

= Romania in the Early Middle Ages =

The Early Middle Ages in Romania started with the withdrawal of the Roman troops and administration from Dacia province in the 270s . In the next millennium a series of peoples , most of whom only controlled two or three of the nearly ten historical regions that now form Romania , arrived . During this period , society and culture underwent fundamental changes . Town life came to an end in Dacia with the Roman withdrawal , and in Scythia Minor ? the other Roman province in the territory of present @-@ day Romania ? 400 years later . Fine vessels made on fast potter 's wheels disappeared and hand @-@ made pottery became dominant from the 450s . Burial rites changed more than once from cremation to inhumation and vice versa until inhumation became dominant by the end of the 10th century .

The East Germanic Goths and Gepids , who lived in sedentary communities , were the first new arrivals . The Goths dominated Moldavia and Wallachia from the 290s , and parts of Transylvania from the 330s . Their power collapsed under attacks by the nomadic Huns in 376 . The Huns controlled Eastern and Central Europe from around 400 , but their empire disintegrated in 454 . Thereafter the regions west of the Carpathian Mountains ? Banat , Cri?ana , and Transylvania ? and Oltenia were dominated by the Gepids . Within a century , the lands east of the mountains became important centers of the Antes and Sclavenes . Hydronyms and place names of Slavic origin also prove the one @-@ time presence of Early Slavs in the regions west of the Carpathians .

The nomadic Avars subjugated the Gepids in 568 and dominated the Carpathian Basin up until around 800 . The Bulgars also established a powerful empire in the 670s which included Dobruja and other territories along the Lower Danube . Bulgaria officially adopted the Eastern Orthodox variant of Christianity in 864 . An armed conflict between Bulgaria and the nomadic Hungarians forced the latter to depart from the Pontic steppes and began the conquest of the Carpathian Basin around 895 . Their invasion gave rise to the earliest reference , recorded some centuries later in the Gesta Hungarorum , to a polity ruled by a Romanian duke named Gelou . The same source also makes mention of the presence of the Székelys in Cri?ana around 895 . The first contemporaneous references to Romanians ? who used to be known as Vlachs ? in the regions now forming Romania were recorded in the 12th and 13th centuries . References to Vlachs inhabiting the lands to the south of the Lower Danube abound in the same period .

Banat , Cri?ana and Transylvania were integrated into the Kingdom of Hungary in the 11th century . These regions were subject to plundering raids by the nomadic Pechenegs and Cumans , who dominated the lowlands east of the mountains . Hungarian monarchs promoted the immigration of Western European colonists to Transylvania from the 1150s . The colonists ' descendants , who were known as Transylvanian Saxons from the early 13th century , received collective privileges in 1224 . Because of the settlement of the Saxons in their former territories , the Székelys were moved to the easternmost zones of the kingdom . The emergence of the Mongol Empire in the Eurasian Steppes in the first decades of the 13th century had lasting effects on the history of the region . The Mongols subjugated the Cumans in the 1230s and destroyed many settlements throughout the Kingdom of Hungary in 1241 and 1242 , bringing the Early Middle Ages to an end .

= = Background = =

= = = Roman provinces and native tribes = = =

Contacts between the Roman Empire ? which developed into the largest empire in the history of Europe ? and the natives of the regions now forming Romania commenced in the 2nd century BC . These regions were inhabited by Dacians , Bastarnae and other peoples whose incursions posed a threat to the empire . The Romans initially attempted to secure their frontiers by various means , including the creation of buffer zones . Finally , they decided that the annexation of the lands of these fierce " barbarians " is the best measure . The territory of the Getae between the river Danube and the Black Sea ( modern Dobruja ) was the first region to be incorporated into the empire . It was

attached to the Roman province of Moesia in 46 AD .

The Lower Danube marked the boundary between the empire and " Barbaricum " until Emperor Trajan decided to expand the frontiers over territories controlled by the Dacian Kingdom . He achieved his goal through two military campaigns , the second of which ended with the annihilation of the Dacian state and the establishment of the province of Dacia in 106 . It included Oltenia and large portions of Banat , Transylvania , and Wallachia . Many colonists " from all over the Roman world " arrived and settled in the new province in the following decades .

Dacia was situated over the empire 's natural borders . It was surrounded by native tribes inhabiting the regions of Crișana , Maramureș , Moldavia which are now integral part of Romania , but the Romans never annexed them . Dacia province was plundered by neighboring tribes , including the Carpians , Sarmatians , from the 230s , and by the Goths from the 250s . As the frontiers were to be shortened for defensive purposes , the withdrawal of the Roman legions from Dacia began in the 260s . The province officially ceased to exist under Emperor Aurelian ( 270 ? 275 ) who " withdrew the Romans from the cities and countryside of Dacia " . Garrisons stationed in Drobeta and Sucidava remained on the northern bank of the river .

