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Review article

SERBIA "CRADLE" OF HUMAN CIVILIZATION

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Abstract

The discovery of an ancient civilization in the Danube Valley represents a turning point in the understanding of human history and cultural development. Archaeological research has uncovered evidence of the existence of an advanced civilization that inhabited the entire Danube Valley, showing a surprisingly high level of cultural and social development. These communities not only successfully established complex social structures but also developed advanced writing methods, as evidenced by findings on clay and stone tablets. These findings not only challenge the existing archaeological chronology but also suggest that the Danube Valley could have been the cradle of civilization that spread culture around the world. Through the analysis of archaeological findings, this paper explores the possibility that the inhabitants of Serbia are descendants of this ancient civilization, emphasizing the importance of further excavations in the region to confirm these theories.

Keywords: *Serbian archaeology, Danube valley civilization, Prehistoric societies, Cultural diffusion*

INTRODUCTION

Recently, archaeological findings have confirmed that the entire Danube Valley was populated with an early advanced civilization, manifesting a surprisingly well-developed level of cultural and social evolvement. Research on how written language emerged has identified remarkable evidence on mud and stone tablets demonstrating that these Danube Valley settlements had written methodology. Mud tablets found at various sites along the river show that these Danube Valley settlements had progressive, written methodology that was more advanced than any known written evolvement by other cultures. Archaeological findings confirmed that the entire Danube Valley was populated by an early advanced civilization manifesting a surprisingly well-developed artistic conception, and organized social structure. The question as to where the people of Serbia come from, must relate to indigenous populations identified in the region encompassed by the borders of the region.

Even though the number of excavations is small, astonishing discoveries are being made along much of the river basin, that challenge the entire current archaeological chronology. Some of the most fertile land along the Danube is to be found in the Serbian region of the river basin and that can only mean that there must have been large well-

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formed enclaves along its banks as far back as farming communities existed. We await archaeological excavations of sites along the length of the river Danube traversing the region embraced by Serbian borders, in the hope of confirming that the Danube Basin was indeed the earliest and most advanced civilization that spread culture throughout the world.

Fig 1

Danube River Basin and its many tributaries
from its spring in Germany to its Black Sea Estuary

1. ARCHEOLOGY

It is suggested that humanoid beings lived in the Danube River basin as far back as 400000 years ago[3],[4], and that Humanoid Homo-sapiens[5] were active almost half a million years ago in various regions of the globe. These early dates were estimated from artifacts and stone tools found at various sites and also along the Danube River and its tributaries but humanoid beings must have existed in many parts of the continent much earlier than the so far confirmed time scale. Papers identifying Neanderthal habitats and bone remains confirm that the many caves along the course of the river Danube and its tributaries were home to early humanoids.

All along the Danube River Basin are found caves, used by humanoids as shelter and to provide a safe and defendable domicile and these living areas have yielded valuable

[3] Sirakov N, Guadelli J.L, Ivanova S, Sirakova S, Boudadi-Maligne M, Dimitrova I, Fernandez Ph, Ferrier C, Guadelli A, Iordanova D, Iordanova N, Kovatcheva M,
Krumov I . Leblanc J.C, Miteva V, Popov V, Spassov R, Taneva S, Tsanova T.An ancient continuous human presence in the Balkans and the beginnings of human settlement in western Eurasia: A Lower Pleistocene example of the Lower Palaeolithic levels in Kozarnika cave (North-western Bulgaria), Quaternary International, November 2013

[4]https://www.researchgate.net/figure/The-Danube-Basin-and-the-Romanian-Danube-Valley-Source-wwwdanube-regioneu_fig1_302065813

[5] Ferentinos G, Gkioni M, Prevenios M, Geraga M, Papatheodorou G. Archaic hominins maiden voyage in the Mediterranean, SeaQuaternary International, Volume 646, 10 February 2023, Pages 11-21

information that shed light on the earliest inhabitants that lived along its banks. The Danube River remains a vital communication corridor[6],[7],[8],[9], in modern times but must have been all the more important in prehistoric times when there were no roads and the territory of life must have been restricted to localities. Migration, long distance hunting and exploration can only have been achieved via the waterways and that practicality is reflected in the distribution of stone age settlements which are mainly found in caves, along the Danube River and its tributaries.

