

THE RELATIONS BETWEEN EUROPEAN HUNS AND ROMAN EMPIRE



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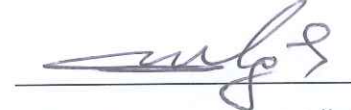
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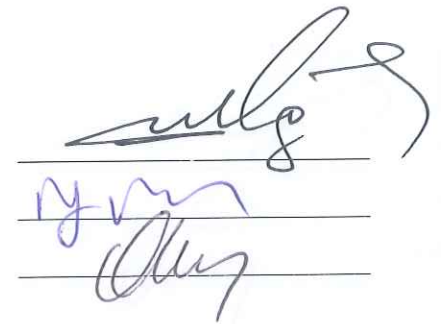
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ABSTRACT

This work was prepared to study the relations between the European Huns and the Roman Empire in terms of trade, socioculture and diplomacy. In this work, the conversion of the relations between the European Huns and the Roman Empire at the beginning of the mediavel era into a diplomatic level will be explained and after the establishment of the European Hun State the change of the foreign policy applied by the European Huns to the Roman Empire with time will be studied. In addition, foreign policy in the era of Uldız and Attila will be mentioned. While Attila's period is being examined and foreign policy is mentioned, information on the records of the Priscus will also be given. After Attila, the fate of the European Hun State and the changes in relations with the Roman Empire will also be explained. This study was prepared by reviewing secondary sources. It is aimed to contribute to the field of Eastern European Turkish History and the literature.

Key words: European Huns, Roman Empire, diplomatic, commercial and socio-culturalrelations

ÖZET

Bu çalışma Avrupa Hunları ile Roma İmparatorluğu arasındaki ilişkileri, ticari, sosyo-kültürel ve diplomatik açıdan incelemek için yapılmıştır. Bu çalışmada, Ortaçağ'ın başlarında Avrupa Hunları ile Roma İmparatorluğu arasındaki ilişkilerin, Avrupa Hun Devletinin kurulmasından sonra diplomatik bir zemine oturtulması ve süreç içinde, Avrupa Hunlarının, Roma İmparatorluğuna uyguladığı dış siyasetin değişimi açıklanacaktır. Ayrıca, Uldız ve Attila dönemindeki dış politikaya da değinilecektir. Attila dönemi incelenirken ve dış politikadan söz edilirken elçi Priscus'un kayıtları hakkında bilgi de verilecektir. Attila'dan sonra, Avrupa Hun Devleti'nin akıbeti ve Roma İmparatorluğu ile ilişkilerin ne yönde değiştiği de anlatılacaktır. Bu çalışma ikincil kaynaklar gözden geçirilerek hazırlanmıştır. Doğu Avrupa Türk Tarihi alanına ve literatürüne katkı sağlamak amaçlanmıştır.

Anahtar Sözcükler: Avrupa Hunları, Roma İmparatorluğu, diplomatik, ticari ve sosyo-kültürel ilişkiler.

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1. INTRODUCTION

Huns came from Middle Asian steps. They were seen surprisingly in lands of Eastern Europe. This situation created a shocked impact on Germanic Tribes and other Eastern European people. Eastern European inhabitants were not familiar to Huns their war strategies and their culture. The arrival of Huns to Eastern Europe created a chaos. Huns organized a tribe system of Asian steps. They continued this system in Eastern Europe. The migration of Huns started after the fall of the Great Hun Empire in Asia. The reasons of migration of Huns were, climate change, struggle with other Asian tribes, searching new areas for animals and exploring new lands for living. The most important reason was, the ideal sovereignty of the world. Huns were independent tribes in every time. Because of this fact, they lived on steps and they organized tribe system. They carried out the lifestyle of Asia to Eastern Europe.

The migration of tribes started attacks of Huns. Germanic Tribes lost their positions. This moving activity was identified as migration of tribes by the historians but, this activity was called as *Volkerwanderung* by Germanic people. As a result of this fact, today's European people emerged. The result of migration of tribes opened a gate of new age called Middle Age according to historians.

The sighting of the Huns in Eastern Europe became the turning point for not only the Roman Empires but also, on the historical scene because, Roman Empire lost authentic mission and economic power. The economic corruption caused decline and fall of the Western Roman Empire and fiscal depravation started Eastern Roman Empire. After Huns the campaign of Germanic tribes speed corruption in Western Roman Empire.

In this research, researcher mentions about, in the first part of the research, the origins of Huns and how Huns came to Europe and their political history and the place of the leaders of Huns on historical scene and how European Hun Empire emerged in Eastern Europe, and how European Huns became an Empire in the second part of the research, the campaigns and sieges of Huns to Eastern and Western Roman Empire, in the third part of the research the relations of the Roman Empire by the diplomatic way. in the fourth part of the research Cultural, social interaction and trade activity with Roman Empires with Huns as economic interaction Finally, after Attila's reign and fall of European Hun Empire. according to secondary historical sources.

2.ORIGINS OF THE EUROPEAN HUNS

The European Huns, whose origins have been argued for centuries, had opened the doors of the Middle Ages. So, the debate about their identities has made the world of science very preoccupied. The opinions expressed for this purpose are expressed as follows:

-) European Huns are Mongols. (K.Shiratory) counted as Mongols since Asian Huns were accepted as Mongols
-) Turkish-Mongolian mixture (P. Pelliot, R. Grousset)
-) Turkish-Mongolian-Manchu mixture. (L. Cahun)
-) They are Fin-Ugor. (Klaproth, K. F. Neumann)
-) Slavic origin (Venelin, Zabelin, Inostranchev, Ilovayski)
-) Germanic descendants (Müllenhoff, A. Fick, R. Much, J. Hoops)
-) Originated from Caucasian tribes (L. Jelic, Gy Meszaros)
-) The European Huns are the unidentified tribes who lived in an unknown period of history like the Sumerians. (Gerhard Doerfer)

(Ahmetbeyoğlu, 2014 p. 157, Kafesoğlu, 2007, p. 70; Ahmetbeyoğlu, 2013, p.p. 30 31; Tekinoğlu, 2015 p.p. 319-320)

Moreover, the European Huns seem to have been included in Eastern Goths in the Eastern sources. However, it is certain that the European Huns originated as a continuation of the Turkish and Asian Huns mass as a result of researches.

The views on the origins of the European Huns above, are the result of the work of the Eurasian Historian Deguignes after XVIII. Century. On the basis of the above observations lies the work of Deguignes(Ahmetbeyoğlu, 2013 p.p. 27-30,Nemeth, 1996, p.p. 7-19)

F. Hirth also raised a strong argument about the idea that the Western Huns came from the Asian Huns. According to this, as a result of the invasion of Alan territory (between Caspian and Aral) in between years 355 and 365,the Chinese sources wrote that this area was conquered by the Hiug-nu while the Roman historian Ammianus Marcellinus wrote that the conquest was carried out by the Huns, while (Kafesoğlu, 2007, p.p. 70 -71)

3.ARRIVAL OF HUNS TO EUROPE

After the collapse of the Great Hun Empire in Asia, the tribes who lived and populated in the Kazakhstan Steppes remained independent. Huns, with their growing population strengthened by increasing their powers. Hun tribes living in Kazakhstan Steppes moved to the west due to climate change. They formed the main mass of European Huns. In the IV. century, they captured the territory of Alan (from Caspian to Aral). They were seen around the Volga in 374. The Goths of German tribes lived in this region. Ostrogoths were between the Dinyester and the Don Rivers and the Visigoths were living in their west. Gepids were in Transylvania, and Vandals were in Hungary. The people who were trapped during the movement of the Huns in Europe were thus forced to migrate. They settled down in their present positions by pushing one another (Taşağıl, 2013, p.p.247-249)

Heading towards the west, Huns fought with Alans and exerted dominance on them. Afterwards, they hit the Goths led by Ermanaric and included them in their sovereignty. Ermanaric ended his life after such a defeat on the battlefield because he could not protect his people from Huns. (374-375) After the defeat, the Ostrogoths continued their lives in an autonomous structure linked to the Huns. Vithimer, a member of the Ostrogoth royal family, was appointed as a head to his people. However, the Hun leader, Balamir, who heard about Vithimer's rebellion, took action and speared him on his forehead and re-dominated the Ostrogoths. Thus, the Huns began to establish a domain in European territory. (Ahmetbeyoğlu, 2014, p.. 158.Heather, 2012, p.p. 149-193, Kurat, 1992. p.p. 12-13)

On seeing the Huns in Europe, the Roman historian Ammianus Marcellinus wrote: Huns were the cause of all the ruins and various catastrophes. The Huns

masses are located near the sea of Maeotis, beside the ice-encircled ocean in the lesser known historical records. They invaded the Alans and began to dominate and live on their territory. With the Alans they flocked to their lands for the domination of the territories of Ermanaricus and entered into the war. They defeated the army of Ermanaric and took the Goths to their dominion. Ermanaric took his own life because of his grief. (Tekinoğlu, 2015 p. 321).



4.BALAMIR ERA

After the developments we have mentioned above, a king named Hunnimund came to the power over the Ostrogoths at the time of Balamir. With this development Ostrogoths did not attempt any rebellion, and Ostrogoths fully recognized the rule of the Huns. Hunnimund participated in a raid in Pannonia with Balamir's command. He helped expelling the Vandals. However, his fate after this incident is unknown. Thorismund, who came after Hunnimund and was the last Ostrogot leader, died during Gepid's raid. After the last king lost his life, the Ostrogoth's Amal king's ancestor disappeared. Goth historian Jordanes wrote about this issue as follows: When Thorismund died, the Ostrogoths kept his mourning for a very long time (40 years), and they could not choose a new king.

