

ANTHROPOLOGY / GENETICS & HISTORY

WOJCIECH J. CYNARSKI^{1(ABCDEFG)}, AGNIESZKA MACIEJEWSKA^{2(DEF)}

¹Faculty of Physical Education,
University of Rzeszow, Rzeszow (Poland)
ul. Towarnickiego 3, 35-959 Rzeszow
Tel. +48 17 8721844

²Faculty of Physical Education and Health Promotion,
University of Szczecin, Szczecin (Poland)
al. Piastów 40B, 71-065 Szczecin
Tel. +48 91 444 3015

Contact e-mails: wojciech.cynarski@idokan.pl, cynarski@ur.edu.pl; maciejewska.us@wp.pl

The proto-Slavic warrior in Europe: The Scythians, Sarmatians and Lekhs

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Abstract

Background. The frame of reference for this research is provided by a cross-disciplinary approach to the anthropology of martial arts. The results of research into genetics, linguistics, anthropology, general ancient and medieval history, and hopology have provided a check on the hypotheses and supported the logical explanation backing the ideas presented in this paper.

Aim. The authors pose questions concerning the Slavs, the Scythians and Sarmatians, and their systems of warfare and their relationship to today's Lekhs. The following hypothesis is presented: if the Scythians, Aryans and Slavs came from a single genetic root, then today's Slavs, especially the Western and Eastern ones, are their descendants, but the relationship is not limited merely to biology. Results. The Scythians and Sarmatians made a great contribution to the development of the art of war. This applies particularly to the use of horses and the tactical use of cavalry and archery. Their warrior-ethos has been preserved in the legends, symbols and traditions of the Polish (Lekh) nobility. Historic genetic material – also indicates the presence of ancestors of the Slavs in Central Europe from c2700 BCE.

The languages of the Aryans and Scythians were closely related to the Slavic languages, and known as proto-Slavonic. However Scythians were speaking apparently different languages.

Another proof of kinship may be the similarity between the iconography of the coats of arms of the Polish nobility and Scythian ornamentation.

Conclusions. A genealogy based on the presence of specific haplogroups on the Y chromosome indicates a lack of foreign genetic influences, suggesting the autochtonicity of the Slavs in the lands between the Oder and the Dnieper Rivers, between the Baltic Sea and the Carpathian Mountains. The original Scythians were probably carriers of haplogroup R1a, with the subgroups R1a1a1b2 (created as a result of mutation F992/S202/Z93) and R1a1a1 (created as a result of the emergence of mutation M417) most widely represented. The direct or indirect descendants of the early Scythians, or Proto-Slavs (the commonly-agreed terms) are, in particular the Poles, characterized by the highest concentration of the R1a1a1b1a1 haplogroup (M458/PF6241) and other Western Slavs, e.g. today's Sorbs and Slovaks.

Introduction

Who were the Indo-Europeans? Oakeshott refers only to the Greeks and Romans, Celts and Germans, and the “ancestors of India” – the Aryas. He adds that horses were only used with chariots in combat. Oakeshott probably

drew his knowledge from the Iliad and the Rig Veda [*cf.* Oakeshott 1996: 15-17]. Or maybe Early Slavs were the original Indo-Europeans, as some linguistic, anthropological and genetic circumstantial evidence (among others) shows, based on the incidence of the sets of haplotypes within the Y chromosome, i.e. haplogroups

found in different population groups [Histmag 2012; Leszczynski 2014]?

“Indo-European” is a term for the peoples defined by linguistics (Indo-European languages). In contrast, ‘Proto-Slav’ is the commonly-agreed terminology and applies to the ancestors of the Slavs, among whom, according to the latest genetic analysis [van Oven *et al.* 2014; Hallast *et al.* 2015; Underhill *et al.* 2015], the carriers of haplogroup R1a dominate. This haplogroup occurs significantly more often in Eastern Europe and it was estimated (using the Mendez-calibrated mutation rate) that it splits from haplogroup R1b (occurring more frequently in Western Europe and considered to be characteristic for among others the Celts) about 33,000 years ago [Mendez *et al.* 2013].

On the other hand, ‘Europe’ is understood both geographically as well as culturally to incorporate a group of chivalrous ethical values (nobility, honour, courage, the love of truth). There is a concept of myth and cultural archetype [Tolkien 1955; Takagi 1984; Cynarski W.J. 2008a] and the concept of the genetic inheritance of awareness [Szyszko-Bohusz 1996, 2003].

Today’s Slavs (some of them) could derive from the Scythians (actually Skyths, Gr. *Skytoi*). The Scythians (the steppe warriors) were already using horses as saddle horses. These ancestors of the Persians and the Aryans who were closely related to the Slavs contributed to the creation of the great kingdoms of Asia, while the Slavs themselves remained in their European cradle. This is of course a hypothesis. But logic suggests that the ancestors of the Poles did not appear there out of nowhere, and the Celts and Teutons, who supposedly lived in Poland previously, did not suddenly disappear.

The modern science of genetics helps to explain what has been, so far in the realm of the different, and often contradictory interpretations of archaeologists and historians. Both genetic research in recent years and linguistic studies show us the proximity of the Scythians and Slavs. The first of the authors hypothesises that since the Scythians, Aryans and Slavs came from a single genetic root (as evidenced by the high frequency of haplogroup R1a1 among those peoples), then the present Slavs, especially those Western and Eastern ones, are their descendants, and the relationship is not only limited to biology. On the other hand, it should be mentioned that a part of Sarmatians have been carrying R1b.

Such bold hypotheses should be posed and then checked [cf. Popper 1992; Lakatos 1995; Kosiewicz 2008]. Albeit with scepticism and caution, we may identify the Scythian warrior (some of them) as a Proto-Slav. The ethnicity and names of peoples (tribes), or lands, and their culture are not always the same.

The Scythians were perhaps a class of warriors in the territories also inhabited by other peoples from the R1a1 branch. Of course, Scythians can be understood as multiracial, heterogeneous group, included also other haplogroups.

