'चेत्'छाट'र्का'(दहर'द्वीट

deconstruction and reconstruction: foundations for the early history of Ladakh (and Baltistan)

Bettina Zeisler (Germany)

#### o 至資了 Introduction

#### o 产資丁 Introduction

निप्ते से क्षेत्र क्ष

From a modern 'western' perspective all histories are narratives (constructed for certain purposes). Without independent witnesses these narratives are not much more than pleasant fairy tales.

ने सित' श्रम् । प्रवाद विष्य । प्रवाद । प्रवाद । प्रवाद । स्याद । स्य

Whatever part of the narration is without witness, has to be 'deconstructed', like an old house.

Whatever can be proven by a witness can be reused to 'reconstruct' history, like a new house.

#### ៗ ក្នុងកុរម័យ្យ What witnesses?

र प्राचित्र What witnesses?

- प क्षेत्रायान्त्रम्यास्य द्यायान्त्रम्यापत्र त्यायान्त्रम्यापत्र वार्
- 1. Rājataraṅgiṇī (retrospective, 12<sup>th</sup> century CE)
- 2. Chinese/Korean pilgrims' accounts (7th-8th c. CE)
- Sanskrit literary sources (1<sup>st</sup> 6<sup>th</sup> century CE)
- 4. Greek georgraphical sources (2<sup>nd</sup> c. BCE 3<sup>rd</sup> c. CE)
- 5. Architectonical remains and rock art (~1st mil. BCE)

- न प्राप्त स्थानिक What witnesses?
- २ कु'वग'न्न'र्गे'रेतव'वे'गवयाअहयानयाभूनापव'र्गे'
- 3 5151
- ५ र्षेत्रायाम्डेग्रायाम् प्राप्त र्यायम् दियागाम् र्यापत्र विपरे र
- 1. Rājataraṅgiṇī (retrospective, 12<sup>th</sup> century CE)
- 2. Chinese/Korean pilgrims' accounts (7th-8th c. CE)
- 3. Sanskrit literary sources (1st 6th century CE)
- 4. Greek georgraphical sources (2<sup>nd</sup> c. BCE 3<sup>rd</sup> c. CE)
- 5. Architectonical remains and rock art (~1st mil. BCE)

- र प्राच्या What witnesses?
- १ पिःदुयायोः सं कुषा
- २ कुंवण'न्न'र्गे'रेतव'वे'णव्यास्याप्याप्रम्पाप्य'र्गे
- प र्षेत्रयान्हिग्राष्ट्रत्यायम् देशयान्त्रात्व दे दे दे
- 1. Rājataraṅgiṇī (retrospective, 12th century CE)
- 2. Chinese/Korean pilgrims' accounts (7th-8th c. CE)
- 3. Sanskrit literary sources (1st 6th century CE)
- 4. Greek georgraphical sources (2<sup>nd</sup> c. BCE 3<sup>rd</sup> c. CE)
- 5. Architectonical remains and rock art (~1st mil. BCE)

- २ कु'वग'न्न'र्गे'रेतव'वे'गवम'सहयानमाम्नापव'र्गे
- ८ यानावितामान्यान्याप्रवापा
- 4 29 4 454 4 49 4 45 5 3 4 4 1 4 1 4 1 4 9 9 1
- 1. Rājataraṅgiṇī (retrospective, 12<sup>th</sup> century CE)
- 2. Chinese/Korean pilgrims' accounts (7th-8th c. CE)
- 3. Sanskrit literary sources (1st 6th century CE)
- 4. Greek georgraphical sources (2<sup>nd</sup> c. BCE 3<sup>rd</sup> c. CE)
- 5. Architectonical remains and rock art (~1st mil. BCE)

### र प्राच्याकेल्य शिक्त What witnesses?

- १ पिः दुवा वो वो कुषा
- २ कुंवण'न्न'र्गे'रेवव'वे'णव्यायहायप्राप्य भून्।पव'र्गे'
- य रावाशी न योगारा प्रमुप्ता या पृष्ट्वा र न प्रमुप्त र प्रमुप्त र
- ८ याचान्तरेषान्याः नेषापन्या
- प र्थेन या परिवाधापन में या पर्मे या पर्मे या पनिवादी में रिवाधापन स्थापन स्यापन स्थापन स्थाप
- 1. Rājataranginī (retrospective, 12th century CE)
- 2. Chinese/Korean pilgrims' accounts (7th-8th c. CE)
- 3. Sanskrit literary sources (1st 6th century CE)
- 4. Greek georgraphical sources (2<sup>nd</sup> c. BCE 3<sup>rd</sup> c. CE)
- 5. Architectonical remains and rock art ( $\sim 1^{st}$  mil. BCE)

