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## THE REGION OF THE MIDDLE STRYMON DURING THE 6TH CENTURY

*(Summary)*

A review is made of the life in the inhabited localities in the region of the Middle Strymon river during the 6th century. The archaeological and numismatic materials confirm the existence of an antique settlement at the town of Melnik, the settlement of late antique near the town of Sandanski (the former Sveti Vrach). A Thracian population prevailed in the region, a process of Hellenization and Romanization being noticeable in part of the inhabitants.

A detailed examination is made of the setting of the Slav population in the middle reaches of the Strymon. A number of Byzantine and Latin sources attest the attacks by the Slavs which affected also the region of the Middle Strymon. Ancient settlements and fortresses were destroyed. A certain peaceful infiltration by the Slav population in the Balkan lands also existed.

The Slav tribe of Strumentsi (Strymonitae) settled in the region of the Middle and Lower (Southern) Strymon.