

The Aryan Cities of Arkaim in Soviet Russia

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The Discovery

On October 4, 2010 worldwide news flashed about the discovery of Aryan city in Soviet Russia which was 4000 years old, as old as Mesopotamia and Egyptian Pyramids. A British historian Bettany Hughes spent much of the northern summer exploring the region for a BBC radio program, "Tracking the Aryans."

Announcing the discovery of large number of cities it is said that 'Bronze Age cities archaeologists say could be the precursor of Western civilization is being uncovered in excavations on the Russian steppe.' 'Twenty of the spiral-shaped settlements, believed to be the original home of the Aryan people, have been identified, and there are about 50 more suspected sites. They all lie buried in a region more than 640 km long near Russia's border with Kazakhstan. The cities are thought to have been built 3500-4000 years ago, soon after the Great Pyramid in Egypt. They are about the same size as several of the cities states of ancient Greece, which started to come into being in Crete at about the same time. If archaeologists confirm the cities as Aryan, they could be remnants of a civilization that spread through Europe and much of Asia. Their language has been identified as the precursor of modern Indo-European tongues, including English.'

Ms. Bettany Hughes said "I was very excited to hear on the archaeological grapevine that is exactly the period I am an expert in, this whole new Bronze Age civilization had been discovered on the steppe of southern Siberia." She described driving for seven hours into the steppe grassland with chief archaeologist Gennady Zdanovich. "He took me to this expanse of grass; you couldn't tell there was anything special. Then, as he pointed to the ground, suddenly I realised I was walking across a buried city," she said.

The shape of each of the cities, which are mainly in Chelyabinsk district, resembles an ammonite fossil, divided into segments with a spiral street plan. The settlements, which would each have housed about 2000 people – the same as an ancient Greek city such as Mycenae – are all surrounded by a ditch and have a square in the middle.

Two types of remains point to Aryan affiliation of these cities. 'Items that have been so far been dug up include many pieces of pottery covered in *swastikas*, which were widely used as ancient symbols of the sun and eternal life.' A series of horse burials also indicate that 'the cities could be the home of the Aryans. Several ancient Indian texts believed to have been written by the Aryans recount similar rituals. "These ancient Indian texts and hymns describe sacrifice of horses and burials and the way the meat is cut off and the way the horse is buried with its master," she said. "If you match this with the way the skeletons and graves are being dug up in Russia, they are a millimetre-perfect match."

The site is known as the Arkaim valley in the south of Ural near the Russian city of Chelyabinsk. It was supposed to be flooded in 1987: the local authorities were going to create a water reservoir there to irrigate droughty fields. However, scientists found strange circles in the centre of the valley: the authorities gave archaeologists 12 months to explore the area. Scientists were shocked to find out that Arkaim was the same age as Egypt and Babylon, and a little older than Troy and Rome.

Gennady Zdanovich, the chairman of the archaeological expedition in Ural had to prove the significance of Arkaim to regional officials. "We achieved what seemed to be absolutely unreal: the multi-million construction project in the region was shut down," the scientist said.

"A flight above Arkaim on board a helicopter gives you an incredible impression. The huge concentric circles on the valley are clearly visible. The town and its outskirts are all enclosed in the circles. We still do not know, what point the gigantic circles have, whether they were made for defensive, scientific, educational, or ritual purposes. Some researchers say that the circles were actually used as the runway for an ancient spaceport." Vadim Chernobrovny said.

Researchers discovered that the ancient town was equipped with storm

sewage system, which helped Arkaim's residents avoid floods. The people were protected against fires as well: timbered floorings and houses themselves were imbued with fireproof substance. It was a rather strong compound, the remnants of which can still be found in the ruins of the town.

Each house was outfitted with "all modern conveniences," as they would say nowadays. There was a well, an oven and dome-like food storage in every house. The well was branching out into two underground trenches: one of them was directed to the oven and the other one ended in the food storage. The trenches were used to supply chilly air to the oven and to the food storage. The cool air from the trenches was also creating a very powerful traction force in the Aryan oven, which made it possible to smelt bronze there.

The central square in Arkaim was the only object of square shape in the town. Judging upon traces of bonfires that were placed in specific order on the square, the place was used as a site for certain rituals.

