

# **UNRESOLVED KEY PROBLEMS WITH RESPECT TO EUROPEAN ETHNOGENESIS AND CULTURAL DIFFUSION**

by Dr. Horst Friedrich

## Summary

It is shown, by means of 25 randomly selected examples, that the ethno-linguistic and cultural genesis of Europe's civilization is still, in many multifaceted aspects, far from being transparently clear and well understood.

## The Chinese seals of Ireland

Up to now we have no really convincing explanation, why so many ancient Chinese seals have been found on the Green Island in many locations, e.g. in woods, bogs, and a river bed. In 1852 already about 60 of them had been found, and many of them are still in custody of the Irish National Museum in Dublin (1).

## Why do we not find any "Aborigines" in Europe?

In Greater South East Asia, on the African continent and in South America: in many places on the planet we do find surviving remnants of a former homo sapiens era respectively population, living among the more modern ethnic majority. Nothing of the kind can be found in the oral traditions. Do we perhaps have, on the European continent, only "recently" arrived "newcomers"? For Joseph Prestwich (1874-1888 professor of geology in Oxford, and one of the greatest British Quaternary scholars) it has been obvious that the western part of the European continent, "at the end of the Ice Age" (which today is dated to about 8.000 BC), has been overwhelmed by giant super-tsunamis (2). Did they drown the pre-Magdalenien population of at least Western Europe? (3).

## Bavarian Ethnogenesis

As described in my little book on the ethnogenesis of the Bavarians ("Baiern"), possibly the most interesting German / Germanic tribal confederation of the Middle Ages (5), we are only now beginning to realize that we may have here a real textbook case for a multiple, multifaceted nation-building process with ethnic and cultural diffusionist ingredients from many directions, and over great distances.

## Ashkenazi Jewish origins

As also mentioned in my above book on Bavarian ethnogenesis, Yiddish, the language of the Eastern European Ashkenazi Jews, is one of the oldest dialects of (Old) High German, and

closely related to the Bavarian dialect. According to Arthur Koestler (6), the Ashkenazi Jews are definitely not of Sephardic (i.e. Iberian / Mediterranean Jewish) extraction. Their history and their real origins are as yet not really well understood/researched, though there may exist a connection with the Babylonian exile and to Assyrian deportations from Palestine as far to the East as Kashmir / Afghanistan.

### Ancient Egypt, Europe, and the "Sea Peoples"

During the time of pharaohs Merenptah and Ramses III, certainly rather well organized "Sea Peoples" tried repeatedly to invade Ancient Egypt (7). In a former issue of MIGRATION AND DIFFUSION (8) I have tried to show, by means of a rather complicated but easily understandable diagram, in how manifold ways these well-organized invaders of Ancient Egypt seem to be interrelated with other tantalizing problems, e.g. the real cultural status of Europe during those times, its seafaring and nautical capabilities, and its contacts with distant cultures.

### Christianization of Europe

On serious analysis the process of the Christianization of Europe seems as yet far from clear. Obviously we have here a most thought provoking, but deliberately shunned example of a multiple process of cultural diffusion via many routes. Kaltenstadler (9) e.g. mentions the problem, in how far "Jewish" and "Christian" may have overlapped in certain regions (Maghreb, Iberia etc.) during the first centuries AD. Then there is the problem of the Irish (Culdee) Church, which had such a great influence on the Christianization of Europe. Not to forget the eagerly proselytizing Nestorian Church and the Manichaean influences. Certain extra-Establishment scholars are even of the opinion that the Church of Rome may be a rather late development, having nothing to do with any first-generation direct disciples / apostles of Jesus (10).

### Problem of Western European Megalithic culture

There are weighty, still underresearched problems connected with the ancient, pre-Celtic Megalithic culture of Western Europe. Meier & Zschweigert have enlarged on them in a masterly manner (11). Judging from the nature of its thought-provoking remains, and its geographical extent, it obviously must have been a mighty and rather advanced civilization, its population more civilized and intellectually advanced than the later Celts and Germanic tribal confederation. Why this cultural decline? Is Spanuth (12) right in assuming that the Megalithic culture has been annihilated by some great natural calamity, possibly a comet impact?