The Slavs of the 5th to 7th centuries AD came from this group before they split into separate nations. It is the Western Slavs, as well as the Ukrainians and Russians, who preserve these non-recombinant part of Y-chromosome to the greatest extent. They may therefore be descendants (or relatives) of the Scythians and Sarmatians. However, caution is needed in the formulation of firm hypotheses in this area [cf. Klyosov 2009a; Golas 2010]. In the rapidly-advancing field of genealogy based on the presence of particular haplogroups on the Y chromosome, given the advances a lot of the research is now at least partly obsolete apart from one recent study [cf. Lucotte 2003; Lubicz-Lipinski 2012; Banczyk 2013]. The authors present and examine this idea by means of logical deduction (the inductive-deductive method), and have attempted to synthesise an approach to the subject under consideration while using multi-disciplinary techniques.

This has been done from the perspective of the anthropology of martial arts [Draeger, Smith 1980; Takagi 1984; Cynarski W.J. 2000, 2012; Jones 2002], in terms of a cross-disciplinary approach. Checking the hypotheses and the logical explanation of the explanatory statements was supported by the results of research in genetics, linguistics, anthropology, general ancient history, hopology (the science of weapons and military traditions) and martial arts.

1. The Scythian and Sarmatian art of war

1.1. The Scythians

The Scythians, also called Skyths (Greek *Skytoi*) or Saka, were a people of Caucasoid race and ethnicity, who came from the Black Sea and Caspian steppes (the Pontic-Caspian hypothesis). Their language was, incorrectly called Iranian. The Scythians and Early Slavs, and the Sarmatians, Alans and other peoples and cultures, come from. The Proto-Indo-Europeans among whom the haplogroup R1 probably formed, and which is now the most common haplogroup within Eurasia. A new mutation probably appeared among the Slavs which resulted in haplogroup R1a1 which occurs today mostly among the Indo-Iranian peoples (a language group), but also among the Aryans (today’s Hindu brahmins), Scythians, Sarmatians, Poles and a few other nations. The languages and beliefs of the Aryans and Scythians are also very similar to the languages of the Lekhitic tribes and the beliefs of the original Slavs.

In 1857, a Polish Orientalist Ignacy Pietraszewski was working to establish a close relationship between the Avestan and Polish languages. This was an important discovery, because in fact, the Slavic languages are more similar to the languages of ancient Iran and India than any other European languages [Bialczynski 2010a]. The languages of the Scythians and the primitive Slavs were very similar [cf. Jarmoszko 2011]. In addition, many studies show the central position of the Slavic languages in

relation to other Indo-European languages [cf. Renfrew 1987: 116 and next]. However, Scythians were speaking apparently different languages. Descendants of Altai Scythians speak Turkic languages today.

The Scythians created a tumulus culture, and a specific warrior culture (*cultura militum*, *cultura militaris*). They called themselves *Skolts* i.e. archers. It is possible that the name *Sclaveni*, or Slavs may have come from this. Each adult Scythian was a warrior. At that time an ‘archer’ i.e. a warrior, fought mostly on horseback. The peoples of the steppe usually had the advantage of mobility over the armies of settled peoples. Horse archery was the domain of the warriors of the Great Steppe. The Scythians’ Scale armour [Scholl 1978] could have been borrowed from the Assyrians, or vice versa. In contrast, the Assyrians probably borrowed formations of archers on horseback from the Scythians.

The Scythians were the inventors of the recurve bow, the so-called Scythian bow [Saggs 1989; Starr 1999]. In turn “Scythian arrows were completed with characteristic small boltheads made of bronze, with triangular or three-winged sections. It is one of the basic parameters of the military culture of these peoples” [Czopek 2013]. Apart from bows they also used spears, javelins, axes, horseman’s picks, *acinaces* swords.

They defeated another Indo-European people – the Cimmerians [Saggs 1989]. Between the 7th and the 6th centuries BCE the Scythians made conquests in Asia Minor, Assyria and Syria; they defeated major powers including the Urartu and Media, and in expeditions to the west they reached the River Oder. They were also effective in conducting guerrilla war, such as that against the Persian army of Darius in 513 BCE or against the Macedonians in 347 BCE.

Between the 4th and the 2nd centuries BCE there was a gradual decline in the population, and the Sarmatians, who were related to the Scythians, became more important. Smirnov [1974] believes that the Scythians along with the Celts (Kelts), ranked second in Western civilization, after the Greeks and Romans.

1.2. Chariots and horsemanship

The use of battle horses and chariots was already known (c3000 BCE), to the Sumerians, the people who came from India. They were still fairly primitive combat vehicles. They were improved by the Mesopotamians (2800 BCE) and the Assyrians (2000 BCE), who also used horses, creating the original horseback riding style, at that time without the use of stirrups. The Assyrians, Egyptians, Hittites and Scythians perfected chariots.

The Scythians were the first Europeans (after the Cimmerians) to use cavalry, going back to at least the 8th century BCE (according to Assyrian and biblical sources). The Alans, a Scythian tribe, improved the stirrup – a Chinese invention from the 4th century BCE. This was a significant step in improving riding technique and in

the use of cavalry. Metal stirrups were used in the Sarmatian army at the turn of the 1st century BCE.

The Macedonians and Alexander III of Macedon (356-323 BCE) popularized the use of heavy cavalry in combat in the 4th century BCE. Other warriors who preferred horseback tactics were the Huns (a people of the Asian steppes), who attacked Europe in approximately 370AD and then followed by the Avars.

For centuries the Poles mainly fought on horseback. Between the 16th and 18th centuries AD Polish hussars proved to be particularly effective in cavalry formation, and were victorious in many battles [Cynarski W.J. 2008b; Sikora 2010]. Did the Poles inherit this skill from their ancestors? The Theory of Genetic Immortality [Szyszko-Bohusz 1996, 2001] speaks of the inheritance of consciousness. So it is probably of considerable significance whose genes we inherit.

1.3. The Sarmatians

They were a people who were related to the Scythians and who stemmed from the same genetic roots. During their westward migration they ousted the Scythians, reaching the Danube by the end of the 1st century BCE. They settled on the Danube and in the Podkarpacie region. “Based on the etymological clues we can assume that the Croats were *slavanized* Sarmatians” [Davies 1992: 78]. The Nestor of Kiev [1113 AD] also claimed that the Lekhian peoples came from the River Danube region and that the Croats were the ancestors of the Lekhian tribes. But this applies not only to Croats. Poles, Slovaks and Ukrainians (all descendants of the Lekhitic Lendians) are descendants or relatives of the Sarmatians and they definitely have a common genetic ancestry.