The Huns in Balamir's command, after defeating Ostrogoths, followed the Goths who were heading west after Vithimer's murder. This Ostrogot group accepted Vithimer's son Videric as the leader. This group took refuge in the other line of the Goths, the Visigoths. This asylum event left the Visigoths in a helpless condition. Athanaric, the King of Visigoth, would later understand that he could not stop the progress of the Huns, which started with the defeat of Ostrogoths, and could not protect his land. But Athanaric had a famous army that fought against East Romans. So he trusted his army and took action against Huns. However, he realized that he made a mistake when his army showered with arrows. The Huns had weapons and battle tactics that the Goths had never encountered before. It did not take long for Athanarich to understand this and his defense plan collapsed. Because the army was scattered on the battlefield. He escaped to the Carpathians and found refuge in the Hungarian Plain. However, some of the Visigoths followed his opponent Fritigerm,

not the Athanaric. There was only one way for survival for the Goths. That was to live as refugees in Rome. However, Athanaric did not bring such an offer to Rome.

Athanaric and his tribe stayed in the Transylvania region. Athanaric's rival Fritigern had already applied to become a refugee in Rome. Fritigern's initiative was successful, and the Roman Empire council found it appropriate. The Visigothians were told to be very crowded, around 200,000 people. Emperor Valens (364-378) drafted a bill to use these Goths on the military field.

After the death of Fritigern, Alaric took lead of this tribe and encouraged the Goths to attempt rebellion against Rome. But the Roman Army wanted to control Alaric, so the emperor gave Alaric competent authority and increased his rank. (398) Thus the Romans dominated the Goths.

The emergence of the Huns also created a shock on the Romans. They were foreign to the war tactics of these people. Their work never seemed easy because they could face danger at any moment. The sudden emergence and victories of the Huns urged Romans into fear and worry. Their archers' fame was spread like wildfire. The most prominent example of the warfare of the Huns was that the death of Vithimer with a spear by Balamir. They were attacking in small groups rather than in large numbers. 500-1000 troops were attacking by a strong shower of arrows. Thus, they were putting down a lethal blow to their enemies (Ahmetbeyoğlu, 2013, pp53-64)

As it is told above, the Huns appearance under the leadership of Balamir were sudden in Europe. This sudden appearance created a shock effect on the European people. Balamir first defeated the Goth groups and the Alans and took them under his dominion. In this period the Huns were not in direct contact with the Romans and no fight occurred. But this sudden emergence caused panic and worry in the Roman

Empire. Since the Roman Empire was not used to the tactics of the Huns, a nomadic tribe migrated from Asia to Europe, it would take time to build a defensive line for them.



5.ULDIZ ERA

From 376 to 396, the Huns moved away from the Romans (after the movement of the great tribes). During these twenty years the Huns, while dealing with the organization of the states, succeeded to protect the territories of their sovereignty. Some big tribes of Goths and the Alans continued to migrate in those years, too.

In the years 375-400, the Huns closely followed the events in the Roman Empire, but they kept away from any military campaign attempts.

The European Huns found the chance they had been looking for towards the end of the 4th century. The clash of the West and the Roman Empire also led the Huns to military mobilization. The borders of both Roman states remained unprotected after the military movement between them. The Huns came to the conclusion that this was an important opportunity for them. They attacked the Roman Empire from two different areas. They took the Moesia Plain under their control, walked to the Alps and the Balkans, they entered into Thrace, burned and destroyed it. This caused panic among the Roman Empire and the Goths.

In this period, a group of Huns under the leadership of Basık and Kursık entered into Anatolia where they followed the Erzurum-Karasu-Fırat road while flocking regularly. Then, they continued moving to Malatya and Çukurova region, besieged Urfa and Antakya. After that they came to Syria and headed for Jerusalem. Then, they went back to Kayseri and followed Azerbaijan-Baku road, and ended this exploratory movement and returned to their homeland. This situation left the Sassanid and Roman Empires who are dominant in the region desperate. This event took place

in the time of the Sassanid King IV. Behram. The king had fought violently against the Huns. The information about this campaign is quite contradictory. It is still wondered that whether the expeditions were made in the years 395-400. It is probable that the Akhuns' Anatolian campaign was confused with it. (Ahmetbeyoğlu, 2001, p.p. 42 - 45), (Taşağıl, 2013, p.p. 250)

After a long 25-years of silence, the Huns re-enter the scene with their increased strength and became the master of the territories of South Russia. Afterwards, they had returned to Europe again. The Roman Emperor Theodosios learned the news of the European Huns' attack while he was on an Italian expedition. He headed towards Moesia and Tuna and he had reached to the Balkans before the winter arrived. While the leader of the Got mercenaries Gainas were destroying and plundering the territories around İstanbul. However, Got mercenaries began to struggle among themselves. But their only common point was their opposition to Roman Empire. Got leader Gainas conquered the Roman capital Istanbul in the summer of year 400. He gained control over The Imperial palace and a Christian church. However, the people of Istanbul could not accept this and destroyed the Gainas's army in the street wars. Meanwhile, the Huns united with the Roman empire against Gainas. The chieftain of the Huns, Uldız, fought against Gainas and he brought the head of him to the Roman Emperor. (Ahmetbeyoğlu, 2001, p.p. 45-46)

When Alaric learned about the overturn of Gainas, he plundered Italy in 401. He escaped away to the Alps from Huns with his army consisted of heroes of the Dinyester War. But Alaric was aware of the danger of Huns they encountered. The commander in chief of Rome repulsed Alaric with the help of Huns. Meantime, a panic emerged in the Carpathian territories. The Huns started a military action. People in this region were afraid of this situation and urged the people to flee. Ostrogoths

who are dominated by the Huns were attacking Vandals and Gepids. This flee attempted resulted in invasion and the plunder of the Roman Empire's lands. After that, they escaped to the Danube and Rhine regions. (401-405)

Meantime, a group of Sarmats and Gots who were at the other side of the Tuna got together under the leadership of Radagais. The group attacked Western Rome. In anticipation of this unexpected attack, the Roman Emperor's commanding officer sought help from the Huns of Uldız. Uldız destroyed Radagais' rebels in the summer of 406 after he was offered money and war spoils.

The Romans' hopes for the Huns disappeared after the death of Commander-in-Chief Stilicho of the Western Roman Empire. With the death of Arkadius and rise of his 7 year old son Theodosios to the throne, Uldız launched a military movement towards the land of the Eastern Roman Empire in 408. He conquered the areas starting from Olt River to Iron Gate and burned down and destroyed the defensive positions of Roma. He passed the river and took control of Kula position with the help of the Skir platoon. The Eastern Roman commander wanted to end the war with Uldız in peace. However, Uldız demanded an annual tax payment. After this success he wanted to put fear in the heart of the Roman Empire by saying that I could seize everything from where the sun rises to where the sun sets. But Romans turned away the tax claim. Then, they drove Uldız to the northern shores of the Danube, and they defeated Skirs heavily (409)

(Ahmetbeyoğlu, 2001, pp 46-52)

Uldız's speech to the Romans mentioned above; "I could seize everything from where the sun rises to where the sun sets" formed the base of the Huns' foreign policy. This foreign policy had been followed successfully until the era of Attila. According

to this policy, since the Eastern Roman Empire is close to the European Hun State It would be suppressed by war and plunder, and good relations would have developed by following the policy of friendship with the Western Roman Empire.



6.KARATON ERA

There is little mention of a Hun leader named Karaton in the sources. We only know that the problems between Roman empire and the Huns, which were left over from the Uldiz period, were solved through peace. The organization of the European Hun State was dealt with and the struggle for sovereignty with the state tribes was started.

It is also said that between the years 415 and 420, Huns involved in some fighting in the East, in Iranian land. The Huns were successful at the end of these wars. The discovery of artifacts belonging to Sassanid jewellery craft in the archeological excavations carried out on the Hun domination is shown as a proof of such a success. In this period, the Huns moved from Southern Russia to the Hungarian Plain and from Turkestan to South Russia.

7.RUA ERA

Rua was the leader of the Huns who emerged around the Danube in 420. During the reign of Rua, the Huns were trying to form an empire. The information about Rua's kinship relationship with Karaton is doubtful. Rua's siblings are Aybars, Oktar and Muncuk. Aybars governed the Eastern wing of the state, Oktar administered the western wing, and Muncuk died young.

In 422, Rua started a military movement to get advantage of internal confusion in Eastern Roman Empire. The person who managed this campaign was Rua himself and the European Huns took Macedonia and Thrace under their control. Roman Empire shifted the army from the West to the East due to the Sassanian threat. For this reason, there was little power to resist Rua.

After winning the war in the Iranian province, the Roman army was quickly dispatched to the Thrace region after the Huns attacked There. As a result of this military movement that the Huns started, Rua forced the East Roman Empire to pay 350 pounds of gold tax.

With the agreement signed as the result of the 422 campaign and resulting in the tax exemption of Eastern Rome, the Huns entered a military movement against Western Rome this time. The reason for this campaign is that Rua wanted to take advantage of the throne change in the Roman Empire.

Galla Placidia who was the aunt of the Roman Emperor II.Theodosios wanted the help of East Rome because she did not come to recognize Johannes, the emperor who was selected by Roman senate. Johannes asked European Hun leader Rua for help against the Eastern Roman military units. Rua then went on to Italy but failed,

because before Rua came to Italy, Emperor Johannes was deactivated by Galla Placidia. (425)

Galla Placidia ruled the Western Roman Empire as a regent, because her son was still a child. Her son's name was Constans Augustus. She sent the legendary imperial commander Aetius away from the center. She assigned Aetius to the head of the troops in Galia. The reason for this assignment was that Aetius was supporting the former emperor Johannes and he was sent to the Hun leader Rua with the title of ambassador.

Because of this, Aetius and Galla Placidia did not get along well. The appointment of Aetius to the command of the armies in Galia was also an advantage for the Huns.

From time to time Huns helped Aetius. The help in 425 was important because the Huns played a role in the repelling of the Visigoths, a Germanic tribe. The Visigoths attacked the cities and they plundered the territory of Galia.