Arkaim was built according to a previously projected plan as a single complicated complex, which also had an acute orientation on astronomic objects. While archaeologists are meticulously brushing dust off ancient stones trying to recreate the lifestyle of Arkaim's residents, ufologists study mysterious phenomena, which they register in the town: inexplicable fluctuations of voltage, magnetic field tension, temperatures and so on.

Additional information comes from Wikipedia, the free encyclopaedia under 'Arkaim'. Arkaim is similar in form but much better preserved than neighbouring Sintashta, where the earliest chariot was unearthed. The site was protected by two circular walls. There was a central square, surrounded by two circles of dwellings separated by a street. The settlement covered ca. 20,000 m² (220,000 sq ft). The diameter of the enclosing wall was 160 m (520 ft). It was built from earth packed into timber frames, and reinforced with unburned clay brick, with a thickness of 4-5 m (13-16 ft) and a height of 5.5 m (18 ft). The settlement was surrounded with a 2 m (6 ft 7 in) deep moat.

There are 4 entrances into the settlement through the outer and inner wall with the main entrance to the west. The dwellings were between 110-180 m² (1,200-1,900 sq ft) in area. The outer ring of dwellings number 39 or 40, with entrances to a circular street in the middle of the settlement. The inner ring of dwellings number 27, arranged along the inner wall, with doors to the central

square of 25 by 27 m (82 by 89 ft). The central street was drained by a covered channel. Zdanovich estimates that approximately 1500 to 2500 people could have lived in the settlement.

Surrounding Arkaim's walls, were arable fields, 130-140 m by 45 m (430-460 ft by 150 ft), irrigated by a system of canals and ditches. Remains of millet and barley seeds were found.

The 17th century date suggests that the settlement was about coeval to, or just post-dating, the Indo-Aryan migration into South Asia and Mesopotamia (the Gandhara grave culture appearing in the Northern Pakistan from c. 1600 BCE, the Indo-European rulers reached Anatolia before 1500 BCE, both roughly 3,000 kilometres (1,900 miles) removed from the Sintashta-Petrovka area), and that it was either an early Iranian culture, or an unknown branch of Indo-Iranian that did not survive into historical times.

The early investigators described Arkaim as 'Swastika City', 'Mandala City' and 'the ancient capital of early Aryan civilization, as described in the *Avesta* and *Vedas*.' 'The *swastika* description refers to the floor plan of the site, which (with some imagination) may appear similar to the *swastika* symbol, albeit with rounded arms (similar to the *lauburu*) attached to a central ring instead of a cross.' It is to note that *swastika* is most common sacred sign in India known since the Harappa period.

The similarity of latitude, date, and size led some archaeo-astronomists (Bystrushkin 2003) to compare Arkaim with Stonehenge in England. According to their claims, the Neolithic at Stonehenge allowed for observation of 15 astronomical phenomena using 22 elements, whereas the contemporaneous observatory at Arkaim allowed for observation of 18 astronomical phenomena using 30 elements. The precision of measurements in Stonehenge is estimated at 10 arc-minutes to a degree, that in Arkaim being put at 1 arc-minute. Such a precision of astronomical observations was not repeated until the compilation of about 2 millennia later. The interpretation as an observatory for either Stonehenge or Arkaim is not universally accepted

Discussion

Before starting a discussion about this great discovery it seems proper to point out some shortcomings in European thinking, which have crop up during about two centuries of their dominance over the world academics. These can

rather be called diseases almost whole world is suffering from; the source being biblical dogma and European ego that was prompted disregard for all other ancient civilizations. Only four of these are being pointed here.

1. Condensing chronology of human civilizations within ten thousand years (strictly adhering to biblical origin of universe in 4004 before Christ). When encountered with some older civilization that cannot be reconciled within this range they resort to superstitions of so called lost civilizations, again a biblical notion. Like insects inside a fig fruit their world is confined to their universe.

2. The Darwinian theory of evolution has now become a religious dogma among Western historians. During 150 years of its existence not a single missing-link (?) could be discovered. Now with the discovery and intense researches on DNA there remains nothing that can be claimed as evolution; but most of the modern research works believe in primitive man from whom evolved hunter-gatherer. With the discovery of a higher civilization of the past speculations start to be forgotten.