= = = Origin of the Romanians = = =

Romanians speak a language originating from the dialects of the Roman provinces north of the " Jirek Line " . This line divided , in Roman times , the predominantly Greek @-@ speaking southern provinces from those where Latin was the principal language of communication . The emergence of Proto @-@ Romanian from Vulgar Latin is first demonstrated by the words " torna , torna , frater " ( " turn around , turn around , brother " ) recorded in connection with an Eastern Roman military action in 587 or 588 . The soldier shouting them " in his native tongue " spoke an Eastern Romance dialect of the Balkan Mountains .

Grigore Nandris writes that the Romanian vocabulary suggests that the Romanians ' ancestors were " reduced to a pastoral life in the mountains and to agricultural pursuits in the foothills of their pasture lands " following the collapse of the Roman rule . A great number of Romanian words of uncertain origin are related to animal husbandry : baci ( " chief shepherd " ) , baleg ( " dung " ) , and brânză ( " cheese " ) , for instance , belong to this group . Many words related to a more settled form of animal husbandry were borrowed from Slavic , including cote ( " poultry house " ) , grajd ( " stable " ) , and stână ( " fenced pasture " ) . Romanian has preserved Latin terms for agriculture and the Latin names of certain crops , but a significant part of its agricultural lexis originates from a Slavic @-@ speaking population . The first group includes a ara ( " to plough " ) , a semăna ( " to sow " ) , a culege ( " to harvest " ) , a secera ( " to reap " ) , grâu ( " wheat " ) , in ( " flax " ) , and furcă ( " pitchfork " ) , while a croi ( " to cut out " ) , a plivi ( " to weed " ) , brazdă ( " furrow " ) , cobil ( " plow line " ) , coasă ( " scythe " ) , lopată ( " shovel " ) and many others are Slavic loanwords .

The Romanian religious vocabulary is also divided , with a small number of basic terms preserved from Latin and a significant number of borrowings from Old Church Slavonic . Romanian did not preserve Latin words connected to urbanized society . Likewise , the term sat ( " village " ) may have been borrowed from the Albanian language and not directly inherited . The Medieval Romanian word obște ( " village community " ) came from Slavic , and the Romanian word for its boundaries ( hotar ) is of Hungarian origin .

The Romanians ' ethnogenesis cannot be understood based exclusively on written sources , because the earliest records on their ancestors were made by 11th @-@ century Byzantine historians . When referring to the Romance @-@ speaking population of Southeastern Europe , early medieval sources used the Vlach exonym or its cognates , which all derived from the Common Slavic term for speakers of the Latin language . The earliest sources write of the Vlachs of the central territories of the Balkan Peninsula .

= = Late Roman Age = =

== Scythia Minor and the limes on the Lower Danube ( c . 270 ? c . 700 ) ==

The territory between the Lower Danube and the Black Sea remained a fully integrated part of the Roman Empire , even after the abandonment of Trajan 's Dacia . It was transformed into a separate province under the name of Scythia Minor around 293 . Before 300 , the Romans erected small forts at Dierna and in other places on the northern bank of the Danube in modern @-@ day Banat . In their wider region , Roman coins from the period ? mostly of bronze ? have been found .

The existence of Christian communities in Scythia Minor became evident under Emperor Diocletian ( 284 ? 305 ) . He and his co @-@ emperors ordered the persecution of Christians throughout the empire , causing the death of many between 303 and 313 . Under Emperor Constantine the Great ( 306 ? 337 ) , a bridge across the Danube was constructed at Sucidava , a new fort ( Constantiana Daphne ) was built , and ancient roads were repaired in Oltenia . The Lower Danube again became the empire 's northern boundary in 369 at the latest , when Emperor Valens met Athanaric ? the head of the Goths ? in a boat in the middle of the river because the latter had taken an oath " never to set foot on Roman soil " .

The Huns destroyed Drobeta and Sucidava in the 440s , but the forts were restored under Emperor Justinian I ( 527 ? 565 ) . Eastern Roman coins from the first half of the 6th century suggest a significant military presence in Oltenia ? a region also characterized by the predominance of pottery with shapes of Roman tradition . Although Eastern Roman emperors made annual payments to the neighboring peoples in an attempt to keep the peace in the Balkans , the Avars regularly invaded Scythia Minor from the 580s . The Romans abandoned Sucidava in 596 or 597 , but Tomis , which was the last town in Scythia Minor to resist the invaders , only fell in 704 .

== North of the limes ( c . 270 ? c . 330 ) ==

Transylvania and northern Banat , which had belonged to Dacia province , had no direct contact with the Roman Empire from the 270s . There is no evidence that they were invaded in the following decades . Towns , including Apulum and Ulpia Traiana Sarmizegetusa , and the surrounding areas continued to be inhabited but the urban areas diminished . The existence of local Christian communities can be assumed in Porolissum , Potaissa and other settlements . On the other hand , evidence ? mainly pottery with " Chi @-@ rho " ( ? @-@ ? ) signs and other Christian symbols ? is " shadowy and poorly understood " , according to archaeologists Haynes and Hanson .

