

## Summary

### DOCLEA AND PRAEVALITANA

According to antique historians and the Paschal Chronicle the Scythian Empire or the federation of nations was founded around 3660 BC. The Scythians started to colonize the Balkans around 1800 BC and this mission ended around 1500 BC. Around 1000 BC the Kimmerian Scythians attacked Italy where they formed their territories. The oldest Scythian Balkan state was Thracia which was created by the Pedases people around 3500 BC, and the Egyptian sources are also mentioning it as an enemy state around 2000 BC. Around 1600 BC a powerful central Balkan state was created and its name was Dardania. The Egyptian sources of 1452 BC from the period of the reign of Amenophis II and of 1240 from the period of the reign of Ramses II are mentioning the names of Scythian Balkan nations: the Moesi, the Dardanians, the Thracian Pedases, and the Odrysaë people.

The Scythian Docleatae belonged to the Parthian Scythians; part of them descended to the Balkans in the second half of the second millennium BC.

They created two cities around 1040 BC: Doclea and Scodra. On the territory of today's Montenegro the Docleatae founded three cities: Medun, Risinium (Risan) and Budua (Budva). In VII and VI century BC the powerful Kingdom of Pontus of the Aorses created its federal unit in the middle Dalmatia and the Scythian Balkan federation known as the Kingdom of the Danube Scythians ruled by the Scytho-Sarmatian Autariatae. This state-alliance included the Kingdom of Pannonia with its capital Sirmium, the alliance consisted of the Veneti and the Liburnians, the Kingdom of Aorses, kingdoms of Dardania and Moesia and the agreed province of two kingdoms – Dacia with Trivalia (Praevaliana, future Praevalitana) as well as Scythia Minor. This „federal state“ also included an Illyrian state-alliance which occurred in the fifth century BC. The Hellenic sources used the expression Illyricum or Illyria strictly for the territory of a small Illyrian alliance created by the people of Illoi. The oldest mentioning of the Slavs goes back to the end of IX century BC on the territory of the Median and Parthian plateau which is where their city called Chavon was placed in the period of the reign of the Sauromatae princess Semiramis, wife of the Assyrian emperor Shamsi Adad V. Hecate of Miletus was mentioning the Slavic ethnonym in VII-VI century BC on the coast of the Thracian Bosphorus as the cousins of the Odrysae and European people. At the end of III century BC began the organized immigration of the

Dalmatians, equestrian people from the northwest of the European Sarmatia.

By the agreement of the Roman and Scythian empires, by 50 AD the territories of today's Herzegovina, Montenegro and northern Albania were colonized by the Sarmatian Docleatae who came from the Polish Carpathians and joined the tribal state of the Triballi – the Prebalei. The capital of the newly established province – the state of Doclea, received the status of *res publica* or „the community of interest for the Roman people“ from Emperor Claudius in 49-50 AC. In 52-53 AD the same emperor decided to build near the Scythian cities in Phrygia and Cappadocia the first Sarmatian city – a military colony called Second Doclea (Diocletiana Secunda) which was used as the name for Scythian Cappadocia in the early Byzantine sources. In 67-68 AC *res publica* Doclea obtained the status of *praetoria* and the old Scythian fortifications which existed on its territory - Sallunto (Grahovo), Alata (Nalata-Cetinje), Birzimum (Obod) and others - were rebuilt or restored.

The reform of the church and state started when Pope Caius, who was also a close relative of Emperor Diocletian took over the throne of the Roman Church (283-296). This pope from the Docleatae people, a Slav by his ethnical origin (Esclav(on)us), ordered the publication of the Gregorian Code of the church law (Codex Gregorianus) which established the relations between the Christian church and the Empire.

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Pope Caius gave the future metropolises – archiepiscopates Sardica, Thessalonica, Doclea and Dyrrhachium the status of episcopia prima. Only Sirmium as Caius's episcopia prima would not become an archiepiscopate in the following century. In 294-295 AC, Diocletian abolished the alliance of Sarmatian Dalmatia and Doclea, and according to the Scythian *jus majorum*, he created a province and diocese Praevalitana consisted of territories of the Docleatae and the Triballi. In 324, Constantine abolished the pretoria of Doclea and annexed it to Dalmatia, and in 325 he did the same with Praevalitana. He also annexed the south of Italy, from Apulia to Otranto, to the Docleatae and Kotor. In 326, Doclea became the centre of the vicariate of Illyricum-Italicum-Africa prefecture, and its bishop was declared a vicar. According to Constantine's decision, between 326 and 330 all of the Balkan primates, including the Doclean, became archbishops primates – only Sirmium kept the title of episcopia prima. In 387, Pope Siricius appointed the Doclean metropolitan for his co-bishop with whose help he united the territories of Dalmatia, Moesia and Mediterranean Dacia with Doclea – thus forming the first Scytho-Sarmatian-Slavic Christian state under the protection of Constantinople and the pontifical office headed by the episcopus princeps. In 391 Theodosius I restored the diocese of Praevalitana – consisted of three archiepiscopates, Doclea, Scodra and Ohrid. The federal kingdom of Dalmatia was created in the

