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**THE ORIGINS OF THE VOLGA BULGHARS**

Endorsed by the Soros Foundation

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## ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

This study, as this book, is a result of a long research program in the fields of Eastern Europe and Central Asia, first concentrated on the Turkic languages and the medieval history of the region, as well as on the more recent history of the Turkic peoples, and then on the Turkic languages and the medieval history of the region, as well as on the more recent history of the Turkic peoples. I have been fortunate to have had the opportunity to work with Professor Andrei P. P. who suggested that I work with the study of the Turkic languages and the medieval history of the region, as well as on the more recent history of the Turkic peoples. I have been fortunate to have had the opportunity to work with Professor Andrei P. P. who suggested that I work with the study of the Turkic languages and the medieval history of the region, as well as on the more recent history of the Turkic peoples. I have been fortunate to have had the opportunity to work with Professor Andrei P. P. who suggested that I work with the study of the Turkic languages and the medieval history of the region, as well as on the more recent history of the Turkic peoples.

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In 1987 I got a three-year grant from the Soros Foundation to work on the history of the Volga Bulgars. I was fortunate to have had the opportunity to work with the Soros Foundation for their grant, which was made possible through the study. This book contains the first part of the work, which is a study of the political role in the Middle Volga region.

In the course of preparing of this work, I have had the opportunity to express my profound gratitude to Professor Andrei P. P. for his encouragement and support. The colleagues of the Department of Eastern European Studies, particularly the particular debt of gratitude is owed to Professor Andrei P. P. Department of Classical Languages & Linguistics, who made several suggestions. Finally, I am deeply indebted to the Soros Foundation for their suggestions and support.



## ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

This study, as first books, is a result of a long research. Hungarian Turcology dealing with the Turks of Eastern Europe and Central Asia has concentrated on the Turkic language history and mediaval history of the steppe, as early Hungarians were formed among Turkic peoples in the 6-9th centuries adapting Turkic, nomadic institutions. I have taken interest in the history of the Turkic nomads, as a student at the Department of Altaistics at Szegeed University where Professor András Róna-Tas suggested that I deal with the history of the Volga Bulgars. I wrote my university doctorate in 1983 about the fall of the Volga Bulghar empire (*The Volga Bulgars in the early 13th century*) wich has been published in parts (*The first Mongol raid against the Volga Bulgars*. Altaistic Studies. Ed. G. Jarring and S. Rosén. Stockholm, 1985, 197-204; *Volga Bulgars between wind and water*. Paper read at the 29th PIAC in Tashkent 1986; *Egy mongol hadifogoly vallomása az 1240-es kijevei ostrom idején* [The statement of a Mongol prisoner of war during the siege of Kiev (1240)]. *Keletkutatás* 1988/1, 39-45.)

In 1985 I got a three-year scholarship from the Hungarian Academy of Sciences to write a monograph on the history of the Volga Bulgars. I am grateful to the Academy and to the trustees of the Soros Foundation for their generous grants wich facilitated the completion of this study. This book contains the first part of the work and deals with the formation of a new ethno-political unit in the Middle Volga region.

In the course of preparing of this work, I have been aided by a number of persons. I wish to express my profound gratitude to Professor András Róna-Tas, the head of the Department of Altaistics at Szegeed, for his encouragement, for his reading several drafts, and for his wise counsels. The colleagues of the Department of Altaistic also helped me with their critical remarks. A particular debt of gratitude is owed to Professor Sámuel Szádeczky-Kardoss, the head of the Department of Classical Languages at Szegeed, who guided me in the field of Latin and Byzantine sources, and who made critical suggestions on the last stage in the preparation of this book. Finally, I am deeply indebted to Professors Sándor Fodor and István Vásáry for their profitable suggestions after reading the text of this study.



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