

The Turks: Dynasties, States, and Empires

1. From Antiquity to Chingis Khan.

Let us start with world history, which is divided into the following periods:

The Ancient Times - 8th century BC (emergence of the Roman state) - 5th century AD (fall of the Western Roman Empire in 476).

Middle Ages - from 476 to the era of the Great Geographical Discoveries (1498-1530).

Early Modern Era - from the era of the Great Discoveries to the First World War (1914-1918).

Modern Era - After the First World War to the present.

In the second half of the 2nd millennium BC, Iranian-speaking tribes moved to Central Asia from northern India and northwestern China. In the 1st millennium BC they reached present-day Iran and Anatolia (now the territory of Turkey). These lands were inhabited by people belonging to other ethnic and linguistic groups. These groups were assimilated by the Iranian-speaking tribes. In ancient times, the area of distribution of the Iranian-speaking tribes was much wider than in the Middle Ages and Early Modern times. It extended from southeastern Europe to southern Siberia, including all of central Asia and parts of northern India and northwestern China.

However, starting from the beginning of the 4th century AD in the Middle Ages and Early Modern times, the Turkic culture dominated from Baikal (lake in southern Siberia, in Russia) to the Alps (The Alps are the highest and most extensive mountain range in Europe). In the 4th-7th centuries, ethnic movements occurred in Europe, conditionally called the Great Migration of Peoples. Starting from 239, the Goth tribes invaded Rome, followed by other peoples (Franks, Saxons, Vandals). All of them were ancient Germanic tribes. Rome managed to resist them, but in 378, the Goths won the battle of Adrianople (Edirne, Turkey). Many historians believe that the collapse of Rome began with that battle.

In the same year 378, the Romans first came across the Huns. Earlier, the Huns had captured the northern Caucasus, the lower reaches of the Dnieper and Dniester, and Thrace on the Balkan Peninsula and settled on the territory of Hungary and Austria.

In the 5th century, the Sarmatians, who had lived in the Trans-Volga and Southern Urals since ancient times, settled on the territory of the Byzantine Empire. They were nomadic Iranian-speaking (according to many researchers) tribes inhabiting the steppe from the Danube to the Aral Sea (the territory of

present-day Ukraine, Russia, and Kazakhstan). Some historians consider them the ancestors of the Slavic people. The Sarmatians' ethnicity issue has not been finally resolved in science. However, recent convincing studies tend to consider the Sarmatians to be Turkic-speaking. This is evidenced by the remained Sarmatian words, most of which are Turkic.

As a result of the Great Migration of Peoples, the prerequisites for the formation of new states emerged on the European continent. In his book 'The Ancient Turks. The History of the Formation and Flourishing of the Great Turkic Khaganate,' the famous Russian scholar Lev Gumilyov (1912-1992) writes: "The human history has been studied extremely irregularly. While the sequence of events and social formations in Europe and the Middle East was outlined in publicly available consolidated texts already at the end of the 19th century, and India and China were described at the beginning of the 20th century, the vast territory of the Eurasian steppe is still waiting for its researcher. This is especially true of the period before the rise of Genghis Khan in the historical arena, when two remarkable peoples - the Xiongnu and the ancient Turks - formed and disappeared in the Central Asian steppe, like many others who did not have time to glorify their names."

The ancient Greeks called the people consisting of several tribes and ruling in the western and central Eurasian steppes starting from the 9th to the 4th century BC Scythians. The Achaemenid chronicles called them 'Sak' or 'Saka', and the Chinese used the ethnonym 'Sai.' Some researchers believe that the customs and life of the Scythian tribes are identical to those of the Turkic peoples. Medieval historians and chroniclers call them Turks or refer them to the Turkic circle of peoples.

The Xiongnu formed in 1600-822 BC. They lived on the northern outskirts of the Gobi (a huge region in Central Asia on the territory of Mongolia and China). In the east, the Xiongnu bordered the ancestors of the Mongols - the Dunhu.

In 823 BC, the conflict between China and the Xiongnu began. In 202 BC, the first empire of nomadic tribes - the Xiongnu Empire emerged.

Approximately in the 3rd century BC, the construction of the first sections of the Great Wall of China started to protect it against the Xiongnu. It passed near Beijing, was built for almost 200 years, and had a length of about 10,000 km.