### 1 प्राच्यां स्ट्रां What witnesses?

- १ पिःरुवाः वाः वाः कुराः
- २ कु'वग'न्न'र्गे'रेतव'वे'गवम'सहय'नम'स्न्'पव'र्गे'
- ८ यानावितामान्यान्याप्रवापा
- ५ ईव्यायान्हेग्राप्तवार्यायमार्देवायान्त्रेयायम्भेयापवार्वार्यायम्
- 1. Rājataranginī (retrospective, 12th century CE)
- 2. Chinese/Korean pilgrims' accounts (7th-8th c. CE)
- 3. Sanskrit literary sources (1st 6th century CE)
- 4. Greek georgraphical sources (2<sup>nd</sup> c. BCE 3<sup>rd</sup> c. CE)
- 5. Architectonical remains and rock art ( $\sim 1^{st}$  mil. BCE)

# र्थों अप्ताप्ता प्रमाण प्रम प्रमाण प

## र्गे'अ'र्द्र' प्राचार्य द्वारा प्राचित दें 'सु'प्रेच्य Who were the early inhabitants?

Mon ăia	?
Tibetans Zara	?
Dards 5'5'5' or stally dra	?
Bhautta Frd. High gra grave gur	?
Goldrace 可知识的 其可可可知 Womens' Dominion 女國 (Nüguo) 2月15日	?

## र्भे अप्राप्त प्राप्त प्र प्राप्त प्राप्त प्त प्र प्राप्त प्राप्त प्राप्त प्र प्राप्त प्र प्राप्त प्र प्र प्त

Mon šia;	?
Tibetans 55'5'	?
Dards 5'3'5' or săgrai die	?
Bhautta Frd. A. High grant gur	?
Goldrace 可知识的 女國 (Nüguo) Vomens' Dominion 女國 (Nüguo) 2月15日	?

# र्गे'अ'र्द्रम्थ'र्द्यायायद्रम्याप्त्र दें'सु'पेत्र Who were the early inhabitants?

Mon šia;	?
Tibetans 📆 T'Z'	?
Dards 5'5'5' or asquiri GRG	?
Bhautta France Huna gran gur	?
Goldrace 可利式式可以 Javial Nüguo) Vomens' Dominion 女國 (Nüguo) 2月15日	?

## र्गे'अ'र्द्र'या प्रमाण प्रम प्रमाण प

Mon šia.	?
Tibetans 55'5'	?
Dards 5'र्'र or दर्गारा दरद	?
Bhautta हैं तर्त भोड Hūṇa हुर ह्ण	?
Goldrace 可能工法可能 Jana Jana Womens' Dominion 女國 (Nüguo) 2利打5य	?

# र्गे'अ'र्द्रम्थ'द्रम्थ'यद्रम्थ'यद्रम्थ'यद्रम्थेद्र

Mon क्रंक	?
Tibetans \(\tilde{\tau}\)	?
Dards 5'रू'र्5' or दुईवारा' दरद	?
Bhautta 對了了。	?
Goldrace गुरार रेग्रा सुवर्णगात्र	
Womens' Dominion 女國 (Nüguo)	?
१त्रीराज्य	

# र्गे'अ'र्द्रम्थ'र्द्यायायद्रम्याप्त्र र्गे'सु'पेत्र Who were the early inhabitants?

?
•
?
?
?

#### २.७ व्यवः Mon

७७७ कॅब्र Mon

= Men Of No-name
Men Of No-where

='Not Us'

1.7 क्वं Mon

or perhaps: DMS

=८'ठ'५'बे८'येव'

Mon aja	?
Tibetans \(\tilde{\tau}\)	?
Dards 5'रू'र्5' or दुईवारा दरद	?
Bhautta 對了了。	?
Goldrace 可利式式可利 安國 (Nüguo) 2月115य	?

Mon šia.	
Tibetans 55'5'	?
Dards 5'र्'5' or दुर्च्या'रा' दरद	?
Bhautta क्रिंत्त. भोंड Hūṇa हुंह. ह्ण	?
Goldrace 可能式表面的 共國 (Nüguo)	?