In 428 the Huns punished the Franks who burned the northern part of the territory. In 429-430, Rua's brother, Oktar fought against the Burgonds. He was successful, but his death was very sudden.

Aetius thoroughly surrendered the power of Flavius Felix, who was the head of his rivals in the empire.

He forced the Juthungs to retreat who were in a relentless struggle with the empire in the year 430, and ensured the Empire's power in the north of the Alps with Huns's support. In 431 the rebellion in the region was suppressed by him. He supported

military fortifications at the borders close to Danube and Ren rivers. A great surprise was expecting Aetius in 432.

Galla Placidia took him from his position in Gallia and replaced him with Bonifacius. On this occasion Aetius searched for support in Rome for a long time, but failed. Meanwhile, he got support from Rua. The Huns defeated the special troops of the Roman Empire and moved with Aetius to Rome. After the return of Aetius to Rome, Rua's Huns controlled Pannonia region in return of supporting Roman's fight against the Germans. But this policy was going to be a problem for the Roman Empire later. This region enabled Huns for the upcoming campaigns.

In those days, the Eastern Roman Empire was looking for an alliance against the Huns. Rua urged the experienced diplomat Esia in diplomatic activities to call Romans to give up on this endeavor. Huns would have had to fight against Romans if Romans kept their search of an alliance. Suddenly he lost his life during war preparations. (434)

(Ahmetbeyoğlu, 2013, p.p. 80-88).

It is apparent that in the time of Hakan Rua, the Huns had maintained the foreign policy which had been followed since Uldız. They continued to suppress the Eastern Roman Empire and followed the friendship policy with Western Rome. Aetius took refuge in Rua and the request for help became a turning point in terms of Hun-West Rome relations. The Huns, who continued on campaigns against Eastern Rome, provided military support to the Western Roman commander Aetius. In this respect, it is strategically important that the Pannonia area was controlled by the Huns, which is located close to the targeted campaigns. Rua's sudden death during the peace negotiations started led Muncuk's sons, Bleda and Attila, to join forces.

8.ATTILA AND BLEDA ERA

When Rua lost his life during peace talks with Eastern Rome, two brothers Attila and Bleda took the the lead of the European Hun State. Because Attila was talented, he conducted all government affairs. Peace talks with East Rome were concluded by Attila in the reign of two brothers. This peace agreement was signed in the city of Margus in front of the people. While Attila was on his horse, the conditions were dictated by him to the Eastern Roman Embassy. In the case of rejection of the treaty the European Huns threatened the Roman Empire with war. The items of the agreement were as follows:

-) The captured Romanians and the Huns who had previously escaped to Rome will not be admitted to the Roman border.
-) For the Roman refugees and prisoners, eight gold salaries (ransom) will be paid.
-) The Romans will not make deals with the tribes dominated by the Huns.
-) Equal conditions for trade will be established.
-) The agreement made will be continuous and will be ensured.
-) The annual tax paid by the Romans will rise from 350 pounds to 700 pounds.

After this agreement was made in 434, the Eastern Roman empire extradited refugees and tried to fulfill the terms of the agreement (Ahmetbeyoğlu, 2014, p.p.167-168)

In 445 Bleda died from natural causes so that Attila became the sole emperor for the Huns. At the same time, the god of war, Ares' s sword found by a shepherd and presented to Attila. This event suggested that the future of world domination would

have been in Attila 's possession, which led Attila' s reputation to last for centuries.

(Taşađıl, 2013, p. 253)

After this date, we will see Attila as the only leader at the head of the Huns.

Attila, the leader of the Huns to shake the Earth, is now in power alone.



9. ATTILA ERA

There is very little information in the resources about Attila's place of birth, history, years of youth.

Because of his name, it is assumed that Attila was born in the times when the Huns were living on the banks of the Itil River. He was said to have been raised very well by his uncle Rua after his father, Muncuk's death. There are various opinions about what the name Attila means. We will try to convey these opinions here. Some argued that the name comes from Goth word which means ancestor, daddy, and lovable older brother or comes from the idyllic river, Ethil. In addition a connection was tried to establish between the famous emperor's word Attay in Göktürk Turkish and the name Attila. F. Altheim has suggested that Attila is the original A-ta-la and that it means my ancestor. Gyula Nemeth argues that Attila is a maturity name and he was using a different name in his youth. However, it is not yet clear which name was used in his youth. However, this view is compatible with the tradition of naming in Old Turks. Pritsak has accepted that it may be possible to evolve into form of Estila-Astila-Attila which means the great sea, the ocean in Turkish. It is also argued that Attila is not an individual name but a title in the empire. (Ahmetbeyoğlu, 2014, p.p. 166-167, Roux, 2010,p.p. 76-77)

Attila is an exceptional leader who had left deep traces in both Turkish History and World History. He has reached immortality because he has been in the memory of many nations. Legends has been said for centuries about him in Italy, Gaul, Germanic countries, Scandinavia, Britain, and throughout Central Europe. He has been the subject of literature, art, painting, sculpture. Many works have been written about him. He inspired theater plays and opera performances. His name is mentioned in

German's famous Nibelungen legend. In this legend Attila is depicted as a unique ruler who is fatherly, benevolent leader dependable person.

The conservative Christian World believed that he was a terrible, cruel, brutal person and tried to create stories paralel to this belief. But Attila is known as an unprecedented, high-charactered emperor because of the contributions he made to the world history. The most famous myth about him that he possessed The God of War Ares's sword and this would make him the conquerer of the world. (Taşağıl, 2013, p.p. 259-260)

R. Grousset, on the basis of the knowledge he received from Jordanes, depicts Attila's physical qualities as follows: He was short and wide-breasted, with a large head, small and depressed eyes, broad nose, brunette skin and a sparse beard. When he got angry, he was becoming terrifying and he was using fear and terror for his political purposes. (Grousset, 1996, pp90-91).

After describing the meaning of his name and his personality as above, the important role played by the European Huns in the political history will be tried to be explained. It is Attila, the leader who made the European Huns a powerful empire and a state that shook the Middle Ages World.

9.1.Political Activities of the European Huns during the Attila Period

Attila's lead is a turning point in political history of European Huns. During the Attila era, the European Huns had reached a tremendous level of power in the world, almost a golden age in this period. The reason is that in this period the European Huns' foreign policy against the Roman Empire had undergone a cbig

change. The main essence of foreign policy in the Uldiz period was to establish friendly and ongoing relations with the western wing of the Roman Empire, while pressurising the Eastern Roman Empire.

However, after the suppression of the Eastern Roman Empire in the Attila era, military operations were organized against the Western Roman Empire and the politics of intimidating and neutralizing both empires was pursued by putting pressure on them. As a result of these politics both Roman empires kneeled up to the Huns and the life of Western Roman empire had been shortened.

The Roman Empire recognized Attila's sovereignty and gained a vassal status. In particular, the revelation of the assassination attempt against Attila had elevated the tension between Eastern Roman Empire and the Huns. The emperor Theodosios was very afraid of Attila and the East Roman Empire was obliged to fulfill all the demands of him.

After the failed assassination plan, Attila realized that no harm would have come from East Roman Empire. He had dominated Eastern Romans and changed Roman politics. With this change, he intensified military operations against Western Rome. He tried to suppress Western Rome while trying to be influential on the empire. After fighting and organizing an operation in the region of Gallia and looting the cities, he started a campaign in Italy. After coming to Rome and meeting with Pope Leo, he believed in the sanctity of the city and left Rome without harming it. Before the preparations for a military action against Sassanids, he died in his wedding night by blood flowing from his mouth and nose. Although after Attila's death the state was ruled by his sons, the state was not as powerful as before. The state entered into the process of collapse in the reign of its sons, who could not comprehend the

state and gain power. We will examine in detail the political history of the Attila-era European Hun Empire, which we have summarized above.

The expansion of the European Hun state continued quickly in Attila's administration. The other Turkish tribes, who settled on the Hungarian and Southern Russian steeps, were also taken under control. After the Saxons were taken under control, Sarogurs, who was in the southern Russia in 435 and descended from the Turks, was defeated by Attila. In addition, he fought against Agaceris and forced them to accept the Hun domination.

Slavic and Finish tribes who settled in the forested areas in the north of big steppes in Russia also surrendered to the European Huns. The fact that Hun's borders extended to the east of the Don River is proof of this. Attila was thinking of using this region in his eastern campaign to Iran. The Sogdiana region served as a link between the European Huns and the Chinese Empire. The ambassadors from the European Huns going to China used this route. (Ahmetbeyoğlu, 2001, p.p. 63-64)

Based on the above information, we see the boundaries reached by the European Hun State at the beginning of Attila's reign. Attila's main goal was to reach the World Dominance and to keep the boundaries of the empire so wide that he made his plans for this purpose.

9.2. East Roman Policy in Attila Era

At the beginning of Attila's reign, there was no change in the policies that the Huns had applied to Eastern Rome. Attila wanted to keep the foreign policy that Uldız applied in order to reach his world domination target and to suppress Eastern Rome. Therefore, he was waiting for the conditions which would provide him the opportunity to further deepen the crisis of East Rome.

After Margus Peace, he went over the Slavic, Germanic and Turkish tribes to increase support for the state and succeeded in the struggle for sovereignty over those tribes. He also wanted to strengthen his army's power.

In 439, Vandals took hold Carthage in their hands and they were threatenin East Romans. Vandals had destroyed the Eastern Roman naval forces in the Carthage region. The Sassanid state in Iran, also started a campaign against the Armenians. Thus, the opportunity that Attila had sought emerged. He attacked the last defense line of the Eastern Rome in Danube. He plundered market places and took many refugees. Thereupon, The Eastern Romans sent an envoy who announced that this movement was not suitable with the agreement. Attila explained by using diplomatic language that the attack was a warning. He came up with an excuse that the bishop of Margus plundered the ancestral tombs, which were considered sacred by Huns. So, he explained that he had to took military action. Attila demanded the return of the Bishop of Margus from the Eastern Roman Empire. If the return was not carried out, this would counted as a reason for war. The Romans rejected the return of the bishop of Margus, indicating that the rumor that the tombs were plundered was untrue.