Xiongnu-Chinese wars ran from 201 BC till 181 AD. The Xiongnu Empire was destroyed not as a result of those wars but internecine feuds between aimaks (uluses), which was the prime cause of the Great Migration of Peoples.

The ancestors of the European Huns were the Xiongnu nomads who lived in the 1st millennium BC in the steppes between Lake Baikal (Russia) and the Yellow River (China). The Huns are an ancient people formed in the steppes of Eastern

Europe in the 2nd-4th centuries from the Xiongnu who migrated from Central Asia.

For several centuries, they were considered the ancestors of the Mongols and various Chinese ethnoses. According to modern authoritative historians, the Huns were a Turkic people. The language of the Huns was Turkic. The religion of the Xiongnu and the Huns was Tengrianism.

Their social order was a tribal system. There were tribal unions. Many independent, compactly living clans and families were united around one large tribe. Gradually, they started uniting into tribal confederations.

A tribal union is a merger of two or more tribes that had a strategic and political nature. The unification of people in tribal unions marked one of the stages in the formation of statehood. The main factors in the emergence of tribal alliances were the threat of attack, population growth and common belief.

Back in ancient times, the Turkic peoples did away with paganism and adopted a religion of monotheism. Their religion was Tengrianism. Tengri was an invisible spirit living in the sky. The ancient Turks called it 'Eternal Blue Sky' or 'Tengri Khan.' The title 'Khan' indicated dominance in the universe. It was the One God, the creator of the world and everything on Earth.

Under the Hun King Attila (434-453), the Hun Empire or the Hunnic Khaganate stretched from the Baltic Sea to the Caucasus, and from Southern Germany to the Urals. The center of the Empire was the Roman province of Pannonia. It was multi-ethnic.

Pannonia is a historical region in Central Europe on the territory of present-day Hungary, eastern Austria, southwestern Slovakia, northern Slovenia, northern Croatia, northeastern Serbia, and northern Bosnia and Herzegovina.

Since ancient times, the Turks had a legend according to which son Ashina was born to a Xiongnu prince, who was raised by a she-wolf. So the Ashina clan arose in the Altai mountains. In the middle of the 5th century, Ashina's descendants settled in the southern Altai and were engaged in mining iron for the Rouran.

The Rouran Empire (330-555) arose after the disappearance of the Xiongnu Empire. Some scholars considered the Rouran to be an ancient Mongolian tribe. With the correct reading of Chinese hieroglyphs, it becomes clear that another name for the Rouran is 'Tatar,' also 'Tartar,' which is one of the Xiongnu aimaks (a tribal formation among the Turks and Mongols). Some historians believe that the name 'Tatar' comes from Tatar Khan (414-429).

Note that from the 13th to the 19th centuries, Western European literature and cartography used the geographic nomenclature Tartaria (in Russian, Tataria) to

designate the territory from the Caspian Sea to the Pacific Ocean and the borders of China and India.

The Xiongnu had many aimaks or uluses continuously fighting with each other. E.g., numerous Tele tribes (Turkic-speaking people from the northeastern Semirechye (Kazakhstan)) rebelled against the Tatars (Rouran) and in 482, founded their state. But in 516, the Tele became dependent on the Tatars again.

One of the influential states of the era of the Great Migration of Peoples was the Khazar Khaganate (650-969), founded by the Khazars (a union of Turkic-speaking tribes). The Khaganate controlled the territory of the North Caucasus, the Lower and Middle Volga regions, northwestern Kazakhstan, the Cis-Azov region, eastern Crimea, and the forest steppe of Eastern Europe to the Dnieper. Its capitals were Semender (Dagestan, Russia) and Itil (Volga Delta, Russia).

Kievan Rus' (862-1240) played a decisive role in the collapse of the Khazar Khaganate. In 968/969, the Rus in alliance with the Oghuz (Turkic-speaking tribes) destroyed the cities of Itil and Semender. This time is considered the end of the Khazar state. After the fall of the Khazar Khaganate, the Khazars dissolved among the Turkic-speaking nomadic peoples, who later became part of the Golden Horde.

