

0. A HOME FOR THE HUNS - Story Preface
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Even before Attila became ruler of the Huns, these fierce warriors were known as awesome fighters. To avoid Hunnic attacks, people paid tribute to them. The Eastern Roman Empire, for example, paid the Huns gold to keep Constantinople (today's Istanbul) from being attacked.

The first Hunnic king about whom scholars have any detailed knowledge is Ruga, (also known as Ruglia). Living arrangements for the Huns changed with Ruga's accession.

In exchange for allowing his warriors to fight on behalf of the Eastern Roman Empire, Ruga negotiated a treaty (in 433) which gave the Huns a permanent homeland. It was a triumph for him and an unprecedented event for the nomadic Huns.

Ceding a part of Pannonia (known at the time as Pannonia Secunda and today as the Carpathian Basin) to Ruga and his people, the empire in the east was not relieved of its Hunnic tribute obligations. Every year the Huns collected 350 pounds of gold from the empire, simply for agreeing not to attack the capital city of Constantinople.

The Huns were given land near the Danube River, in today's Hungary. It is believed they settled on the plains between Budapest and Szeged (today a lovely university town located on the banks of the Tisza River).

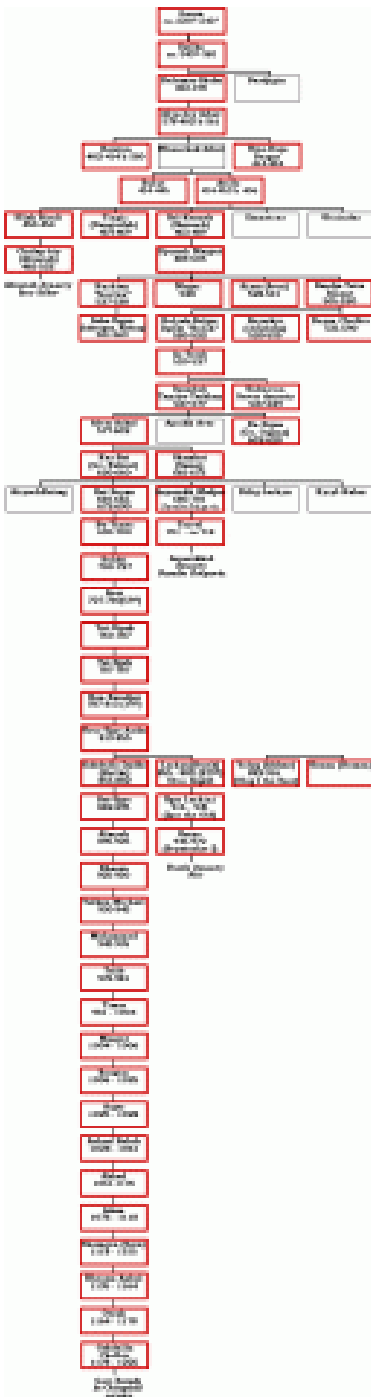
Scholars doubt that individual tribes of Huns were already consolidated into one kingdom under Ruga. That would happen a bit later, under his nephew Attila.

See Alignments to State and Common Core standards for this story online at:

<http://www.awesomestories.com/asset/AcademicAlignment/A-HOME-FOR-THE-HUNS-Attila-the-Hun>

See Learning Tasks for this story online at:

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Ruga - King of the Huns

Image online, courtesy Wikimedia Commons.

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Routes of the "Barbarian Invaders" - 5th Century

Map image, described above, online courtesy U.S. Military Academy.

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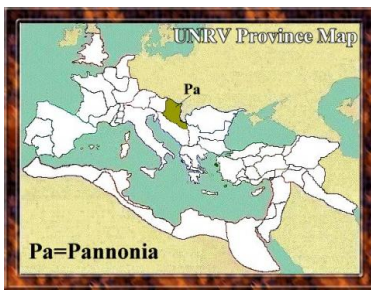
The Wander and Conquest of the Hungarians

Map image online, courtesy Historical Text Archive.

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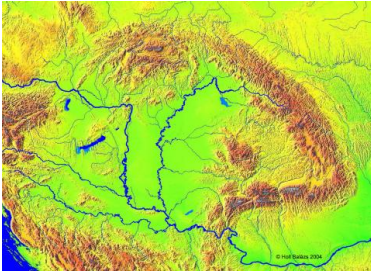
Pannonia - Carpathian Basin - Home of the Huns

Image online, courtesy Wikimedia Commons.

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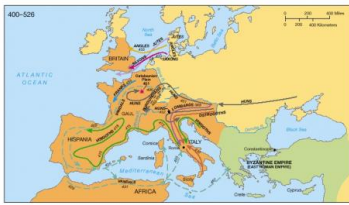


Satellite View of the Carpathian Basin

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Barbarian Migrations and Invasions. The early cross-border raids of neighboring peoples gave way to migrations of starving and terrified barbarian allies looking for safety in the Empire. By the fifth century, large-scale raids by the Huns and Visigoths reached throughout the western Empire, resulting in permanent settlements.

Byzantine Empire

Image online, courtesy University of Massachusetts (Boston).

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Hungary - Map Locator

Map image online, courtesy Athaia.org.

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Szeged - Freed of Ottoman Rule

Image online, courtesy University of Szeged, University Library.

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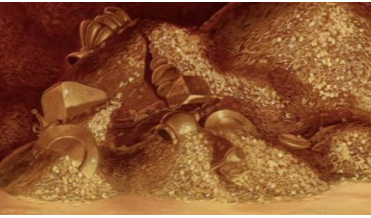
Szeged and the Tisza River

Image online, courtesy International Society of Electrochemistry.

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