3. A vowed apathy about Hindu epics and Puranas that is a storehouse of not only human past but also geology of Asia, the cradle of all civilizations. This has resulted in a lopsided view of world history leading to prehistory.

4. Any disagreement with their views is not tolerated. It takes no time to declare such scholars 'pseudo-archaeologists', 'national mystics' or 'chauvinist'. There is no way; either you agree with them or you are no archaeologist.

The Vedic Roots of Russians:

Our Central Asian Thesis of Vedic Culture (CATVC) shows that the present Russians are the descendents of a Vedic tribe known as the Ṛṣikas. The word *ṛṣi* means a 'seer', 'sage' or 'śamana' to whom the Vedas originally were revealed. The tribe must have their origin with these *ṛṣis*. The inhabitants of 'Rus' called themselves *ruska*, alternatively spelled as *rouska*, *rus'ka*, and *russka*; 'k' in these names points its connection with the Vedic tribe of Ṛṣikas. However, the country of the 'Rus' was called 'ruska zemlya', i.e. the 'Land of the Ruska (or Ṛṣikas).' Here the word 'zemlya', i.e. 'land' also can be traced to Sanskrit origin as *zma* (Persian *zamin*) may be equated with *kṣam* (earth). According to Monier Williams,¹ the word *kṣam* occurs in the *Ṛgveda* at several places in this sense; once also as 'zma' (Rv. vi. 52.15). Thus, undoubtedly the term 'ruska zemlya' has Vedic connection and the Russians are the Vedic people known as the Ṛṣikas.² There is nothing

unusual in 'r' transforming into 'ru' in 'Rus' or 'rus'ka' and etc, because, in Marathi language it is a common practice (for example, Kṛṣṇa is often pronounced as Kruṣṇa).

Ignoring the mention of many tribes of Central and northern Asia, on account of self imposed banish on Purāṇic history, they indulge in all sorts of speculations advanced etymological derivation of the name (word 'Rus' or 'russk'). According to the Normenist theory 'It has been suggested that the name 'Rus' might have originated from the Iranic name of the Volga River, as well as from the Rosh of Ezekiel. Prof. George Vernadsky has suggested a derivation from the Roxolani or from the Aryan term *ronsa* (moisture, water). There is a recurrence of river names like Ros in Eastern Europe.' But the Anti-Normanists suggest native Slavic origins for 'Rus'. Suggested origins for 'Rus' include:

- The Sarmatian of the *Rosolani*, who inhabited southern Ukraine, Moldova and Romania (from the Old-Persian *roksa*, meaning light, white).
- One of two rivers in Ukraine, the *Ros* and *Rusna*, near Kiev and Pereyaslav, respectively, whose names are derived from a postulated Slavic term for 'water', akin to *rosa* (dew) *rusalka* (water nymph), *ruslo* (stream bed). (The relation to the Sanskrit '*rasa*' – water, juice, essence – suggests itself).
- *Rusiyā*, light-brown, shade of hair color (the translation 'reddish-haired', cognate with the Slavic *ryzhiy*, (red-haired) is not quite exact).
- A postulated proto-Slavic word for "bear", cognate with *arctos* and *ursus*.
- The Russian linguist I. N. Danilevsky, in his *Ancient Rus as Seen by Contemporaries and Descendants*, argued against these theories, stating that the anti-Normanists neglected the realities of the Ancient Slavic languages and that the nation name 'Rus' could not have arisen from any of the proposed origins.
 - The populace of the Ros River would have been known as *Roshane*.
 - Red-haired or bear-originated people would have ended their self-name with plural –*one* or *ichi*, and not with singular –*s*'.

Danilevsky, therefore, proposes a theory that the 'Rus' were originally not a nation but social class, and thus explains all the irregularities in the *Primary Chronicle*, and the lack of early non-Slavic sources." (*ibid.*)

But exercises leading to such generalizations will not be required if we are

ready to adopt a liberal academic attitude of consulting other evidences as well. Danilevsky is right because the idea of nation is a late concept; same is true of 'social class'. Humanity in early period was not divided into 'nations' or 'classes'. From the remotest antiquity they found themselves divided on the basis of ethnic groups originating from some ancestor; and continued further branching off till they forgot the original one. This process repeated time and again and we find countless ethnic groups varied in colour, size, shape and other physical features. The only factor that connects all human beings is procreation. Thus whole humanity is one species/race.

