

sion. The Turov bishopric was a convenient starting point for a further mission in the Neman region. The missionary's life ended on the borderlands of Lithuania and Russia. Bruno died at the hands of pagans on the periphery of the possessions of the Turov prince, who, at the request of his father-in-law and ally Boleslav, bought the relics of the martyr. Probably, the relics of the saint were venerated by local Christians and were kept in Brest. They were lost during military clashes in the first half of the 11th century. Thus, the history of the missionary travels of Archbishop Bruno of Querfurt, which has long attracted the attention of domestic and foreign researchers, is also related to the history of the medieval Belarusian lands.

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THE EMERGENCE AND DEVELOPMENT OF THE BEYLIK OF MENTESHE IN 1261–1295

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The second half of the 13th century became the period of political changes in Asia Minor. On June 26, 1243 the Mongols defeated the Seljuks near Kose-Dag. Then they captured Sivas and Kayseri. Soon after the Sultanate of Rum became the vassal state of the Mongols [1, p. 259]. Mongol conquest caused the new wave of migrants from the West into Asia Minor. It was mainly nomadic tribes of not only of Turk, but also of Iranian origin [2, p. 15]. The overall amount of tribes population was about 200 thousand people [3, p. 14].

The aim of the research is to study the political activity of the Beylik of Menteshe in Asia Minor in 1261 – 1295 and its influence on the political situation in the region of the Eastern Mediterranean in the subsequent period.

Material and methods. The scientific and theoretical basis of the work are the works of the Byzantine and the Seljuk historians, as well as Italian travelers. The works of Soviet and foreign researchers specializing in the history of Byzantium and the Sultanate of Rum are valuable too. The study applied historical-genetic and historical-systemic methods.

Findings and their conclusions. The central authority of the Sultanate of Rum was weak even in the previous period. Thus, many beyliks (principalities) had become semi-independent under new conditions caused by constant fighting at the borders of the sultanate [4, p. 121].

A number of autonomous beyliks from the beylik of Germiyan appeared in the second half of the 13th century. The beyliks of Monteshe, Sarukhan, Aydin and Karasi must be pointed out. They received the name of “Westernanatolian beyliks” due to their territorial location [5, p. 93]. The Beylik of Osman recognized the suzerainty of the Germiyan bey for a long time as well [6, p. 61].

The Beylik of Monteshe took its history from 1261. However, there’s no any information about the early stage of its development. We only know that Monteshe-bey (1261 – 1295) owned cities of Mugla, Milas (capital), Dalaman, Fethiye and some others [7, p. 535]. After the withdrawal of troops from Meander during the Byzantine campaign in Northern Greece in 1275 – 1276 almost the entire province of Kariya was captured and ravaged by the Seljuks. The local Byzantine population had to leave the cities in order to escape from the constant attacks of the Seljuk ghazi [8, p. 91]. In 1278 the Seljuks were expelled from the Meander valley by the byzantine forces under the command of the son of the Emperor Michael VIII and his co-ruler (from 1272) Andronikos II and the great domestic (commander-in-chief) John Trahaniotis. Soon after, the fortress of Tralles (Aydin) was restored under the new name Andronikopolis [9, p. 432]. However, in 1284 Monteshe-bey managed to seize Andronikopolis and captured 20 thousand of the townspeople, after which the city itself was destroyed to the ground [10, p. 161]. In the beginning of 1291 the chelebi Monteshe-bey became a vassal of the Seljuk sultan Mesud II. Soon after the coins with the name of the Sultan began minting in Milas [3, p. 20]. During the military campaign of Ilkhan Gaykhatu (1291 – 1295) in the winter of 1291 – 1292, the beylik of Karaman, the city of Ladik (Denizli’s beylik) and the beylik of Monteshe were completely destroyed [11, p. 79]. Soon after the beylik of Monteshe was attacked by Byzantine. The defense of the eastern provinces was entrusted to the talented military warlord Alexios Philanthropenos [12, p. 81]. Monteshe-bey forces were defeated and driven out of the province of Caria near Priene in the summer of 1295. Meanwhile, Monteshe-bey himself was killed, and his harem and treasury fell into the hands of the Byzantines [13, p. 106].

Conclusion. After turning of the Rum Sultanate into a vassal state of the Mongols the process of establishment of semi-independent beyliks, especially in the western part of Asia Minor, had begun. From the 1260’s, searching for new pastures the Turkmen nomadic tribes began to commit much more raids into the

border areas of Byzantine under the motto of gazavat-jihad. The power of the central authority on the borders of the Sultanate was rather weak. So, sultans began to transfer conditional land holdings (ikta) to unconditional (mulk, pl. – amlak) to ensure control over the collection of taxes. Thus, the process of establishment of autonomus udjes (fiefdom, given to heads of tribes in exchange for the obligation to protect borders from external enemies) and beyliks (principalities) in the Rum sultanate took part from the late 1250's. It means, that the actual disintegration of the Sultanate began long before its official extinction (1307).

The Beylik of Monteshe was one of the most powerful beyliks of this period. During the 2nd half of the 13th century the beys of Monteshe successfully struggled against the Byzantine emperors. Until 1295 they took control under cities of Mugla, Milas (capital), Dalaman, Fethiye and adjacent areas to the South-East of the peninsula.

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