz, to the South Russian steppes. Interestingly, after the

Pechenegs came to power, information about the political activities of the Oghuz in the Ural-Idyl region also decreased, and in Central Asia there is an activation of the Oghuz, the process of separating the Seljuks from the Oghuz as an independent force. This can be explained by the fact that after the migration of the Pechenegs to the west, as well as their centralization in the form of confederate political rule, they defeated traditional enemies in the east, drove half of them to the south, and subjugated the rest. This is evidenced by the fact that Russian chronicles, starting from the 10th century, mention the Pechenegs as well as the Pechenegs. The activity of the Pechenegs in the South Russian steppes led to the appearance and reproduction of archaeological monuments of the Pecheneg type-burial mounds. And this meant that already in the X century the Pecheneg-Oguz ethnic element dominated the southern Russian steppes. The appearance of the Pechenegs in the South Russian steppes also caused great changes in the political landscape of this place. The traditional Byzantine-Khazar-Bulgarian political line was replaced by the Pecheneg-Kiev-Byzantine-Bulgarian political line. And in the north of the Balkans, the beginning of the formation of a new Hungarian state was laid. The Hungarian-Pecheneg feud, which was observed with hostility in the southern Russian steppes, developed into the Hungarian-Pecheneg alliance against Danube Bulgaria, Byzantium and the German state. The sources contain a lot of information about how the Hungarians used the military forces of the Pechenegs in their wars during the X-XI centuries. In short, the activity of the Pechenegs in the South Russian steppes led to great ethnopolitical changes here. It would also determine the geopolitical foundations of the political activity of the nomads in these territories over the next two hundred years.

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