Thereupon, Attila declared war against East Romans. In the spring of 440, the army crossed the Danube and captured today's Kostalac. The European Huns destroyed places around Kostolac. The Eastern Roma stepped back because of this attack, and the return of the bishop of Margus was reiterated, and it had resulted as Attila'a demand. Then, the bishop of Margus secretly negotiated with the Huns and handed over the city to them in return of his own safety. The way to Thrace and Istanbul were opened with this conquest movement.(Ahmetbeyoğlu, 2001, pp 68-69)

Knowing that East Rome was politically and economically in a difficult situation, Attila proceeded to the Balkans, while continuing his military campaign to succeed Margus. He based this action on King of Vandals' request for help. (441) He continued his attack on the city from the south of Danube to the west. He encircled Belgrad. Then he captured the city and its people. Next, he conquered Sirmium. Starting from the south, he took control of Pannonia Secunda territories and Niş. The Hun movement was heading towards Thrace but it stopped when the Western Roman commander Aetius intervened as ambassador. Aetius expressed that the Eastern Roman Empire would fulfill the conditions of Margus Peace. He left his son as a hostage to the Huns as an assurance. This tradition was a strategic move made by the Romans to develop friendly relations. The date of the treaty signed by Eastern Rome was 442. The Emperor worked hard trying to fulfill the conditions of the treaty. Thus, most of the castles in the Danube region were conquered by the European Huns. Therewith, there was no political power to resist the European Huns in the Balkans (Ahmetbeyoğlu, 2014, p.p, 169-171)

Attila and the Hun Army had created and implemented a successful conquest policy against the Romans. Attila, who seized Margus city, which was very strategic for them and is in the hands of Eastern Rome, with diplomatic moves, seized and plundered a large number of towns in the Danube region and Balkans. This led East Rome to seek a new agreement in 442.

In 447 Attila's Eastern Roman policy hardened. The cause of this was the effort of the Emperor Theodosios to create a defensive line against the European Hun in the Balkans. Therefore, Attila again led to the Balkans. In the meantime, East Rome were suffering from severe financial crisis, epidemic diseases and earthquake. Attila wanted to capture East Rome in an impromptu way. In addition, Attila's world

domination policy was the reason for the start of this campaign. Also, during the reign of II.Theodosios, taxes were collected forcibly from Eastern Romans by Atilla in return of previously unpaid taxes. Atilla wrote a letter to the emperor Theodosios. In his letter, he stated that the Roman Embassy delegations should come with his embassy delegations, and if his request does not take place, the war will be continued. In the meantime, the letter stated that the fugitives must be returned. However, the emperor rejected this request. Thereupon, Attila continued military action with his army. He passed Danube and seized some castles and attacked Ratiaria, a large city. It is in an important position with regard to Danube region. Then, the army entered today's Bulgaria and passed Vidin Brook. A branch of the Hun army moved to Niğbolu to take the places around the Danube. The army took Sofia and Plovdiv and besieged Edirne. After taking Preslav, it headed for Istanbul. After he had captured Gallipoli, he returned. He passed through Thrace and entered Teselia. Huns were threatening Istanbul. Eastern Romans subjugated to the Huns. Emperor Theodosios wanted peace desperately. Anatholios peace was signed. If we look at the contents of this agreement:

-) Refugees will be returned
-) 6,000 pounds of gold against the past taxes to be paid to Huns
-) Annual tax will go up to 2100 golds
-) 12 gold salvage fees to be paid per Roman captive
-) Romans will not let in fugitives to their country.

The Eastern Romans were desperately frightened by the Huns. They were in pitiable economic conditions. They were forced to fulfill the demands of Attila and

pay a heavy tax. They were forced to find the money to be paid to the Huns, so money was forcibly collected by the army. The rich and poor Romans were obliged to pay a high amount of tax without a distinction. The war was disastrous for the Romans. As a result of these campaigns carried out in the Attila period, the East Roman defenses in the Tuna collapsed. European Hun State's treasury were filled with the gold from the Roman. As a result Huns had the opportunity to spread in the Balkans (Ahmetbeyoğlu, 2014, p.p. 171-175).

With the Balkan expeditions organized by Attila, the Eastern Roman Empire came close to a downfall. It signed an agreement with very severe conditions. The Hun army took control of the settlements close to the capital city of Istanbul and became a threat to it. The people of Istanbul were already in bad condition due to epidemics and earthquake. But Hun attacked worsen their conditions. As a matter of fact, The emperor Theodosios and his men had wrecked the people by collecting taxes forcibly. Theodosios desperately did what Attila said.

9.3.Eastern Romans' Plan to Kill Attila

The Eastern Roman Empire, which was under heavy taxation due to the peace agreement with Attila and thus suffering financial crisis, had been preparing an assassination plot against Attila.

It was very difficult to provide the financing of the tax every year for Eastern Roman Empire. The Emperor Theodosius was in a state of astonishment due to heavy taxes. The Hun embassy delegation was present in the Eastern Roman palace at the time of the preparation of the assassination plan. They were about to leave. The Hun embassy delegation would be followed by the East Roman embassy. At the head of Attila's embassy was Skir Edekon and Orestes. In the Eastern Roman delegation were

Biglias, Maximos and Priscus. Biglias was an interpreter. Maximos was the head of the delegation, and Priscus was the clerk of the delegation. Priscus and Maximos had no idea about the assassination plan. The notes and observations that Priscus wrote were one of the rare sources in the area of Eastern European Turkish History in the 5th century. Eventually, when the delegation arrived in the Hun capital, Attila learned the assassination attempt from his spies and he made the delegation to confess the plan. Despite this, he did not make any harm to the eastern Roman emissaries. He sent a letter to the Emperor Theodosios with heavy insults. The letter contained the following statements: Theodosios is the son of a noble father like Attila. Attila maintains the dignity of his father, Muncuk, but Theodosios has fallen to slavery by giving tribute to Attila, but Theodosios does not even protect the dignity of slavery because he wanted to kill his master, Attila. (Taşağıl, 2013, p256) This letter has been sent to the empire capital with the Eastern Roman ambassadors by Attila, and he had begun preparations for military action against his new goal; the Western Roman Empire, while thinking that he had now dominated the Eastern Romans. Indeed, no dangerous movement came from Eastern Romans to the Huns, and Emperor Theodosios had now fulfilled all the wishes of Attila. However, the Hun state, which Attila transformed into an empire, entered into the decline process with Attila's death and became a danger for Eastern Romans no more, and the Eastern Roman Empire made various moves to the European Huns during the decline of the state.

9.4. Attila's New Goal; Western Roman Campaigns

The struggle of the European Huns with the Western Roman Empire constituted an important step for the purpose of seizing the world. In the first years of Attila's reign, a guarantee was given that the Huns would follow a peaceful policy against Western Romans. In addition, Attila's other Hun leaders wanted to suppress

Eastern Romans first, so this delayed the military operations against Western Romans. The new goal of Attila, who escaped the assassination plan prepared by Eastern Roman, was to realize his world domination project by controlling Western Roman territory. For this reason he abandoned his policy of establishing friendly relations with the Western Roman Empire. Attila was looking for an excuse for military action against Western Rome. He found the opportunity he was looking for in a very short time. The Western Roman Emperor Valentinianus forced her sister Honoria to remain unmarried in order to prevent her become a monarch. But he sent Honoria to the palace of Istanbul due to a scandalous outbreak in western Roman palace.

Belittled Honoria sent Attila an engagement ring and asked for help from him. (449) Attila accepted this proposal exultingly. He gave them two options. They could give him the right to join the administration of the Western Roman Empire or they could give him half of the Empire that belongs to Honoria. The Western Roman Emperor, who thought that the Eastern Roman Emperor Theodosius would support him, called back Honoria to Rome and forced Honoria to a showy wedding. Aggravated by this development, Attila threatened Western Roman with war.

The Attila who was acting as the half-ruler of Western Roman, took military action on Gaul. His predecessor was to catch Romans in an unprepared way. In order to not to cast doubt on the movement, he said that European Huns and western Romans are friendly states and he would be like to help. Attila's plan to control the fertile Gallic lands might be also including to help a farmer riot living in this region. In 451, Attila took action with a large army towards Gaul. He sent ambassadors to both Roman empires before leaving his palace. Thus, both empires became fearful and then he started his campaign. In this operation Attila had divided the army into two divisions. There was also a union made up from Germans in Attila's army. One

division of the army was responsible from seizing the Roman castles, while the other was responsible from restraining the tribes on the road. Two armies joined around the Rhine River. Attila went to Gaul. He began to take over the cities of the northern part of the region. In this campaign cities were falling as there was no power to oppose the European Hun Army. (Ahmetbeyoğlu, 2013, p.p. 121-126)

In the meantime, the Western Roman armies under the control of Aetius had been moving from Italy to Gaul. By strengthening the army with the enemies of Huns, the Aetius was the commander of an army of 200,000 people. As the Romans moved northward, the Hun armies approached Orleans near Paris. The war was inevitable because Aetius had also approached the region. The battle in the Campus Mauriacus became a battle where both sides of the world burdened with each other. At the end of the war which lasted for 24 hours, Attila had dispersed the Western Roman army. Aetius, who lost his contact with his troops, got through Turkish troops with difficulty. The Goth King named Theodorich was dead. The goths abandoned the battlefield and the Franks, who suffered heavy losses, joined the Goths. In the end, Aetius was left without auxiliary forces. In spite of that, it has not been seen to be a definite success for both of the sides. The war is very important in terms of European Huns and Western Roman history, and it is one of the rare wars that the victor is undecided.

In fact, Attila had achieved its goal by attacking Gaul, because Gaul was a territory used by the Western Roman Empire as a weapons and ammunition depot. Attila had a strategic success in neutralizing the troops in Gallia. Roman army was low in morale and roman empire was lacking military support. After the war, the Hun armies reached Attila's capital in 20 days.

