

Archaeological evidence of the presence of the Khazars in the territory of Azerbaijan in the VII-X centuries

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Abstract

For a long time from mid-VII to mid-10 centuries CE, a powerful state of Khazars competed with Byzantium and the Arab Caliphate for control of trade routes in Central Eurasia. The Khazar state had a great influence on the political and economic processes in the neighboring states of the South Caucasus, Central Asia and Eastern Europe. Arab written sources left a lot of evidence about military presence of the Khazars in Caucasian Albania by the time the Arabs appeared in the South Caucasus. After the Arab conquest, the migration and settling of the Khazar population on the territory of contemporary Azerbaijan continued as a deliberate policy of the Arab caliphate aimed at partnership with Khazars on Silk Road. The article discusses the archaeological evidence of the presence of the Khazars on the territory of the modern Azerbaijan Republic in the first three centuries after the Arab conquest. For the first time attention is drawn to the similarity of some archaeological artifacts found at the excavations in the ancient city of Gabala in the north of Azerbaijan and in the central part of the country with findings of the Saltovo-Mayatsk archaeological culture in Eastern Europe, which traditionally is attributed to the archaeological heritage of the Khazar Kaganate. Data from written sources and archaeological finds on the territory of Azerbaijan testify to the importance of the Khazar population and the Khazar state in the ethnic, political and religious processes on the territory of modern Azerbaijan in the early Middle Ages.