All Sarmatians were warriors and carried weapons. They used swords up to 110 cm long, and bows and wore leather jackets or light scaled armour called *karacena* (incidentally Polish hussar armour was modelled on the Sarmatian *karacena*). Just like the Scythians, the Sarmatians were famed for their skills in mounted archery (photo 1). They inhabited lands on the Don and the Black Sea from the 3rd century BCE.

The Sarmatians, as highly trained warriors made their way as far as Britain. One proof of this is the fact that today’s clans such as the MacDougalls, MacDonaldis and Macalisters are characterized by a relatively high incidence of the R1a1 haplogroup, a characteristic of the Slavs (including the Sarmatians and Poles). These may be the remnants of the service of Sarmatian/Slavic warriors at King Arthur’s court, or the effect of Slavic Viking invasions¹, e.g. from the ports of Ancona and Truso.

¹ The Vikings (meaning “marine warriors”, “pirates-robbers”) were not only the Germanic warriors of the North, but also Western Slavs. On the other hand, it may be a remnant of early Indo-European settlement in what is now Sweden and Norway (Fig. 4).



Photo 1. Sarmatians – ancestors of the Slavs (?) [<http://indoeuropejski.blox.pl/2011/08/Sarmaci-Scytowie-Sakowie-nasi-przodkowie.html>]

In the 2nd and 1st centuries BCE the Sarmatians introduced heavy cavalry. Light cavalry tactics were still being employed including the Skirmish line, the wedge, wave attacks, ambushes, and single and double envelopment [cf. Scholl 1978].

The Alans were one of the Sarmatian tribes², subsequently obliterated by the Huns. At the Battle of Chalons (5th century AD) they fought on both sides. They then mixed with the Slavs on the Danube and in the Carpathians. The Scythians, Sarmatians and Alans were connected by one proto-Indo-Iranian ethos [Dumezil 1968], or also known as the Indo-European and proto-Slavic warrior-hero ethos.

In turn, the origins of the myth of the Polish nobility was Sarmatian. And this myth turns out to be true based partly on culture and partly on genetics. Work in the field of the genealogy of DNA from chromosome Y [Klyosov 2009a, b, c; Klyosov, Rozanski 2009; Underhill *et al.* 2009-2010; Pamjav *et al.* 2012; Mendez *et al.* 2013; van Oven *et al.* 2014; Hallast *et al.* 2015; Underhill *et al.* 2015] leaves no doubt that there is a close genealogical relationship between the peoples inhabiting western and central Asia, and today's Poles. The basis of this relationship is the frequent occurrence of haplogroup R1a and its most important sub-group marker: M417 (also defined as R1a1a1, it is the most common large subgroup within R1a), as well as the subgroups created later: M458/PF6241 (R1a1a1b1a1, is currently most widely observed in central and eastern Europe among the Czechs, Slovaks, Poles and Western Belarusians) and F992/S202/Z93 (R1a1a1b2, currently the most common subgroup in the Altai Mountains of southern Siberia, Kyrgyzstan and Iran. Today the

² Not all researchers agree that the Alans were Sarmatians [cf. Mączyńska 2013], but let genetics decide about that.

subgroups F992/S202/Z93 and M417 dominate in the territories once inhabited by the Scythians and Sarmatians, and Poland itself is a significant epicentre where it is subgroup M458/PF6241 which mainly appears. Its estimated frequency in the Polish population is over 20%, while in the areas outside Central and Eastern Europe it does not exceed 7%. For M458/PF6241, (estimated incidence in Poles exceeds 26%) the only groups with a similar high incidence are found in Western Belarus and Russia, while in Western Europe it is detected 10 times less frequently) [Hallast *et al.* 2015; Underhill *et al.* 2015].

In addition to the Sarmatian traditions, ethos and customs found in Polish manor houses, [Cynarski S. 1974], similarities between Scythian and Sarmatian design and the content (iconography, symbolism) of the coats of arms of some of the Polish nobility can be seen. Take for instance the Sas, Dołęga and Cynarski family coat of arms (coat of arms of the Sas variety [Cynarski S. 1980], or Dołęga, Figs. 1-3; Gothic mantling and peacock feathers with an arrow are the same as in the coat of arms of the Sas Family).

The motif of an arrow or horseshoe is used, which directly refers to the Scythian and Sarmatian tradition of horseback archery. The bow and arrow are distinguishing features of the military culture of these people. For example the motif of a horseshoe may be associated with participation in the Crusades, as in the case of warriors from the Sas family as depicted on their coat of arms (perhaps under the command of Prince Jaksa from Kopanica).

2. The winners

The Indo-Europeans scattered their genes over almost all of Europe and although they were usually a minority, they imposed their own language. This means that

