Advances in Anthropology
2012. Vol.2, No.2, 64-79
Published Online May 2012 in SciRes (http://www.SciRP.org/journal/aa)

Scientific Research
http://dx.doi.org/10.4236/aa.2012.22008

The Origin of Kurds

Ferdinand Hennerbichler
Szellörózsa ut 45, Mosonmagyaróvár, Hungary
Email: ferdinand@hennerbichler.info

Received February 28th, 2012; revised March 30th, 2012; accepted April 12th, 2012

Kurds are traditionally regarded as Iranians and of Iranian origin, and therefore as Indo-Europeans, mainly, because they speak Iranian. This hypothesis is largely based on linguistic considerations and was predominantly developed by linguists. In contrast to such believes, newest DNA-research of advanced Human Anthropology indicates, that in earliest traceable origins, forefathers of Kurds were obviously descendants of indigenous (first) Neolithic Northern Fertile Crescent aborigines, geographically mainly from outside and northwest of what is Iran of today in Near East and Eurasia. Oldest ancestral forefathers of Kurds were millennia later linguistically Iranianized in several waves by militarily organized elites of (R1a1) immigrants from Central Asia. These new findings lead to the understanding, that neither were aborigine Northern Fertile Crescent Eurasian Kurds and ancient Old-Iranian speaker (R1a1) immigrants from Asia one and the same people, nor represent the later, R1a1 dominated migrating early Old-Iranian-speaker elites from Asia, oldest traceable ancestors of Kurds. Rather, constitute both historically completely different populations and layers of Kurdish forefathers, each with own distinct genetic, ethnical, linguistic and cultural backgrounds. These new insights indicate first inter-disciplinary findings in co-operation with two international leading experts in their disciplines, Iranologist Gernot L. Windfuhr, Ann Arbor, and DNA Genealogist Anatole A. Klyosov, Boston, USA.

Keywords: Kurds; Kurdistan; Ancient Mesopotamia; Old-Iranian; Methods of Inter-Disciplinary Research within Science of History

Introduction

Studies in the origin of Kurds were pioneered twice by Italians: in the late 18th century by two Italian catholic missionaries, Maurizio Garzoni (1734-1804) and Giuseppe Campanile (1762-1835), both members of the Order of Black Friars, who were sent by the Vatican to Christianize Kurdistan and carried out earliest studies on Kurdish language and civilization. And in the beginning of the 1990s by Italian (*1922 Genoa) born Luigi Luca Cavalli-Sforza and Italian collaborators in the monumental study "*The History and Geography of Human Genes*" (ed. 1994, based on earlier findings). LL Cavalli-Sforza et al. (1994) offered for the first time also new insights of modern Human Anthropology in the origin, migrations and genetic alignments of Kurds, and introduced a completely new understanding of their beginnings. Details will be discussed later. Previously, linguists developed quite a good number of pretty much conflicting origin-theories of Kurds, geographically ranging from the East to the North-West and the South-West of Iran of today. Briefly:

Northwest-Iranian origin theory: Tries to explain Kurds mainly as descendants of Old Iranian speakers like Medes because of assumed language similarities. Those are, however, still not established. Until today, only a few authentic Median words are documented, and are regarded as far too few for any sweeping assumption. This traditional out-of-Medes Hypothesis of the Kurds is rooted way back in the first half of the 19th century, where leading scholars of their time like e.g. Barthold Georg Niebuhr (1776-1831), German historian of Ancient Rome, described Kurds in "*Vorträge über alte Geschichte*" (Berlin 1847) as "*half Aramaeic and half Median-Persian people*" ("*Kurden ein halb aramäisches und halb medisch-persisches Volk*"). Later, the out-of-Medes theory of the Kurds was made popular worldwide by the Russian Orientalist Vladimir Fedorovich Minorsky (1877-1966).