Ruska, rouska rus'ka or *russak* being identified with epic and Purāṇic Ṛṣika tribe, the Wikipedia notes that "The Ṛṣikas find references in the *Mahābhārata*, *Rāmāyaṇa*, *Br̥hat-Saṁhitā*, *Mārkaṇḍeya Puarāṇa* and *Mahābhāṣya* of Patañjali. *Mahābhārata* refers to the Ṛṣikas as Uttara Ṛṣikas as well as Parama Ṛṣikas. Ṛṣikas stated to have been living as neighbors to the Parama-Kambojas and the Lohas in Transoxiana region, in Śaka-dvīpa."³ The Parama Ṛṣikas and the Uttara Ṛṣikas must have located to northern regions as Uttara Kurus are said to be, most probably in Kazakhstan or even to further north. Thus, beside phonetic resemblance, geographically also Russians can be associated with the Ṛṣika people. 'The Prākṛt form of Ṛṣika is said to be Isika/Ishika, Esika/Eshika or Asika/Ashika.' The Ṛṣikas are also stated to be same as Asioi or Asii of Strabo. The name Asioi/Asii, according to one view, alludes to their connection with *Aśva* or *Assa* (horses).' It will be interesting to note that the name Asia of the continent is derivable with this.

Our Central Asia Thesis of Vedic Culture (CATVC) holds that Ṛvedic civilization originated in the Meru region, identified with Pamir including the valleys of Oxus (Amu Darya) and Araxes (Syr Darya). Vedic literature, Purāṇas and epics narrate that Manu, the first Man, tied his ark on the peak of mount Meru or Sumeru. The Purāṇic Lunar race originated from Ilā the daughter of Manu. In fact she is depicted as a deity in the Vedas itself. Dr. David Frawley also is of the same opinion He writes "The root 'īle' means to worship. The *Ṛgveda* begins characteristically with 'agnim īle', I worship Agni." He also notes "Persians call their homeland Ila. Elam, an ancient kingdom in southwest Iran, may be a related term and is a very ancient kingdom comparable to Sumeria. The Tamilians call their kingdom Ilā or Eeḷam. The Semitic term for God as I, as in Elohm, Allah (*Al illah*) may also be related to Vedic *Ila* or *Il* as Agni (the burning bush of Moses). The

Phoenicians also worshiped Il. Their god Baal is *Ba-il*. The term *Ila*, therefore, contains some of humanity's oldest and most enduring ideas of divinity. It suggests Ila-Varta as the original homeland of humanity, particularly as a place of spiritual origins and guidance."⁴ Likewise most of Indra's feats were performed in this region. The twin Aśvinis also are said to have born in the Uttara Kuru region. Hence we are in no doubt that Russians were the Ṛvedic people. This can be seen in the fact that a good number of words in Russian language (in fact all the languages of the region) have Sanskrit affiliation. Many Russian proper names also allude to their Vedic origin.

Now the Sintasht culture is associated with the Arkaim culture. Here a burial is found where earliest spoked wheel of chariot was found along with the head of a horse and Soviet archaeologists see this in the light of Indra cutting the horse head of Dadhīci that was replaced by Aśvinīkumāras by his original head. The *Ṛgveda* (I.84.14) asserts that this horse's head was found hidden in the mountains of Śaryaṇāvat, identified by us with the Zeravshan in Tajikistan.

Here we also endorse the identification of the cities of Arkaim and the Sintasht complex as associated with the Ṛgvedic civilization. Not only this, the Androvovo culture and the Bactria-Margiana Archaeological Complex (BMAC) also are related with the Vedic civilization. We have treated the subject in some detail in my paper on Central Asia Thesis of Vedic Civilization: Vedic Solution of Indo-European Homeland.⁵

References

1. Monier Williams, *Sanskrit-English Dictionary*, p.326, col.2.
2. See, Wikipedia, the free encyclopaedia under the heading 'Rus' (name) (5/12.10) where speculations on the etymology of the word 'Rus' are given.
3. See Wikipedia, the free encyclopaedia on 'Rishiakas' 5/12.10.
4. David Frawley, *The Rig Veda and the history of India*, 2003, New Delhi, p.29.
5. In *Itihas Darpan*, volume XIX (1), 2014, pp.9-37.