Fig 2

Stone age artefacts found in caves along Danube waterways

Stone age populations are found in many places in the Central European region [10],[11],[12],[13], but along the Danube Basin, there are notable cave settlements yielding

[6] The Danube Corridor Hypothesis and the Carpathian Basin: Geological, Environmental and Archaeological Approaches to Characterizing Aurignacian Dynamics, 29 May 2018 Volume 31, pages 117–178

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[12] Vermeersch, P. M. (2016). Radiocarbon Palaeolithic Europe Database, Version 20.

[13] C.M Ahern a, Ivor Karavanić b, Maja Paunović c, Ivor Janković d, Fred H Smith e New discoveries and interpretations of hominid fossils and artifacts from Vindija Cave, CroatiaJournal of Human Evolution, Volume 46, Issue 1, January 2004, Pages 27-67

valuable archaeology in stone tools, bone fragments and other items that allow researchers to map populations of early humanoids.

For very many millennia stone age societies existed as hunter gatherers, suffering the ravages of climate and food resources and gradually evolved to innovate simple tools that made hunting and daily life easier and more comfortable and over time, the Neanderthal Man evolved from the stone age man to be distinguished by the number and variety of stone tools, utensils, basic amenities, shelter and food provision. The river Danube and its tributaries have many sites which are slowly being identified and excavated and provide evidence of this evolution of the stone age man into the better adapted humanoid species that started to control his living condition rather be at its mercy. Many sites are identified along the river Danube and there are ongoing excavations at Vinca, Lepinski Vir, Belavoda, Vrsac, and other sites in Croatia, Germany, Bulgaria, Romania and elsewhere [14],[15],[16],[17],[18].

Over a long time, evolution took place gradually, advancing the quality of living in this early humanoid population and as the people evolved, they aggregated into large enclaves some of which were vast for their time. It is reported that some settlements were very large and the Lepinski Vir population is estimated to have been tens of thousands in number. In modern times such a ratio of people congregated in the same place was equivalent to a vast metropolis and is difficult to imagine how primitive societies could have administered such large numbers of people without modern facilities providing sanitation, food supply, essential provisions? It is the pressures of overpopulation that lead societies to innovate written language, assemble social administrations, provide social amenities, secure the provision of food by farming and domesticating animals etc.

Large populations make demands on individuals to innovate and be resourceful so that the old hunter gatherer Neanderthal populations attached themselves to the less stressful lifestyle lived in these early societies. Over time, the Neanderthal species

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was subsumed into the society-based populations [19],[20],[21],[22],[23],[24]. Although genetic analyses demonstrates that overall, the neolithic skeletons show a healthy population the vigorous flux of migratory peoples intermixing with local inhabitants can perhaps be related to the overall medical conditions identified in the permanent communities. Isotope analyses indicates that Treponemal infections, transmitted by contact was widespread and bacterial infections spread by contact were rife, and as an example only, Syphilis[25] was endemic.

2. VINCA TECHNOLOGY

The Danube Vinca excavations, demonstrate the earliest transition from the nomadic hunter gatherer lifestyle to the establishment of permanent settlements where farming was the main provider of food and skills were nurtured to provide useful items such as pottery. The Vinca pottery has a highly individualistic style and advances made by the Vinca society in fired clay to produce non porous pottery items, stimulated extensive trade and migration of people along the river Danube and its tributaries. Archaeology demonstrates that by 6000 BC a very sophisticated and well-developed society existed in the Danube Valley producing fine arts, crafts, fashioned furniture, weaving of cloth, industrial workings and many examples of artistically designed and worked items. Buildings several stories high have also been discovered.

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[22] Mellars, P. (2004). Neanderthals and the modern human colonization of Europe. Nature, 432(7016), 461–465.

