
ECOLOGICAL ASPECTS OF THE BARBARIC INCURSIONS IN MOESIA INFERIOR AND THRACE IN 248–251 AD

SYLVIA ZAREVA

(S u m m a r y)

The incursions of the Goths in Moesia Inferior and in Thrace in 248-251 AD were known from the texts of Dexippus, Zossimus, Lactantius, Ammianus Marcellinus and Iordanes. Their review testifies that large territories were affected and the most important cities as well. Hundred thousands of soldiers and peaceful population were reported to have been involved. The ancient texts reveal the negative impact of the invasions on ecology, 5 main points are to be distinguished:

1. Human losses straight on the battlefield, killing out captives and causing disastrous epidemics.
2. Annihilation of cattle for the needs of the numerous armies and for sacrificial offerings.
3. Extraction of raw materials as wood and stones for armament, equipment, war machines etc, which took place in the invaded areas.
4. Pollution of the atmosphere by burning down buildings and war machines.
5. Affection of the nature by erecting cairns during the siege of the cities.