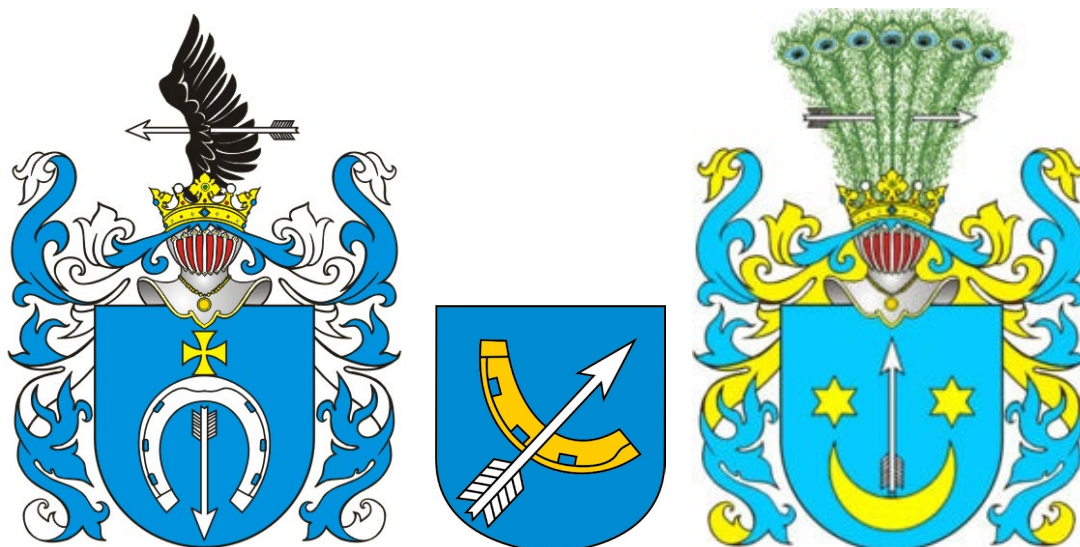


Fig. 1-3. Selected coats of arms of Polish nobility with an arrow motive.

they were a nation of winners. Among them were the Scythian warriors whom we can identify as the ancestors of the Slavs, either direct or indirect (own hypothesis).

The winners become the dominant class. But they did not always retain their own language (for example, the Proto-Bulgars in Bulgaria, the Mongols in China, the Visigoths in Spain). So in India, for the sake of distinctness, the Aryans created a caste system, while maintaining the highest caste – the aristocracy (Kshatriya) and priests (The Hindu Brahmins) – for themselves. Recent studies have shown that high caste is characterized by a very high frequency of the haplogroup R1a1, (in up to 72% of the population). ‘Aria’ means ‘noble’, because they were warriors who had already developed an axionormative system. The Hungarians ruled Slovakia (their fortified castles have been preserved) and the Swedes in Finland. After Germany defeated the Czech knighthood in 1620AD they replaced the Czech elite, and also Germanized the original Prussians and Jacwings, the Polabian Slavs and some Silesian people. A given population is not always able to preserve its own language.

Sarmatian legends among the Polish nobility may be supported by the early formation of a state by the Lekhian tribes. Sarmatian warriors may have played a leading role in this. However, the results of genetic tests have not so far shown that the haplogroups specific to the regions formerly inhabited by the Scythians occur more frequently in noble families in comparison to the rest of Polish society. The reason may be a lack of systemic social barriers, such as the caste system.

3. Defenders of Europe

Tolkien spoke (implicitly) about the warriors of Europe in his fantasy novels, especially in the “Lord of the Rings”.

He had none of our current knowledge [Eupedia.com/genetics 2014] but none-the-less particularly identified the Germanic peoples as the guardians of European civilization (European culture). In his historiosophy however, he gave Slavic names to some of his characters (Boromir, Faramir), which may be due to great poetic intuition. Tolkien posed the warriors of Europe (the West) in opposition to the barbarians from the east and south, referring to the battle on the Catalaunian Plains also known as the Battle of Chalons (June 20, 451 AD). There, in front of the Huns, stood the Ostrogoths and their allies, Roman legionaries, Visigoths and Alans [Todd Alfree, Cairns 2005: 205-211]. It was a battle fought in the name of goodness and freedom, homeland and civilization, inspired by the chivalric ethos. It was a reference to the heroic myths of the Indo-Europeans or Proto-Indo-Europeans. But the norms of valour have not only been developed by the tribes of the north (the Germans, the Celts), but have also been developed by other Indo-European peoples.

The Sarmatians were not able to defend themselves without support when they were invaded by the Huns. Previously, however, and for several centuries the Scythians had controlled the large border areas of Asia and Europe, from today’s Tajikistan to Central Europe. Later, the Poles as the descendants of the Scythians and Sarmatians, defended Europe and its civilizations several times against invaders from the south and east, especially in Vienna (1683) and in Warsaw (1920)³. The Polish nobility

³ These are deliberate mental shortcuts, applied for a foreign reader who does not know Polish history. Fighting against the Turks, and against Bolshevik Russia involved not only single battles, but the whole war campaigns. However, Warsaw and Vienna are here certain symbols.

