

Saki of Zhetysu-Semirechye

Boundary of the 2nd - 1st and the beginning of the 2nd millennium BC on the vast of Eurasian steppe zone marked by an important event — the formation of nomadic cattle-breeding forms and distribution of iron metallurgy. The wide spread of new forms of cattle-breeding farming was due to the interaction of several factors. Among them, the researchers call the change of climatic conditions, improvement of methods of cattle-breeding farming, processing the species composition of herds that are optimally adapted to the conditions of the arid zone. This new level of social relations associated with the increased property and social differentiation, where livestock is a form of wealth that creates stimulus to increase of herd and expansion of exchange. There has been widespread of harness-wheeled transport, further development of the horse-breeding, appearance of bits and widespread use of horses for riding. Researchers of nomadic cattle-breeding pay attention to the complexity of the process of genesis and evolution of nomadism.

Seem to be interesting reasoning of the major cultural researcher of Saki S.I. Rudenko, who questioned the massive and rapid transition of the population of Eurasia from the settled life to nomadic. He believed that “pure nomads” who were in constant motion, there were a few exceptions, whereas the vast majority of cattle-breeders has been linked to sedentary and farming.

The transition of the part of population to nomadic cattle-breeding in the first centuries of the millennium BC characterized by the formation of new archaeological cultures that are associated with the tribes of the Saki, Massagets, Issedonians, and Dais. As has been established by scientists, Saki-tigrahaud lived in Zhetysu-Seven Rivers. A similar habitat and, consequently, the same lifestyle, mobility, supportive of cultural contacts in the remotest areas, close the level of social-economic development and, finally, common genetic subbase, dating back to Andronov community, contributed to this. The existing similarities between the cultures marked by several terms: “Scythian-Siberian unity”, “Scythian-Siberian community”, “Scythian-Saki world.” “Saki-Scythian world” is the most accurate term.

Common culture of Eurasian nomads, who settled on the Danube to Mongolia, revealed the existence of the so-called Scythian or Saki triad, which consists of similar types of weapons, horse equipment and original art animal style. However, the similarities between the nomadic cultures of the Scythian-Saki world much more. Boilers, monumental art — “deer stones”, stone sculpture, carvings, general methods of burial device structures, the details of the funeral rites may be classified here. The second half of the 7th century BC is considered a common start date of the Scythian culture until recently. However, archaeologists now expressed a new view of the start date of the Scythian period — 9th - 8th centuries BC.

Tribes carrying a collective name “Saki”, inhabited the territory of Kazakhstan in the first millennium BC. Saki tribes were contemporaries of the Scythians, who lived in the northern Black Sea coast, and Savromat — in the lower Volga and the south of Ural regions. They were contemporaries of the Persian of Cyrus era, the Greek of Alexander of Macedon era.

It is known about the attempts of Achaemenian kings to subdue the Saki, who were not successful. It is well-known names of Saki Queen Tamaris, herdsman Chirac, who led the Persian army in the desert.

At the end of the 6th — the beginning of the 5th century BC in the ancient East there are major political events associated with the Greek-Persian wars. Individual Saki tribes participated in

these wars on the side of the Persians as allies and mercenaries. Easy Saki cavalry participated, for example, at the Battle of Gaugamela.

In the 30's of the 4th century BC Greek-Macedonians led by Alexander of Macedon defeated the army of Darius III Kodoman, the last Achaemenid, and invaded to Central Asia.

The invasion of the Greeks met with stubborn resistance of the peoples of Central Asia. Tribes that inhabited Kazakhstan at that time actively participated in the struggle against the Alexander of Macedon army. Trying of Alexander of Macedon with troops to cross the Syr Darya ended in failure. He was wounded by Saki boom. Greek-Macedonians could for a time to subdue peoples of Central Asia only after almost three years of bitter struggle. Saki tribes who lived behind the Syr Darya have retained their independence. Resettlement of the Saki tribes is difficult to determine. There are different points of view on their localization. In the south-eastern Kazakhstan in Zhetysu-Semirechye lived, according to well-known Kazakh scientist K.A. Akishev, Saki-tigrohaud or "Saki, wearing peaked hats". Under this name they were known to the Persians and the Greeks called them Saki-ortokaribantii.

K. M. Baipakov