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[25] Marvin Harris and Eric B. Ross, Death, Sex, and Fertility. Population Regulation in Preindustrial and Developing Societies, Columbia University Press 1987

Fig 3

A variety of decorated "fired ceramic" pots 6000 BC

The firing of clay to manufacture ceramics was a hugely important technological advance introducing household ware including plates, cups, bowls, pots and other vessels, as well as high quality fine ceramics that was a paradigm shift on previous worked clay methodology. Not only did fired pots last indefinitely but they were easier to maintain and did not lose content over time. The firing of clay to produce impermeable pottery has changed little over time and even today, clay is fired at a high temperature to bring about chemical changes in the materials used. This process of vitrification of clay forms a glass like glue that binds the particles of clay together and makes the material impermeable to water loss has been known for many millennia. The earliest fired clay item was found in a charred pit, a mud sculptured figurine of a woman dated to about 30000 BC, but formalized pottery making, has not been dated prior to about 18000 BC. Manufacturing objects from clay was an exhaustive effort of trial and error extending over many millennia but basically, the firing of clay changes the nature of the clay used. Molecular restructuring takes place within fired clay that is so complex and variable that even the finest of modern scientific methodology is unable to unravel and understand the exact detail of the resulting crystallites. Pottery and methodology for producing fired clays has been identified in all parts of the world and is one of those life-changing developments that in the modern world, is equivalent to the development of electricity or computers.

Very fine examples of fired pottery have been found in the Danube Basin which confirms that settlements along this river were well established, stable societies, producing many very fine clay artefacts decorated with the finest of advanced mineral pigment formulations. The sophistication of the pottery designs and mineral pigment formulations was well established millennia earlier than similar technology emerged in other parts of the world. It was the refinement of the metal oxide pigments used to colour and decorate the manufactured artefacts which makes it clear that these settlements manufactured technically advanced products that were sought after and

probably formed an important part of their far-reaching established trade. Well established, social and cultural societies, go on to develop non-essential artifacts and the development of toys for children must reflect stable and well organised societies in which children were considered to be important enough to provide entertainment for. A particularly important Vinca find was that of a bull figurine on wheels, a sophisticated conceptual item for its time not seen anywhere else in the world?

The bull on wheels figurine demonstrating that the bull was mobile and could be positioned and directed and probably reflected the goings on in society where games and betting and challenges took place. The domestication and control of powerful animals means that society was well administered and lived a planned life, in which the keeping and care of animals was a long-term organised supply resource. The toy, a bull on wheels, would suggest a well-established lifestyle in which people held social events in which bulls were set against each other to provide entertainment and perhaps status amongst breeders for owning a prized fighting bull. The ownership of prized fighting bulls must have imparted gravitas to the owner and not only for their breeding knowhow. Indeed, such events are practiced in the 21st Century! Breeders of fighting bulls nowadays command huge following and vast sums of money are invested in featuring challenges between animal and matador for example.

Fig 4

A novelty ceramic Ox on wheels

The bull on wheels is an extraordinary example of what might be considered a novelty item or more likely a toy for children to play with, has far-reaching implications because it demonstrates the innovation and use of wheels! The innovation of wheels 10000 BC transformed society in that it allowed a commercial load to be carried and in this ceramic toy, load is clearly carried on the ideal positioned four-wheel assembly still used on vehicles today. This design must also have been linked to the use of animals to pull carts. The innovation of carts pulled by oxen is a demonstration of a very advanced and organised society which transported commercial produce to distant places and that is the first example of industrial methodology for commercial transportation of goods. These are fundamental formative developments that are evident in the Danube Basin and dated to well before the Copper Age!

The first wheel identified (an example is held at the Smithsonian Museum USA)[26] is considered to be an innovation that served potters, allowing them to throw the wedged clay into pots and other clay items. The Vinca pottery makers were manufacturing large numbers of pots and clay items that can only have been produced on spinning tables, thousands of years earlier than the Smithsonian exhibit? Why none of these spinning table tops have ever been found can possibly, be explained by postulating that the spinning tables were made out of wood rather than stone.