Another influential state of the era of the Great Migration of Nations was the Avar Khaganate (562-823), which occupied the territories of partially Bavaria, Hungary, Austria, Slovakia, Poland, Croatia, Serbia, and Ukraine. Its capitals were Timisoara (Romania) and Szombathely (Hungary). In 805, the Avars adopted Christianity. The Khaganate was destroyed after protracted wars with the Franks and the Bulgarian Kingdom. Avars were a tribal union of mainly Turkic-speaking tribes. After the collapse of the Khaganate and the adoption of Christianity, they merged the Eastern European people. E.g., in the territory of present-day Ukraine and the South of Russia, chumaks (drivers) lived, who traded salt and fish and delivered goods to fairs in the region of the Black and Azov Seas. Researchers explain the 'chumak' word as borrowed from the Turkic 'chomak' (mace, stick, cane). After the collapse of the Avar Khaganate at the beginning of the 9th century, the Turkic rulers retained power in Prussia. Archaeologists found Avar three-bladed arrows of the second half of the 7th century near the Aukstadvaris Settlement and in the bones of the killed, buried at the Plinkaigalis burial ground in central Lithuania. Numerous burials of warriors with horses have been discovered in the Kaliningrad region. Researchers agree that these medieval burials were left by Turkic-speaking tribes. Prussian Stone Babas have also a Turkic origin.

The Prussians were a group of tribes that inhabited the southern coast of the Baltic (Varangian) Sea in the 8th-13th centuries, now the Kaliningrad region of Russia, part of Lithuania and Poland.

The name 'Prussians' probably comes from the German 'horse,' 'horseman,' as the Slavs called the Western Balts. This culture was borrowed by the Balts from the nomadic tribes of Central Europe, the Turkic Avars.

Stone Babas are stone sculptures 1 to 4 meters high, depicting warriors, sometimes women, installed in the southern Russian steppes, Ukraine, and the steppes of Altai, Tuva, Kazakhstan, Azerbaijan, Mongolia, and South Siberia.

In the 13th century, the Teutonic Order conquered the Prussian lands under the pretext of their Christianization. Then the Romanov dynasty ancestors rebelled against the Germans, were defeated, and went to Rus'.

According to family tradition, the ancestors of the Romanovs left for Rus' from Prussia at the beginning of the 14th century. The famous Russian scientist M.V. Lomonosov (1711-1765) argued that the Varangians-Russians "with the ancient Prussians descended from this generation."

The marriage of Ivan IV the Terrible with Anastasia Romanovna Zakharyina made the Zakharyin-Yuryev family (a branch of the Rurikovich) close to the royal court in the 16th century, and then they claimed the throne. In 1605-1618, a Polish-Russian war was underway. In 1613, Mikhail Fedorovich from the Romanov dynasty was elected Tsar.

In the 13th century, Prussia was Christianized; some of them were assimilated by the Germans and some went to Rus' to Alexander Nevsky, Prince of Novgorod. The Lithuanians and Latvians originated from the remained Prussians. The Duchy of Prussia (1525-1701) and the Kingdom of Prussia (1701-1918) were German.

Bulgars or Bulgarians were Turkic tribes inhabiting the steppes of the Northern Black Sea region to the Caspian Sea and the North Caucasus from the 4th century. In the second half of the 7th century, part of the Bulgars moved to the banks of the Danube and part to the Middle Volga region (second half of the 8th century). They took an active part in the ethnogenesis of the Bulgarians, Macedonians, Gagauz, Balkars, Karachais, Kumyks, Tatars, Bashkirs, Nogais, and Chuvash.

The Danube Bulgars adopted Christianity from Byzantium in 865, and the Volga Bulgars adopted Islam in 922.

In 632, the Turkic-speaking tribes united and founded the Bulgar Khaganate in the Black Sea and Azov steppes. From this point, the history of Bulgaria as a state starts. In 852, Boris I becomes King. He was the son of Enravot, disinherited due to the Christian faith when his father Khan Omurtag was alive. Under Khan Malamir, the persecution of Christians continued, and Enravot was executed by his brother and became the first Bulgarian martyr. During the reign of Boris I (852-889), the Byzantine theme of Thessaloniki (Thessaloniki, Greece) clergymen - brothers Cyril and Methodius created the Slavic alphabet (863), and in 865,

Christianity was declared the state religion of the Bulgarians. The mix of the Bulgars and the Slavs and the remnants of local tribes have further formed the current Slavic-speaking Bulgarian ethnos.