At the end of the war, the enemies were still afraid of Attila and his army. Attila, who started to move to Italy about a year later, would see that West Rome was lacking a military force to resist the Hun armies. Attila came in front of the city of Rome with his army. With the idea of making peace, the Roman Senate appointed an embassy delegation led by Pope Leo. Attila and Pope Leo met in front of the city of Rome. Pope Leo wanted to Attila to leave the city untouched and convinced Attila that Rome had accepted Attila's dominance. Attila left Rome untouched because he believed in the sanctity of the Roman city. He did not enter the city and did not plunder. Attila, who believed that he had taken over the dominance of both Roman empires, was preparing for a campaign when he suddenly died of illness in his wedding night due to heavy flow of blood coming through his mouth and nose. The sudden death of a mighty Hun leader like Attila left his people in grief. It is not known where the tomb of Attila is.(Taşağıl,2013, p.p. 258-259)

10. THE DEATH OF ATTILA AND THE ERA AFTER HIM

Attila's marriage preparations were already made when he came back from Western Roman campaign. European Hun Emperor was going to marry a girl named Ildico. In the chronicles of Majorans it was written that Mikolt was the name of the girl. Attila drank too much alcohol on his wedding day. His people had not heard from him until the next day. They broke into his room by breaking the door and found Attila lying on the ground in the living room. The girl called Ildico was crying. Everyone was very sad. After a terrible chaos in the palace, bad news was spread all over the place. How did he die? or did the girl named Ildico kill him? The answers to these questions have not been found yet.

From the Orthodox sources, Marcelinus Comes had written that a woman killed him with a sword, but the same author also had written that Attila's death was due to vomiting blood. We also see the record of the death of Attila in the Alexandrian chronicles. In this record, it is said that a young woman was sleeping next to him and she was the number one suspect of killing him. Jordanes, like the Cassiodorus chronic, wrote that his death took place naturally. In the VII., VIII. and IX. Centuries it was accepted that Attila was killed. Agnellus, who wrote the history of the Ravenna priests, also stated that Attila was killed by a woman. He claimed that she killed him while he was in a deep sleep due to wine and took her father's revenge. Because Attila wanted to have this girl by killing his father. Another chronicle from the XII. century confirms what we have mentioned above. In the chronicle it is written that Attila wanted to marry her daughter by killing her father.

Jordanes told Attila's funeral ceremony, a century later, in his work: Attila's body was in a silk tent in the center of the camp. A unit chosen from the Hun army

around the body was wargaming. The Hun army continued grieving and ate the funeral meal. Afterwards, Attila's burial ceremony was started. Attila's body was placed in three coffins intertwined. The first one was made from gold, the second was made from silver and the third one was made from iron. The burial was made at night. Various jewels, horse harnesses and some items taken from the previous wars were put in to the grave. The place of the burial is unknown because the digger men were killed on purpose in order to not say where the burial site was. (Orkun, 2013, p.p. 75-77).

As we have mentioned above, the sources about Attila's death could not explain clearly whether he died of natural causes or he was killed by his new wife. But it is known that the death of Attila happened at his wedding night. After the death of Attila, the head of the European Hun Empire had become İlek, Dengizik and İrnek consecutively who were born from Attila's leading wife Arıghan.

The sons of Atilla's had failed to restore the power of the state and they could not protect the state and the state had entered the process of collapse with the rebellion of the tribes that are tied to it.

10.1. Empire after Attila

When Attila died, he left behind an empire whose borders were not exactly known. This empire was spreading from the islands in the Atlantic Ocean to the other side of Iran and also to the Altays.

The eastern European steppes dominated by the Huns under the Attila rule. The progress of the Huns in the West was from the south of Lake Balkas to the Sogdian region, then to the Caucasus fronts and down to the Itil River. The vegetation

was scarce in terms of forests due to its arid nature, but it was suitable for growing animals because it was grassy. Steppe spreading from Manchuria to the Carpathian Mountains were separated into two regions. The Huns' center was in an important position for the Hungarian Plain and the steppes of the Carpathian Mountains. This geographical position made it easier for the Hun masses to come to Europe and establish a powerful empire with long borders.

The state, which became a powerful empire with Attila, could not escape from the faith of collapsing after Attila's death. The central authority was weakened and the tribes that Attila took over the territory of sovereignty rebelled after his death. The disagreements between the brothers deepened the dissolution of the empire. With the support of the empire's elders Attila's eldest son, İlek succeeded Attila. However, this was not enough for compiling the empire together. İlek's reign was shortlived. As a result of the murder of the middle son Dengizik by Eastern Romans, the small son, Irnek, withdrew to the north of the Black Sea and continued their lives in this area (Ahmetbeyoğlu, 2013, p.p. 159-161).

10.2.İlek Era

İlek was the greatest of Attila's three sons. After his father's death, he was the first rule the state. He was responsible from the eastern wing of the empire up to Ural and Balkas Lake when his father was alive. İlek's dominance lasted for a short time. Although he tried to prevent the central power from weakening and to prevent the rebellion movements of the tribes that was trying to leave the state, he was not successful. He tried to prevent the rebellion of Ardaric, king of Gepid, who rebelled against the Hun state. In 454 he returned from Tuna to South Pannonia. At that time,

he was defeated by the army of Gepid, commanded by Ardaric. He fought heroically together with his army. However, he died because of the wounds he got in the battlefield. The capital of the state was taken under control by Gepids. His son, Dengizik, who resembled Attila, and Attila's favorite little son, Irnek, traveled north of the Black Sea with Hun's tribe that were loyal to them. They lost their lands and had to retreat. (Tekinoğlu, 2015, p.p. 348-349)

10.3.Dengizik Era

When the European Huns lost their homeland and crossed the Carpathian Mountains and retreated to the north of the Black Sea, Attila's middle son, Dengizik, was leading them. The Huns stayed in the steppes and tried to gather back their strengths. In 455 they only worked for this purpose. In the following year (456), when the Huns were stronger, they planned a military campaign against the East Goths and embarked on a mission to implement the plan. Before they took action, they sent ambassadors to the Roman empire and expressed that the movement was not against them. They reported to Rome that the purpose was to reign the people who rebelled against the empire. On the invasion of the land of the Ostrogoths by the European Hun size, King Valamir declared this disturbing condition to the Roman Emperor Marcianus (450-457) and asked for additional land to settle. The collision of the two forces on the border was suiting the Roman Empire's book. Because the two worn-out powers would no longer be a danger. Marcianus would restore Rome's control in the area that had been vacated. (455)

In 456-457 Dengizik and Irnek followed the footsteps of the Goths and retreated up to the area in Dinyester or the basin of Danube. Goths caused the second attack of the Huns. The Goth King, planned a move against Sadagirs who were relatives of the Huns. The Huns, who received this news, attempted to help Sadagair's,

but the Huns were defeated. (459) The Huns retreated and returned to their homeland from the left bank of the Danube.

In 457, the Huns send ambassadors to Rome to search for a settlement for free trade and transmit their wishes to the emperor. However, this request was rejected by the Roman Emperor Leon by thinking that the market could be looted. This rejection of the Roman drove a wedge between Dengizik and Irnek. Dengizik agreed with his tribe leaders that the response to the Roman Emperor should be given by military action. But Irnek was a fan of peacemaking. Dengizik prepared an army from many Hun tribes for the expedition to Eastern Romans. In the winter of 466-467 he passed over the Danube and entered Dacia Ripensis. Dengizik reiterated the trade offer on equal terms with the ambassador he sent to Istanbul. The Eastern Roman Emperor Leon had stated that if the Huns accepted his dominance he would accept their demands. However, the Huns were unsuccessful on this occasion and the request for the agreement was repeated, but the answer was rejected again. Dengizik wanted to avenge the defeat. In 469, again, the outcrossing of Eastern Rome was the end of Dengizik and the Huns attached to him. He was killed during the expedition and his head was cut off and it was exhibited in front of the public in Istanbul in the Eastern Roman capital. (Tekinoğlu, 2015, p.p. 349-354; Orkun, 2013, p.p 107-117)

10.4. Irnek Era

Irnek was Attila's smallest and most valued child. The reason for this was that Attila's descendant would continue from this son. The Huns who entered in the process of disintegration with the death of Attila were retreated to the north of the Black Sea. They lived between Danube River and Dinyester River. It is also known that the Bulgarian Turks who lived in this area were bound to the kingdom of the

Irnek. On the list of the kings of the Bulgarian tribe, the name of Attila and his son Irnek were shown as evidence of this situation. After the death of Dengizik, Irnek established a kingdom from Tuna to the Caucasus in which the Bulgarians also were taken under control.

After the death of Dengizik, Irnek and those who were subject to him might have lived in Northern Dobruca and might have been under the sovereignty of Eastern Rome. There was no information about the later political activities and life of Irnek. (Ahmetbeyoğlu, 2001, p.p. 122-125)

10.5. Assessing the Political History of the European Huns

In the year 374, Huns under the leadership of Balamir came to Europe and this caused the former European people to migrate and started the age-changing Migration Period.

The Huns, led by Balamir, first attacked Alans, an Iranian tribe. Thus began the struggle of the European Huns with the people around them. In the Uldiz Period, the promise that I can seize all the way from the place where the sun rises to the place where it sets, stamped the Turkish History and created the Hun foreign policy up to Attila. With this policy, Eastern Rome was hold under pressure and friendly relations with Western Rome were developed. In the Karaton era, the state had to fight against the inside tribes and organize the state structure. In addition, sources indicated that a military operation was also conducted to the East. In Rua's era, steps were taken on the basis of Uldız's foreign policy. At the time of the joint power of Bleda and Attila, the problems coming from Rua were resolved. In the era when Attila took power completely by himself, the European Huns formed an empire that can threaten Eastern and Western Romans.