Northeast-Iranian origin theory: Vindicated as early as 1903 e.g. by the Swiss born Orientalist Albert Socin (1844-1899) in the prestigious "*Grundriss der Iranischen Philologie*" (Strassburg 1903), where he considered immigration of the Kurds from the East conceivable ("*Einwanderung vom Osten her*" "*denkbar*"), who later shifted from Media to the West ("*von Medien aus einzelne iranische Stämme sich nach Westen hin verschoben*").

Southwest-Iranian origin theory: Based on language similarities between Persian, Balochi and Kurdish in "*Middle Iranian*" (ca. 4th century BC to 9th century AD), and out of claims, that therefore, 1) Persian, Balochi, and Kurds, must also be of closely related ethnic origin, presumably from Southwest of what is Iran of today, and that 2) hence, Kurds must have a linguistic and ethnic origin in the Southwest of Iran. This disputed theory has been repeated recently 2009 in an analysis, pillowed mainly on linguistic hypotheses, by Teheran born (*1953) Armenian Garnik Asatrian, who moved to Yerevan in 1968. Against cited decisive objections by international leading Iranologist Gernot Windfuhr ("*there is no evidence that there was at any time* […] *a wide-spread Kurdish-speaking area near Fars*") Garnik Asatrian maintained 2009: "*Kurdish* […] *has been shaped in a South-Western environment* […]; *the most probable option for an ethnic territory of the speakers of Kurdish remains the northern areas of Fars in Iran*" (source: Iran and the Caucasus 13 [Brill: Leiden, 2009] 1-58, 38). In addition to origin-theories dominated by linguistic considerations, there

Copyright © 2012 SciRes.

exist, also deep rooted in the early 19th century, until today an extended attempt to explain origins of the Kurds out of assumed correlations (equations) between language, ethnicity and an alleged existence of "*race*" as classification of humans, firmly rejected, though, several times foremost by the American Anthropological Association (e.g. American Journal of Physical Anthropology, vol. 101 [1996] 569-570). Since virtually all published experiments to try to prove and describe a common Kurdish "*race*" did not produce any result at all, let alone credible and convincing ones, these are therefore not taken up further in this analysis. To roundup this brief introductory remarks on relevant scientific research, there had also been in the past a few and rare examples of leading linguists of their time, who suggested an autochthonous, pre-IE origin of the Kurds in their ancestral homelands. Proponents of such a pre- and non-Indo-European (pre-non-Iranian) origin of the Kurds were notably Georgia-born linguist and historian Nikolaĭ Yakovlevich Marr (1864-1934), and Ephraim Avigdor Speiser (1902-1965), Galicia-born Orientalist, and long-time Chairman of the Department of Oriental Studies (1947-1965) at the University of Pennsylvania, USA. Both explained Kurds as descendants of the Guti (and Lulubi), which they considered as indigenous, autochthonous (Zagros) people (Speiser, Mesopotamian Origins, 1930, 110-119).

