

A. Location : Listed by Samjaya among the northern Janapadas (also called Deśas 6. 10. 68) of Bhāratavarṣa (*ata ūrdhvaṃ janapadān nibodha*) 6. 10. 37, 5; (*śūrasenāḥ kalingāś ca*) 6. 10. 38; the country lay around the Kurus (*paritah kurūn*) 4. 1. 9; Pāṇḍavas while proceeding from Dvaitavana (3. 295. 2-3) to the country of Matsyas had to pass through Yakṣloma and Śūrasena; their way lay to the north of Daśārṇa and south of Pāñcāla (*uttareṇa daśārṇāms te pāñcālān dakṣiṇeṇa tu || antareṇa yakṣlomāṇ śūrasenāms ca pāṇḍavāḥ | ... matsyasya viśayam praviśan vanāt*) 4. 5. 3-4; the city of Mathurā lay in it 2. 13. 44. B. Description : (a) of the country : delightful (*ramya*), (*ramaṇīya*), rich in grain (*bahvanna*), and protected (*gupta*) 4. 1. 8-9; (b) of the warriors : strong (*balavant*) and great chariot-fighters (*mahāratha*) 6. 112. 107, 111; valorous (*vikrānta*) 8. 4. 36; heroic, ready to give away their life (in war) (*śūra, tanutyaj*) 6. 18. 14; (*śūra, vīra*) 8. 32. 17. C. Characteristic : A certain Brāhmaṇa while reporting the characteristics of different peoples to the Kuru assembly said that Śūrasenas were sacrifice incarnate (i. e. as sanctifying as sacrifice) (*śūrasenāś ca yajñah*) 8. 30. 73. D. Epic events : (1) Śūrasenas, due to fear of Jarāsandha, resorted to the west (*jarāsandhabhayād eva pratīcīm diśam āśritāḥ | śūrasenā ...*) 2. 13. 24-25; (2) Having heard the news of the death of Hamṣa and Dībhaka, Jarāsandha (left the country) of Śūrasenas to return to his town in Magadha (*jarāsandhaḥ ... svapuram śūrasenānām prayayau*) 2. 13. 43; (See Edgerton's note on the stanza in Vol. II, p. 496 : "This latter

reading (⁰*senebhyaḥ*) confirms my interpretation of *śūrasenānām* as ablative genitive (Speyer, V. S. S. § 73) in the sense of "from the Śūrasena country"; (3) Sahadeva in his expedition to the south of Indraprastha (*prayayau dakṣiṇām diśam* 2. 28. 1; 2. 23. 9) first conquered the entire land of Śūrasenas (*sa śūrasenān kārtsnyena pūrvam evājayaḥ prabhuḥ*) 2. 28. 2; (4) Arjuna mentioned Śūrasena among the countries in which Pāṇḍavas could stay during their *ajñātavāsa* 4. 1. 9; (5) Samjaya told Dhṛtarāṣṭra that Śūrasenas no longer respected him and that they had joined the side of Yudhiṣṭhira recognizing his heroism (*vīryajñās tasya dhīmataḥ*) 5. 53. 17; (6) Before the start of the war, Śūrasenas (who went to Kauravas) were among the twelve Janapadas who, led by Duṣṣāsana and other sons of Dhṛtarāṣṭra, guarded the rear of Bhīṣma; they were all chariot-fighters twenty thousand strong (*prṣṭhagopās tu bhīṣmasya ... rathā vimśatisāhasrāḥ; mahatā rathavarmṣena te 'bhyarakṣan pitāmaham*) 6. 18. 10, 12, 14; (7) On the second day of the war, in the Mahāvīyūha (6. 47. 10) of Kauravas Duryodhana asked Śūrasenas and others to protect Bhīṣma with their armies (*bhīṣmam evābhirakṣantu saha sainyaḥ puraskṛtāḥ*) 6. 47. 7, 9; Arjuna while proceeding to attack Bhīṣma killed many Śūrasenas in the Kaurava army 6. 48. 19; (8) On the third day, all Śūrasenas were posted at the 'tail' of the Garuḍavyūha (6. 52. 2-3) of Kauravas (*puccham āsan ... śūrasenāś ca sarvaśaḥ*) 6. 52. 7; (9) On the ninth day, Śūrasenas were among those who did not forsake Bhīṣma in the battle although they were being killed by sharp