Urns found in late 3rd @-@ century cemeteries at Bezid , Media? , and in other Transylvanian settlements had clear analogies in sites east of the Carpathians , suggesting that the Carpians were the first new arrivals in the former province from the neighboring regions . Other Carpians groups , pressured by the Goths , also departed from their homeland and sought refuge in the Roman Empire around 300 . Nevertheless , " Carpo @-@ Dacians " were listed among the peoples " mixed with the Huns " as late as 379 . The Sarmatians of the Banat were allies of the empire , demonstrated by a Roman invasion in 332 against the Goths , their enemies . Sarmatians were admitted into the empire in 379 , but other Sarmatian groups remained in the Tisa plains up until the 460s .

== Gutthiuda : land of the Goths ( c . 290 ? c . 455 ) ==

The Goths started penetrating into territories west of the river Dniester from the 230s . Two distinct groups separated by the river , the Thervingi and the Greuthungi , quickly emerged among them . The one @-@ time province of Dacia was held by " the Taifali , Victohali , and Thervingi " around 350 .

The Goths ' success is marked by the expansion of the multiethnic " Sântana de Mure? @-@ Chernyakhov culture " . Settlements of the culture appeared in Moldavia and Wallachia at the end of the 3rd century , and in Transylvania after 330 . These lands were inhabited by a sedentary population engaged in farming and cattle @-@ breeding . Pottery , comb @-@ making and other handicrafts flourished in the villages . Wheel @-@ made fine pottery is a featuring item of the period

, but hand @-@ made cups of the local tradition were also preserved . Plowshares similar to those made in nearby Roman provinces and Scandinavian @-@ style brooches indicate trade contacts with these regions . " Sântana de Mure? @-@ Chernyakhov " villages , sometimes covering an area exceeding 20 hectares ( 49 acres ) , were not fortified and comprised two types of houses : sunken huts with walls made of wattle and daub and surface buildings with plastered timber walls . Sunken huts had for centuries been typical for settlements east of the Carpathians , but now they appeared in distant zones of the Pontic steppes .

The multiethnic Gutthiuda was divided into smaller political units or kuni , each headed by tribal chiefs or reiks . In case of emergency , the tribal chiefs ' council elected a supreme leader who was known as iudex regum ( " judge of kings " ) by St Ambrose . Christian prisoners of war were the first missionaries among the Goths . Ulfilas , himself a descendant of a Cappadocian captive , was ordained bishop " of the Christians in the land of the Goths " in 341 . Expelled from Gutthiuda during a persecution of Christians , Ulfilas settled in Moesia in 348 .

Gothic dominance collapsed when the Huns arrived and attacked the Thervingi in 376 . Most of the Thervingi sought asylum in the Roman Empire , and were followed by large groups of Greuthungi and Taifali . All the same , significant groups of Goths stayed in the territories north of the Danube . For instance , Athanaric " retired with all his men to Caucalanda " ? probably to the valley of the river Olt ? from where they " drove out the Sarmatians " . A hoard of Roman coins issued under Valentinian I and Valens suggests that the gates of the amphitheatre at Ulpia Traiana were blocked around the same time . The Pietroasele Treasure which was hidden around 450 also implies the presence of a Gothic tribal or religious leader in the lands between the Carpathians and the Lower Danube . It contains a torc bearing the inscription GUTANI O WI HAILAG , which is interpreted by Malcolm Todd as " God who protects the Goths , most holy and inviolate " .

= = = Gepidia : land of the Gepids ( c . 290 ? c . 630 ) = = =

The earliest reference to Gepids ? an East Germanic tribe closely related to the Goths ? is found in a formal speech of 291 . The anonymous author wrote that the Thervingi joined " battle with the Vandals and Gepids " at that time . The center of an early Gepidia , on the plains northwest of the Mese? Mountains , appears to have been located around ?imleu Silvaniei , where early 5th @-@ century precious objects of Roman provenance have been unearthed .

The Huns imposed their authority over the Gepids by the 420s , but the latter remained united under the rule of their king named Ardaric . Although he was one of the favorites of Attila , king of the Huns , he initiated an uprising against the Huns when Attila died in 453 . The Gepids regained their independence and " ruled as victors over the extent of all Dacia " .

Three sumptuous tombs found at Apahida evidence the wealth accumulated by Gepid royals through their connections with the Eastern Roman Empire . A golden ring with crosses found in one of the graves implies its owner 's Christian faith . John of Biclar refers to an Arian bishop of the Gepids which suggests that they adopted Christianity through their connection with the Arian Goths .

New settlements appearing along the rivers Mure? , Some? , and Târnava reflects a period of tranquility in Gepidia until around 568 . The common people in Biharia , Cenad , More?ti , and other villages lived in sunken huts covered with gabled roofs but with no hearths or ovens . They were primarily farmers , but looms , combs , and other products evidence the existence of local workshops . Trading contacts between Gepidia and faraway regions is evidenced by finds of amber beads and brooches manufactured in the Crimea , Mazovia or Scandinavia .

The Avar invasion of 568 ended the independent Gepidia . Written sources evidence the survival of Gepid groups within the Avar Empire . For instance , Eastern Roman troops " encountered three Gepid settlements " on the Tisa plains in 599 or 600 .