Interdisciplinary Approaches

Obvious difficulties and limitations in trying to explain the ethnic origin of Kurds predominantly with methods of comparative linguistics led the late British Iranist David Neil MacKenzie (1926-2001), Prof. of Iranology at the University of Göttingen (1975-1994) in Germany, already in early years of his research into Kurdish in the beginning of the 1960s to the conviction: "*for a solution of this problem it is necessary to look outside the linguistic evidence*" (The Origins of Kurdish. Transactions of the Philological Society, 1961: p. 86). Three decades later provided LL Cavalli-Sforza et al. an inter-disciplinary breakthrough, at least to a new insight into "*the problem*", in the already mentioned comprehensive study "*The History and Geography of Human Genes*" (Princeton, 1994). It includes a section on the genetic distance of 18 examined populations in West Asia (Eurasia). This early data indicated an overall genetic similarity of Kurds with other Middle Eastern populations, "*in spite of the complex history* [...] *as well as the mosaic of cultures and languages*", as the authors noted. A few years later, Gernot Windfuhr, leading Ira- nologist of our time, Prof. Emeritus at the University of Michigan in Ann Arbor, USA, discussed in an article of 2006 the exceptional DNA position of speakers of the "*Kurdish Complex*" as they were explained by LL Cavalli-Sforza et al. Windfuhr sees "*the most striking result*", "*regarding the Iranian-speaking groups*", in the separation of Iranian-speakers into three genetically distinct clusters: "1) *Kurdish and Caspian in the west*; 2) *Iranian* (*all others in Iran*) *in the Center*; 3) *Hazāra Tajik* (*Persian-speakers*) *and Pashtun* (*Pashto-speakers*) *in the east*" (source cited: Hennerbichler [2011] 324-326). Kurds were presented by LL Cavalli-Sforza et al. (1994) as integral Near East (Eurasia) substratum aborigines, speakers of a Northern Iranian language continuum, and genetically closer aligned to Caspian speakers in the West than to Iranian in the Center and in the East. Such a ground-breaking early inter-disciplinary origin-explanation attempt of Kurds was never published before 1994. It went far beyond traditional, conflicting origin-hypotheses, including geographic ones, based predominantly on linguistic considerations, and aimed at a new integral understanding of people like Kurds, deep rooted in a wider multi-ethno-cultural substratum (northwest) Eurasian (West Asia) genesis, and distinct away from the Center and East of Iran, notably including the Southwest.

Overview mtDNA and Y-DNA Studies in Kurds

Early findings by LL Cavalli-Sforza and collaborators initiated since 1994 a number of international follow up research studies into the genetic genesis and profile of Kurds. Three of them, published 2000-2004, concentrated on mtDNA Sequence Analyses: Comas et al. (2000), Richards et al. (2000) and Quintana-Murci et al. (2004). One early comprehensive study on patrilineal Y-DNA of Wells et al. (2001) incorporated samples from "*Kurds Turkmenistan*" into the survey "*The Eurasian Heartland*: *A continental perspective on Y-chromosome diversity*". Nebel et al. came out 2001 and 2007 with two groundbreaking examinations describing close genetic affiliations between Jews and Kurds. Nasidze et al. from the Max Planck Institute for Evolutionary Anthropology in Leipzig, Germany, introduced 2005 the first main genetic study in Kurds only: "*MtDNA and Y-chromosome Variation in Kurdish Groups*". Five years later, the author of this brief survey, submitted the first inter-disciplinary paper aiming on new insights in the origin of the Kurds. This research is being continued, supported, and backed up by Gernot Windfuhr, Ann Arbor, and Anatole Klyosov, Boston, USA. Klyosov provided above all most significant newest data on assumed origin and migrations of R1a1 clans from Asia as well as a critical comprehensive evaluation of genetic findings regarding Kurds on the state of the art.

Main Aim of the Study

To try to prove with inter-disciplinary scientific methods explained, that indigenous aborigine forefathers of Kurds (speakers of the "*Kurdish Complex*") existed already B.C.E. and had a prehistory in their ancestral homeland (mainly outside and northwest of Iran of today).

Sources/Methods

Current state of research based on inter-disciplinary findings of Palaeo/Archaeo-genetic evidence (mainly DNA research on skeletons), Evolutionary Anthropology—DNA Genealogy (of people living today), Historical Terminology—(mainly cuneiform) Onomasticon, Linguistics (in particular reconstruction of Old-Iranian using the example of ergative), and Science of History. As for the relevance and significance of human DNA data within the framework of Science of History: All DNA data quoted in this inter-disciplinary study have been used in a two-fold counterchecked way, where as a matter of principle DNA findings (palaeo-genetic evidence) from archaeological sources including skeletons of dead people formed the basis and were only later linked to specific typical modal DNA genealogy profiles of people (and speakers of the "*Kurdish Complex*") living today. In no way were interpretations and conclusions of the DNA research data presented in this study based exclusively on people living today without correlation to available DNA findings from ancient archaeological sources. Therefore, no attempt was made in this inter-disciplinary study to try to

Copyright © 2012 SciRes.