First of all, Attila embarked on many expeditions on Eastern Romans based on Uldız's politics. When Attila was confident about his dominance on Eastern Romans, then he took military actions against Western Romans. The European Hun State, which Attila transformed into an empire with great efforts, weakened after his death and entered into the process of dissolution. The state would not totally vanish until the year 469. It should not be forgotten that the European Huns left a spectacular effect on both in World History and in Turkish History.



11. Bureaucracy in European Huns

It is the sine qua non of the interstate relations to have a strong bureaucracy. At the very top of the high Hun bureaucracy were two siblings who came from an unknown ancestry. These two were named Onegesius and Scotta. These were two figures from around Pontus. The most striking proof of this was the bath built by Onegesius. The two brothers knew very well the Greek, the Latin and the Hun languages. Onegesius was one of the most senior bureaucrats in Attila's time and was the owner of the vizier's office. There were many men of Greek and Latin descent who were freed from slavery in his retinue. In the time of peace, the army was in command of Onegesius. It was recorded by Priscus, who built a hammam near him in a wooden palace and sent him to the Huns of Akatir with Attila's son Ilek by Attila. Onegesius had a great talent as a commander and a diplomat. He was at the head of Attila's trust in the execution of relations with the Romans and in the resolution of the problems. His brother, Scotta, was in an important position and had diplomatic activities as Attila's ambassador.

One of Attila's most important men was Berichus. It was not known where he was from. Also, there was Laudaric of Eastern Germans who was allied with Attila's uncle Aybars. These trustworthy people helped in the execution of government affairs by providing counseling in times of war and peace. Edecon was from Skir. He was the commander of Attila's elite troops. He was also in the embassy committee sent by Attila to Istanbul. Ardaric was the leader of the Gepids who were subject to the Huns. He was someone who was faithful to Attila. Valamar was assigned to the kingless Ostrogoths, and he was also trusted by Attila. Valamer's mandate was to include the Ostrogoths in the Huns' wars and strengthen the Hun army. There were also the clerk

Rusticius in the Hun palace and the translator Constanticus. Another person that was working closely with Attila was Orestes. Orestes was at the head of the embassy committee sent to Istanbul. Orestes might be a secretary whom Attila relied on. During his mission in Istanbul, he learned about the assassination attempt and informed Attila about the incident. In Priscus own records, it was written that he had seen Orestes before his meeting with Attila. It is understood from this .that this person had a an important title in the high Hun bureaucracy (Ahmetbeyoğlu, 2001, p.p. 74-76).



12.RECORDS OF THE INNOCENT AMBASSADOR PRISCUS

Priscus, a good diplomat and preacher, took part as a clerk in the East Roman embassy delegation led by Maximos to meet Attila in the 5th century during the Hun Eastern Roman relations. Priscus informed about the lifestyles of European Huns during his mission. It is very important for historiography to use these records as a source of European Hun History in terms of Eastern European Turkish History. However, the work written by Priscus did not reach the full daylight. Some pieces of this work are present and their contents include the following information:

12.1.Importance of the Records of Priscus

It provided rare information about the Huns lifestyle (food, drink, dressing and clothing). Attila's acceptance of the Eastern Roman Embassy delegation, his diplomacy and personality traits are also included. Also, Priscus recorded the unsuccessful assassination attempt to Attila. Most of the time Priscus, who played his part in Roman foreign policy, has a very important place not only being a source about his own era but also being a source for medieval historians coming after him. His work is an evidence that he was in an important position in terms of foreign policy of the Eastern Roman Empire.

12.2.Priscus's Life

Priscus was born in Panion which was a city called Propontis (Near the Sea of Marmara) a little farther from Heraclea (Marmara Ereğli) in Thrace. It is estimated that he was born in between 410 and 420 and died in 472 by examining the works of him.

Thanks to his friendship with a Roman officer Maximos, Priscus found a place to himself in the delegation of the embassy that was sent to Attila by the emperor Theodosios in 448 . He also served with Maximos in a peace agreement with the Arabs in Damascus. (452) After the death of Maximos in 453, he helped commander Rufus who were appointed to suppress the revolt in the city of Alexandria. In addition, it is believed that he was sent as an ambassador to the Kingdom of Frank in 450. We will take into account the records that were written while he was working as an ambassador in the European Huns State.

It is obvious from the records that he was an important person for the foreign policy of Eastern Romans. There are two other works of Priscus other than his fragmented work; Rethoric Researches and Letters. His fragmented work, is presumed to have been written in 433-471 since his work was telling the events in those days. Epiphanes used Priscus's work as his main source (VI. Century)

In addition, Jordanes, Procopius, and Ionnes Malalas also used the records of Priscus that were fragmented. (Ahmetbeyoğlu, 2014, p.p. 13-17).

Contents of Priscus's work are as follows: developments during and after the Rua era, Attila's military campaigns against Eastern Romans, Attila's ambassadors to Eastern Romans, and The assassination plan of Eastern Romans, the visit of the Eastern Roman Embassy delegation led by Maximos to the Hun country, Priscus's views on the palace of Attila. And also, finding the sword of the god of war Ares, In addition, the marriage issue with Honoria.

12.3.Developments After Rua Period

Amilsurs, who lived around the Danube, took refuge in Eastern Rome with the other tribes. When Hun king Rua wanted to enter the struggle with the tribes who had escaped from him, he sent the messenger Esla to the Eastern Roman Palace. If the tribes who escaped from the Huns did not extradite the Eastern Roman, the Huns could declare war on Romans and absolutely no agreement would take place.

Later, the Romans sent an embassy delegation. Meanwhile, Rua died and two brothers Bleda and Attila started their reign. East Rome sent Plintas to Attila as an ambassador. Attila the chieftain met with him in front of the walls of Constantinopolis. Attila, while on the horse, dicatated his requests to Plintas as articles of agreement. The terms of the agreement were as follows:

- The ones that flee from Huns, will not be accepted to Rome.
- The Romans would not make an agreement with the tribes under the Hun regime.
- Equal conditions for trade would be created.
- The continuity of this agreement would be maintained and the Romans would double the tax paid to the Huns.

After the agreement was made, the Romans returned to their countries. They worked to fulfill the terms of the agreement. This agreement is known as the Peace of Margus. (Ahmetbeyoğlu, 1995, p.p. 23-24)

Bleda and Attila have ruled the European Hun State for about ten years together. During this time Bleda handed over important work to Attila. The most

important of these two leaders' work was Margus Peace. (434) Historians argue that Attila killed Bleda. Bleda died from natural causes. If Attila wanted to kill Bleda, he would not wait ten years.

12.4. Attila's East Rome Expedition According to Priscus's Records

In the time of Emperor Young Theodosius, Attila had forced taxes from Eastern Rome. Attila sent a letter to Young Theodosios with the messengers who came to Attila. In the letter, Attila's wishes for fugitives and taxation were explained. Attila wanted the ambassadors to be sent again to him and stated that he would declare war if his will was not accepted. Theodosios said he would not return the fugitives and that he was not afraid of the war. Attila got angry and declared war against the Eastern Romans. Attila destroyed the Romans' cities and plundered them. He seized the castles. He made a military campaign against Ratiaria which was a very crowded city (Ahmetbeyoğlu, 1995, p.p .25-26)

12.5. Attila Sends Ambassadors to Eastern Romans

After the Anatolios Peace, Attila sent ambassadors to the Eastern Roman to get the fugitives back. But the Romans had said that no fugitive existed within the borders of their empire. Gifts were given to the ambassadors and they were sent back to their countries. When Attila sent a second group of ambassadors, the Romans were afraid of breaking of Peace and they started to see Attila's wishes as an order because they were afraid of fighting with Attila. (Ahmetbeyoğlu, 1995, p.p. 28-29)

12.6. East Romans' Plan to Kill Attila

As ambassadors Edecon and Orestes were sent to the East Roman palace. Edecon gave the letter of Attila to the emperor. Attila's letter was about the fugitives.

There were also requests for market place and borders. Afterwards, a meal was held in honor of the ambassadors. Edecon from the Hun embassy delegation attended the dinner. Edecon was speaking via the interpreter Biglias. Romans presented an offer to Edecon to kill Attila. They told Edecon that if he kills Attila and returns back to them, he would live in wealth. Edecon accepted the offer, demanding fifty pounds of gold in return. He said that he would share it among his troops to speed things up. The embassy delegation to be sent to Attila was also required to include Biglias. Thus, Biglias would carry fifty pounds of gold, and Attila would not suspect from Edecon. The emperor agreed with the plan and ordered the embassy delegation to begin preparations for the journey. Not only Biglias, but also Maximos, was involved in the embassy delegation. Attila learned the assassination plan through his spies and he disclosed it, so the plan failed. (Ahmetbeyoğlu, 1995, p.p. 29-31)

12.7. The Arrival of the East Roman Embassy Delegation to the Hun Country

After Eastern Romans persuaded Edecon to kill Attila, the embassy delegation led by Maximos, including Priscus, headed for Hun country. Maximos had decided to give the emperor's letter to Attila and that Biglias would be an interpreter. An Eastern Roman delegation arrived in Sofia after a 13 day journey and took a break in Sofia. Later on, they were close to the Hun border, and when they stopped to eat again, they came across the Huns and each side praised their emperors. Priscus and his delegation set up a tent when they arrived the Hun capital. They waited for a long time for Attila to meet with them. Attila gave an audience to them. They found Attila sitting on a wooden throne. Maximos gave Attila the letter of the Eastern Roman Emperor. Attila, insulted the interpreter Biglias, saying he had already known him. Attila understood that Biglias was sent to the Hun territory in relation to the assassination order to be made. Biglias also brought fifty pounds of gold that Edecon wanted. Meanwhile,

Edecon spoke and explained the plans to assassinate Attila. Attila did not harm the Eastern Roman Embassy. Because Maximos and Priscus did not know about the assassination plan. Attila sent a letter containing heavy insults to the East Roman Emperor Theodosios through the ambassadors (Ahmetbeyoğlu, 1995. p.p. 31-53)

Theodosios, who received the letter sent by Attila, was scared and bewildered. Attila thought that he had taken over the control the Eastern Roman, and he began to look for preparations, that is, an excuse to make his move towards Western Rome which was his new target. As a result, he felt the need to change the foreign policy of Uldız.

