

Otkriven glavni grad hazarskog kraljevstva.

Ruski arheolozi pronašli su davno izgubljen glavni grad hazarskog kraljevstva u južnoj Rusiji. Organizator ekspedicije Dmitrij Vasiljev s Astrahanskog državnog univerziteta nakon povratka s nalazišta u blizini sela Samosdelka na obali Kaspijskog jezera rekao je kako je riječ o¹ velikom otkriću. „Sada možemo razjasniti jednu od najvećih misterija tog vremena: kako su Hazari zaista živjeli jer vrlo malo znamo o njima, njihovim običajima, pogrebnim obredima, kulturi” kazao je Vasiljev.

Riječ je o glavnom gradu Hazara, polunomadskog naroda, koji je prihvatio jevrejstvo kao službenu vjeru u periodu između VIII i X vijeka, kada su ih pokorili vladari drevne Rusije. Na svom vrhuncu hazarska država kontrolisala je veći dio današnje južne Rusije, zapadni Kazahstan, istočnu Ukrajinu, Azerbajdžan i velike djelove sjevernokavkaskog područja. U arapskim hronikama grad se pominje pod imenom Itil, ali Vasiljev kaže da je taj naziv vjerovatno označavao Volgu na kojoj je grad izgrađen ili područje oko delte. Itil je navodno bio multietnički grad čiji² ostaci nikad nisu pronađeni³ i za koje se vjerovalo da ih je potopilo⁴ Kaspijsko jezero.

Arheolozi istražuju⁵ na području Samosdelke proteklih devet godina, ali tek su sada prikupili dovoljno dokaza koji podržavaju njihovu tezu, uključujući i ostatke drevnog utvrđenja od opeke. „Unutar utvrđenja pronašli smo kolibe slične jurutama, koje su tipične za hazarske gradove. Utvrđenje je bilo trouglaste osnove izgrađene od opeke. To je još jedan dokaz da nije riječ o običnom gradu” kazao je Vasiljev. U iskopavanjima je⁶ ovoga ljeta učestvovalo oko deset univerzitetskih arheologa i pedeset studenata, a djelimično ih je finansirao Jevrejski univerzitet iz Moskve i Ruski jevrejski kongres.

(Taken from Vijesti, 10/09/2008 – English version available at <http://www.abc.net.au/news/stories/2008/09/03/2354822.htm> but not an exact translation, see over for my translation with annotations)

¹ This should not be translated literally!

² This is never translated ‘which’, but ‘of which’ or ‘whose’

³ Careful about the tense here

⁴ Sequence of tenses – the second verb’s tense needs to be altered

⁵ Action starting in the past and carrying on until the present is NOT translated with the present tense

⁶ In English numbers of people are not treated as singular nouns, but as plurals

Capital city of the Khazar kingdom discovered

Russian archaeologists have found the long-lost capital city of the Khazar kingdom in south Russia. The expedition organiser Dmitry Vasilyev from Astrakhan State University said on his return from the excavation site near the village of Samosdelka on the shore of the Caspian Sea, that this was a major discovery. “Now we can clear up one of the greatest mysteries of that period: how the Khazars actually lived, because we know very little about them, their customs, burial rites and culture”, said Mr Vasilyev.

Comment [P1]: When talking about breaking news, the present perfect is often used to communicate recent events that have consequences in the present.

Comment [P2]: A country has only one capital city, therefore this MUST be a definite article.

Comment [P3]: In English, this is not called a lake.

Comment [P4]: People here is used as a singular countable noun, meaning 'nation'. As such, it is treated as impersonal – hence 'which' and 'its'.

In question is the capital city of the Khazars, a semi-nomadic people, which accepted Judaism as its state religion in the period between the 8th and 10th century, when they were conquered by the rulers of ancient Russia. At its height the Khazar state controlled a large part of present-day southern Russia, western Kazakhstan, eastern Ukraine, Azerbaijan and large parts of the northern Caucasus region.

In Arabian chronicles, the city is referred to by the name Itil, but Mr Vasilyev says that the word probably refers to the River Volga on which the city was built, or the region around the river delta. Itil was apparently a multi-ethnic city whose remains have never been found and were thought to have been flooded by the Caspian Sea.

Comment [P5]: Or: 'it was thought that they had been' – sequence of tenses.

The archaeologists have been conducting research in the area of Samosdelka for the past nine years, but only now have they collected enough evidence, including an ancient brick fortress, to support their theory. “Inside the fortifications we found huts similar to yurts, which were typical of Khazar cities. The fortifications had a triangular base built of brick. This is one more proof that we are not talking about an ordinary city”, said Mr Vasilyev. About ten university archaeologists and fifty students have been taking part in the excavations, and they have been partly financed by the Jewish University in Moscow and the Russian Jewish Congress.

Comment [P6]: If these archaeologists are the same ones referred to in the first paragraph, then we need a definite article. If it refers to many archaeologists including others, then it is indefinite and should not have any article.

Comment [P7]: Compare the difference between 'opeka' brick (non-countable) and 'cigla' brick (countable)