prove history of the past (exclusively) with data of the present. Rather, DNA genealogy profiles of people living today were only used and interpreted as indications for historical processes within the framework of available basic ancient data including archaeological ones. In this regard, Human Haplo-Groups/Types were used indicating not only (ethno-) genetic, but at the same time also historic mutations of social groups and societies. Attempts to search for a "*Kurdish race*" were not taken up in detail, following various scientific explanations by the American Anthropological Association (AAA), that "*race*" as classification of humans would scientifically not be possible, because pure human race never existed (see References). Therefore, the inter-disciplinary methods the author follows are based without exceptions on traditional values and methods of Science of History, can be repeated and re-checked for their findings at any time, again and again, and never intend to leave acknowledged frameworks of historic science. By that indicating, that Science of History comprises a broad spectrum of disciplines spanning from archaeology and human anthropology to contemporary history.

Definitions

The term "*Kurd*" is used in this inter-disciplinary study for speakers and members of the "*Kurdish Complex*" (shown in **Figure 1**) according to the following definition by Prof. Gernot Windfuhr (Hennerbichler, 2011: p. 12): "1) *Kurdish*: a) *North Kurdish*, b) *Central Kurdish*, c) *Southeast Kurdish*, *including the* "*Perside*" *Lori*, *Bakhtiari*, *Boir-Ahmadi*, *Kuhgiluye etc. in southern Zagros*; 2) *Zaza*; 3) *Gorani*: a) *Hawram*(*an*)*i and* b) *additional Gorani dialects in areas north of Kermanshah*, c) *Bajelani east of Mosul.*" This concept is methodically integrating and comprises a whole range of distinct related Iranian languages under one compound umbrella label as "*Kurdish*" ("*Kurdish Complex*").

Main Findings: DNA Research

Available data for indigenous aborigine Northern Fertile Crescent Kurdish ancestors:

Matrilineal Ancestors of Kurds: Mitochondrial DNA (mtDNA)

Number of samples used: Comas et al. (2000): 29 from Georgia; Richards et al. (2000): 53 from eastern Turkey; Quintana-Murci et al. (2004): 20 from West-Iran and 32 from Turkmenistan; in all 134 matrilineal Kurdish mtDNA samples were pub-