Cyril (827-869) and Methodius (815-885) are saints of the Orthodox and Catholic churches, the creators of the Old Church Slavonic alphabet and the Church Slavonic language. The feast in honor of Cyril and Methodius is a state holiday in Russia, Bulgaria, the Czech Republic, Slovakia and North Macedonia.

But let us go back to Asia. By the middle of the 6th century, in Altai, an alliance of local tribes had formed around the Ashina one and adopted the name 'Turk.' This alliance transformed into a large Asian state (552-605) and controlled the territories of Manchuria (northeast of China), Mongolia, Altai, Kazakhstan, Crimea (Ukraine), and the North Caucasus. It had different names: First Turkic Khaganate, Turkic Khaganate, or Gokturk Khaganate. Its capitals were Otuken (Mongolia) and Suyab (Kyrgyzstan). The Turkic Khaganate became the first transcontinental empire from the Black Sea (Crimea) to the northeast of present-day China. The Khaganate comprised mainly Turkic tribes, the Mongolian tribe of the Khitans, and the Iranian-speaking Sogdians. In 603, the Turkic Khaganate split into the Western and Eastern Turkic Khaganates.

The Western Turkic Khaganate (603-704) occupied the territory from the Black Sea and the Don to the eastern part of the Tien Shan and northwestern India. The Khaganate's western possessions reached the steppes of southeastern Europe. The Khazar Khaganate separated from it. Its capitals were Suyab and Min-Bulak (Kyrgyzstan).

The Eastern Turkic Khaganate, also the Gokturk Khaganate (682-744), occupied the territory of Mongolia. The capital was Otuken (Mongolia).

Otugen or Utegen was the sacred capital in the general Turkic history, where the Turks first appeared on earth and from where they scattered around the world. The Orkhon River originates in this region.

The Eastern Turkic Khaganate was replaced by the Uighur Khaganate or the Toquz Oghuz State (744-840). The capital was Khar Balgas or Karabalgasun (Mongolia). This formation was destroyed after a twenty-year war with the Turkic-speaking Yenisei Kirghiz.

The Karluk Khaganate (766-940) was subordinate to the Uighurs. In 840, the Khaganate occupied the territory between the lakes Balkhash (Kazakhstan) and Issyk-Kul (Kyrgyzstan). The capital was Balasagun, near the city of Tokmak in Kyrgyzstan.

The Uighurs founded a new Khaganate called the Karakhanid State (942-1212), which occupied the territory of present-day Uzbekistan, Kyrgyzstan, Tajikistan,

part of Kazakhstan, and northwestern China. Its capitals were Balasagun, Kashgar (China), Samarkand (Uzbekistan), and Uzgend (Kyrgyzstan).

The Ghaznavid State (961-1186) was situated to the west of the Karakhanid State. The Ghaznavids belonged to the Oghuz Kayi tribe. They founded a state that occupied the territories of Khorasan, Afghanistan, Khorezm, Bukhara, Gurgan, and the northern part of India. The capitals were Ghazni (Afghanistan) and Lahore (Pakistan).

The Kimak Khaganate, founded by the ancient Turks, occupied the territory of Kazakhstan and Southern Siberia from the end of the 9th century to 1035. Its capital was Imakiya (near the city of Pavlodar, Kazakhstan).

As known, the Turkic world is divided into two main ethnolinguistic communities - the Oghuz and the Kypchaks. Oghuz are Turks, Azerbaijanis, Turkmens, Gagauz, Khorezm Turks, part of the Crimean Tatars, and Iranian Turks.

Tatars, Bashkirs, Kazakhs, Nogais, Kirghiz, Karakalpaks, Uzbeks, etc. speak the Kypchak branch languages.

Currently, the Oghuz numerically predominate over the Kipchaks in the Turkic world. The population of Oghuz and Kipchaks is, respectively, 120-125 and 65-70 million.

After the collapse of the Eastern Turkic Khaganate (744), the Kypchaks were part of the Kimak Khaganate on the territory of present-day northwestern Kazakhstan. They bordered the Kimaks in the east, the Khazars in the west, and the Oghuz in the south.