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period 391-401, and it included Veneta, two Noricums, Dalmatia and Praevalitana with New Epirus. According the decision of emperors Honorius and Theodosius II, on 8 January 415 the Federal Kingdom of Dalmatia and Doclea was recognized as an ally-state voluntarily annexed to the Roman Empire. On 14 July 421, Constantinople acknowledged the Scythian Church founded by the Apostle Andria as equal and independent in Illyricum. In 410-411 Constantius from Doclea became a *magistar utriusque militiae*; in 416 he became a *patricius*, then in 421-423 the regent and ruler of the Western Roman Empire (beside Emperor Honorius) and he withdrew to Doclea in 423-425 where he was declared a *princeps* of his people. His appeared once again in 431 at the Ecumenical Council in Ephesus as the *princeps archiepiscopus Diocletianorum* and the Vicar of Italy. By the agreement with Emperor Theodosius II, in 441 the Kingdom of Dalmatia and Doclea annexed the countries of the former Kingdom of Dardania, while Greece annexed completely the territories of ancient Macedonia. The new *princeps archiepiscopus Diocletianorum* and the Vicar of Italy Maximus also had the titles of *dux* and *praepositus timitanei*. According to ancient rights of the diocese of Praevalitana, Emperor Leo I reaffirmed the Kingdom of Dalmatia and Doclea as the first Slavic-Gothic kingdom under the crown of Tiudimir, the successor of the Modahariu's Clan of the Royal Scythians from the people of Assis

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and of father Theodoric the Great. The subjects of Tiudimir were also the kings of Huns and Vandals which meant that the Kingdom of Dalmatia and Doclea covered the entire Balkans except Thracia. Starting from 480 the Kimmerian Scythians the Travunians (Terbunotes) were moving from the Apennines to the hinterlands of the middle Dalmatia – Trebinje became their capital and Ston the Episcopal centre. After the death of the Doclean archbishop Evander in 503 in Rome, his title the vicar of Italy was suspended. During the reign of two Praevalitanian emperors, Iustinus I and Justinian the Great, Praevalitana became the imperial territory – in 520 Iustinus I consigned through a decree all of the royal, vicarial and diocese Doclean rights to Constantinople and abolished the Kingdom of Dalmatia and Doclea. In 532 and 533, Justinian officially abolished the Kingdom of Italy and the Kingdom of Dalmatia and Doclea. In April 535, Iustiniana Prima became the capital city of Praevalitana. In 536, the Travunians brought a Slavic-Gothic ruler Svevlad to Sirmium with the intention to restore the Kingdom of Dalmatia and Doclea. Svevlad's son Totila took over the insignia of Theodoric's Kingdom of Italy. In response to Totila's attack on Rome, in 535 Justinian brought the law by which the papery received the legal rights of ordaining archbishops in Illyricum and Scythia. The last princeps archbishop of the Docleatae and the vicar of Italy named Elijah, appeared in 550, after the rebellions which were agitated against Justinian by

his Scytho-Illyrian relatives. Elijah united Doclea and Praevalitana, with the attributes of a pretoria and diocese – its borders were spreading from river Cetina to Dyrrachium. Elijah and the archbishop of the diocese of Praevalitana, Phocas the Triballian came to the Ecumenical Council in 553 thus acknowledging that the reign of Justiniana Prima had ended. After the establishment of the Avar-Slavic exarchate in 588, a Slavic federation headed by Praevalitana was formed under the leadership of a Doclean whose name is not known. This federation included Old and New Epirus, Thessaly and Macedonia. In 588 and 591 the Praevalitana Slavs are attacking and plundering Justiniana Prima. In 595 Constantinople declared the diocese of Praevalitana to be the central territory of the Avar-Slavic exarchate under the name of Illyricum. Under the government of Doclea and Praevalitana was the federation consisted of the first and the second Noricum, the first and the second Pannonia, the first and the second Valeria, Savia, Dalmatia, Upper Moesia, Dardania, Mediterranean and Border Dacia, Macedonia, Thessaly, Ahaia, Epirus, Praevalitana and Crete. Chatzon the Triballian who was the leader of Slavic-Avar invasion on Thessaloniki in 586 became the exarch and the first king of the Slavs. The city of Bar (Antipollis) was named Avara and it became the Episcopal centre of the Slavic Church, whereas Lissus was the centre of the Avar Church. Following the ancient rights, the Doclean archiepiscopate got the churches in south