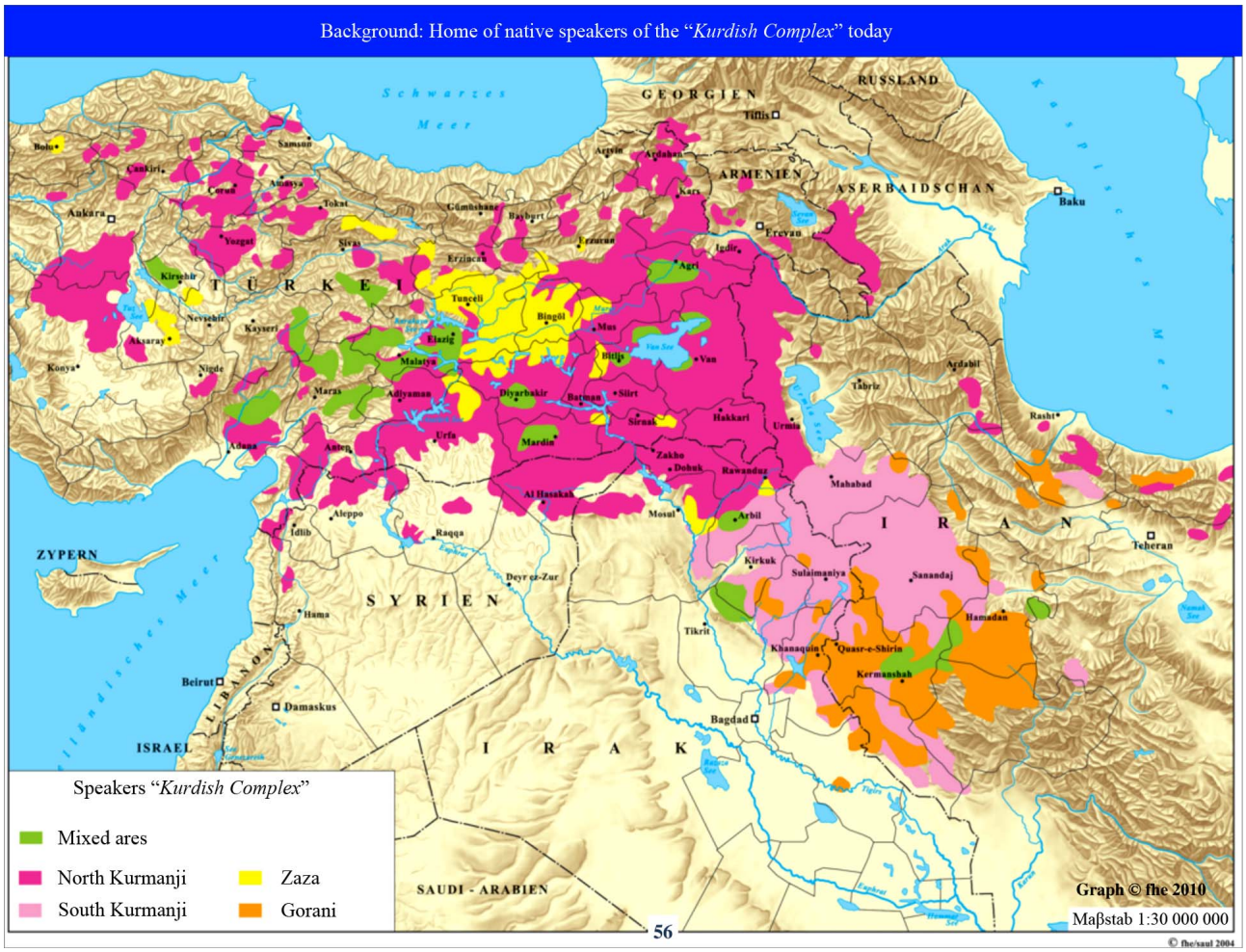

Figure 1.
Habitat of speakers of the "*Kurdish Complex*" today (Hennerbichler, 2011: p. 56).

Copyright © 2012 SciRes.

lished.

Findings: MtDNA Kurds matrilineal aboriginals represent mother-clans, who substantially co-founded Near East (Eurasia/West Asia) and Europe. Comas et al. 2000 summarized: "*Almost all Kurdish sequences belong to the quite homogeneous European/West Asian mtDNA sequence pool*". Richards et al. (2000) detected very old "*U5 lineages*, *although rare elsewhere in the Near East*, […] *especially concentrated in the Kurds*, *Armenians*, *and Azeris*" as well as "*substantial back-migration from Europe into the Near East of mtDNA lineages*". Comas et al. (2000) concluded: "*They* [*Kurds*] *may represent the descendants of the first shepherds that occupied the Kurdistan highlands since the first Neolithic*".

Patrilineal Ancestors of Kurds: Y-DNA Lineages

Number of samples analysed: Wells et al. (2001): 17 "*Kurds Turkmenistan*" (*Ku-Tm*); Nebel et al. (2001, 2007): 95 "*Muslim Kurds*, *mainly North Iraq*" (*MK*); Nasidze et al. (2005): 139 (plus 17 cited of Wells et al. 2001), thereof: 87 Kurmanji-Speaker Turkey, "*Kurmanji-T*" (*Ku-Tk*), 27 Zazaki-Speaker Turkey, "*Zazaki-T*" (*Za-Tk*), and 25 Kurmanji-Speaker Georgia, "*Kurmanji-G*" (*Ku-G*); in all were 251 patrilineal Kurdish Y-DNA examined (see **Table 1** and **Figure 2**, including corrections to R1a1 by Anatole Klyosov).