12.8.About Attila's Palace

Priscus who was sent as an ambassador by the Eastern Roman emperor Theodosios to the capital of Hun, wrote the following words about the palace of Attila : "we have come to this place by passing through the mighty rivers. Here, Yidicula, who was a leader of the Goths a century ago, was subjected to the surplus of the Sarmats. From there we came to a village which was not far away in which Attila was living. The village was surrounded by wooden ramparts. It was shining and its structure was quite beautiful. A careful person could hardly understand the way of combining the walls. There were columns with all kinds of decorations. There was a huge and wide area of horses standing in the courtyard. This place of residence was where Attila, the Hun lord, was living." (Ahmetbeyoğlu, 1995, p. 53)

12.9. The Sword of War God Ares

Attila was believing that he was destined to do great things. His self confidence was given him by his sword. This sword was regarded as sacred to the

Scythian King. The story of the sword is as follows: When a shepherd saw his cow was hurt and limping, he could not find the cause of this scar and he followed the blood trails with concern and realized that the cow had stepped on it while grazing. The shepherd dug out the sword from where it was buried and immediately took it to Attila and presented it. Attila expressed thanks to the shepherd for this gift. He thought that the sword of god of War Ares was found and given to him. It was meant that he was chosen as an emperor for the world. With this morale he caught success in wars. (Ahmetbeyoğlu, 1995, p. 53) (Taşağıl, 2013, p, 253)

12.10. Attila's Marriage Issue with Honoria

After the death of Theodosios, it was reported to Attila that Marcianus was the new ruler. Attila tried to figure out what happened to Honoria. He sent a man to the West Roman Empire.

Attila sent his men to calculate tribute from Romans, but the job was not successful, the ambassadors returned. The ruler of the Western Roman Empire was told that men had a say in Rome's administration because Honoria did not want to marry Attila and because she was married to someone else and there was a Roman where the ruling women were not in possession. Thus Attila's excuse for the war against the Western Romans was ready. This excuse justified an expedition to Western Rome. In the West, the problem was not only with Romans, but also Goths and Franks.

In addition, Attila gave up his decision about a military operation against Eastern Romans due to uncollected tax from Theodosios reign. Instead, he set up his new target as Western Romans, ordered his army to first to move to Gallia. After taking possession of the cities of Gallia, He came to the Italian region. Upon this Attila's movement, the Senate of the Roman Empire was alarmed and sent a

delegation led by Pope Leo to meet Attila. As a result of this meeting, Attila thought that Western Roman was also subject to him and gave up the idea of plundering Rome. He passed away during his preparations for the expedition on the Sassanids(Ahmetbeyoğlu, 1995, p. 57)

12.11.Assessment of Priscus's Records

The records of the ambassador Priscus, mentioned in the secondary sources, are worthy of the fact that they contain considerable information in terms of European Huns and Eastern European Turkish History. If it were not for Priscus, we would not be so knowledgeable about the European Hun Empire.

In these records, as an Eastern Roman ambassador, Priscus recorded the cultural and social life of the Huns and, in particular, Attila's personality, political activities and diplomacy. Unfortunately, these records, which are rare and of historical value, are not complete but fragmented. This makes the European Hun History and Eastern Europe History difficult for historians who are working and going to work on these subjects.

In these records, Priscus refers to the following aspects of the Attila period. Those events during and after the Rua era, Attila's military actions on Eastern Romans, Attila's ambassadors in Eastern Roman empire, the plan of the assassination of the embassy delegation led by Maximus to the Hun country, descriptions of Attila's palace and the marriage issue with Honoria and his orientation to Western Romans.

In particular, the records of Priscus, a unique source with the description of events in the Attila Era, guided the history researchers of the era and the later, and these records helped to write other histories. Epiphanes and Eunagrius used Priscus' historical main work as the source.

13.COMMERCIAL LIFE IN EUROPEAN HUNS

Since many people displaced during the migration of the tribes, the peasants became miserable and unable to harvest crops. With the conquest of the European Huns in these territories, the agricultural fields of Eastern Romans had changed hands. The conquest brought peace to the territories.

Trading with the eastern romans was very important for the Huns. They traded for supplying the basic necessities. Commercial security was in the forefront for The Huns. The security was provided by some agreements (434 Margus Agreement). The deception of the Huns in trade resulted in war. Indeed, one of the reasons of the Balkan Expedition was the deception of the Huns in commercial life (Taşağıl, 2013, p. 261).

However, there is little information about the commercial activities of the European Huns. For this reason, some researchers make estimates and evaluations with the help of archaeological information. However, some of the historians who do research in this area give misleading information based on Ammianus Marcellinus. Marcellinus evaluated Huns as a nomadic tribe which raises livestock, seeks for pasture and hunts sometimes. Another evaluation is that the people of the towns and villages under the rule of the Huns were providing the basic needs of the Huns. However, this information is far from real. The Hun Empire was located in a sovereignty linking east to the West, North to the South. The trade was an important source of livelihood. Top selling products of them to the abroad were the horses, cattle and some livestock . Besides, they had sold canned meat, foods from animal origins, pelt, leather, wool, and fur. They had also bought silk, red skin, cereals, and ornamental goods from the Romans. (Ahmetbeyoğlu, 2001, p.p. 165-167)

In the European Hun Empire, every effort was made in the Attila period for safe trade. From the eastern part of the empire to the eastern shore of the Aral and to China caravans were traveling for trade. Trade in the Hun Empire was made in certain regions, usually in border towns. Major centers were Morava Valley of Silesia and Viminacium in Danube region. (Baştav, 1998, p.p. 78-79) In addition, the during the reign of Attila's sons a proposal was made to the Eastern Romans to gather for trade with them on equal terms, but the Eastern Roman Empire did not find it appropriate and refused it.

We can make the following analysis based on the information above; in The European Hun sovereignty, trade had always been an important sector for vital activities. In order to maintain the trade safely in certain areas, agreements had been made that trade took place in certain regions (usually border towns) and thus the economic relations between Rome and the Hun empire were secured. Thus, efforts had been made to develop economic relations. Because of the lack of information in the sources, we had to close the commercial dimension of the relations between the European Huns and the Roman Empire.

14. SOCIAL LIFE IN EUROPEAN HUNS (RECORDS OF THE ROMANS)

14.1. Food and Drink

We learn about the social life of the European Huns again from Priscus. He told a feast that he attended in European Empire as follows : First, a table was placed in front of Attila. Then tables were also placed in front of the other guests. There was one table for three or four men. Everybody ate from their own table. First the servant of Attila entered. There was a tray of meat in his hand. After that, those who served us brought meals and bread. They put them on the table. They brought very sweet and delicious food to all of us. Priscus told about the drinking culture of Huns as follows: They had brought different food from the villages for us. They served corn instead of bread and instead of the wine they served the drink they called Medus. The servants who were with us also ate these foods and the drink named Cammus. Roman historian Ammianus Marcellinus also noted that they are so durable to their own lifestyle that they need neither fire nor tasty food. But whatever happens, they put all kinds of animal meat on their backs with their legs and they consume them by providing some heat to the meat (Ahmetbeyoğlu, 2001, p.p. 164-165)

14.2. Shelter

Ammianus Marcellinus recorded about the places where the Huns lived and the conditions of them as follows. They did not have any places of settlement. They were avoided like the graves used everyday. Among them there can be found reed and straw covered clubs. In the wide forested areas, they learn to withstand against, cold, hunger and, thirst from the cradle. When they are away from their house, they never

enter a house unless they have an extreme necessity. As long as they are under a roof, they do not feel safe. They continued to live in four wheeled carts.

Priscus told the location of Attila's head of wives, Arighan as follows: The next day I went to the place where Attila's lady stayed and brought her gifts. Attila's lady was adorned with wooden boards and fine carved spines, elegant and impeccable, and the joists were skillfully combined. The places were covered with wool carpet (Ahmetbeyođlu, 2001, p.p.172-174)



15. THE POLITICS OF THE ROMAN EMPIRE ON THE EUROPEAN HUNS

Historically, following things can be said that for the Hun policy of the Roman Empire: The Roman Empire had to pay taxes to the European Huns with whom they had struggled during the wars, in the agreements made after every military action of the European Huns. Those taxes were not paid regularly and properly. The reason behind this was that Romans had struggled with various tribes and states on many fronts. Also, these taxes had reached the level of emptying the empire's treasury. For this reason, the people and the emperor had been in a difficult situation. An important issue which leads to the hardening and deteriorating of relations between the two countries with time was fugitives. Although the Hun fugitives had taken refuge in Rome and Attila had demanded the return of these fugitives, it came into question that fugitives were not returned on time returning was refused completely. The constant refusal of his demands had forced Attila to fight. Roman Empire did not follow an honest policy on bilateral relations. For this reason, relations between the European Huns and the East Roman Empire continued on a diplomatic ground, which was constantly tense and conflicted.

In the Attila period, the number of military campaigns was considerably high. After these actions Attila wanted to have high ranked and experienced messengers sent from East Rome, which put the diplomacy of the Eastern Roman state in a difficult position. In addition, The failure of the assassination plan wherreted the relations of the two countries and caused the Eastern Romans to be trampled under the will of Attila. After the failed assasinaition plan, Attila's insulting letter to the Emperor Theodosios was a proof that the relations were rough.