#### 3.7 757 Tibetans

#### १११ वित्राप्त Tibetans

न्नित्रियते के क्षेत्र पते में अते में प्रेंप र्रेंप र्रेंप पहन क्ष्य रेंदि क्ष में प्रेंप को वे विष विटाचेराववावीय्यायाप्तार्या अस्या याप्यायार्भेरायारा विटाव् दे।प्रवाष्ट्रवाध्यद्भार्भित्यंत्राध्यवाध्यद्भार्भित्यम्। श्रीट्रप्तस्वाभ्रम्भार्भित्रभा रेट्यासे क्रिंव यार्चेट्रायाट्यायाया होटा हो तट्याया हे यटा ख्या हो শ্রেত্রাত্রা According to Tibetan historical accounts the 'kingdom' of Žanžun, either comprising Upper Ladakh or lying in between Tibet and Upper Ladakh was overthrown and conquered by Srongbrtsan Sgampo in the middle of the 7th century. Only then (or perhaps even much later) could

the Tibetans have immigrated and settled in larger numbers.

गें दित वे पेंप्त्यापव वे यावया अह्या पार्च केंप्र कुर हुव र केव वेंप्र होप यशादिव वेंगा। नितं वर्ष वे विवार्केश रितं या नुग्रामा से प्राया में राया व पर केंत्र हैं। धुल में वे प्यम में माने स्वर्भ में में में में विषय में किया में किय र्देग्राम्य मृत्रे ने रापव वे के तर्या या राग्या में। में रापित सार तरी के में र्से से दिव गुग्यों रु ने सापव से दि से से पाम विमाने से पिन्या प्रव के के। यह के बिया के के (Persians) देव दर्शे॥

The Korean pilgrim Hyecho, who passed through Chilas and Gilgit (Greater and Lesser Bolor) around 730 CE, speaks of Ladakh-Žaŋžuŋ (Yangtong) as being populated by the same people as Bolor, namely by Hu, Central Asian people in general, or more specifically Iranians, clearly different from the Tibetans further east.

Mon šia;	
Tibetans 55'5'	?
Dards 5'रु'र्5' or दुर्श्यार्यः दरद	?
Bhautta 對一一一	?
Goldrace 可能式流河町 男母中间 Womens' Dominion 女國 (Nüguo) 9 割ている	?

Mon šia;	
Tibetans 55'5'	
Dards 5'रू'र्5' or दुर्श्यार्यः दरद	?
Bhautta 對了了。	?
Goldrace 可利式で表面で、現在では可え Womens' Dominion 女國 (Nüguo) 名記でも	?

#### 

5'र'५'यद'वर्ड्या'रा Dards दरद चग्रिविन्दे निर्देश्यायाचेराववाविष्ठे से हुते हिंदा से दिन्द तर्गागराये। रगायाराहरार्छरास्त्र सेहूति। स्राम्याम्याही। रोगौ'यम्'य'र्थेद्'मेर्यापायद्। यद्पाया द्रार्र्येद्रायायद्रार्थे ८८.ज.ट्याया.क्रुंट.ज.उट्यायायायाया

The ancient Sanskrit term *Darada* referred to tribes settling along the "upper" Indus. Greek sources also locate the Darada near the source of the Indus. Since the Indus originates near Mt. Kailash, many have taken this as a prove for the early presence of Dards in Ladakh.

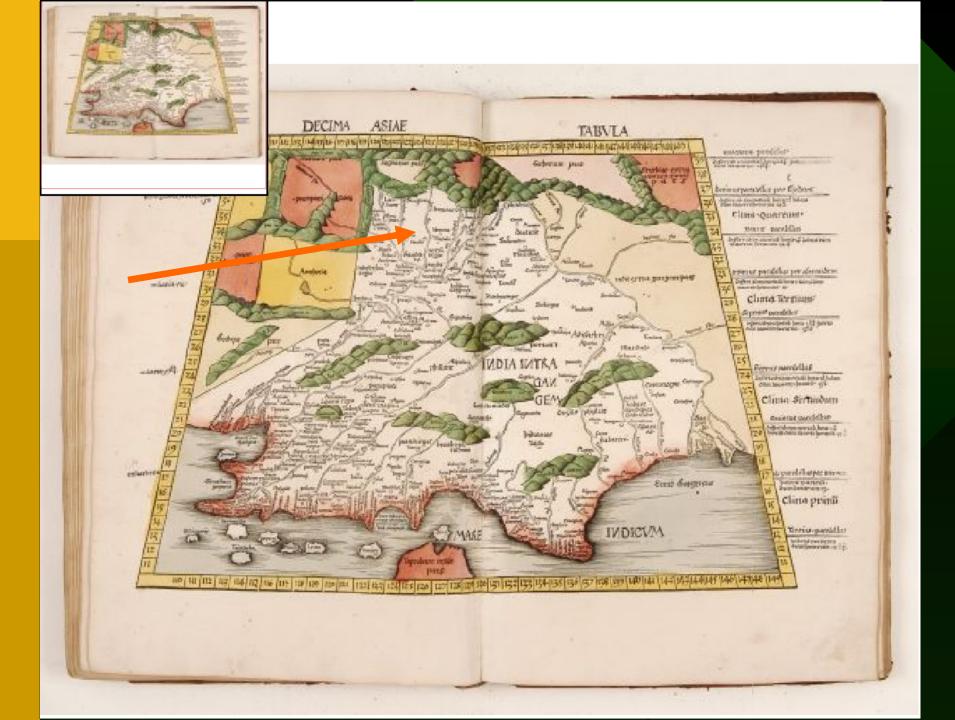
यद्रात्ति स्ट्रिंट, क्रिंट, स्ट्रिंट, सिट्य, ताय, यु, तीया, या, यु, यी स्व, या, यो स्व, यो स्

