Boz (king)

Boz (c . 380) was the king of the Antes , an early Slavic people that lived in parts of present @-@ day Ukraine . His story is mentioned by Jordanes in the Getica (550 ? 551) ; in the preceding years , the Ostrogoths under Ermanaric had conquered a large number of tribes in Central Europe (see Oium) , including the Antes . Some years after the Ostrogothic defeat by the invading Huns , a king named Vinitharius , Ermanaric 's great @-@ nephew , marched against the Antes of Boz and defeated them . Vinitharius condemned Boz , his sons , and seventy of his nobles , to crucifixion , in order to terrorize the Antes . These conflicts constitute the only pre @-@ 6th century contacts between Germanics and Slavs documented in written sources .

History

Background

Byzantine historian Jordanes wrote in his De origine actibusque Getarum (or " Getica " , written in 550 or 551) that King Ermanaric (fl . 370s) of the Greuthungi (a Gothic tribe , most likely the same as the later Ostrogoths) , member of the Amali dynasty , managed to subdue a large number of tribes in Europe (Cassiodorus called him " ruler of all nations of Scythia and Germania ") , and he is said to have lastly subjugated the Wends (Slavs) . Jordanes noted that the Gothic tribes regularly made raids into Slavic territory .
Jordanes mentioned three tribes of the same origin , that constituted the Slavs : Wends (West Slavs) , Antes (East Slavs) and Sklaveni (South Slavs) , and stated that the Antes were the bravest and strongest among these . He also stated that the Antes ' rule was hereditary , while Procopius maintained that the Sklaveni and Antes " are not ruled by one man , but they have lived from old under a democracy " . According to Roman Smal @-@ Stocki , the Antes received a strong ruling power and military organization over time from the Gothic influence . They inhabited the area between the Dniester and Dnieper , most likely in the region extending from the Vistula to the Danube mouth and eastwards to the Don . The tribal union of the Antes probably included some neighbouring West Slavic tribes . The Antes seem to have attempted to form their own state in the frontiers of ? or even within ? the Gothic state , judging by Jordanes ' naming Boz as " king " .

Story of Boz

The Huns , accompanied by the Alani whom they had just conquered , invaded Ermanaric 's territories . Ermanaric , who feared devastation , took his own life . In the years following Ermanaric 's death , there was a war between the section of the Ostrogoths who remained under Hun rule , and the Antes .
Ermanaric 's great @-@ nephew , Vinitharius , who disliked being under Hun rule , withdrew his forces and marched against the Antes in order to defeat them and to show his courage . This took place in the last quarter of the 4th century , possibly around 380 . Boz , the king of the Antes (rex Antorum) , had organized an alliance to defend the Antes , and managed to defeat Vinitharius in their first encounters , however , Vinitharius fought valiantly and managed to capture and crucify Boz , together with his sons and 70 of his chiefs (primates) . Vinitharius left their bodies hanging to induce fear in those who had surrendered . These conflicts constitute the only pre @-@ 6th century contacts between Germanics and Slavs documented in written sources .

Aftermath

Afterwards , the Alans (according to contemporary Marcellinus , though Jordanes said it was Huns) rushed to rescue their kin , with a decisive battle fought against the Ostrogoths at the river Erak (now called Tylihul) , in which the Ostrogoths were defeated and pushed west . The Ostrogoths

eventually reached the lower Danube shores .

= = Assessment = =

 Jordanes wrote his name in Late Latin as Boz (" Boz nomine ") , though several manuscripts of the Getica use Box or Booz . There are various theories in etymological studies regarding the name .
 The name has been rendered in the Slavic languages as Bo? (??? , ???? ; transliterated as Bozh) . One theory is that it derives from the Slavic word bog , " God " , interpreted as " God 's " . Polish linguist Stanis?aw Urba?czyk (1909 ? 2000) mentioned * Bo?? (divine) , * Vo (d) ?? (chief) , and * Bos? (barefooted) as possibilites . Polish linguist Stanis?aw Rospond (1906 ? 1982) concluded that Bos , " barefooted " , was his name , and that the other etymologies put forward by Urba?czyk were less probable ; he supported this by connecting Boz with Bus (?????) of The Tale of Igor 's Campaign , as Omeljan Ohonovskyj (1833 ? 1894) had first done in 1876 . Ukrainian scholar Mykhailo Hrushevsky (1866 ? 1934) speculated that his name was " perhaps Bozhko , Bozhydar , Bohdan " . Ukrainian Bohdan Struminsky stressed that as the first palatalizations (g? > ?? , etc .) had not yet occurred in Slavic at the time of Boz , * Bo?? was unconvincing and * Vo (d) ?? " even less acceptable " . Although supporting the connection with Bus , he assumed that it was Gothic , as * B?s , found in similar variants as West Gothic B?s? , of uncertain date , " probably meaning ' Sorcerer ' " , and Anglo @-@ Saxon B?sa , from the 7th century .
 His title , rex Antorum , translates to " King of the Antes " . Ukrainian historian Mykola Andrusiak assumed , as Jordanes used rex for both Germanic rulers and the ruler of the Antes , that the Eastern Slavs had adopted " * kuning- " from the Goths and Slavicized it into " k?n?dz? " (knyaz) , translated by Jordanes as " rex " .
 Historian Florin Curta believes that Jordanes ' account regarding Boz and Vinitharius possibly originated in the Gothic oral tradition , given the narrative pattern of the story . He views of Boz as " quasi @-@ legendary " , as he is the only Slavic leader mentioned by Jordanes , while no leader is mentioned by Procopius .
 Some historians have tried to identify Boz with Bus mentioned in the Tale of Igor 's Campaign , in which boyars tell Sviatoslav I of Kiev (r . 945 ? 972) of " Gothic maidens ... singing about the time of Bus " , but this has been refuted . The first to connect the two was Omeljan Ohonovskyj (1833 ? 1894) , in 1876 . He was later supported by Stanis?aw Rospond .