The wheel, this most useful of innovations, eventually emerged in Sumerian and Egyptian Chariots in about 3000 BC. The use of wheels on vehicles by the Sumerian and Egyptian Civilisations are quoted as the first examples of wheeled transportation but examples of wheeled transportation appear many millennia earlier in the above Ox on Wheels, manufactured by the Vinca Civilisation. It seems likely that given the extensive trade in fired pottery and copper tools that the Vinca Civilisation expanded around 4500 BC so that wheeled transportation must have evolved in the Danube Basin millennia before it was seen in Egyptian wheeled technology. Wheeled transportation in the Eastern regions must have been copied from the Danube development!

Fig 5

Sumerian Chariot 3000 BC

All these findings are an indication that the culture established along the Danube River basin was an advanced human population which by this time had a social structure with a consolidated hierarchy to administer social affairs. And indeed, collections of artefacts from various sites are demonstrating figurines of women who are clearly well fed and prosperous and archaeological authorities on the period, are suggesting that this civilisation was governed by women. Whatever the nature of the social administration of the Vinca Civilisation what is clear is that the extensive settlements along the river Danube were well established, well administered and successful societies that lived in permanent well organised and defended enclaves, kept

[26] Megan Gambino, A Salute to the Wheel, Science, June 17, 2009

domesticated cattle, sheep, pigs, goats, poultry and had a well-established agricultural and industrial output.

Fig 6

Female figures positioned as discovered
and arranged seated in a circle as if presiding in Council.
Note that all the figurines show well fed individuals.

The above suggestion of a female governed society is extraordinary for even in modern times the position of the "mother" figure in Central European societies has a specific and central role in the cultural ethos. "Majko Mila Majcice", is a phrase still used extensively in Serbian culture.

The industrial evolvement of this society is of particular interests because their well-developed understanding of the use of high temperature clay workings led to the development of metal smelting and forging of metal in the Vinca[27],[28], Neolithic period. Very well-established industrial sites containing molten and formed metal tools have been discovered and it seems that this culture had extensive metal tool manufacturing expertise and reputation. Tools and sculptured and works of art demonstrating aesthetic concepts have been discovered at the metal manufacturing sites. Similar items have also been identified far and wide across that part of the globe, so the wealth generated by manufacturing and agriculture played a major part in the riches of the region.

[27] Radivojević, Miljana; Roberts, Benjamin W. (2021). "Early Balkan Metallurgy: Origins, Evolution and Society, 6200–3700 BC". *Journal of World Prehistory*. 34 (2): 195–278.

[28] Aleksandar Kapuran, Mirjana Blagojevi, Dragica Bizjak, Settlements and necropolises of the early iron age along the middle course of the nisava river (145–181).. Archaeological Institute Belgrade, Starinar lxv/2015. 152

Fig 7

Metal sculptures demonstrating sophisticated aesthetic concept casts have been found. The thinking man has been reproduced in later Greek art form and the woman figure is again of an ample stature

Very considerable ornament and jewellery in precious metals are identified and archaeological sites have yielded such vast riches that archaeologists are claiming that some of the graves contained more gold and precious metals than any other archaeological sites anywhere else in the world. Such finds are a clear indication that the society had a rigid well-formed social structure that was indicative of a fully-fledged civilisation. Excavations have revealed a small number of graves containing vast riches ie gold objects and other precious items whilst the majority of burial places contained only basic goods. These findings indicate that this society had a politically and financially stratified society. Worked items fashioned by skilled specialised craftsmen by the Vinca civilisation are dated from the Early Neolithic times dated to about 9000 BC to 6000 BC and those dates, predate all other civilisations by thousands of years.

It is in such organised complex societies that the need for writing emerged, and complex written text is expected to be discovered in larger settlements for it was there that the need to register and record social activity would be best applied and somewhere in the rubble of these settlements must remain evidence of complex written records.

3. PHYSICAL RECONSTRUCTION OF VINCA SKULLS

The nature and physical characteristics of the Danube Valley people are of considerable interest and the problem of reconstructing detail from bone fragments has been made possible by using the latest forensic science methodology. Modern scientific developments have refined computer programmes which are extensively used by forensic medicine to reconstruct skeletal remains and rebuild “soft tissues” on bones fragments. In forensic investigations that use these reconstructive methods the

final reformed features are so accurate that families immediately recognise the finished reconstructions.