The Oghuz State comprised Oghuz tribes inhabiting the vast territory of Kazakhstan, the Aral Sea region, the Syr Darya Valley, and the Chui Valley. In the 9th-10th centuries, a political consolidation of the Oghuz was formed in the basin of the middle and lower reaches of the Syr Darya and the adjacent steppes of the western part of Kazakhstan. Its capital was Yangikent, a small city in the Kyzylorda region of Kazakhstan.

In the 10th century, the Oghuz were allies of the Kipchaks and lived together in the Kimak Khaganate. An internal split occurred in the 11th century. The Kimaks and Kypchaks forced the Oghuz out to the south, the Oghuz and Pechenegs to the west, the Karluks to the southeast, and the Ugrians to the north towards the Siberian taiga. Then the Kypchaks moved to the west, occupying the lands that previously belonged to the Oghuz and Pechenegs.

Ugors or Ugrians are a Turkic-speaking tribe, the ancestors of the Hungarians. Their name is derived from the Bulgarian 'on oghur' or 'on oghuz' – ten parts (clans), ten Oghuz clans. The name 'Hungari' developed from the ethnonym

'Hunni' (Huns). In the Middle Ages, Hungary was called the Kingdom of the Huns for a long time. The Ugrians came to Europe as part of the Huns.

In Hungary, the Kypchaks (Kumans) first appeared in 1070. Already in 1087, they took part in a campaign against the Byzantine Empire as part of the Hungarian King's army. Further, other groups continued to arrive in the country. The next Kypchaks to Hungary migration wave took place in 1239 after the Turkic-Mongol invasion into Eurasian regions. Different researchers report a different number of settlers: from 70 to 240 thousand, of which 14 to 40 thousand were soldiers. Tengrianism was gradually displaced from the spiritual life of the Kypchaks. People close to the royal court adopted Christian customs. In the 14th century, the Kypchaks Christianized, settled down, and mixed with the Hungarians.

The Pechenegs or Bechens were one of the Oghuz tribes. After the collapse of the Khazar Khaganate (965), the Pechenegs took control over the steppes from the west of the Volga to the lower reaches of the Danube.

Interest in the Pechenegs and Kypchaks (Polovtsy) has increased greatly after the President of the Russian Federation mentioned them during the pandemic.

"Everything passes and this will pass. Our country has gone through serious trials more than once: both the Pechenegs tormented it, and the Polovtsy, - Russia did it all right. Let's defeat this coronavirus infection. Together we will overcome everything," Putin said on April 8, 2020.

He repeated this phrase from his speech in 2010 while he was prime minister. Speaking at a conference call of the Ministry of Emergency Situations (MES) about forest fires, Putin said: "And the Pechenegs tormented Russia, and the Cumans, and the dog-knights, and we went through the Great Patriotic War. Russia has withstood everything, survived everything. And now, of course, is also a test.

Kypchaks, Polovtsy, or Kumans were nomadic Turkic people living in the historical region known as the Polovtsian Steppe or Desht-i Qipchaq, from the lower reaches of the Danube to the Irtysh and Lake Balkhash. European sources used the term Kumans, later Tatars. The Kypchaks-Kumans initiated another wave of migration of Turkic-speaking tribes westward from Central and Central Asia. The Oghuz went to Asia Minor, where they founded a huge Seljuk State.

The Byzantine Empire called the Kypchaks to its territory to fight the Pechenegs. In 1009, part of the Pechenegs converted to Islam and part to Christianity. Among the Pechenegs, strife arose, aggravated by enmity with the Kypchaks. Part of the Pechenegs entered the service of the Byzantine Emperor, the Hungarian King, and Russian Princes. Another part went to the southeast, where they assimilated with other nomadic peoples.

Russian Princes often fought with each other. They used the Kipchaks as mercenaries. Earlier, the Russian Princes had allied relations with the Pechenegs and Oghuz in the fight against the Khazar Khaganate. The Russian scholar-orientalist Lev Gumilyov writes: “Our ancestors were friends with the Polovtsian khans, married ‘Polovtsian bonny lasses (it is suggested that Alexander Nevsky was the son of a Polovtsian), accepted baptized Polovtsians into their circle, and the descendants of the latter became Zaporozhian and Sloboda Cossacks, who replaced the traditional Slavic suffix ‘ov’ (Ivanov) with the Turkic ‘enko’ (Ivanenko).”

