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POLITICAL RELATIONS BETWEEN TARNOVO TSARDOM ANDTHE GOLDEN HORDE IN THE LIGHT OF BULGARIAN-TATAR MARRIAGES

(Summary)

The article focuses on two marriages related to the relationship between the Turnovo Tsardom and the Golden Horde, and more precisely Nogai's Ulus: the marriage of the unknown by name daughter of Tsar Georgi I Terter with Chaka, Nogai's firstborn son, and the marriage of Theodore Svetoslav Terter and Euphrosina, and considers the causes, conditions and consequences of them. Based on an analysis of primary sources and previous scholarly achievements on the topic, the author defends the following hypothesis: Theodore Svetoslav lived in Nogayi's Ulus from 1285 to 1300, initially as a hostage on his father's maintenance, and after the abdication of Georgi I Terter in 1292 as a political emigrant. The change of power in Turnovo had a detrimental effect on the financial situation of Theodore Svetoslav, but thanks to his rise to the military elite of the Tatars, he managed to marry Euphrosina, whose family was not only rich but also honoured in the court of Nogai, due to her family's wealth, and also according to some sources to kinship with the Tatar ruler. In the midst of the strife in the Golden Horde Theodore Svetoslav as a result of his kinship with Nogai's son Chaka ended up with Tatar troops in front of Tarnovo and was able to take maximum advantage of the situation. He got rid of Chaka, winning the favor of Khan Toctu. He then stood at the head of the Bulgarian Tsardom (1300-1322), succeeded in stabilizing it, and led an independent foreign policy free of direct intervention by the Tatars that tortured the rulers from the second half of the 13th century.