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Italy, Bari, Rossano and Ragusa in Sicily. In 603-605 Emperor Phocas carried out a purge and vanquishes all bishops and archbishops from Illyricum – he suspended all rights of the Doclean archiepiscopate and dissolved the Slavic Kingdom. The Kingdom of Doclea 626 was formed within the exarchate and it became a region of Dalmatia headed by its own exarch. The metropolis of the Slavic Church was established in Risan (Risunium). In 640, Constantinople proclaimed that no church of the Kingdom of Doclea and Avar-Slavic exarchate was subject to Rome and Constantinople. The exarchate and kingdom disappeared around 700 and in 720 Emperor Leo III proclaimed that Dalmatia was a region of Byzantium as well as Langobardi. Around 716, Risan became an independent metropolis. The Kingdom of Doclea disappeared in the civil war of 717-741 and two new kingdoms appeared on its territory – Travunia and Zachlunia, as well as the union of free towns from Boka to Lissus – the union belonged to the diocese of Praevalitana. In 745, the town of Kotor had built a fortification at the entrance to the bay of Boka (Herceg Novi) and the European Sarmatian Empire of the Lechites sent the tribe of the Kanaliti from the Tchernyani people who gave the name to the Konavle (Canali). The Slavic Kingdom was shortly restored in 770 (771?) and as a part of it, also restored was the Kingdom of Doclea with Praevalitana together with the union of free towns, Bosnia and the Travunian kingdom, Zachlunia

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and Serbia which was recognized as independent in 743 by the decision of Pope Zachary. The Doclean Slavic metropolis was also restored, its vicarial rights were abolished whereas its primate rights in the Balkans, south from Sava and Danube were granted. The Slavic Kingdom fell apart due to the civil war which started in 813. It was reestablished in 875 with the same states from 770. The Council confirmed the decision of Emperor Basil I on the abolishment of Praevalitana and kept all decisions in the ancient code of the Scytho-Sarmatian law which was not saved; ever since than, according to decisions of the Council, the churches in the western Balkans have been built with three altars. In 894, Zwentibald II, the king of the Slavs was killed by his own army and the state fell apart in blood. From 889 to 893, Bulgaria was ruled by Vladimir, a son of a Doclean king and the grand granddaughter of Krum. In 913, Mihailo Višević took the title of the archon of Doclea; in 917 the Byzantine Patriarch informed Bulgaria and Doclea that they had been recognized as independent states and Mihailo Višević received the royal insignia. In 924, Kotor became the administrative city of Apulia and Cosenza. By the decision of the council in Split in 925, the churches of Kotor, Ragusa, Ston were proclaimed catholic on the territory of Doclea – the Pope agreed that the Bizanti family from Kotor was a successor of hereditary rights of administrating the overseas Slavic territories at the south of Italy. The metropolis

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of Risan was abolished through an imperial act. In 926, King Mihailo Višević debarked his troupes at the south of Italy and in 927 he took over all power over Upper Dalmatia, Travunia, Zachlunia and Serbia. With the Russian support, in 966 Petar Višević proclaimed himself the King of Dalmatia. In 976, he conceded the royal crown of Dalmatia to his son John Vladimir. In 980 Samuel destroyed the city of Doclea and in Vladimir moved the royal capital with the last Doclean archbishop to Dubrovnik. The Sorabs and the Dalmatians 983-4 accessed to Vladimir's kingdom.

In 911, according to the agreement of the last Royal Scythians, the Avars, the Royal Sarmatians, Polish, Russian and Ukrainian dukes from the Carpathian Black Mountains, with the Khazars Biharians and the Upper Danube Sorabs, began the colonization of unsettled territories of the southwest Balkans which ended between 923 and 950. Montenegro was mentioned for the first time as a region in the Balkans in 1053, and in 1079 it was a territory with Schodra as its capital. In 1028 began the colonization of the vast territories of the former south Praevalitana by the Caspian-Caucasian Albanians, which would end in the beginning of the 13th century.

(Translated by: **Jelena Samardžić Kotri**)