### Problems of ancient European "souterrains"

These "souterrains" are underground chambers and passages, which have been discovered over a wide area of Central Europe. Their age and exact purpose are unknown. The passages are so narrow and the chambers of so small dimensions that they seem scarcely fit for normal homo sapiens humans. As yet they seem underresearched, little is known if similar "souterrains" exist in other regions or on other continents (13).

### The problem of the "Indo-European" and of the alleged "Aryan Invasion of India"

Quite obviously the alleged Aryan Invasion of India is not the product of any serious scholarship, but an ideological scientific myth. The concept of an alleged "Indo-European language family" is probably wrong. It may be that the so-called Indo-European languages are quite simply creole languages as the result of the overlaying of a possibly charismatic, colonizing ethno-linguistic superstratum from India, arriving by sea around Africa, over an indigenous, older European substrate (14).

### The role of "geomancy" in Europe

"Geomancy" (in China: "Feng Shui"), the art of siting and orientation of sacred buildings or monuments according to the "earth energies" of the place, seems to have been somehow transferred from the East, especially China, be it by land or sea. A typical example of cultural diffusion. The Megalithic culture of Western Europe seems to have used it, and the later Christian church has obviously made use of it over centuries, the tradition ending only as late as the French Revolution. As yet we can only speculate over the route and the circumstances of this transfusion (15).

### An ancient European culture of "Great Sculptures"

Elisabeth Neumann-Gundrum (16) has published a monumental volume about the obvious, but still little known, fact that somewhere in Europe's past - perhaps contemporaneous with the Megalithic culture, or even earlier - a spiritually advanced culture has been busy in Central Europe, sculpturing natural rock formations into meaningful "mega-sculptures". The present author knows of only one other example worldwide of similar "Great sculptures", to wit on the Marcahuasi plateau in Peru (17).

### Cultural affinities between ancient Cyprus and Peru

Ancient Cyprus, on the one hand, has quite obviously always been part of the culture of ancient Greece. On the other hand, how come certain ancient pottery from Cyprus is most similar to certain ancient pottery from Peru? There must, by necessity, be an explanation in the diffusionist context. As late as the Age of the Baroque, European scholars were convinced that the Phoenicians navigated all over the globe to distant coasts.

### Problem of great natural cataclysms

Great transgressions of the sea have always been a problem in the northern European lowlands (18). From the "Sea Peoples" accounts of Ramses III it may be inferred that these transgressions may have been of a cataclysmic nature (19). Hesitatingly great natural cataclysms have begun to become a legitimate subject of discussion within the Establishment (though not among the still anti-catastrophic mainstream). The Tollmanns' great work about a cometary impact ca. 8000 BC (20) causing the Deluge and the destruction of the legendary Atlantis has opened many eyes. There are lively discussions about a cometary impact in the

Chiemsee/Salzburg area during late Celtic/early Roman times. It seems that Europe's prehistory cannot be understood without taking these possibilities into consideration.

### Origin of the Alphabet

Mainstream opinion has it that our letter alphabet originated in the Near East and from there spread to the Mediterranean and Europe. Today we have to regard this thesis with distrust. There are good reasons to suspect that the true origin of our letter alphabet has to be looked for in the Ibero-Atlantic coastal regions of Europe, and that this alphabet only later spread to Mediterranean regions and the Near East (21). The "Celtic" Ogham alphabet, of which traces have also been found in distant countries, respectively on distant coasts, is a separate matter.

### Magdalenien culture originating from South America?

According to Homet (22), in the Brazilian part of the Guayana highlands he found cultural remains identically alike the remains of the European Magdalenien culture. He dated them earlier, however, than their European counterparts. This fits well with the proposal of de Sarre (23), who thinks that the Magdalenians arrived in Western Europe by sea, possibly via the Maghreb.

### "Atlantology" becomes a serious field of research

Though the orthodox mainstream was not amused, with the publication of the Tollmann's above mentioned book it dawned upon many open-minded researchers that a late-prehistoric mini-continent, perhaps somewhere about the Azores, and annihilated circa 8.000 BC by a cometary impact, might after all not be such a "pseudoscientific" proposal after all.