= = = Hunnic Empire ( c . 400 ? c . 460 ) = = =

The Huns , a people of uncertain origin , were nomadic and wandered " with the wagons " in the

370s . They were eminent mounted archers who imposed their authority over an increasing number of neighboring peoples . Their first ruler whose seat was located in the Lower Danube region was Uldin , initially an important ally and later an enemy of the Eastern Roman Empire between 401 and 408 .

The Eastern Roman government paid an annual tribute to the Huns from the 420s . Gold flowing from the empire transformed the Hun society . The introduction of a centralized monarchy is evidenced in a report written by Priscus of Panium , an Eastern Roman envoy sent to the ruler of the Huns , Attila , in 448 . At that time , Gothic was widely spoken in the royal court since " the subjects of the Huns " spoke " besides their own barbarous tongues , either Hunnic or Gothic , or ? as many as have commercial dealings with the western Romans ? Latin " .

The Huns imposed their authority on a sedentary population . Priscus of Panium refers to a village where he and his retinue were supplied " with millet instead of corn " and " medos ( mead ) instead of wine " . Attila 's sudden death in 453 caused a civil war among his sons . The subject peoples revolted and emerged the victors at the Battle of Nedao in 454 . The remnants of the Huns withdrew to the Pontic steppes . One of their groups was admitted to settle in Scythia Minor in 460 .

= = After the first migrations = =

= = Between Huns and Avars ( c . 450 ? c . 565 ) = =

The last " Sântana de Mureș @-@ Chernyakhov " objects once widespread in Gutthiuda ? such as fine wares and weapons ? are dated to the period ending around 430 . According to Coriolan H. Opreanu , the same period is characterized by " population shifts " which caused the abandonment of many villages and the appearance of new settlements . Botoșana , Dodești , and other sites east of the Carpathians demonstrate the simplification of pottery forms and a decline in the use of the fast potter 's wheel from the 450s . Around the same time , semi @-@ sunken huts with stone or clay ovens appeared in Moldavia and Wallachia , forming ephemeral settlements with an area smaller than 5 hectares ( 12 acres ) . The locals practiced an " itinerant form of agriculture " , instead of manuring the soil . Differences in local pottery indicate the coexistence of communities isolated from each other by marshes , forests or hills . For instance , contemporary Căndești produced a significant quantity of wheel @-@ made pottery , Târgșor was characterized by crushed @-@ shard tempered vessels , and a sample of the most common " Kolochin " vessels was found in the Budureasca Valley .

There are few known cemeteries from the second half of the 5th century , pointing to common use of cremation without the use of urns or pits . On the other hand , a huge biritual necropolis at Sărata @-@ Monteoru produced more than 1 @, @ 600 cremation burials , either in wheel @-@ made urns or in pits without urns . Small cemeteries with inhumation graves have been found at Nichiteni and Secuieni .

Jordanes , Procopius and other 6th @-@ century authors used the terms " Sclavenes " and " Antes " to refer to the peoples inhabiting the territory north of the Lower Danube . The Antes launched their first campaign over the Lower Danube in 518 . After they concluded a treaty with the Eastern Roman Empire in 545 , the Sclavenes started to plunder the Balkan provinces . Both ethnic groups seized many prisoners of wars during their raids , but they were ready to integrate them " as free men and friends " .

The names of early 6th @-@ century leaders of the Sclavenes or Antes are unknown . This supports ancient authors ' claims that both ethnic groups lived " under a democracy " . The same conclusion can be drawn from Procopius 's report of the " phoney Chilbudius " ? a young Antian serf who " spoke the Latin tongue " ? who was dispatched by his fellow tribesmen to negotiate with the Eastern Roman Empire in 545 .

The disappearance of bronze and gold coins from sites north of the Lower Danube demonstrates an " economic closure of the frontier " of the Eastern Roman Empire between 545 and 565 . The same period is characterized by a tendency towards cultural unification in Moldavia , Oltenia and

Wallachia . Handmade pots with very similar incised designs evidence the " existence of a cross @-@ regional set of symbols shared " by either potters or consumers . Pots , spindle whorls and other objects decorated with crosses or swastikas have been unearthed at C?nde?ti , Lozna , and other sites . The use of handmade clay pans for baking bread was spreading from the regions south and east of the Carpathians towards lands over the Dniester and the Lower Danube .

= = = Avar Empire ( c . 565 ? c . 800 ) = = =

The Avars occupied Gepidia in 567 , less than a decade after their arrival in Europe . They were nomadic pastoralists , who settled in the lowlands . Stirrups found at S?npetru German are among the earliest finds in Romania attributed to the Avars . They received agricultural products from farming communities settled in their domains and neighboring peoples subjected to their authority . Emperor Justin II hired , in 578 , the Avars to attack the Sclavenes who resumed their plundering raids against the empire around that time . The names of some of the Sclavene leaders were first recorded in the following period . One of them , Musocius , " was called rex in the barbarian tongue " .