Paleo/Archaeo-Genetic Timespan Calculations to Common Ancestors

Citing R. Spencer Wells, *The Genographic Project*, accessed 7 January 2012: C-M130 (first appeared 50,000 years ago), E-M96 (30,000 to 40,000 YBP), F-M89 (45,000 YBP), G-M201 (30,000 YBP), I-M170 (20,000 YBP), J1-M267 (about 10,000 YBP)[**], J2-M172 (15,000 to 10,000 YBP), K-M9 (40,000 YBP), P-M45 (35,000 to 40,000 YBP), R1-M173 (35,000 YBP), "R1A-M17" (10,000 YBP)[***], R2 (former P1)-M124 (about 25,000 YBP).

DNA-Data Evaluation by Anatole Klyosov

[*]***I-M170***: Klyosov questions published data for "*I*" by Nasidze [et al.] and points out, that earlier data by Nasidze [et al.] on "*I*" in the Caucasus and in Iran have not been confirmed. There are very few "*I*" outside of Europe, and some "*I*" in the Middle East, but their haplotypes are identical to, e.g., the Scandinavians, and they are "*young*". This means that they are "*tourists*" there, and of course, there always can be some isolated "*I*" (or anything else) as "*tourists*" again.

[**]***J1-M267***: The published data are incorrect. J[1] is much older. I have lineages of J1 of 19,000 years old.

[***]***R1a1-M17***: There are newest data on R1a1 available. Some of earlier works published 2000-2003 particularly on R1a1 are in the meantime quite obsolete and should have been

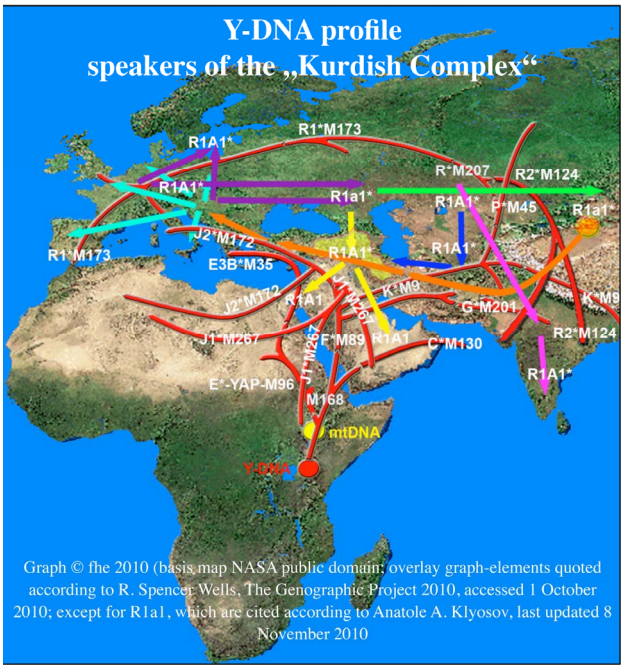

Figure 2.
Y-DNA profile of speakers of the "*Kurdish Complex*" (Hennerbichler, 2011: p. 33).

Table 1.
Results: Nasidze et al. 2005; Wells et al. 2001; Nebel et al. 2001 (2007): 12 patrilineal Y-DNA Haplogroups & subclades found in Kurds living today.

