

„Lay Lines“ and centrality in the First Bulgarian Kingdom

Rasho Rashev

Presenting a short summary of the more important data on the historiography of the so-called lay lines (after James, Thorp 1999, 144-146, 325), the author reviews the hypothesis in the Bulgarian archaeological literature suggesting that some of the archaeological monuments related to the Protobulgars, Bulgarians and the capital city of Pliska might be the result of certain intentional linear pattern or arrangement around a hypothetical center. He concludes that for the period of the First Bulgarian Kingdom no reliable data exists for any intentional geometric

(linear and centripetal) patterning. The following of certain line or the overbuilding of a center were not related to reasons requiring absolute linear or centripetal geometry imposed by special spiritual, religious, mystic or other ideas. The published examples of “linear or centripetal patterns”, which were considered in this paper, are due to incorrect measuring, accidental arrangement or the subjective intention of certain authors to attribute sacred and mystic meaning to lines and centers though the examples themselves neither contain nor suggest any data for it.