However, nobody seems to have payed attention that a so-called "Upper Indus Valley" is to be found ...

... in present-day Pakistan! Quite obviously, the ancient people as well as the geographers either did not know the true upper course at all, or they simply did not count it as the source of the Indus.











प्यास्त्राचित्राचे स्थानित्राचे स्थानित्राच

The migration of the Minaro from Gilgit to Baltistan, Purig, and Lower Ladakh cannot have taken place before the 15th century. This becomes evident from, among others, the Purig genealogies.

So it seems that there is no evidence for an earlier presence of Dards in Ladakh.

यव वैगा प्यान्यप्राप्य प्यान्य वारायान्य प्राप्त क्षेत्र वारा से विस्रा हिन्दी । श्रमाने विवार्वेगा। धेरावा वें मराया नवा वे हिंदाया कै विवार्या प्यान्मान्यामे मुन्दर्द्वया। देवे देव द्वा हिंदर्ने अद्या है देवे यदायान्यक्षित्रं से स्वाप्ति के साम्य र्द्यापायेयापव पें वे प्रम्पं रेवारा है। हो स्वा अप पें रे हें व या 

However, some Dardic customs are still preserved in Ladakh, e.g. the *bagatam* rite, whose original meaning is now completely lost. This and the fact that the rite spread farther then the above mentioned migration, namely up to Hemis, indicates that it must be much older than the said migration.

What we do not know about the people who transmitted this rite, however, is: who exactly were they, when did they come, how long and how far upwards did they settle.

अठ्ठ वे के चेंद्र पदे कर हैं व याय द्वाराय द्वाराय देवा पव चेंदे चेदा द्वारा र्द्याराशुकापव वे काछ्य में अयाप केया यो प्रम्म रें। रेंदर वेया। के अवा प्राप्ति स्वाप्ति स्वापति स्वाप्ति स्वापति स्वाप यें ५ ५ वेगा ने यम ने या ने या में में प्राप्त के या की यें प कुरासी वदादाने पानेराने । पादाहें वाराहाददारी रामा के प्राप्त स्थान विराने तिर्देशने तर्गा। श्यावेराव। यथा भ्रानित वराराग्रारा भ्राने श्रात्वरायात्वरत्या

Nevertheless, Ladakhi place names, like the well known Hemis and Hembaps, corresponding to Skr. *hima* 'snow' as well as the less known Shey < *Šeya*, *Šaya*, Skr. *śaya* possibly meaning 'restplace' give ample evidence, that before the Tibetan conquest, the population must have been speaking an Aryan (Indian or Iranian) language.

षाउव वे के चेंद्र प्रित क्षर क्षेत्र वा वा प्राप्त व वा विव वे विव न्या सार्ख्या पास्य पान ने साम्नि में की पान स्वापि स्वापि स्वापि स्वापि स्वापि स्वापि स्वापि स्वापि स्वापि स्व ह्येर वा ने के का प्रमान का प्राचित के ता के का ने रावन के का निवास के क वे सम भी निर्दे केंगा थेंदा दार्वणा ने यद नेया वे सात्मुर या दे सा छिट्रास्ति अट्तर्रेषाक्षे में कुषाक्षे व्याप्ति वेषा वेराने। यदाहित् राहाद्राक्षरात्राकुर्दरारक्षाक्षायात्रेराके तहिकाने तर्गा श्राया विस्वा समाभी मित्र वर्षा म्या स्वाप के सामी सम्मान स्वाप से वार्षे ।

Nevertheless, Ladakhi place names, like the well known Hemis and Hembaps, corresponding to Skr. *hima* 'snow' as well as the less known Shey < Šeya, Šaya, Skr. śaya possibly meaning 'restplace' give ample evidence, that before the Tibetan conquest, the population must have been speaking an Aryan (Indian or Iranian) language.

Mon aja	
Tibetans 55'5'	
Dards 5'5'5' or 3575' GTG	?
Bhautta 對了了。	?
Goldrace 可能式式可能	?