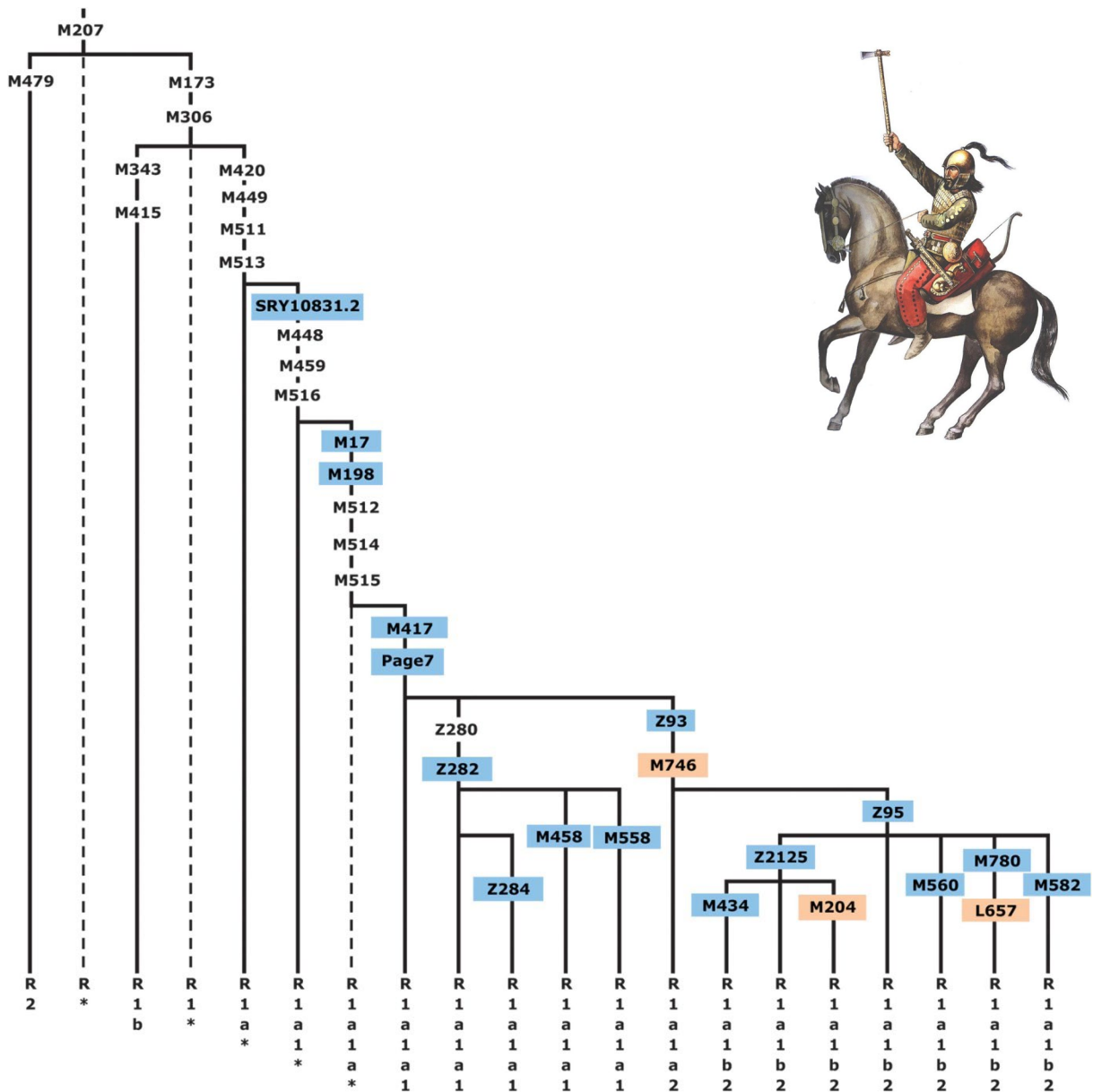


Fig. 4. Haplogroup R1a topology shown within the context of whole haplogroup R [Underhill *et al.* 2015]

in particular, intuitively finding themselves the valiant descendants of the Scythians, boasted about being the defenders of Christian Europe [Davies 1992].

To organize the facts and conclusions the authors cite this chronological summary – a calendar.

4. A calendar and discussion

A consensus has not yet been reached on the estimation the bifurcation of R1 into R1a and R1b: some Authors indicated the appearance of a mutation that led to the separation of R1a dates back about 33,000 years ago (using the Méndez-calibrated mutation rate [Mendez *et al.* 2013]), while the others suggested 25,000 years ago [Underhill *et al.* 2015] or even 22,000 years ago (according to A. Klyosov). Proto-Indo-Europeans appeared in

Europe in about 15,000 BCE, and Early Slavs (R1a1) came, perhaps from the Iranian plateau, to the North European Plain on the Balkan Peninsula in around 6000 BCE [Hellenthal *et al.* 2014; Fig. 2], and these two nations can to some extent be equated. Around c2800-2600⁴ BCE the Early Slavs settled in Central and Eastern Europe, between the Elbe and the Don. In about 1500 BCE the Aryans came to India (Fig. 4, Map 1).

Another line of Indo-Europeans, the Hittites – the vast majority of whom were most likely to carry haplogroup R1b – were known for their use of combat chariots and iron weapons (in the 17th century BCE, in

⁴ If we accept as a proof the discovery of the skeleton representatives of the Corded Ware culture of Eulau on the Elbe of haplotypes R1a1 (dated to that times) [Bialczynski 2010a].

bly the same people. We may call them Scythian-Slavic, or Proto-Slavs. They shared a language (the Iranian and Indian languages developed in Iran and India somewhat later) and common genes as well as the ethos of the Indo-European warrior-hero [cf. Dumezil 1968; Renfrew 1987: 250-262; Bialczynski 2010a]. If this is the case then the dating could well go back as far as the 25th century BCE (Map 1).

According to Zbigniew Golab the ancestors of the Poles inhabited the area between the Rivers Oder and Don from c700 BCE. Perhaps they were the “Scythian farmers” (also known as “ploughmen”, warriors who adopted a settled or domesticated lifestyle [cf. Davies 1992: 73]? This would have been between the 5th century BCE and the 5th century AD. According to Golab [2004: 166] the Proto-Slavs could have been the Budini, whom Herodotus mentioned as a nomadic tribe living in the forests and on the steppe between the Dnieper and Volga, the neighbours of the Scythians and Sarmatians. Despite a migratory lifestyle, they built wooden strongholds. They took part in the war against the Persian king Darius in c513 BCE as allies of the Scythians.

In the 1st century AD the land which is modern-day Poland and Ukraine was inhabited, according to the writings of the ancient authors such as: Strabon, Tacitus, Ptolemy, by “a large tribal confederation of the Lugii”. At that time the Slavs were identified with the Wends (Gothic historian Jordanes from 6th century AD and others) [Godlowski, Kozlowski 1983: 176-177]. Ptolemy Claudius [2nd century AD] associated the tribes of the Vistula river basin with Sarmatia. The same Greek geographer mentions Slavic-sounding names appearing in the area of Scythia: *Suowens* or *Suobens* and “Serbia”. On the other hand Cesarius of Nazianzus [writing in the 4th century AD] used the name: Sclaveni or Slavs.

However, other historians point to in the identification of the Lugii. “German archaeologists, who supported the method of cultivating the ethnic school of Gustav Kossina with a biased and chauvinistic attitude, saw on the relevant territories, during the late late-latenian and Roman periods, only Germanic populations and identified the *Przeworsk* culture with the Vandals, and the *Oksywie* culture with the Burgunds” [Godlowski, Kozlowski 1983: 179]. On the other hand, Polish archaeologists have demonstrated continuity of settlement of the Vistula and Oder river basins by Slav peoples [cf. Kostrzewski 1963; Hensel 1973].

Clearly, however by the 5th and 6th centuries AD we can start to talk about the Slavs (including the Cerniachovsk culture, Carpathian barrow culture). Could the Sarmatians have been retreating to a settled life? The Slavic Antes and Sclavenis first appear in the 6th century AD in the River Danube region [Godlowski, Kozlowski 1983: 181].