Graves of males interred together with horses found at Aiud and Band prove the Avars ' settlement in Transylvania in the early 7th century . Their cemeteries are centered around salt mines . Spurs ? never found in Avar context but widely used in Western Slav territories ? were unearthed in ?ura Mic? and Medi?oru Mare , suggesting the employment of non @-@ Avar horsemen in the 8th century .

Large " Late Avar " cemeteries used by several generations between c . 700 and c . 800 imply " an advanced degree of sedentization " of the entire society . The Avar Empire collapsed after the Franks launched three campaigns against the westernmost Avar territories between 791 and 803 . Soon afterwards the Bulgars attacked the Avars from the southeast , and Charlemagne settled Avar groups in Pannonia .

= = = Emergence of new powers ( c . 600 ? c . 895 ) = = =

The Lower Danube region experienced a period of stability after the establishment of the Avar Empire . Archaeological sites in Moldavia , Oltenia and Wallachia became characterized by the growing popularity of hand @-@ made vessels with finger impressions and by a decline in detectable cemeteries . Ananias of Shirak , a 7th @-@ century Armenian geographer described the " large country of Dacia " as inhabited by Slavs who formed " twenty @-@ five tribes " .

Villages of sunken huts with stone ovens appeared in Transylvania around 600 . Their network was expanding along the rivers Mure? , Olt and Some? . The so @-@ called " Media? group " of cremation or mixed cemeteries emerged in this period near salt mines . The Hungarian and the Romanian vocabulary of salt mining was taken from Slavic , suggesting that Slavs were employed in the mines for centuries . Bistri?a ( " swift " ) , Crasna ( " nice " or " red " ) , Sibiu ( " dogwood " ) , and many other rivers and settlements with names of Slavic origin also evidence the presence of Slavs in Transylvania .

The Turkic @-@ speaking Bulgars arrived in the territories west of the river Dniester around 670 . At the Battle of Ongal they defeated the Eastern Roman ( or Byzantine ) Emperor Constantine IV in 680 or 681 and occupied Dobruja . They soon imposed their authority over some of the neighboring tribes . The great variety in burial rites evidences the multi @-@ ethnic character of the Bulgarian Empire . Even the Bulgars were divided in this respect ; some of them practiced inhumation and others cremation . Initially , a sharp distinction existed between the Bulgars and their subjects , but the Slavicization of the Bulgars soon began .

Opreanu writes that the " new cultural synthesis " known as the " Dridu culture " developed in the Lower Danube region around 680 . New settlements and large cemeteries show that the region experienced a steady demographic rise in the 8th century . The large , unfortified " Dridu " settlements were characterized by traditional semi @-@ sunken huts , but a few houses with ground @-@ level floors have also been unearthed in Dode?ti , Spinoasa , and other places .

" Dridu " communities produced and used gray or yellow fine pottery , but hand @-@ made vessels were still predominant . Fine , gray vessels were also unearthed in the 9th @-@ century " Blandiana A " cemeteries in the area of Alba @-@ Iulia , which constitutes a " cultural enclave " in Transylvania . Near these cemeteries , necropolises of graves with west ? east orientation form the distinct " Ciumbrud group " . Female dress accessories from " Ciumbrud graves " are strikingly similar to those from Christian cemeteries in Bulgaria and Moravia . From an earlier date are the cremation cemeteries of the " Nu?falau @-@ Some?eni group " in northwestern Transylvania , with their 8th- and 9th @-@ century tumuli , similar to the kurgans of East Slavic territories .

Contemporaneous authors rarely dwelled on early medieval Southeastern Europe . For instance , the Royal Frankish Annals makes a passing reference to Abodrites living " in Dacia adjacent to the Danube near the Bulgarian border " on the occasion of their envoys ' arrival in Aachen in 824 . Bulgaria 's territory increased under Krum ( c . 803 ? 814 ) , who took Adrianople and forced at least 10 @,@ 000 of the town 's inhabitants to settle north of the Lower Danube in 813 . The ambitions of his son Omurtag ( 814 ? 831 ) in the regions of the rivers Dnieper and Tisa are attested by two columns erected in the memory of Bulgar military leaders who drowned in these rivers during military campaigns . Emperor Arnulf sent envoys , in 894 , to the Bulgarians to " ask that they should not sell salt to the Moravians " , suggesting a Bulgarian control over either the Transylvanian salt mines or the roads to Moravia .

In the same year , the nomadic Hungarians ? who had arrived in the Lower Danube region from the steppes of Eastern Europe in 837 or 838 ? became involved in a conflict between Bulgaria and the Byzantine Empire on the latter 's behalf . The Bulgarians incited another nomadic tribe , the Pechenegs , to invade the Hungarians from the east , while the Bulgarians also attacked them from the south . The two synchronized attacks forced the Hungarians to cross the Carpathian Mountains in search for a new homeland .