Mon ája	
Tibetans 55'5"	
Dards 5'रू'र्5' or दुईग्राप्य दरद	?✓
Bhautta 對了了。	?
Goldrace 可能式表面的 現面 (Nüguo) Vomens' Dominion 女國 (Nüguo) 2月115य	?-

त्र केंद्राता Bhautta भी ह हुए Hūṇa ह्ण

## रू हैं त'त' Bhautta भोह हुए Hūṇa ह्ण

मृष्ट मिन स्वापित वित्र वित्र

The Rājataraṅgiṇī mentions the Bhauṭṭa besides the Darada as frequent intruders of Kashmir during the first half of the 6<sup>th</sup> century. M.A Stein and other translators took the name to be equivalent with that of the Tibetans, but thought of the inhabitants of Baltistan and Ladakh.

तिव वत्रा तिव क्षे क्षे व्याप्त क्षेत्र क्षेत

However, while the Tibetan name *Bod* could be a derivation of an original Bhauṭṭa, the opposite is impossible, hence the name must have originally referred to a non-Tibetan people of the Himalayas and the Karakorum and might have been transferred only later to the Tibetans.

वॅं'वेरा'कुदे'हेट'वे'ल'ले'' हूं 'टे 'हु सुसु' दे 'टे दे हैं त'त' ट्राट्र' राप्ता क्रिया क्रिया गुगार्थे। दे पा कुला से गुर्धिया कुला के षर'ल'नुट'र्सुग्रार्थंद'स्रव'स्या'र्छर'ने'र्पट'श्चर'गुग्रांथे। इटार्डेग्न्यासी'स्यार कंटासात्र्यात्राते मटार्क्यापार केंट्राया मटापा यदा ग्रांभार्यः क्रीतातायदारी केटावे प्राराप्त वा क्रैंत त'मिं रूप प्रम्य प्रम्य व्याय प्रम्य विष्य The Bhautta are mentioned again 200 years later as victims of Lalitāditya-Muktāpīda's raids or conquests in Central Asia. Since the conquered countries are enumerated in a strict geographical order, it follows that the Bhautta should have been located *west* of the Darada whom he conquered immediately afterwards on a route towards the east.

व्यानियाम्बरि हिंदा वे त्या थे पूर्व हिंदा है ता ता दिन हैं र'न्त्रम्गार्छेन्र्य'गुगार्थे॥ ने'वि'स्व्य'से'गुर्धेते'वि'स्व स्वयंते' षर'अ'न्नर'र्स्चेगर्लार्कर'रावा'त्रिर'ने'र्नर श्रुर'गुवा'र्ले॥ षट्य वें अर्म् क्रितातायम् ने केटावे प्रमान्य 

The Bhauṭṭa are mentioned again 200 years later as victims of Lalitāditya-Muktāpīḍa's raids or conquests in Central Asia. Since the conquered countries are enumerated in a strict geographical order, it follows that the Bhauṭṭa should have been located *west* of the Darada whom he conquered immediately afterwards on a route towards the east.

नित्ति।प्रमास्याचार्रमायार्रमायार्था। येत'यद'न्यथ'हे'द्रद्यथ'द्रग्रय'यते'येत'ह्रग्रय'तेव'सेत्र। Rajari zirariur White Huns wr Hephthalites वेर र वेंगा हित वेर वा विंद गुव लापवा वर्ष ग्राया नगर र्रे भें प्रग्रा थे।

The Bhauṭṭa are said to have an extremely white skin. In comparison with the not very dark Kashmiris, this does not seem to fit the present complexion of Baltis, Ladakhis or Tibetans. The Hephthalites or White Huns, on the other hand, got their name exactly because of their extremely fair skin.

क्रे'स्'मु'स्या'न्व'प्राय प्रदीषापव'वे'न्ह्र'रु'रे'न्वे'न्न्'ह यान्यानि सोगी यम्यायन्यायन् यापान् ग्रायाः सी। यने हो न र र रे या विषायम्यम् मर्कतं क्षेत्रं त्रात्याये। हित्रं चेत्रं त्रा द्राहा केत्रं मा गा'वे'पव्यापार्या प्या'स्रिते'क्षर्य'झु'वे'ह्रव'त्य'र्वेर'हे' तर्वायाःग्रावाःस्।

According to the 7<sup>th</sup> c. Harṣacarita the Hūṇa were sitting right at the foot of the Kailash, which is quite surprising, since after their defeat by the combined forces of the Sassanians and Western Turks in 577, their remnants are said to have settled in Afghanistan.

