MORE TO THE EFFECT OF THE SO CALLED PLAGUE OF JUSTINIAN (541-748) ON THE DEMOGRAPHICAL STRUCTURE OF THE BYZANTINE EMPIRE

(Summary)

Plague pandemics are amongst the most significant factors that have had huge influence on the development of medieval societies and states. A typical example that illustrates this is the “Plague of Justinian”, when local epidemic waves burst out in a cyclic succession of about 12 years and strike Byzantine within the period between 541 AD and 748 AD. Without claiming comprehensiveness this article focuses on one of the major effects of the “Plague of Justinian”, which definitively has a direct influence on the metamorphosis of imperial structures in the subsequent centuries. It refers to the demographical loses caused by the pandemic, which reflect on the economical and military capacity of the Byzantine Empire.