About 300 years later , Anonymus , the author of Gesta Hungarorum , wrote a comprehensive list of polities and peoples of the Carpathian Basin at the turn of the 9th and 10th centuries . He wrote about the Hungarian conquest of the territory but did not mention Simeon I of Bulgaria , Svatopluk of Moravia and the conquerors ' opponents known from contemporary sources . Instead , he wrote of a number of personalities unknown by other chroniclers . In Gesta Hungarorum , Menumorut ruled over " the peoples that are called Kozár " in Cri?ana . Anonymus also wrote of the Székelys ( " previously the peoples of King Attila " ) living in the territory for centuries who joined the invading Hungarians . Banat , according to Anonymus , was ruled by Glad who had come " from the castle of Vidin . " Glad is described to employ " Cumans , Bulgarians and Vlachs " in his army . Anonymous also wrote of Gelou , " a certain Vlach " ruling in Transylvania , a land inhabited by " Vlachs and Slavs " . Gelou 's subjects are portrayed as having " suffered many injuries from the Cumans and Pechenegs " .

= = Formation of new states and the last waves of migrations = =

= = = First Bulgarian Empire after conversion ( 864 ? 1018 ) = = =

Boris I , the ruler of Bulgaria , converted to Orthodox Christianity in 864 . He promoted vernacular worship services , thus Old Church Slavonic was declared the language of liturgy in the Bulgarian Orthodox Church in 893 . One of the earliest examples of Cyrillic script ? an alphabet strongly associated with Slavonic liturgy ? was found in Mircea Vod? in Romania . The Cyrillic inscription from 943 refers to a " ?upan Dimitrie " .

Byzantine troops occupied large portions of Bulgaria , including modern Dobruja , under Emperor John I Tzimiskes ( 969 ? 976 ) . After his death an anti @-@ Byzantine uprising led by four brothers broke out . One of the brothers , David , was killed by Vlachs in the present @-@ day border region between Greece and the Republic of Macedonia . In 1018 , the Byzantines conquered the whole territory of the Bulgarian Empire and the Archbishop of Ohrid acquired ecclesiastic jurisdiction in 1020 over the Vlachs living there .

= = = Hungarians in the Carpathian Basin ( c . 895 ? c . 1000 ) = = =

The way taken by the Hungarians across the Carpathian Mountains when they started the conquest of the Carpathian Basin varies from source to source . According to *Gesta Hungarorum* , the Hungarians descended through the northern passes to the lowlands , bypassing Transylvania , and only began the invasion of the regions east of the Tisa after the conquest of the western regions . *Gesta Hungarorum* says the Vlach Gelou of Transylvania died fighting the Hungarians , while his subjects chose " for themselves as lord Tétény " , one of the Hungarian leaders . Anonymus also wrote of Menumorut 's defeat , but said he preserved his rule in Crişana until his death by giving his daughter in marriage to Zolta , heir to Árpád , the head of the Hungarians . In a contrasting account , the *Illuminated Chronicle* writes of Hungarians fleeing through the eastern passes of the Carpathian Mountains to Transylvania where they " remained quietly " and " rested their herds " for a while before moving further west . The so @-@ called " Cluj group " of small inhumation cemeteries ? graves with west ? east orientation , often containing remains of horses ? appeared on both sides of the Apuseni Mountains around 900 . Their military character evidences that the people using them formed a " double defensive line " organized against the Pechenegs . Transylvanian cemeteries of the " Cluj group " cluster around salt mines .

Emperor Constantine VII Porphyrogenitus identified " the whole settlement " of Hungary with the lands where the rivers Criş , Mureş , Timiş , Tisa and Toutis ? possibly the Bega ? ran around 950 . The concentration of objects of Byzantine provenance at the confluence of the Mureş and Tisa shows that this territory was a regional center of power . Accordingly , the seat of Gyula , a Hungarian chieftain baptized in Constantinople around 952 , most probably existed in this region . On the other hand , Hungarian chronicles associate Gyula 's family with Transylvania . Place names from the nomadic stratum of Hungarian toponymy ? those corresponding to proper names or Hungarian tribal names , including Decea , Hotoan , and Ineu ? also evidence that major Hungarian groups settled in Transylvania from the 950s . An early " Bijelo Brdo " cemetery belonging to a 10th- and 11th @-@ century archaeological culture with finds from all over the Carpathian Basin was found at Deva .

= = = Patzinakia : land of the Pechenegs ( c . 895 ? c . 1120 ) = = =

The Turkic @-@ speaking Pechenegs took the control of the territories east of the Carpathians from the Hungarians around 895 . Emperor Constantine VII wrote that two Pecheneg " provinces " or " clans " ( " Kato Gyla " and " Giazichopon " ) were located in Moldavia and Wallachia around 950 . The change of dominion had no major effect on the sedentary " Dridu " villages in the region . The settlements in Moldavia and Wallachia , most of them built on river banks or lake shores , remained unfortified . Sporadic finds of horse brasses and other " nomadic " objects evidence the presence of Pechenegs in " Dridu " communities . Snaffle bits with rigid mouthpieces and round stirrups ? novelties of the early 10th century ? were also unearthed in Moldavia and Wallachia . Cemeteries of the locals show that inhumation replaced cremation by the end of the 10th century .