तिव वत्य। प्या स्रित गौ त्यम भी स्रित प्यत् वव वे प्या प्रति । हित्य हो स्वा स्वा प्या स्वि गौ त्यम कु सें । विवे में तिव प्यव वे हो स्व प्या स्व ने हित्य हो । विवे में तिव प्यव वे हो स्व प्या स्व से हो हित्य हो । विवे प्या प्रति व प्या प्रति । विवे प्रति । विव

But there is a certain possibility that the present Kailash got its name only relatively late when the concept of the world mountain as the source of the 4 rivers was transferred from the Pamirs to Western Tibet.

This leaves us with only two possibilities:

Either the Bhauṭṭa, identical with the Hephtalites, were sitting somewhere in present day Afghanistan (and this would be corroborated by their location west of the Darada),

गयानेशाईतित्व सेराने पेंद्रपा सेरा रहेशा देवा देवा दारुदा देशे रावे र्नेन्यते स्वा ठेवा कत् यन र्नेन्युयार्वे सन्देशसेवासासी र्सून्या वर्ने च्या अह्या भ्रात्व वेया। व्यार्धियाचाया र्मित्यचा अहा स्रेवराबरा व्हारी स्वाकी ग्रीया है तिवादर्शी है स्वाकी क्ष्या साम्याप्या प्याप्या प्याप्या विवादी विरामिष्ये मित्र वे 'पॅर्यापव वे 'के 'र्रेगाया में प्राप्त के 'रेंगाया के 'रेंगाया में 'रेंगाया के 'रे होत्र देव देश प्रमुद्धे Tibeto Burman वे से अव दर्शे ॥

or, if the name should have referred to the Tibetans or their army, most probably soldiers from Žaŋžuŋ, it would have indicated, that they looked pretty much like Hephtalites, Turks, or other Central Asian people, but not like the present day Tibetans or Tibeto-Burmans. This is as much as to say that they *were* Hephtalites, Turks, or other Central Asian people.





प्राचित्रं ज्ञास्त्रं Goldrace सुवर्णमात्र

된 한국 한국 한국 (Nüguo) 왕체(자고

## प्रभाग Goldrace हार्से दे मुखा होता Womens' Dominion

According to various Chinese sources, Upper Ladakh was known by at least three different names: Lesser Yangtong (i.e. Western Žaŋžuŋ), Suvarṇagotra (land of the 'Goldrace'), and Nüguo/Strīrājya ('Women's Dominion). Identical coordinates show that all three names referred to the same entity.

क्षे देगारा दिया ज्ञा का कु केव कें दिव या 'व्यक्षिणमार्ख्या'यायेयाने 'द्वियमाने 'देव'गुगा। 'य्यान्द्र'त्र्'व्योय'योद'र्ख्या'या 'खुट्टे' या वा द्या राष्ट्र मुन हो सायव वे 'युवा र्ख्या सायेवा मे 'युवा राष्ट्र Although Baltistan, Purik, and Lower Ladakh might have been part of the kingdom of Lesser Bolor or Gilgit, the descriptions of Suvarnagotra and Nüguo would lead us to the conclusion that these people must have spread throughout the Changthang from eastern Tibet to Baltistan and Gilgit, possibly even down to the Swāt valley.

र्वित्र प्रति अद्यान्य स्थान्य स्थान्

The Tibetan name *Gserrigs* is found only in one Khotanese source and seems to be otherwise unknown. The Sanskrit designation, however, is attested in the Khotan-ese-Saka language as *Svarṇagūttar*- or *ysarnai rrvī gūttairi* for a particular 'golden royal family'. These 'golden people' were originally located in the region of Dunhuang, which was accordingly also called the 'Golden District' (*ysarrnai bāḍā*).

गर्भर रेग्रां वे रागा चेर प्वतः वे IndoEuropean वे के रेश रेग्रामा से क्रुन्देव'गुगा। रागा'यन क्षे वे देंदे चेरापव वे वे वे तिन्दे से विद गा' वे गाउत सेवा ने छिन्या ने भेंदा गुगा। विदायदा वव वे के दिरा प्रदात्व वतम्। वातम्बावतम्। विमार्कम् वितेगाम्नम् म्या र्यायोगान् नेयायो भूराहरारराण्या धराधार्रेयेतव र्स्याया स्रा सेर रें। सर रें। रेग प्रा सेग हेंव रें। रेग प्रस सर्ग प्रस प्रा प्रस सें। रेगायो र्चेन हु र्येट ट्र गुगा

This may allow us to view the *Goldrace* as a branch of the Sakas or Scythians, a far-spread Indo-European people that may or may not have absorbed other peoples, but that was still dominated by an Iranian speaking elite, and had the anthropological features of the early Indo-Europeans, particularly fair skin and yellow or reddish hair.