Attila, who believed that he had a definite sovereignty over Eastern Romans, turned his attention to Western Romans. Attila's excuse was the engagement ring sent by Honoria. The matter of marriage between Honoria and Attila was quite debated in Western Rome. They wasted Attila's time and then they turned back his wishes. Therefore, Attila started Gallic and Italy campaigns against the Roman Empire. Upon Attila's arrival in Rome, Western Romans sent Pope Leo to Attila as a diplomatic move. After Attila's death, his sons wanted to establish diplomatic contact with Eastern Romans about trade on equal terms. But Eastern Romans rejected the diplomatic proposal because they thought the Huns would loot the markets that opened for trade and did not trust the Huns on trade.

16. HUNS IN THE EYES OF THE EUROPEANS

Relations between the two Roman empires and the European Huns are of great importance in the history of the world. In this chapter, the Huns will be portrayed through the eyes of the Roman Empire and the various tribes in Europe. The Roman Empire and the European Huns had faced numerous battles in historical time. War is also seen as a way of cultural interaction. In addition, the interaction between the two countries made through trade activities. In the course of this historical process, the Roman empire suffered because of the Huns because of the struggles between the Hun and the Roman Empires continued through the war. Therefore, it was unlikely to develop an objective view against the Huns for the Roman Empire . Nevertheless, little information about the European Huns in the sources could not prevent the development of such a view. As long as this approach continued, the Roman Empire resources would not be evaluated objectively and the necessary examination and evaluation will be unhealthy. This creates a difficult situation for the historians who are working on the beginning of Medieval History in terms of examining the sources and making a sound assessment.

There was the Roman historian Ammianus Marcellinus, who depicts the Huns and speaks about them Amminianus Marcellinus had never seen them, even though he lived during the reign of the Huns. He had developed a biased view of the Huns because of the people around him. The description of Marcellinus is as follows: Based on the lesser known records the Huns were living near the sea of Maeotis beside the ice-encircled ocean. They had passed the wilderness level. There are deep traces of steel in the faces of their children so that the beards can not grow. The wounds then become wrinkled wounds. They are unglazed and lack the beauty. They have tough

and strong arms, a thick neck. They are ugly and formless. They are resistant to a harsh lifestyle and they do not have shelter. They learn to adjust to these difficult conditions at an early age in the midst of forests and swamps.

They are not loyal to the peace treaties that are made. They are inclined to bow to the inspiration of the new hopes offered to them. They are not competent enough to be able to distinguish between righteousness and wrong as reasonable people. They are deceitful and uncertain in their speech. They are not religious and superstitious. They are in thirst for gold. They fight with their friend often. (Ahmetbeyoğlu, 2014, p. 228-230)

As we have seen from the above description, the information given by Ammianus Marcellinus is far from expressing the truth. From here we understand that the inhabitants of the Roman Empire are so afraid of the European Huns and in such a helpless condition that they can not hurt the Huns.

17.THE EFFECTS OF THE HUNS ON THE EUROPEAN LANDSCAPE

The fact that the Huns took control of a very wide geographical area and many different tribes within a short period of time, and that they have achieved great success against the Roman civilization, which is considered to be especially invulnerable, has been tied to the advantage of the horses, the arrows and the savages by many researchers. Afterwards, the Romans and the tribes which had a relation with the Huns had to establish military units that equipped with horses, bow and arrow as the Huns. Besides, thanks to the relations between the Huns and the nations which are the ancestors of today's European tribes, they learned clothing and various art techniques such as embroidered kaftans, belts, buckles and mirrors from the Huns. Another development is the addition of lingerie and shirt to the clothing of the Romans through the European Huns. These military and social influences of the people left deep traces in the European tribes. Literary influences such as the Nibelungen Epic and political influences such as the idea of Roman- German, as well as the tribal movements which formed today's European people are both the results of the actions of The European Huns. (Ahmetbeyoğlu, 2014, p.194)

RESULT

After the disintegration of the Asian Hun State, the Huns who gathered in the Kazakhstan provinces began to wander to the West, to the north of the Black Sea. They attacked the Alans first and defeated them, during that Balamir was leading them. After some time they hit the Goths and Goths had to left their territory and that triggered the migration of the tribes and many tribes migrated for a long time. This incident is the start of the Middle Ages (374-375).

The Huns, who settled in the Eastern European steppes, organized their states in a short time. They struggled with the goths and took some of them under their leadership. Under the leadership of a leader named Uldiz, the foreign policy which the Huns were practicing was obvious. In the formation of foreign policy, Uldiz's "I could seize everything from where the sun rises to where the sun sets" saying was effective. Starting from the time of Uldiz, Eastern Romans was suppressed and friendly relations with Western Rome were tried to be established. Foreign policy was aimed at realization of conquest and world domination policy.

With the death of Uldiz, there was no change in the foreign policy that was followed. However, an Anatolian campaign was oraganized by two leaders called Basık and Kursık. This campaign was a movement for exploration purposes.

After the death of Uldiz, a leader called Karaton came to the throne in the Hun State. During the Karaton era, the state's internal affairs were dealt with and the movements of the tribes controlled and a successful military operation to the Persia towards the East was made. Very little information is known about this period of political histories of the European Huns.

The Huns played a major part in the politics of the Western Roman Empire with the military aid they provided to the Western Roman commander Aetius during the Rua period.

As soon as the Romans were in search of an alliance with tribes affiliated with the Huns against the Huns, Rua threatened Romans with war. However, he suddenly passed away during the peace negotiations.

Thereupon, the two brothers Bleda and Attila, started to lead the European Hun State, had solved the problems inherited from the Rua era. The most important problem of the Rua era was the peace negotiations with the Eastern Romans. As a result of these negotiations in the city of Margus, an agreement was signed. While Attila was on his horse, the conditions of the agreement were dictated by him to the Eastern Roman Embassy. He threatened them with war if they broke the agreement.

Attila and Bleda's mutual governance over the European Huns lasted for about a decade. Bleda died a natural death, and even in Bleda's health, Attila was carrying out important state affairs. During Attila's reign, the Eastern Romans were suppressed with two Balkan expeditions and the Anatolian agreement. The tax burden on these peace treaties and the return of the fugitives became a problem for the Eastern Roman Empire. The Eastern Roman treasury was almost emptied because of the tax paid to the Huns. There was only one way for stopping this bad situation for the Romans, which was to take Attila out of the way. It was not an easy task to kill Attila. While the Hun embassy delegation came to the Eastern Roman palace, Edecon agreed to kill Attila. But Attila learned the plan and then the plan failed.

Despite the failure of the attempt, Attila did not kill the embassy delegation. Instead he sent a letter including heavy insults to the Eastern Roman Emperor

Theodosios. After sending the letter, relations between the Huns and the East Rome were hardened and the Emperor fulfilled all the demands of Attila.

Thinking that Eastern Romans were under great pressure, Attila changed his goal into controlling Western Romans and changed the foreign policy of Uldız to reach his ultimate goal of world domination. Attila was searching for an excuse to start a campaign against the Western Romans and he got his chance beforelong.

Attila, who received an engagement ring from Honoria, the Western Roman princess, accepted the marriage proposal and wanted to have a say in the administration of Western Roman empire or half the share of the Western Roman Empire belongs to Honoria. In response to Attila's request, the emperor and the senate of the Western Roman Empire informed Attila that only men could participate in the administration of the empire, and Honoria did not have the empire's share in diplomatic ways.

Attila planned a military campaign against Gallia as an answer to the Roman Empire. He wanted to make them vulnerable because that area was the arsenal of them. The Roman Empire commander Aetius came to Gallia beforelong. At the same time, Attila took over each of the cities of Gaul. Attila and Aetius fought near Paris. However, there was not a winner of the battle. The battle was one of the rare wars of World History. The Western Roman armies, worn out by the war, did not confront with the huns when Attila began his military action against Italy. Attila reached Rome without any danger and when he came to the front of Rome, the senate had sent the delegation headed by Pope Leo to Attila. Pope Leo convinced Attila and Attila was withdrawn from the city by believing in the sanctity of the Roman city.

But shortly after that events Attila passed away in his wedding night due to from overflow of blood from his mouth and nose. The location of his grave is

uncertain. It is also a matter of unknown where the European Huns' capital was located in the years it had been ruling. It is estimated that the capital is located near Eflak.

After the death of Attila, his sons from Arighan, İlek, Dengizik and İrnek, headed the European Huns. İlek passed away during the struggle for re-domination of the Germanic Tribes, who rebelled against the European Huns with a very short reign. His second son Dengizik, whose courage resembled Attila, was killed by beheading during his fight when he was denied a request for a trade agreement on an equal basis with the Roman Empire. His young son, İrnek, withdrew to the north of the Black Sea with his Hun tribes. They formed one of the main masses of the Bulgarians and he continued on Attila's bloodline. The descendants of the ruling khans of the Bulgarians are the strongest proof of this.

Historically, there has been a great deal of interaction between the European Huns and the Roman Empire. There were three types of interaction; war, cultural and trade.

The economic activity between the European Huns and the Roman Empire has been tried to be kept alive, and the market had been set up in the determined border towns. When they were selling meat preserves and live animal products to Romans, they bought cereals and silk and ornamental goods from them. When we look at cultural interaction, Romans also used horseback warfare system of the European Huns as an example. Clothing like pants, lingerie and underwear were shown to the Romans by the European Huns.

In this work, we mentioned about the life of Priscus who was a good lecturer, scholar and diplomat, his involvement in Eastern Roman embassy delegation headed

by Maximus, and his works, which reached today in fragments. Rutilius and Marcellinus peace, visit of Hun embassy delegation to the eastern Romans, the assassination plan prepared by the Eastern Romans, visit of the Eastern Roman delegation headed by Maximus, descriptions of Attila's palace, the discovery of the sword of War God Mars and its representation to Attila, and the marriage issue of Attila to the Western Roman princess Honoria were all explained in Priscus' very valuable work.

As a result, the Hun masses, who settled in the Eastern European Steppes by the command of Balamber and established a state through struggles became an empire during the Attila era. However, the state collapsed by the death of Attila in the reign of his sons. (469)

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