In 1095, Knyaz Vladimir Monomakh treacherously killed the Polovtsian Khans, who agreed to end the war. He repeatedly made peace with the Kuman but violated it. Monomakh manages to perform a number of campaigns against the Polovtsian Khans and forced part of the Kypchaks out beyond the Don. Russian Princes sold Polovtsian boys to the Egyptian Sultan, who brought them as elite fighters.

The Mamluks were a military estate in medieval Egypt, originally recruited from young slaves of Turkic origin, mainly Kipchaks. The Mamluks-Kypchaks were called al-Bahr, and the Mamluks-Circassians - al-Burj. Later, the descendants of the Kipchaks seized power in Egypt and managed to stop the Khulaguids (State of Chengisides).

Since the end of the 11th century, there was a tribal association of ‘black hoods’ (karakalpak or black cap), consisting of the remnants of the Oghuz Turkic tribes - Pechenegs, Torgs, Berendeys (Bayandirs) and Kovuy (Kayi). They defended the southern borders of Kievan Rus’ and were used as a mercenary military force by the Russian Princes competing in the power struggle. In the 12th century, the Kyiv prince was formally ‘the supreme overlord of the black hoods.’

According to the director of the Center for Russian Research at the Institute for Fundamental and Applied Research of the Moscow University for the Humanities, Andrey Fursov, black hoods were the harbingers of the Cossacks. The territory they occupied along the Dnieper, Stugna (right tributary of the Dnieper), and Rosa (right tributary of the Dnieper), was a buffer between the nomads and Rus’.

Today, the Republic of Karakalpakstan is part of the Republic of Uzbekistan. It is highly likely that part of the black hoods, who were the Kypchak Turks, converted to Islam and returned to their historical lands.

It is well known that in the 13th century, many researchers called Rus ‘all Russian land and black hoods.’ And it is no coincidence since the descendants of the Kipchaks became the Don, Terek, Volga, and Ural Cossacks. According to archival data of the Ural and Orenburg Cossack troops of the 19th century, at baptism, the Cossacks specified their origin as ‘from the Kipchaks.’ These Cossacks were Orthodox Turks. The ataman of the All-Great Don Army, General

of the Imperial Army Krasnov (1869-1947) wrote about the common roots of the Cossacks and Kypchaks: “Kipchaks and Don Cossacks are the same people.”

Despite the vastness of the territories controlled by the Kipchaks, they did not have a state. Tribal consolidations, headed by khans (princes), settled at strategically important geopolitical and trade crossings connecting countries, cultures, and civilizations of the East and Europe, and played an important role in the fate of many peoples, especially Russian and Tatar. The Kypchaks took a decisive part in the famous Battle of Adrianople (Edirne, Turkey), where the IV Crusade troops were defeated, and the Latin Emperor was captured.

Crusades - a series of religious campaigns (1096-1272), first of all, to Palestine against Muslims, aimed at capturing Jerusalem with the Holy Sepulcher, later against pagans and heretics.

The Battle of Adrianople took place on April 14, 1205, between the Bulgarians, the Kipchaks, and the Crusaders of the Latin Empire (1204-1261) and the Venetian Republic (810-1797).

In Eastern Europe in the 13th century, a war between Catholics and Orthodox was ongoing. From 1212 to 1268, the Teutonic Order and Rus' alternately initiated wars against each other.

The Teutons are an ancient Germanic tribe living on the western coast of Jutland (a peninsula between the Baltic and North Seas), in the lower reaches of the Elbe River, and on the Danish islands.

In 1230, the Poles invited the Teutons to Poland to protect themselves from the Kipchaks who built the city of Torun in 1233 on the banks of the Vistula River.

In the 12th century, the Vlachs (the common name for the Eastern Romance peoples: Romanians and Moldavians) were traditionally neighbors of the Turks in Eastern Europe. They lived in the Carpathian mountains, while the Pechenegs and Kypchaks inhabited the steppes and later moved with the Romance communities.