The Eymund 's saga narrates that Pechenegs ( Tyrkir ) with Blökumen " and a good many other nasty people " were involved in the disputes for the throne of Kievan Rus ' in 1019 . An 11th @-@ century runic inscription on a stone from Gotland narrates that a Varangian man was murdered " on a voyage abroad " by Blakumen . Both Blökumen and Blakumen may refer to Vlachs inhabiting the regions east of the Carpathians , although their translation to " black men " cannot be excluded . Graffiti depicting ships and dragons in Scandinavian style were found in the Basarabi Cave Complex at Murfatlar .

Large groups of Pechenegs pressured from the east by the Ouzes received asylum in the Byzantine Empire in 1046 and 1047 . All the same , Pecheneg populations remained in the regions north of the Lower Danube even thereafter . Some of them were admitted into the Kingdom of Hungary in the next decades , where they were settled in southern Transylvania and other regions .



== Byzantine revival and the Second Bulgarian Empire ( 970s ? c . 1185 ) ==

Around 971 , Emperor John I Tzimiskes established the theme or " district " of Paristrion in the territories occupied between the Balkan Mountains and the Lower Danube . Naval bases were built at Capidava , Noviodunum , and P?cuiul lui Soare on the river . Bulgarians and Vlachs living in the annexed territories often expressed their hostility towards imperial rule . Anna Comnena relates how local Vlachs showed " the way through the passes " of the Balkan Mountains to invading Cumans in 1094 . All the same , Vlachs served in the imperial army , for instance during an imperial campaign against the Kingdom of Hungary in 1166 . New taxes imposed by imperial authorities caused a rebellion of Vlachs and Bulgarians in 1185 , which led to the establishment of the Second Bulgarian Empire . The Vlachs ' eminent status within the new state is evidenced by the writings of Robert of Clari and other western authors , who refer either to the new state or to its mountainous regions as " Vlachia " until the 1250s .

== Kingdom of Hungary ( c . 1000 ? 1241 ) ==

Stephen I , the first crowned king of Hungary whose reign began in 1000 or 1001 , unified the Carpathian Basin . Around 1003 , he launched a campaign against " his maternal uncle , King Gyula " and occupied Transylvania . Stephen I later turned against Ahtum , " who had been baptised in the Orthodox faith in Vidin " , and conquered Banat . Hartvik , Stephen I 's hagiographer , wrote that the monarch " divided his territories in ten bishoprics " . In the territory of modern Romania , three Roman Catholic dioceses were established with their seats in Alba Iulia , Biharea ( from the last decades of the 11th century in Oradea ) , and Cenad .

Royal administration in the entire kingdom was based on counties organized around royal fortresses . In modern Romania 's territory , references to an ispán or count of Alba in 1097 , and to a count of Bihor in 1111 evidence the appearance of the county system . The counties in Banat and Cri?ana remained under direct royal authority , but a great officer of the realm , the voivode , supervised the ispáns of the Transylvanian counties from the end of the 12th century .

Eastward expansion of " Bijelo Brdo " villages along the Mure? continued in the 11th century . Cauldrons and huts with hearths carved into the soil were the characterizing items of the period . Nevertheless , semi @-@ sunken huts with stone ovens from Sfântu Gheorghe , ?imone?ti and other villages evidence the survival of the local population . The lands between the Carpathians and the Tisa were plundered by Pechenegs in the 1010s and in 1068 , by Ouzes in 1085 , and by Cumans in 1091 . Cluj , D?bâca and other royal forts built of earth and timber were strengthened after the 1068 attack . In these forts appeared the so @-@ called " Citfal?u cemeteries " , dependent upon late 11th @-@ century royal legislation forcing commoners to set up their graveyards around churches .

The early presence of Székelys at Tileagd in Cri?ana , and at Gârbova , Saschiz , and Sebe? in Transylvania is attested by royal charters . Székely groups from Gârbova , Saschiz , and Sebe? were moved around 1150 into the easternmost regions of Transylvania , when the monarchs granted these territories to new settlers arriving from Western Europe . The Székelys were organized into " seats " instead of counties , and a royal officer , the " Count of the Székelys " became the head of their community from the 1220s . The Székelys provided military services to the monarchs and remained exempt of royal taxes .

A great number of Flemish , German , and Walloon " guest settlers " arrived in Transylvania around 1150 . Wheel @-@ made fine vessels with analogies in Thuringia found at ?elimb?r demonstrate the advanced technology they introduced to their new home . An account of royal revenues from the 1190s shows that almost one @-@ tenth of all royal income derived from taxes they paid . In 1224 , King Andrew II granted collective privileges to those inhabiting the region between Or??tie and Baraolt . The Diploma Andreanum confirmed the custom of freely electing their priests and local leaders ; only the right to appoint the head of their community , the " Count of Sibiu " , was preserved for the monarchs . The Transylvanian Saxons ? as they were collectively mentioned from the early 13th century ? also received the right to " use the forests of the Romanians and the

Pechenegs " along with these peoples .

The earliest royal charter referring to Romanians in Transylvania is connected to the foundation of the Cistercian abbey at Cârța around 1202 , which was granted land , up to that time possessed by Romanians . Another royal charter reveals that Romanians fought in Bulgaria along with Saxons , Székelys and Pechenegs under the leadership of the Count of Sibiu in 1210 . The Orthodox Romanians remained exempt from the tithe payable by all Catholic peasants to the Church . Furthermore , they only paid a special in kind tax , the " fiftieth " on their herds .

