



The Neolitization of the Eastern Balkan Peninsula and the Black Sea level fluctuations

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The Neolithic period of Bulgarian prehistory have been studied for a century. The investigation of the Black Sea coast, Longoza and Southern Dobrudzha has produced particularly interesting results. These regions had long remained unnoticed by scholars and their prehistory being studied during past few decades. The samples sites in these areas are Balkuzu, Golyamo Delchevo, Usoe, Durankulak etc.

At the beginning of the Holocene the Eastern Balkan Peninsula was almost completely uninhabited. Mesolithic sites are few, the only one from Bulgaria being located at the ancient sand dunes near Pobiti kamuni, west of Varna (Todorova 1995).

In the 1978 was published the paper "Investigations of Neolithic and Eneolithic in Longoza (the beginning of the VI – the end of the V millennium BC)" (Todorova 1978). There are showed the achievements of the prehistoric archaeology which are results of many years research work in the region.

The earliest habitation in the Longoz is situated in the place of Balkuzu near town of Dalgopol, Varna district. This site like the rest from the period (the Early Neolithic) are united at the Tzonevo culture (Todorova 1973). The special features of the Early Neolithic in the Longoz are typical only for this area but it is very possible they will be characteristic of other Black Sea Neolithic settlements as the most close analogies we found at the site Fikirtepe near Istanbul, Turkey (Mellaart 1975). The Tzonevo culture correspond chronological of the Karanovo II culture in Thracia and the Kriş III culture in Romania. The initial stage of the Tzonevo culture which have to correspond of the Karanovo I culture and the earliest phases of the Kriş culture is not found till now. It is too possible such settlements to be existed but on the other place (Peev 2005).

In the time the investigation on the curve of the fluctuations of the Black Sea level during the designate period we fix that it was vastly below present sea level. The deep and calmly mouth of the Kamciya river was closed and the deposits covered eventual settlements along the river banks during the next transgression about some meters. We can to suppose (the future deep analysis in this direction will corroborate or reject this hypothesis) that during the Neolithic the landscape “Longoza” is presented a deeply and jutting out sea bay inland .

The assertion that the neolitization of the Bulgarian Black Sea region is delayed vastly beside with Thracia or Northeastern Bulgaria is appropriate but the latest investigations on the Black Sea level during the Middle Holocene are under way to change these conceptions.

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