The ancestors of the Gagauz are the Oghuz. They adopted Christianity and continue to live in Gagauzia.

The Gagauz are a Turkic-speaking people, historically formed in the region of the cities of Varna, Kavarna, Balchik, Kaliarka, on the Black Sea coast (territories of Romania and Bulgaria). The modern territory of compact residence of the Gagauz is concentrated in Bessarabia (south of Moldova and the Odessa region of Ukraine). They also live in Bulgaria, Romania, Greece and other countries. Religion - Orthodoxy. The language is Turkish. As part of Moldova, there is an autonomous territorial entity of Gagauzia or Gagauz Yeri with its capital in the city of Comrat.

On the territory of the western coast of the Black Sea, there was the state of the Dobrujan Despot or the Principality of Dobrujan or the Principality of Karvun (1322-1395). The founder of despotism was Balik, namely his son Dobrotitsa. They were of Turkic origin. Some scholars attribute them to the Kypchaks. There is a theory that Balik came from the family of the Bulgarian Terter dynasty, who ruled the Bulgarian kingdom in 1280-1323 and both belonged to the Terter family. Under pressure from the Genghisides, they emigrated to Hungary in 1238. Then the bulk of them moved to Bulgaria in 1242.

Terter oba is a Turkic Kipchak family (XI-XIV centuries). He led the union of the Kypchak tribes in the Donetsk steppes, then in the north of the Balkan Peninsula. The name comes from the Caucasian river Terter, the right tributary of the Kura, flows through the territory of Azerbaijan. In 1137, the Seljuk sultan Mesud endowed Atabek Ildeniz as an iqt with Arran, centered in the city of Barda.

Ikta is the transfer by the ruler of the territory belonging to the state and the income from it to a specific person with the right to inherit.

Arran is the interfluvium between the rivers Kura and Araz, on the territory of Azerbaijan.

The fate of the Kipchaks in Asia was also closely related to Georgia and Azerbaijan.

In 1099, King David IV of Georgia stopped paying tribute to the Seljuk Sultan, thereby giving rise to military actions. In 1099, the Crusaders recaptured Palestine and Jerusalem from the Seljuks. Byzantium also waged active military operations against the Seljuks. During that period, David IV decided to settle the Kipchaks in Georgia to strengthen his army. In 1118, he concluded an alliance with the Kypchaks. Earlier, he married a Kypchak beauty - the daughter of Atrak Khan. According to some sources, 40,000 soldiers with their families arrived in Georgia. The newly arrived Kypchaks were armed, endowed with lands, and they began to fulfill the duties of a regular army directly subordinated to the King. All guards and bodyguards of David the Builder consisted of Kipchaks. They led a semi-nomadic lifestyle, spending winter in Kartli in central Georgia and summer in the foothills of the Caucasus. Later, part of the Kipchaks left Georgia, but the bulk remained; they converted to Orthodoxy and integrated with the local population. Christianized and Georgianized Kipchaks were called "Nakivchakari" ("spread out").

Queen Tamara (1166-1213) and her successor George IV (1213-1223) continued the tradition of recruiting militant Kypchaks into public service. The Georgians called them 'Narakipchaks,' i.e., 'new Kypchaks.' According to some sources, about 400,000 Kipchaks moved to Georgia, mainly to areas where Azerbaijanis now live, and Ahiska Turks lived until 1944. In the same period, tens of thousands

of Oghuz settled in the south and east of Georgia. Ancient Georgian chroniclers of the time divide Georgia into 'Kartveloba' (Georgianness) and 'Didi Turkoba' (Great Turkic Land).

According to experts, at that time in history, the population of Georgia did not exceed 1 million people. Then it turns out that at least 30% of them have Turkic roots.

With the weakening of the Seljuk Sultanate, a new state arose on its lands, headed by the Turkic dynasty of Ildegizids Atabeks bearing the title of Great Atabeks of Azerbaijan. The Ildegizid State (1136-1225) existed on the territory of Azerbaijan and the northwest of Iran. The dynasty founder Shams ad-Din El-Deniz was a Kipchak by origin. The capitals were Nakhchivan (Azerbaijan), Tabriz, Ardabil, and Hamadan (all three in Iran). The Ildegizids were defeated by the Khorezmshah Jalal ad-Din.