In archaeological samples the bone remnants do not change their shape and form so that the skull forms a very useful structure on which to build soft tissues, to provide a very accurate final likeness of the individual to whom the skull belonged. These techniques apply an extensive data base of anatomical relationships and medical knowhow, to facilitate the buildup of layers of tissues and assemble soft tissues into a well-researched and cross referenced final facial structure. In many forensic police murder investigations skeletal reconstructions have unbaled detectives to identify individuals from the reconstructions and as an example, one such reconstruction is shown.

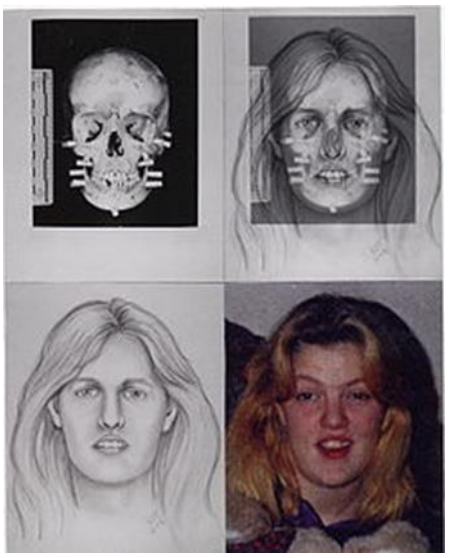

Fig 8

Modern computer programmes recreate accurately
final resemblances of individuals to whom the skull belonged.
The coloured photograph was of the individual identified via a forensic reconstruction.

When these same techniques are applied on skeletons discovered in burial pits along the Danube Basin, an excellent result is obtained in recreating the features of the individual to whom the skull belonged. The latest scientific methodology has revealed the physical characteristics of Neolithic Vinca humanoids.

Fig 9

Forensic reconstruction of a skull dated to about 6000 BC
to provide a remarkable image of a female and a male individual
living in the Vinca region

These handsome people, seem to have migrated far and wide along their trade routes, their spread and fate seems to have a clear progression that can be traced along their extent and beyond. The Vinca Culture can clearly be identified in the Minoan civilisation and other civilisations in that region of the world. Academia has long held the view that the Minoan, Samarian, Egyptian civilisations were the earliest cradles of civilisation but that was before the Danube Valley archaeology became evident to challenge the accepted time scale of the first human cultural evolution. Excavated evidence from the Danube River Valley sites had not been available until recently and that had confused academe as to the chronology of cultural evolvement. The extent of the Vinca Culture is only just beginning to be understood.

4. DANUBE BASIN ARCHAEOLOGY

There is considerable discussion within Academe about the region of the world where written language emerged, but the evolvement of writing was driven by population pressure and the need to communicate information to others. Certainly, the Danube Basin was the cradle of large settlements, some reportedly exceeding to tens thousands of inhabitants, a huge metropolis in those times. And the Vinca metropolis sited some kilometres from Belgrade was not the only large settlement in this region and indeed the Turdas-Vinca Culture, had established many large-scale settlements at Divostin, Potporanj, Selevac, Plocnik, Predionica, Lepinski Vir amongst others being identified to date, by far, the most advanced civilisation in the world at the time.

In complex societies the pressures to record trading inventories, formalise agreements and have written documents specifying terms of conduct was the dynamic that forced large societies world over to find a way of recording events. Examples of paintings,

carvings and impressions on rocks have been carbon dated to 40000 BC and are found in many places in this part of the world and archaeology is confident that many important discoveries are yet to be made. Evidence of "Proto script" ie the symbology and pictogram system of communication that allowed transfer of ideas and concepts in a written form have been found at the Tartaria site.

