

Observations about Arrival of the Āryas

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Abstract

The **archaeology** about Eurasian 3rd millennium B.C. enjoys today a great development, and reveals its cultural network. The Indo-Iranian **philology**, on the other hand, deals with the texts not earlier than the end of the 2nd millennium, i.e., the Rigveda in India and the Avesta in Zoroastrian Iran. The infancy of the Indo-Aryans (*Āryas*) and Iranians (*Aryas*) is sought just in this intermediate time. The Indo-European west invasion in Europe has begun, according to M. Gimbutas' Kurgan hypothesis, ca. 4000 B.C. This western wave did not come into direct contact with the Eurasian cultural network which was located between the east Mediterranean and Afghanistan and expanded to the Central Asian and Indus area through the southern side of the Black Sea and the Caspian Sea. What is the trace of the Indo-European eastward wave? The so called Bactria-Margiana Archaeological Complex (BMAC) belongs to the Eurasian "network". The studies in the Vedas and Avesta are now inclined to suppose that people in the Indo-Iranian common period introduced many essential ideas from this developed culture, e.g., the goddess Aditi 'having no binding, independence' in India and Anāhitā 'non-bound' in Iran, the deities for social system, Indian Soma and Iranian Haoma, some creation myths, and the god's name Indra. The Indo-Iranian patriarchal tribes penetrated the settlements in which people lived on agriculture and stock raising, and women had social weight. The indigenous people were forced to build cities guarded with fortress against the invaders. The Indo-Iranians, following nomadic life with seasonal barley cultivation, had few substantial conveniences. The chariots, e.g., were produced by craftsman of some other tribe. They appear aggressive as raiding is common. I will try to trace the movement of Indo-Iranian tribes, and the Indo-Aryan arrival crossing over Kabul Pass into Indian subcontinent, where the cities of Indus civilization were apparently no more active.

Keywords: Indo-Aryan, Indo-Iranian, Indo-European, BMAC, Indus civilization, Veda