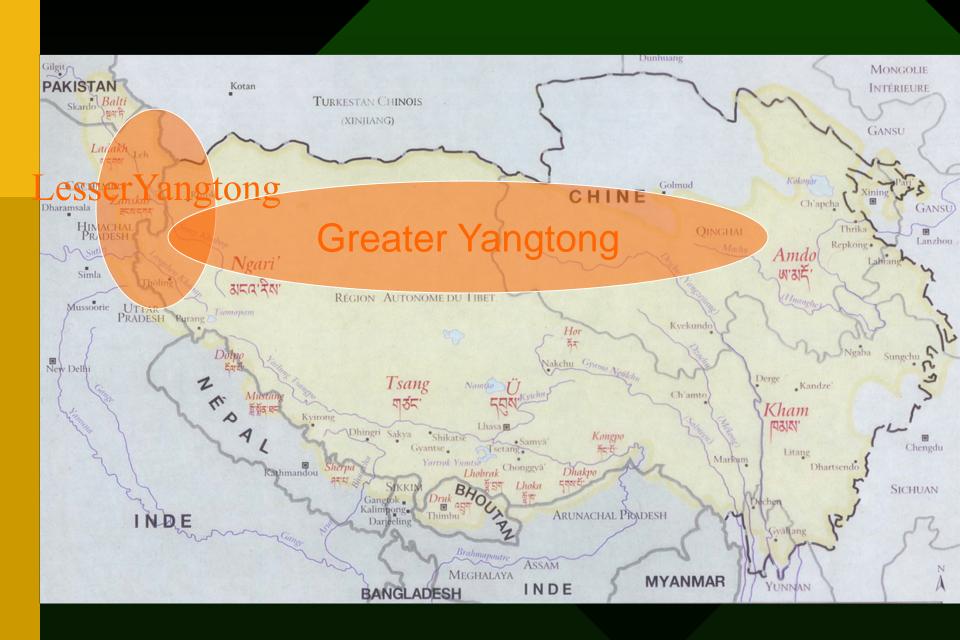


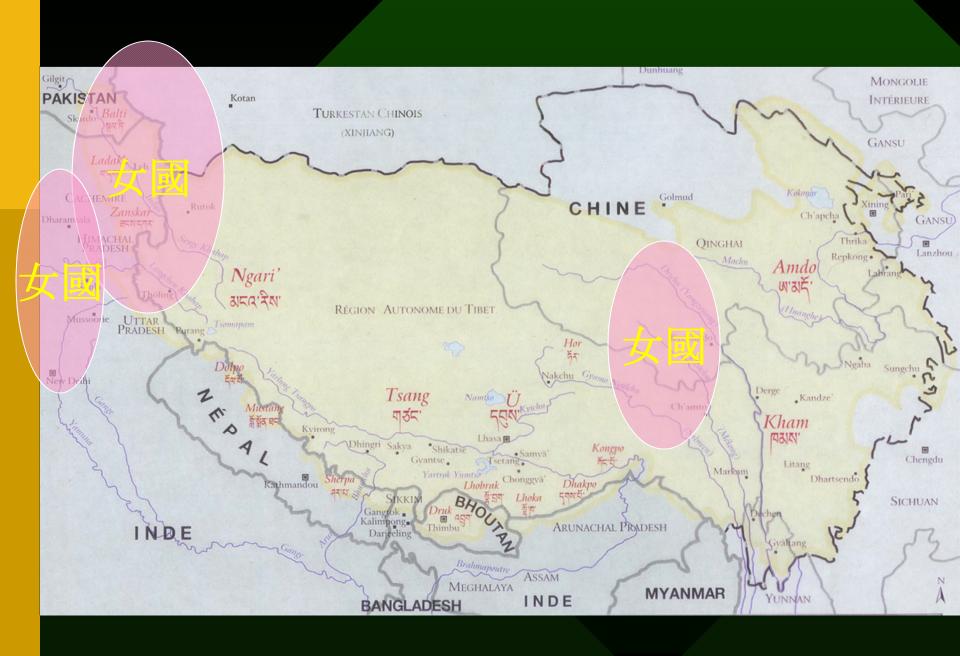


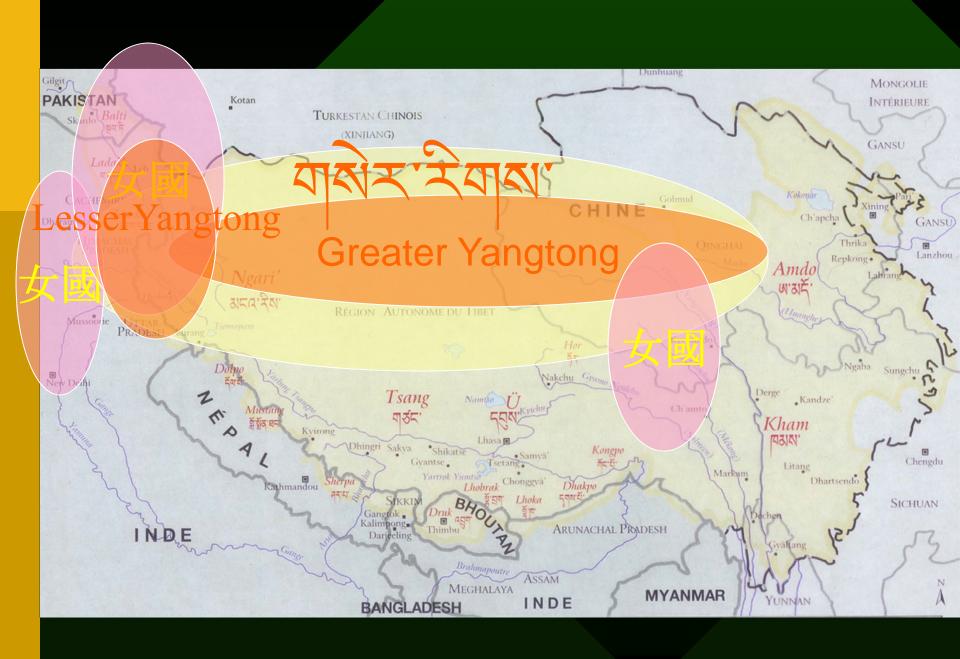












Women must have had an unusual high status in Scythian society, and this could be another indication that the socalled Women's Dominion was of Scythian origin. Scythian women were strong, they knew to use arrow and bow, and they apparently also took part in war.

यागादे 'रेग्याय' वे 'सेर'रे 'कुव 'क' रें 'रेस'या खू 'प्रसादा पेंद्र'गुगा विंद 'देस' रोग्रया रव व्याने कें विवार्डे तर्गाया ने रोग्रया नव कंर वा गार पा सुर ता सुर वेव विगणियाँ प्राप्ति नर पर पर या अर्थी कुप पा सुव वेव विगणियाँ पर पर वैगा। हेव अते के लें मुध्या हारा र्डमा सो साम्व वे नुगमारेत पटा र्स्यामा में 'से 'से 'प्यान 'दिया पव 'दे 'से 'से 'दिन में 'दिव 'दें गा। दे 'सुया यी 'से 'से ' क्षें अट्टर्ने अट्टर्ने का वार्षेया वार्येया वार्षेया वार्येया वार ইমান্ত্র্মার্থ্রের্মার্থ্রিবার্ত্রা The Scythians are famous for their art work, the so-called the 'Nomadic Animal Style': all animals going tip-toe, often bending their head backwards, and, around the 5th century BCE, having inscribed an Scurve and spirals in their body. Rock carvings of this style have been found abundantly in Western Tibet (Mnahris) and at a few places in Ladakh, e.g. at a river crossing in Domkhar.