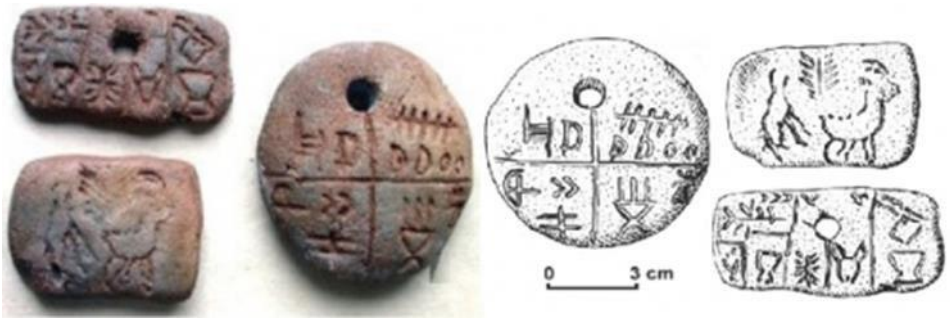

Fig 10

"Baked" mud tablets discovered near the Tartaria Village in Romania, demonstrate a formalised set of symbols dated to about 5000 BC. The meaning has yet to been deciphered.

The Danube Valley has yielded some very fine examples of symbol and hieroglyphic imagery, but academics are having difficulty accepting a shift in the place of emergence of the human civilisation. Very considerable disputes are raging in archaeological circles as to the nature of the symbol impressed in the Tartaria mud tablets but what seems clear, is that the symbols and ideograms form a specific set of uni-vocal characters similar to the formal later written hieroglyphics language of the Egyptian Civilisation. The problem with these dating is that the Danube Valley Civilisation predates the Egyptian, Sumerian, Mycenaean, Greek, Roman and all other known civilisations by several millennia.

Archaeological sites along the river are yielding fascinating evidence of mud tablets carrying pictograms. In today's Romania the Tartaria Village mud tablets are well documented and dated to about 5500 BC and seem to conform to the formalised pictogram uni-vocal content. Very similar mud tablets were discovered several millennia later in Sameria and Mesopotamia.

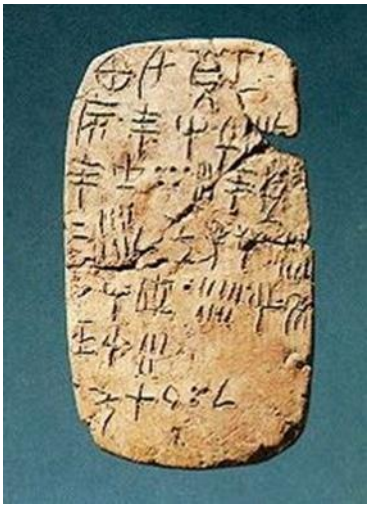

Fig11

The mud tablet specifying symbology that coveys meaning

Scholars fortify their claim that the Danube Valley was the "Cradle of Human Civilisation" by referring researchers to the 700 characters in the table of the Danube written symbology. This civilisation used phonetic symbology that reflected the sounds of the spoken language and formed the first known writing system in the world. The 700 hundred odd symbols and pictograms closely resemble the phonetic assembly of sounds represented by symbols and pictograms used by the Egyptians several millennia later.

Fig12

An example of some of the 700 hundred Danube proto-literate text listed.
But no formalised contextual examples comparable to the Egyptian hieroglyphics or Sumerian Cuneiform documents, have been discovered to date.

5. MIGRATION

Archaeology has discovered items among the Minoan finds that relate to the Vinca Civilisation. Note the decoration characteristics on this Minoan artefact. The Danube Civilisation spread its goods far and wide and in its ever-expanding trading activity individuals must have moved from the Danube Basin and settled elsewhere to continue and consolidate the culture they created in their original homelands. It seems that developments first identified in the Vinca Civilisation are replicated elsewhere in that region and the Minoan Civilisation (3500 BC to 1400 BC) is an an example of expansion of the Danube Valley culture and technology. The expansion and cultural evolvement of a wealthy trading people exported its know-how expanded in all directions as population numbers increased. In Minoan art, sculpture, architecture and the written language, there is clear evidence of the Vinca Culture.

Fig 13

Minoan artefact demonstrating individuals riding on a bull's head.
Could the "Bull on Wheels" discover many millennia earlier in the Vinca excavations
be a depiction of a children's toy of evading the rampaging bull?
Note the decoration characteristics on the artefact.