In the 6th century AD the Avars subordinated the Slavs and defeated a Germanic tribe of Gepids. In the

7th century the Slavs conquered the Balkan peninsula and the lands between the rivers Oder and Elbe The Lekhian tribes of the Veletis and Obotrites migrated furthest west. In summary the Western Slavs were probably descendants of the Sclavenis (and possibly, indirectly, of the Scythian and Sarmatian warriors?).

5. Race and genes

The following discussion relating primitive races and today’s Europeans may well appear politically incorrect. The Finno-Ugric nations and languages are of Asian origin (racially Mongoloid of Lappic type and characterised by haplogroups N1B and N1c). The Balts are the result of crossbreeding between the Slavic and Finno-Ugric peoples [Leszczynski 2014]. It is thus possible that the distinction between the Baltic and Slavic languages may stem from this.

The Vlachs and Moldovans are perhaps of Slavic origin and the Rusyn tribes (the Boykos, Lemkos and Transcarpathian Russians) can be derived from them. On the other hand the Dacca Slavs have undoubtedly influenced today’s Romanian genotype. Modern-day Turks (Turkey), Finns and Hungarians are genetically intermingled with Indo-Europeans. It is now only in Transylvanian villages where women with the historic Magyar appearance – brunette with slightly slanted eyes – can still be found

The Huns, Avars, Magyars and Turkish peoples and Khan Asparuh’s Proto-Bulgars came from the steppes of Asia to Europe. These Turkish Proto-Bulgars were slavified in Bulgaria while the Sarmatians-Slavs on the Pannonian Plain underwent magyarization.

Haplogroup R1a1 (separated as a consequence of the emergence of mutations M17) is still prevalent in large parts of Eurasia [cf. Chiaroni *et al.* 2009]. Today’s Poles and Ukrainians, Slovaks and Slovenes, Czechs and Slovaks, Croats and Macedonians, as well as the Hungarians and Norwegians are genetically closely related. The frequency of haplogroup R1a1a1, resulting from the M417 mutation about 5800 years ago [Underhill *et al.* 2015] is significantly higher in these groups than in other nations. In the case of Norwegians and Icelanders this may well be an ongoing effect of the previously-mentioned maritime expeditions undertaken by the “Polish Vikings”) or the remnants of a pre-Indo-European wave of settlers (Fig. 4, Map 1). As far as the other nations are concerned, their genetic origins are probably a remnant of their Scythian / Slavic ancestors. According to various studies the frequency of distribution of the entire haplogroup R1a (expressed in percentages) is as follows:

Residents of:

- Poland – 54–64
- Ukraine – 44–50
- Slovakia–44.2
- Latvia–41.5

- Lithuania–36.7
- Slovenia–36.5
- Russia–36-50
- Belarus–35.9
- CzechRepublic–31-35
- Estonia–30.9
- Moldova–29.8
- Norway–29.8 (or approx. 20 in some studies)
- Croatia–25.7 (or approx. 40 in some studies)
- Hungary–21.5 (or 41 in some studies)
- Iceland–20.9
- Romania–19.9
- Germany–16.8 (or 20 in some studies).

But even within the area of occurrence of these nationalities there are enclaves with significantly different frequencies of the haplogroups within haplogroup R1a, for example: Poles in Spisz – 73%, Sorbs in Lusatia – 51%-63%, the inhabitants of Russia east of Ukraine – 60%, Lemkos in Poland – 40% (this applies to part of haplogroup R1a1a1) [cf. Ploski *et al.* 2002; Barac *et al.* 2003; Luczak 2006; Gwozdz 2009; Underhill *et al.*

2009-2010, 2015; *European Group* 2012; Lapinski 2012; Rozanski 2012; Eupedia.com/genetics 2014; *Ethnic origins* 2014; R1a Project 2014].

Today Poles are one of the nationalities in which the haplogroups considered as characteristic for the Scythian tribes occur most frequently (due to holandric inheritance along with the Y chromosome passed in the male line), which is confirmed by the legends of the Polish nobility from the time of the First Republic of Poland [Guagnini 1578; Cynarski S. 1974]. Similarities between the national characters of Poles and Hungarians – a sense of dignity, honour and bravery and the sense of closeness between the two nations (solidarity for centuries) – may result from Andrzej Szyszko-Bohusz’s theory of genetic immortality [1996] and the presence of similar haplogroups in today’s populations who live in these countries. This is probably a consequence of crossing the Hungarians with Slavs.

The Greeks called the Slavs; the Romans knew them as Scythians, and then it was discovered that these people spoke the Iranian language. But according to research

Phylogenetic tree of Haplogroup R1a

(as of September 2013)