## Appendix:

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Sasanian heritage: the 'bird-horn' crown — a challenge to traditional Tibetan dating of prehistorical kings

## Appendix:

Sasanian heritage: the 'bird-horn' crown — a challenge to traditional Tibetan dating of prehistorical kings

And a friendly comment on Roberto Vitali "A tentative classification of the bya ru can kings of Zhang Zhung" Revue des Études Tibétaines 15

According to Bonpo tradition, some kings and priests, from the 7<sup>th</sup> or 9<sup>th</sup> king onwards were said to have been wearing the 'bird-horn' crown 5'5'55. This crown is described in some sources as having one or two pairs of horns and sometimes having flexible wings (Bellezza 2008).

According to Tibetan reckoning, the first Tibetan king lived in the 3<sup>rd</sup> century BCE, and even if one calculates with a less optimistic period of less than 25 years per generation, one hardly reaches the 1<sup>st</sup> century CE for the 7<sup>th</sup> or 9<sup>th</sup> king.

The Sasanid Empire, however, lasted from the 3<sup>rd</sup> to the 6<sup>th</sup> century CE, and winged plus horned crowns became fashionable only in the second part of their reign.





If these crowns do not look like the Bonpo bird-horn crown, I wonder what the latter should have looked like.

Nevertheless, I should like to leave it up to you, to draw the necessary consequences...

## ह्याया है कि | Thanks