Colonization continued with the arrival of the Teutonic Knights in Țara Bârsei in 1211 . They were granted the right to freely pass through " the land of the Székelys and the land of the Vlachs " in 1222 . The knights tried to free themselves from the monarch 's authority , thus King Andrew II expelled them from the region in 1225 . Thereafter , the king appointed his heir , Béla , with the title of duke , to administer Transylvania . Duke Béla occupied Oltenia and set up a new province , the Banate of Severin , in the 1230s .

= = = Cumania : land of the Cumans ( c . 1060 ? 1241 ) = = =

The arrival of the Cumans in the Lower Danube region was first recorded in 1055 . A 17th @-@ century version of the Turkic chronicle Oghuzname relates that Quipchaq , the ancient Cuman hero , fought against the Ulak ( Romanians ) , along with other nations . Cuman groups assisted the rebelling Bulgarians and Vlachs against the Byzantines between 1186 and 1197 .

" Dridu " villages of the lowlands east of the Carpathians were abandoned between 1050 and 1080 , around which time new settlements appeared on higher land on both banks of the Prut . A sharp decrease from 300 to 35 in the number of archaeological sites ? settlements , cemeteries and coin hoards ? evidences a population decline which continued well into the 13th century . Byzantine troops marching towards Transylvania through the territory east of the Carpathians encountered " a land entirely bereft of men " in 1166 .

A coalition of Rus ' princes and Cuman tribes suffered a sound defeat by the Mongols in the Battle of the Kalka River in 1223 . Shortly thereafter Boricius , a Cuman chieftain , accepted baptism and the supremacy of the king of Hungary . The Roman Catholic Diocese of Cumania was set up in his territories in 1228 . A letter of 1234 written by Pope Gregory IX refers to a " certain people within the Cuman bishopric called Walati " ( Vlachs ) who even persuaded Catholic Hungarians and Germans to accept the ecclesiastic authority of Orthodox prelates .

= = = Mongol invasion ( 1241 ? 1242 ) = = =

The Mongols , who had decided to invade Europe in 1235 , attacked the Cumans in 1238 . Masses of Cumans sought refuge in Bulgaria and Hungary . The Mongols crossed the Carpathians in March 1241 , and soon afterwards they destroyed " the rich village of the Germans " ( Rodna ) , and took Bistrița , Cluj , and Oradea . Another Mongol army " proceeded by way of the Țara @-@ Ulagh " ( " Black Vlachs " ) , and defeated their leader named " Mishlav " . They also entered Transylvania , sacked Alba Iulia , Sibiu , the abbeys at Cârța and Igriț , and Cenad .

The Mongol invasion lasted for a year , and the Mongols devastated huge swathes of territory of the kingdom before their unexpected withdrawal in 1242 . Matthew Paris and other contemporaneous scholars considered the Mongol invasion as a " sign of apocalypse " . Whole villages were destroyed , and many were never rebuilt . According to a royal charter of 1246 , Alba Iulia , Harina , Gilău , Mărieș , Târnăb and Zalău were almost depopulated . Another charter from 1252 evidences that Zec a village on the Olt was totally deserted .

After the devastation of the region , they [ the Mongols ] surrounded the great village with a combined force of some Tatars together with Russians , Cumans and their Hungarian prisoners . They sent first the Hungarian prisoners ahead and when they were all slain , the Russians , the Ishmaelites , and Cumans went into battle . The Tatars , standing behind them all at the back , laughed at their plight and ruin and killed those who retreated from the battle and subjected as many as they could to their devouring swords , so that after fighting for a week , day and night , and filling

up the moat , they captured the village . Then they made the soldiers and ladies , of whom there were many , stand in a field on one side and the peasants on the other . Having robbed them of their money , clothing and other goods , they cruelly executed them with axes and swords , leaving only some of the ladies and girls alive , whom they took for their entertainment .

= = Aftermath = =

A new period of intensive colonization began in Banat , Transylvania and other regions within the Kingdom of Hungary after the withdrawal of the Mongols . King Béla IV was also considering settling the Knights Hospitallers in the lands between the Carpathians and the Lower Danube . His diploma of 1247 for the Knights evidences the existence of four Romanian polities in the region . They were under the rule of voivodes Litovoi and Seneslau , and of knezes Farca? and John .

Internal conflicts characterized the last decades of the 13th century in the Kingdom of Hungary . For instance , a feud between King Béla and his son , Stephen caused a civil war which lasted from 1261 to 1266 . Taking advantage of the emerging anarchy , Voivode Litovoi attempted to get rid of the Hungarian monarchs ' suzerainty in the 1270s , but he fell in a battle while fighting against royal troops . One of his successors , Basarab I of Wallachia was the first Romanian monarch whose sovereignty was internationally recognized after his victory over King Charles I of Hungary in the Battle of Posada of 1330 .