### Solomon's kingdom and Temple in Andalusia?

According to Touchet (25) there are good reasons to suppose that Solomon's kingdom has to be looked for in Andalusia, and that the legendary Solomonic Temple stood at the place where now is the Alhambra of Grenada stands. This fits well with the tradition of the Sephardic Jews of northern Spain, to wit that they had always lived on the Iberian peninsula, and did never originate from distant Palestine.

### Vennemann's scenario of Europe's linguistic prehistory

I have described Vennemann's most convincing view on the diffusionistic genesis of all European languages elsewhere in *MIGRATION & DIFFUSION* (26). May I state here only that his proposals will have to be taken absolutely serious, and that they will truly revolutionize our understanding especially with respect that ancient "Atlanto-Semitic" civilization on both sides of the Strait of Gibraltar, and along the Atlantic seaboard of Europe. More on his "Vasconians" in a moment.

### True history and origin of the Phoenicians

In Vennemann's scenario, that region on both sides of the Strait of Gibraltar will also have to be regarded as the original center of dispersion of the Hamito-Semitic "race" and language family, and it will also have to be seen as the original home of the (Proto-)Phoenicians. This ancient civilization was par excellence a seafaring one, with possibly worldwide maritime commercial activities, and seems to have been one, of two, "mother nations" of Europe.

### The "Vasconians"

The other "mother nation" in the Vennemann scenario, are the "Vasconians", which he has named after their remnant, the Basques. Vennemann is of the opinion that "following the receding ice" (or perhaps after natural cataclysms?) after of the so-called "End of the Ice Age" (ca. 8.000 BC) they settled all of Europe as far as Lithuania. Therefore Vennemann find everywhere in European countries "Vasconian" toponyms (names of towns, rivers, mountains). Most interestingly, Albrecht Wirth (27) has found similar toponyms in the Maghreb (Morocco, Algeria).

### Diffusionistic past of Ireland

According to legendary traditions of Ireland, the "Green Island" has seen a considerable number of diffusionistic, colonizing arrivals, necessarily by sea, from faraway coasts. It has become necessary to begin to take those traditions seriously into consideration.

### Possibly cataclysmic late prehistory of the Mediterranean

According to de Sarre (28) the Mediterranean, and especially the western Mediterranean and the region around the Strait of Gibraltar, may have experienced repeated late prehistoric upheavals of nature, probably of a tectonic nature, with at times even two straits (one through Andalusia), and at other times a broad land bridge instead of the strait for a rather long time. These discoveries cannot be without consequences for diffusionistic considerations.

### Where are the seaports of the Megalithic civilization?

In view of the above remarks about the Vennemann scenario, we will have to ask, in all seriousness, the legitimate question: Where are the seaports, possibly fortified towns or cities (like e.g. Cadiz of the Phoenicians) of the Western European Megalithic Civilization, which must have existed along the (then!) Atlantic seabord of Europe? Partly they may perhaps have continued to exist as the later Celtic harbour towns of the time of Caesar, and where probably destroyed by the Romans. But the Atlantic seabord may have been changed considerably by cataclysmic / tectonic disturbances. Perhaps it would be a good idea to look after such remains under water, at some distance from the present coasts of Portugal, France and the British Isles.

### Cairnlike / pyramidlike structures in Central Europe and Bosnia

Rather unexpectedly, giant prehistoric cairnlike structures have recently been localized in

S/W-Germany (29), respectively pyramidlike "hills" in Bosnia (30). Both kinds of structures obviously belong at least to the Megalithic age and seem to speak for a rather advanced European culture during that age.

#### Inferences to be drawn from the above items

My readers will probably have noticed that many of the above 25 items are overlapping to a certain degree. This is no great miracle and results from the fact that they are interrelated. It follows as a logical consequence that they will have to be looked at and studied, not only item per item in the specific details, but also in their entirety. I have arrived at the qualified opinion that the above 25 items are sufficient to allow the statement: our conventional view on the ethno-linguistic and cultural genesis of Europe's civilization needs a complete overhaul!

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