

1. Social and Political Development of the Territories of the Odrysian Kingdom in Thrace (5th-first half of the 3rd century B. C.)

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Abstract

From the 5th century B. C. to the Macedonian conquest in 341/340 B. C. the **Odrysian Kingdom** was the largest and the mightiest multitribal state in Inland Thrace. According to Prof. Al. Fol it represented an economical, social and political organization “kata etnos” of “asiatic” (“tributary”) type. It was based on direct exploitation of the rural communities by the king as a supreme owner of the land, by the “paradynasts” (co-rulers and vassals of the king) and the aristocratic circles around them. The absolute royal and dynastic power was exerted from fortified “royal” (“residential”) cities through heavy armed cavalry of aristocrats. This kind of organization was antagonistic to the communities “kata polis” of the Greek city-states on the Thracian coasts neighboring with the Kingdom.

The basic features of the above model should be enriched with some cases of polis forms and “paideia” on the territory of the Kingdom: external and internal market and coin economy, temporal integration of polises as Byzanthe and Kardia in the Kingdom, some of them keeping their own legislation and relative autonomy, foundation of emporia with mixed Thraco-Greek population on royal land like Pistiros, their autonomy and other privileges being recognized by the Odrysian kings.

Except the dethronement of the Odrysian dynasty the most important result of the Macedonian presence was the transformation of some old “royal” cities as Philippopolis and Kabyle into polises. Several new states emerged on the former Kingdom’s territories. The realm of **Lysimachos** extended in the coastal areas of Thrace and later in Asia Minor and Eastern Macedonia as a typical Hellenistic “personal monarchy” ruled by a Macedonian ruler and aristocracy with participation of some locals. The “royal” economy dominated, integrating the economies of the polises in the confine of the state. Some of them were accorded internal autonomy and the right to conclude alliances, but under the supervision of a strategos of the king. New polises were founded as Lysimacheia on the Thracian Chersnesos, which functioned in the same time as a “royal” city and capital. Another state of similar type was consolidated around in **Kabyle**. Originally Kabyle was an Odrysian “royal” city (horion) of economical and strategic importance, converted by the Macedonians into polis. For several decades it

became a capital of a monarchy, ruled by the local Thracian dynasty of Spartokos and Skostokos. During this period Kabyle obviously combined the social model of polis with the political one of a “royal” city, before reaching a status of a city-state after ca. 270 B. C. Another polis-Aenos found place in this monarchy as well. The state of **Seuthes III** with a capital in Seuthopolis-a new-founded “royal” city and never a polis, appeared as the main opponent of Lysimachos’ kingdom in competition for the “supreme power in Thrace”. This personal monarchy was governed by Odrysian-Macedonian dynasty and aristocracy, who disguised their absolute rule behind some legal formula typical for the polis society. The excavations in Seuthopolis and in other settlements revealed mixed Thraco-Greek population and well developed external and daily market, using local and foreign coinages.

2. Language: English

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4. Panel 8

