

Chapter 2.1. Peoples around the Byzantine Empire

2.1.1. The Slavs:

Early 7th century:

1. Slavic groups settled in the lands of modern Greece.
2. They founded Sklaveni = politically autonomous regions with Slavic population, scattered among Greeks.
3. They initially engaged in looting and attacks, causing significant problems.
4. They besieged Thessaloniki many times without success

Eventually,

1. they came into contact with the local Greek populations, d
2. eveloped economic and social relations with them,
3. were influenced by their culture,
4. surrendered militarily to Byzantium,
5. were Christianized and assimilated socially and ethnically.

2.1.2.The Bulgarians:

In the late 7th century:

1. There were periods of long wars in the Byzantine-Bulgarian relations.
2. The Bulgarians defeated the Byzantine armies and occupied the area between the Danube and the Black Sea.
3. Byzantium paid an annual tribute to the Bulgarian state.
4. The Bulgarians had Asian origin.
5. In the 9th century, they were Christianized.
6. The inhabitants of Bulgaria:
 - ✓ Most of the inhabitants of Bulgaria were Slavs, who imposed their language.
 - ✓ The Bulgarians, who were fewer in number, gave the name and organized the state.

Exercise:

Characterize the following sentences as correct (C) or wrong (w). Correct any errors.

- a) The Slavs settled between the Danube and the Black Sea.
- b) The Bulgarians were a people of Turkish origin.
- c) The Sklaveni were islands of Bulgarian population among Greeks.
- d) Over time, the Slavs developed economic relations with the native population.
- e) The Slavs conquered Thessaloniki once and only once.
- f) The Bulgarians were never Christianized.
- g) The language of the Bulgarian state was Slavic.
- h) In the Bulgarian state, the inhabitants of Slavic origin were more numerous than those who had Bulgarian origin.
- i) Byzantines and Bulgarians fought many times against each other.