The Minoans demonstrate exquisite and advanced pottery skill with outstanding decoration that had been refined over thousands of years and not only in the physical composition of the pottery but in space and form and sophistication of decoration. This advance in the understanding of the elements used in pottery manufacture is further innovated by the Mycenaean and Greek Civilisations. Outstandingly elegant pottery has been found in later historical periods containing elements in design and methodology seen in the Danube Valley pottery millennia earlier.

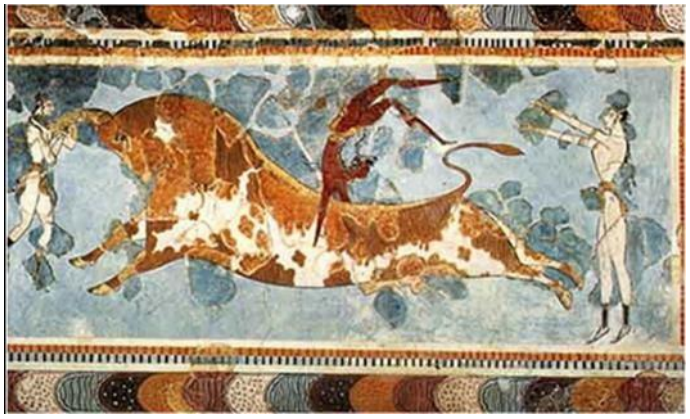

Fig 14

Minoan "Young Bloods" demonstrating their prowess
in a battle of evading a raging bull. Surprisingly, women took part.

What seems clear from archaeological discoveries is that cultures do not die out but diffuse and integrate with other cultures and in time, the best practices of all involved are adopted and integrated to improve the lifestyle of all concerned. Much of what the Danube Valley civilisation developed seems to have been adopted by every culture they traded and integrated with, and their written ideograms and symbols are duplicated in Minoan, Mycenaean and other writings.

Migration seems to be extensive in this part of the world and as far back as can be traced people and entire populations have migrated through, to, and from, the Danube Valley. Many mass migrations took place and notable population movements from the Eastern Stapes, the Indo-European Kurgan people in the Neolithic period, occupied vast areas of Central Europe[29] to add their distinctiveness to the indigenous populations. In recent times 2nd century AD, the Huns[30], a fearsome barbaric people descended on the European people and plundered their way down to the Danube River, occupying much of the central European lands to make their mark on the Danube cultures. Many people migrations took place in this part of the world, the people responding to cultural, economic, natural pressures and even those who were expelled from their lands ended up on European soil. Further migration took place by the Khazars[31] in the 6th century after the break up of their domain of the Khazar- Khaganate in Russia. This migration, established immense trading and political power, subsuming the Jewish and other religions, dominating politics to become the foremost power base in the region. Every mass migration contributed to the diversity of the Danube civilisations and it is likely that the Vinca culture was incorporated by

[29] Jones-Bley, Karlene (2008). "Proceedings of the Eighteenth Annual Indo-European Conference, Los Angeles, November 3–4, 2006". Historiographia Linguistica. 35 (3): 465–467.

[30] Lech A. Tyszkiewicz, Hunowie w Europie: Ich wpływ na Cesarstwo Wschodnie i Zachodnie oraz na ludy barbarzyńskie

[31] Sneath, David (2007). The Headless State: Aristocratic Orders, Kinship Society, and Misrepresentations of Nomadic Inner Asia. Columbia University Press. ISBN 978-0-231-51167-4

the peoples of the South where they settled to occupy safer regions of the Mycenean and Greek lands.

The crucial highway that is the river Danube, with its fertile river valleys and many accessible tributaries is a way via which populations have spread from the Middle East and Asia minor to central Europe[32],[33],[34],[35],[36]. and migrants have used this corridor for all time[37]. There are even recorded events wherein Greek sailors, sailed up the river via the Danube estuary from the Black Sae in Neolithic times, so that large populations of people have for a very long time migrated to and from the Danube Valley, adding their cultural and technological characteristics to new domiciles. Large migrations of people occur for good reasons and not only did migrations occur into central European regions but Serb populations, migrated out of Serb territories to settle in other regions with more favourable standards of living. The "Velika Seoba Srba" is a useful example of mass Serb migration.