The Seljuk Sultan Tughril II (1109-1134) appointed El-Deniz Atabek (guardian) of his infant son Arslan Shah, whose mother was Momine Khatun. After the death of Tughril II, the new Sultan Mesud (1108-1152) promoted El-Deniz, appointed him Atabek of Azerbaijan, and gave Momina Khatun in marriage to him. In 1160, Arslan Shah becomes the Seljuk Sultan. At the end of 1175, Momine Khatun, her second husband Atabek El-Deniz, and her son Sultan Arslan Shah died. In 1186, Atabek Jahan Pahlavan (son of Momine Khatun from El-Deniz) built a mausoleum in Nakhchivan (Azerbaijan) in honor of his mother.

In the 10th century, the Turkmen entered the historical arena and founded the Seljuk State (1037-1194).

The part of the Oghuz that converted to Islam was named 'Turkmen' or 'Turkoman.'

It was that part of the Oguzes that converted to Islam, was called "Turkmen" or "Turkoman" and migrated from the Syrdarya region to Khorasan. They called themselves that, Europeans also. Since the 13th century, this term has completely replaced the term "oguz".

The Oguzes traditionally lived along the Syr Darya River, in the Aral Sea region and up to the Southern Urals, where the Bashkir Turks lived. The Bashkirs occupied a vast territory up to the Volga River. Their neighbors were in the west - the Bulgar Turks, in the southeast - the Oguz tribe of the Pechenegs, in the south - the Oguzes.

Khorasan is a historical region in the East of Iran, parts of Afghanistan, Uzbekistan and Turkmenistan. The main cities were Nishapur (Iran), Merv and Sanjan (Turkmenistan) and Herat (Afghanistan). Today, under this name, there are three provinces within Iran: North Khorasan, South Khorasan and Khorasan-Razavi.

The head of the Oguz tribe Kinik Seljuk gave his name to the new dynasty that united the eastern Islamic world and played a huge role in the fight against the First and Second Crusades.

The well-known commander, the Sultan of Egypt and Syria, Salahaddin (1137-1193) also fought against the Crusaders, especially during the Third Crusade. Salahaddin's ancestors were from Dvin. His grandfather's name was Shadi, his father's name was Ayyub, and his uncle's name was Shirkuh. Some sources reported that Shadi originated from the Kurdish Ravvadid tribe. According to Russian orientalist Vladimir Minorsky, Salahaddin could have Arabic roots. According to some sources, the uncle of the great commander, Shirkuh was a representative of the Turkic Zengid dynasty, the rulers of Syria and Mesopotamia of the Seljuk State.

Having become the vizier of Egypt, Shirkuh distributed land plots and provinces to his soldiers and comrades-in-arms for faithful service. His army consisted of more than 2,000 horsemen of Nuraddin (Turkic Atabek of Syria), 6,000 Turkmen cavalry mercenaries, 500 Turkic Mamluks, and a few Kurds. They probably didn't exist at all.

According to some sources, the Ravvadids were Arabs and ruled northeastern Azerbaijan. According to another version, the Ravvadids were Arabs from Basra, but after mixed marriages identified as Kurds.

Another version claims that Salahaddin was a descendant of one of the branches of the Kurdish Hajabani or Hadhabani tribe living in the region between Erbil (Iraq) and Urmia (Iran). In the 10th century, they immigrated north of Lake Urmie, later split into several branches, and spread throughout Azerbaijan and the Caucasus.

Anyhow, it is reliably known that on the maternal side, Salahaddin was a Turk and served the Seljuks.

The Khorezmshah State (1097-1221) was also a vassal of the Seljuks. It occupied the territories of Turkmenistan, Uzbekistan, Tajikistan, Kyrgyzstan, Kazakhstan, Afghanistan, Iran. The capitals were Keneurgench or Gurganj (Turkmenistan). The state was headed by the Anushtegin dynasty from the Ohguz Begdili tribe.

The Oghuz Turkmens founded the Seljuk and Ottoman Empires, the Karakoyunlu, Akkoyunlu, and Safavid states, and the dynasties of Afshars and Qajars.

The Kypchaks living in Anatolia and Transcaucasia assimilated and dissolved among other peoples.