© Eupedia.com

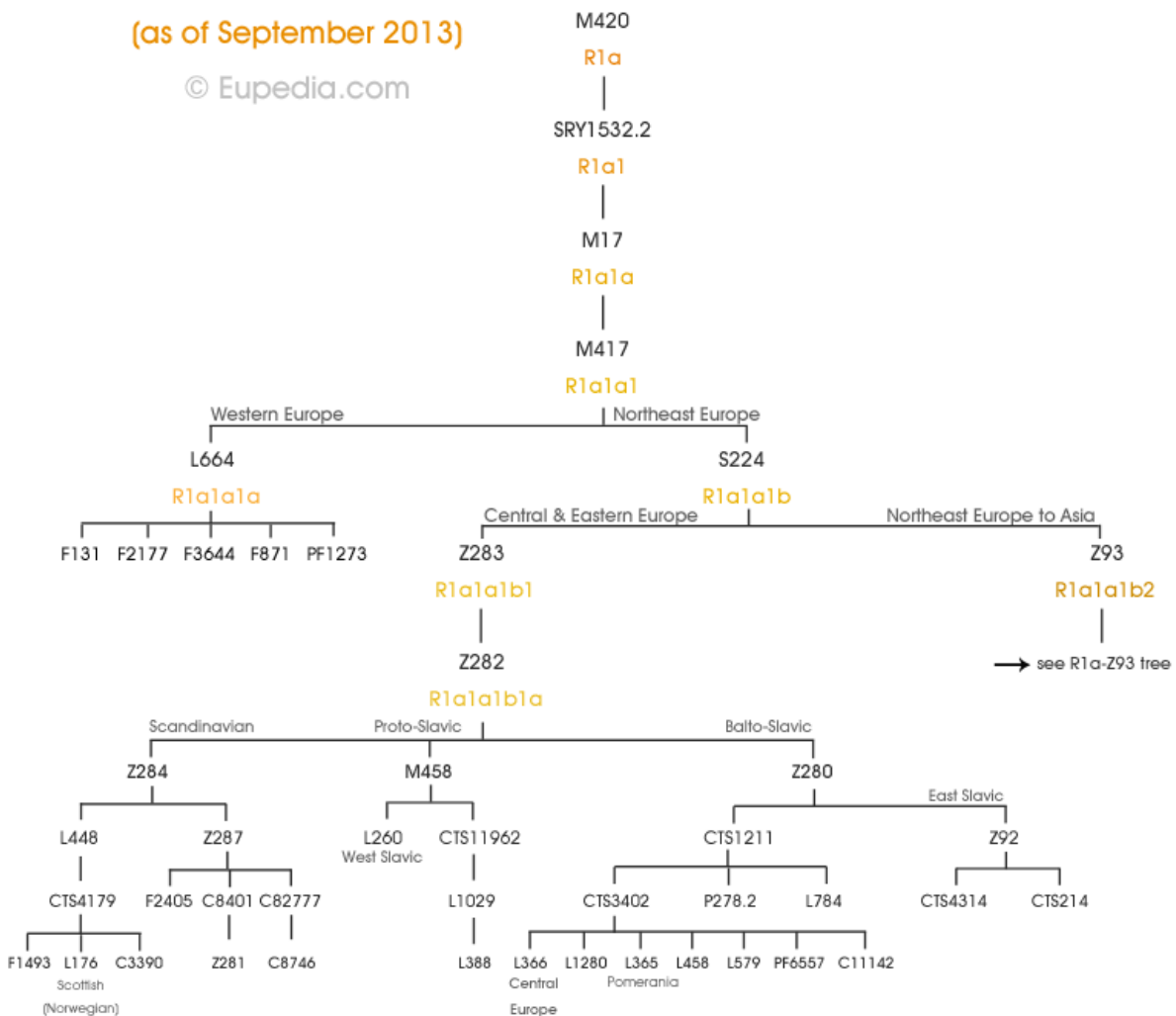


Fig. 5. Phylogenetic tree of Haplogroup R1a [Eupedia.com 2013].

from Scythian tombs these were still the same carriers of haplogroups R1a1 or R1a1a [cf. Bialczynski 2010b].

6. Summary and epilogue

The Scythians gave rise (genetically) to the Lechites (the sons of the legendary Lech, or Poles, or more generally the Western Slavs) and the Eastern Slavs, locating their settlements on the Rivers Danube, Vistula and Oder, and in present-day Ukraine. Over 10 consecutive centuries, from the 5th century BCE to the 5th century AD the descendants of the Scythians gave birth to modern-day Slavs. They came from a common proto Indo-European and Pre-Slavic genetic root just like the Aryans.

Among the first states of Western Slavs it is worth mentioning Great Moravia – in existence between 805 and 907 AD. It was the first state which united some of

the lands and tribes of the western Slavs, including the Principality of Nitra (the Slovaks) and the Principality of Vislans (today's *Małopolska*). Then the Czechs and the Moravians and the others were baptised and accepted faith according to the Slavic rite of the Old Church (Saints Cyril and Methodius). For example the Vislan Lechites (in Cracow and Wiślica) did the same in c880 AD.

6.1. Lekhites /Lechites tribes

The lack of genetic influence shows the autochtonicity of the Slavs in the lands between the Rivers Oder and Dnieper, the Baltic Sea and the Carpathian Mountains. Genetics also excludes the theories of the so-called Eastern origin of the Slavs. It is very likely that both the Wends / Wenets and Scythian Ploughmen were Slavs. Recently examined DNA extracted from ancient Scythian remains contains both the haplogroups in the



Map 2. Poland under the rule of King Boleslaw I the Brave [pl.wikipedia.org/wiki/Bolesław_I_Chrobry]

Y chromosome and a number of markers in autosomes characteristic of Slavic tribes, which indicates a very close biological relationship between the Scythians and Slavs [cf. Bialczynski 2010b].

Between the 6th and 9th centuries AD the upper reaches of the Elbe and Oder were occupied by the Sorbs, and the lower reaches by the Lekhitic Polabians (the Tollensians, Obodrites and Veleti). The Lord of the Obodrite tribe, Prince Niklot (1131-1160, defended his country and people their identity and physical existence to the end. However, even adopting Christianity, did not help him. He succumbed to pressure from the Germans, as a little later, did the Pomeranians: the people of Western Pomerania.

Partial unification of the Lekhitic tribes was achieved by Mieszko I, Prince of the Polans. He had 3,000 armoured mounted warriors. Ibrahim ibn Jakub described the Slavs as a people who liked war and were aggressive, who were fighting against the Byzantines, Franks, Lombards and other nations [Smith 1946; Davies 1992: 27-28]. Could this have been pre-determined by the genes of their pugnacious ancestors?

6.2 The Polish State

In the anthropological concept of the fighting human [Cynarski W.J. 2000] it stated that “Militant Polans united Polish lands and were able to resist German expansion. Valour and the virtue of courage were the basis for the notions of honour and dignity, and entire systems of ethics and noble codes of behaviour. Military cultures developed the principles of discipline and obedience, standards of morality and idealism of aspirations”.

Norman Davies shows the Polish lands from Western Pomerania and Lusatia in the west to Smolensk and Zaporozhye in the east; from Inflanty in the north, to Moldova and the Black Sea coast in the south [Davies 1992: 26]. He distinguishes, among others, Red Ruthenia (Ruthenia Rubra), with its main city of Lviv, and ethnically as the land of the Lechites, which was Ruthenised partly due to the Orthodox Church. Ukraine was further to the east lying on both banks of the central River Dnieper (the provinces of Kiev, Braclaw and Chernigov) [Davies 1992: 59-60, 129]. King Boleslaw I the Brave (967-1025), united the lands from the towns of Lusatia to Cherven. He became king of Poland, and for some time (between 1003 and 1004) he was also ruler of the Czech Republic. Map 2 shows Poland, and most of the of Western Slav tribes at that time.