Fig 15

The Great Serb Migration 1690 motivated by political intrigue to act as a buttress against the Ottoman Empire. Painting by Paja Jovanovic

[32] Graţiela Georgiana Noja, Simona Mirela Cristea,Atila Yüksel, Ciprian Pânzaru, Raluca Mihaela Drăcea. Migrants' Role in Enhancing the Economic Development of Host Countries: Empirical Evidence from Europe. Sustainability 2018, 10(3), 894

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Given the many examples of mass migrations recorded in history it becomes easier to understand why the Danube Vally civilization disappeared. Given that the area was regularly subject to throughfare of people and attack from vicious plundering from various incursions it is logical to accept that the populations of Vinca, Lepinski Vir and other aggregations along the river Danube would migrate to safer places and there are experts who suggest that the Vinca Civilisation migrated, to integrate with the Mycenae, Greek and other civilizations as a way off stabilising their lives.

6. DISCUSSION

There seems little doubt that the region of Serbia through which the river Danube meanders, forms a part of the original cradle of human civilisation particularly, given the early settlements of the stone age humanoids. An extraordinary fact remains in that the excavations in the Danube River Valley are so limited, given the importance of the archaeology discovered in the area and stranger still, is the little organised effort to identify archaeological sites along this vital corridor between worlds.

Methodical efforts to identify possible sites of antiquity are awaited because on the practical level, the problem of identifying archaeological sites relates to the availability of scientific knowhow, useful in identifying features below ground. What remains about a meter below ground level remains obscured by the low take-up of available technology as archaeology continues to use traditional methods of digging surface layers to uncover deeper structures.

Most of the ancient archaeological finds are accidental rather than planned, determined, searches of the terrain. LIDAR (Laser Imaging Detection and Ranging) technology has become available and can clearly identify disturbed soil and artifacts and its use would simplify and speed up identification of sites of interests. This technology can be used from high up in the sky covering vast areas of the Danube Valley and indeed this technology can be applied from space, to quickly and accurately identify so far hidden sites, that might provide the awaited discoveries that will confirm the importance of the Vinca culture as the cradle of human civilisation.

New developments in ground penetrating technology continue to emerge and recently, technology has emerged that can look well below the surface relief and produces accurate maps of what lies below ground level. One of the most striking recent developments in this field was developed by a Serb innovator Mr Zvonimir Jankovic, who has a very effective system for analysing substrata and verifying, the claimed, geological features far below the surface layers. Zvonimir's Electromagnetic Energy Instrumentation, the "Radian System", is wonderfully effective for ground prospecting, and it is surprising that Archaeological Organisations have not as yet approved the above detection methodology. Sweeping the Danube Valley with the LIDAR or the Jankovic Radian detection system would improve the rate of detection of archaeological sites and we look forward to many ancient settlements being identified in due course. The Cradle of Human Civilisation has much to yield.

Conclusion

The long asked question as to where do the "Serbs Come From", is obvious, given the Stone Age, the "Neolithic" the "Middle Age" archaeology and the Anno Domini migrations, it seems clear that the "Sebs come from Serbia". The land nowadays encompassed by Serb borders has a well-documented archaeology to indicate that people have lived along the Danube Basin as far back as archaeology can identify. As extraordinary as it is but the geography of the part of the world through which the Danube River flows, is a vital strategic highway that has been subject to many invasions and migrations to result in a vigorous exchange of genetic material.

The Danube Basin is an important corridor for East West transit and its geography has controlled migration and transportation of goods throughout history. Given the geographic determinants of this corridor it is surprising that the Serb Nation in the 21st Century, has not understood the importance of the land the Serb people occupy. Such a fixed thoroughfare has enormous political and commercial potential and yet the Serb Society has not established top quality access through its lands, to facilitate migrations and commerce from all corners of the continent. A commercial price for transit across Serb lands would be very beneficial to the economy and quality of life and not only because the people would benefit ecumenically but the flow of cultures would add knowhow and foster friendship to all concerned.

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