

Khodadad Rezakhani

Az előadások szinopszisa az alábbiakban olvashatóak:

Sasanians and the East: Ērānšahr and Central Asia in Late Antiquity

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The following three lectures concentrate on the connections between the world of Central Asia (Transoxiana and Bactria) and that of the Sasanian realm during the period of late antiquity, roughly defined as 200-700 AD. This period matches, with some compromise, the length of the Sasanian rule (224-651 CE) over Ērānšahr, “the Dominion of Iranians,” the area between the Oxus and the Euphrates. Relying on textual, archaeological, and numismatic evidence, each of these lectures addresses a major theme of Sasanian history, while discussing specific historical cases. The suggestion of the lectures as a whole is that the Sasanians paid attention to the realms to their east in equal, or even greater, measure as they did to their western neighbours, the Romans. The aim is to present a slightly different geo-political, and socio-economic and cultural, narrative of Sasanian history.

Lecture 1: Farn-Sasan and the Sasanians

This lecture will concentrate on the case of Farn-Sasan, the little known last Indo-Parthian ruler of Sakistan, and his connections with the rising power of the Sasanians, in person of Ardashir I. Known entirely from his coinage, Farn-Sasan is put in the context of the rise of Ardashir out of post-Hellenistic Persis. Using primary sources as well as the coinage, this lecture will present the view of Sakistan as an important element in the rise of the Sasanians and an element in formation of the Sasanian royal identity.

Lecture 2: Sasanians and the “Huns”

The end of the Sasanian indirect rule in Bactria in the middle of the fourth century is closely knitted with the rise of the so-called “Iranian Huns” in the region. Usually, the fall of the Sasanian cadet branch, the Kushanshahs or the Kushano-Sasanians, is also connected to this event, and the actual role of the Sasanian dynasty is reduced to bystanders in the events of Bactria and North India. This lecture will look deeper into the Sasanian presence in Bactria and beyond and connects the hegemony of the Huns in the region with a changing policy in the Sasanian court, and a shift toward more western oriented geo-politics.

Lecture 3: The Persophone World of Late Sasanians

The cultural identity of the Sasanians is commonly presented in terms of royal identity and religious character of Zoroastrianism. However, one can argue that the greatest legacy of the Sasanians is the germination of a cultural world which eventually finds its home in Central Asia. While (Middle) Persian as the language of the Sasanian court disappears to the high language of early Islamic Zoroastrian scripture, the (New) Persian becomes the language of the courts of Central Asia, from the Samanids to the Mongols and beyond. This lecture will try to contextualise the world of late

Sasanian/Early Islamic Central Asia before this particular cultural event and understand the reasons for the particular receptiveness of the region to it.