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Who were the Pechenegs?



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The medieval Eurasian steppe is a rather confusing place, for several reasons. The first, is that it played host to an ever shifting patchwork of nomadic and semi-nomadic peoples, whose various wars precipitated large-scale migrations at various points. Another, is that these peoples, by and large, left very little (if anything) by way of written sources by which we can identify them. The Pechenegs are one such group, who emerge into the historical record, and in particular Byzantine Imperial documents, from the conveyor belt of the Eurasian steppe.

A középkori eurázsiai sztyeppe több okból is meglehetősen zavaros hely. Az első az, hogy otthont adott a nomád és félnomád népek állandóan változó foltjainak, amelyek különböző háborúi különböző pontokon nagyszabású vándorlásokat váltottak ki. A másik az, hogy ezek a népek általában nagyon keveset (ha egyáltalán) hagytak rá olyan írott forrásokra, amelyek alapján azonosítani tudjuk őket. A besenyők az egyik ilyen csoport, akik az eurázsiai sztyepp futószalagjáról kerülnek be a történelmi feljegyzésekbe, és különösen a bizánci birodalmi dokumentumokba.

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[0:00](#) Intro

[1:43](#) The Rise of the Pechenegs

[5:12](#) Language

[6:06](#) Society

[9:07](#) Byzantine Diplomacy

[10:51](#) Origins

[16:40](#) Decline and Fall

https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Omeljan_Pritsak

Omeljan Yosypovych Pritsak (Ukrainian: Омелян Йосипович Прицак; 7 April 1919, Luka, Sambir County, West Ukrainian People's Republic – 29 May 2006, Boston) was the first Mykhailo Hrushevsky Professor of Ukrainian History at Harvard University and the founder and first director (1973–1989) of the Harvard Ukrainian Research Institute.^[1]

Omeljan Yosypovych Pritsak /véltetően lengyel származású/ (ukránul: *Омелян Йосипович Прицак/PRICAK; 1919. április 7., Luka, Sambir megye, Nyugat-Ukrajnai Népköztársaság – 2006. május 29., 2006. május 29. Boston*) volt Grusevszki Mihály Ukrajna történelem professzora a Harvard Egyetemen és a Harvard Ukrajnai Kutatóintézetének alapítója és (1973–1989) első igazgatója)



Omeljan Pritsak

Born	7 April 1919 Luka, Sambir County, West Ukrainian People's Republic
Died	29 May 2006 (aged 87) Boston, Massachusetts, U.S.
Nationality	Ukrainian
Citizenship	American
Occupation(s)	Academic, professor, historian, linguist, medievalist
Known for	First Mykhailo Hrushevsky Professor of Ukrainian History at Harvard University, founder and first director of the Harvard Ukrainian Research Institute, founder of the journal Harvard Ukrainian Studies, founder of the Oriental Institute of the National Academy of Sciences in Kyiv, founder of the journal <i>Skhidnyi svit</i> (The Oriental World)
Title	Mykhailo Hrushevsky Professor of Ukrainian History at Harvard University (1975)

Academic background

Education	Polish “First Gymnasium” of Ternopil’, University of Lviv, Shevchenko Scientific Society, Academy of Sciences of Ukraine in Kyiv, Humboldt University of Berlin, University of Göttingen
Alma mater	University of Lviv, University of Göttingen, Harvard University
Academic advisors	Ivan Krypiakevych, Ahatanhel Yukhymovych Krymsky
Influences	Roman Jakobson, Viacheslav Lypynsky

Academic work

Era	20th century
Discipline	Medieval studies, Ukrainian history
Institutions	University of Hamburg, University of Washington, Harvard University
Main interests	Oriental, especially Turkic, sources for the history of Kyivan Rus'
Notable works	The Origin of Rus'

Published works

- *The origins of the Old Rus' weights and monetary systems: Two studies in Western Eurasian metrology and numismatics in the seventh to eleventh centuries.* Cambridge, Massachusetts: Distributed by Harvard University Press for the Harvard Ukrainian Research Institute, 1998.
- *From Kievan Rus' to modern Ukraine: Formation of the Ukrainian nation* (with Mykhailo Hrushevski and John Stephen Reshetar). Cambridge, Massachusetts: Ukrainian Studies Fund, Harvard University, 1984.
- *Khazarian Hebrew documents of the tenth century.* (with Golb, Norman Ithaca: Cornell University Press, 1982.
- "The Polovcians and Rus'" (Journal Article in *Archivum Eurasiae medii aevi*), 1982.
- *The origin of Rus'*. Cambridge, Massachusetts: Distributed by Harvard University Press for the Harvard Ukrainian Research Institute, 1981.
- *Studies in medieval Eurasian history* London: Variorum Reprints, 1981.
- *On the writing of history in Kievan Rus.* Cambridge, Massachusetts: Ukrainian Studies Fund, Harvard University, 1980.
- "The Khazar Kingdom's Conversion to Judaism." (Journal Article in *Harvard Ukrainian studies*, 1978)
- **The Pechenegs: A Case of Social and Economic Transformation (Journal Article in *Archivum Eurasiae medii aevi*), 1975**
- "Two Migratory Movements in the Eurasian Steppe in the 9th-11th Centuries". (Conference Paper in Proceedings : Proceedings of the 26th International Congress of Orientalists, New Delhi 1964, Vol. 2)
- *The Decline of the Empire of the Oghuz Yabghu* (Journal Article in *Annals of the Ukrainian Academy of Arts and Sciences in the United States*), 1952.
- *Die Bulgarische Fürstenliste*, Wiesbaden 1955.