Some of the knights from the lands between the Oder and Elbe River such as prince Jaxa of Kopanica, became Poles by choice. The Polish coat of arms of the Dolega family may also come from the Tollensian tribe. By contrast, the Scandinavian influence in Poland and of the Polish in Sweden or Norway was bi-lateral, but probably inconclusive. In the Germanic peoples and languages

developed on the principle of mixing non-Indo-European and Celtic elements, with some additional Slavic elements [Eupedia 2014].

The Kingdom of Bohemia referred to the heritage of Great Moravia. Prince Vratislav II (1032-1092) became the first king of the Czech Republic in the year 1085. At that time the rulers of the Czech Republic competed with the Polish kings over the dominant position among the Western Slavs. The first historical ruler of Poland, Mieszko, was baptized (in 966) by the Czechs. Much later, however, The Czech Republic came under the sphere of German influence, and after the Battle of White Mountain (actually lost its, Czech, aristocracy at the same time as the Polish state was in the throes of disintegration. Some 4 centuries earlier in 1241, and despite losing the battle of Legnica, the Polish had stopped an invasion by the Mongols, also known as the Tartars, who subsequently withdrew from Legnica. Poland later became a European superpower, especially after the union with the Grand Duchy of Lithuania and their common defeat of the aggressive State of the Teutonic Knights (Grunwald 1410). Poland had by then perfected martial arts, especially the technique and tactics of cavalry and fencing.

Fortunately, thanks to a group of enthusiasts (Michal Starzewski, Wojciech Zablocki, Zbigniew Sawicki and others), this historic Polish martial art has survived to this day [Cynarski W.J. 2008b, 2009; Sawicki 2011, 2014] and is trying to compete with Asian martial arts [cf. Draeger, Smith 1980; Takagi 1984; Sikora 2010].

Conclusions

The theses of the authors confirm that:

1. A genealogy derived on the basis of the presence of particular haplogroups in the Y chromosome shows a lack of foreign genetic influences, suggesting autochtonicity of the Slavs in the lands between the Rivers Oder and Dnieper, the Baltic Sea and the Carpathian Mountains. The original Scythians were probably carriers of haplogroup R1a and its most widely represented subgroups R1a1a1b2 (created as a result of mutation F992/S202/Z93) and R1a1a1 (arising from the emergence of the mutation M417). However, on the Baltic Sea 40% of Lithuanians and Latvians have R1a and another 40% have N1c1, while Carpathian Mountains inhabitants carry R1a, I2a, J2, E11b and another haplogroups.
2. The direct or indirect descendants of the pre-Scythians i.e. Slavs, (the peoples who may have been known as the Slavs) are specifically the Poles (characterized by the highest concentration of haplogroup R1a1a1b1a1 haplogroup (M458/PF6241)) and other Western Slavs (today's Sorbs and Slovaks).
3. Language similarities exist: the languages of the Aryans and the original Scythians were closely related to the Slavic languages, as pre-Slavic languages.

4. Additional evidence or clues may be found in similarities between the iconography of the coats of arms of the Polish nobility and Scythian ornamentation. In particular, the Sarmatians gave some patterns of military culture.

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Prasłowiański wojownik w Europie. Scytowie, Sarmaci i Lechici

Słowa kluczowe: genealogia, genetyka, Prasłowianie, wojownik scytyjski, Sarmata, Słowianin

Abstrakt

Perspektywę dla badań daje antropologia sztuk walki w ujęciu transdyscyplinarnym. Sprawdzenie hipotez i logiczne uzasadnienie stwierdzeń wyjaśniających zostało poparte wynikami badań z zakresu genetyki, językoznawstwa, antropologii kul-

turowej, historii powszechnej starożytnej i średniowiecznej, oraz hoplogologii.

Cel. Autorzy stawiają pytania o Prasłowian, Scytów i Sarmatów, o ich sztukę wojenną oraz ich relacje do dzisiejszych Lechitów. Stawiają hipotezę: Jeżeli Scytowie, Ariowie i Słowianie wyszli z jednego genetycznego pnia (nosicieli R1a1), to dzisiejsi Słowianie, zwłaszcza Zachodni i Wschodni, są ich potomkami, a pokrewieństwo nie ogranicza się do jedynie biologicznego. Wyniki poszukiwań. Scytowie i Sarmaci (prawdopodobni nosiciele haplogrupy R1a1) wnieśli wielki wkład w rozwój sztuki wojennej. Dotyczy to zwłaszcza użycia jazdy konnej i taktycznego wykorzystania konnicy, oraz łucznictwa. Ich etos wojowników został zachowany w legendach, symbolice i tradycji polskiej (lechickiej) szlachty. Pozostały też geny, świadczące o obecności przodków Słowian w Europie środkowej od ok. 2700 BC.

Języki Ariów i Scytów były blisko pokrewne do języków słowiańskich, jako prasłowiańskie. Dodatkowym dowodem pokrewieństwa może być podobieństwo ikonografii polskich herbów szlacheckich do ornamentyki scytyjskiej.

Wnioski. Genealogia wyprowadzona na podstawie obecności poszczególnych haplogrup w chromosomie Y wskazuje na brak obcych wpływów genetycznych, co sugeruje autochtoniczność Słowian na ziemiach między Odrą a Dnieprem, Bałtykiem a Karpatami. Pierwotni Scytowie byli prawdopodobnie nosicielami haplogrupy R1a, z najczęściej reprezentowanymi podgrupami R1a1a2 (powstała w konsekwencji mutacji Z93) i R1a1a1 (powstała w rezultacie pojawienia się mutacji M417). Bezpośredni lub pośredni potomkowie pierwotnych Scytów i Sarmatów, czyli Prasłowian (określenie umowne), to zwłaszcza Polacy (charakteryzujący się największą koncentracją haplogrupy R1a1a1) i inni Słowianie Zachodni (dzisiejsi Łużycanie, Słowacy).