Haplogroup & subclade	Kurmanji-Speaker Turkey Ku-Tk	Zazaki-Speaker Turkey Za-Tk	Kurmanji-Speaker Georgia Ku-G	Kurds Turkmenistan Ku-Tm	Muslim Kurds, mainly North Iraq MK
C-RPS4Y-M130	1.1% Ku-Tk	3.7% Za-Tk	not found/reported	not found/reported	not found/reported
E-YAP-M96	11.5% Ku-Tk	11.1% Za-Tk	not found/reported	not found/reported	7.4% MK Iraq
F-M89	11.5% Ku-Tk	7.4% Za-Tk	12.0% Ku-G	41.0% Ku-Tm	not found/reported
G-M201	2.3% Ku-Tk	3.7% Za-Tk	not found/reported	not found/reported	not found/reported
I-M170*	16.1% Ku-Tk	33.3% Za-Tk	not found/reported	not found/reported	11.6% MK Iraq
J1-M267**	not found/reported	not found/reported	not found/reported	not found/reported	11.6% MK Iraq
J2-M172	13.8% Ku-Tk	not found/reported	32.0% Ku-G	18% Ku-Tm	28.4% MK Iraq
K-M9	12.7% Ku-Tk	not found/reported	8% Ku-G	not found/reported	not found/reported
P-M45	5.7% Ku-Tk	3.7% Za-Tk	4% Ku-G	not found/reported	not found/reported
R1-M173	4.6% Ku-Tk	11.1% Za-Tk	not found/reported	29.0% Ku-Tm	16.8% MK Iraq
R1a1-M17***	12.7% Ku-Tk	25.9% Za-Tk	not found/reported	12.0% Ku-Tm	11.6% MK Iraq
R2 (former P1)-M124****	8.0% Ku-Tk	not found/reported	44.0% Ku-G	not found/reported	not found/reported

Copyright © 2012 SciRes.

withdrawn. The focal point for the most likely origin of R1a1 is the Uygur-Xinjiang province of China "*behind*" India, to the East, between Mongolia, Russia, Kyrgyzstan and China, 21,000 ybp, and not in the Ukraine or South Russia 15 or 10 thousand years ago (**Figure 3**).

[****]***R2* (*former P1*)-*M124*: There are neither data whatsoever on possible "*Indo-Europeinization*" by R2 haplogroup nor on R2 in the Andronovo culture. Evaluation A. A. Klyosov quoted from: Hennerbichler (2011) 15, 46, 60, 75, 89 - 90, 92, 114 - 118, 139 - 142, 188, 334.

Results Nasidze/Wells/Nebel et al. 2001-2007 Interpretation Summary

Genetic Northern Fertile Crescent Substratum

Documented by partly very old but in % minor represented Y DNA clans like C-RPS4Y = M130 (1.1% - 3.7%), E-YAP = M96 (11.1% - 11.5%), F-M89 (7.4% - 12.0%, exception: 41.0% Ku-Tm), G-M201 (2.3% - 3.7%). Quoted exceptions are neither proper explained nor explored in detail. I-M170 from Caucasus to (northern) Iran is disputed.

Dominating J-Lines

(**Figure 4**; Paragroup J Now M304): Highest percentage measured so far in Zagros areas 59% J1 + J2 from J-p12f2 (Quintana-Murci et al. 2001). (Muslim) Kurds North Iraq: 40% J1 + J2 (Nebel et al. 2001, 2007). 40% J2-M172 for Eastern Anatolia (Semino et al. 2000). 32% J2-M172 Ku-G (Nasidze et al. 2005). J-men ancestors point to (first) Neolithic Northern Fertile Crescent farmers and shepherds forefathers of Kurds, and at the same time indicate the closest genetic relationship between Kurds, and Jews (and in a wider range also including Armenians) ever measured so far. Details will be discussed later.

Substantial R-Lines

R1-M173 up to 29% (Ku-Tm), R1a1-M17 (**Figure 5**) up to 25.9% (Za-TK), R2-(former P1) M124 up to 44% (Ku-G). All are representing immigrants from Asia. However, outstanding % of R1-M173 in Ku-Tm, and of R2-M124 in Ku-G are not fully explained. Suggested involvements of R2-M124 in the Andronovo culture and in a possible "*Indo-Europeinization*" are disputed (Anatole Klyosov). Even so, the role of R1a1 in linguistic "*Indo-Europeinization*" processes of indigenous Eurasian Northern Fertile Crescent Kurds are interpreted as crucial.

Simultaneous Presence of Kurdish Ancestors from Eastern Anatolia to Zagros East

The available DNA-data suggest that forefathers of Kurds

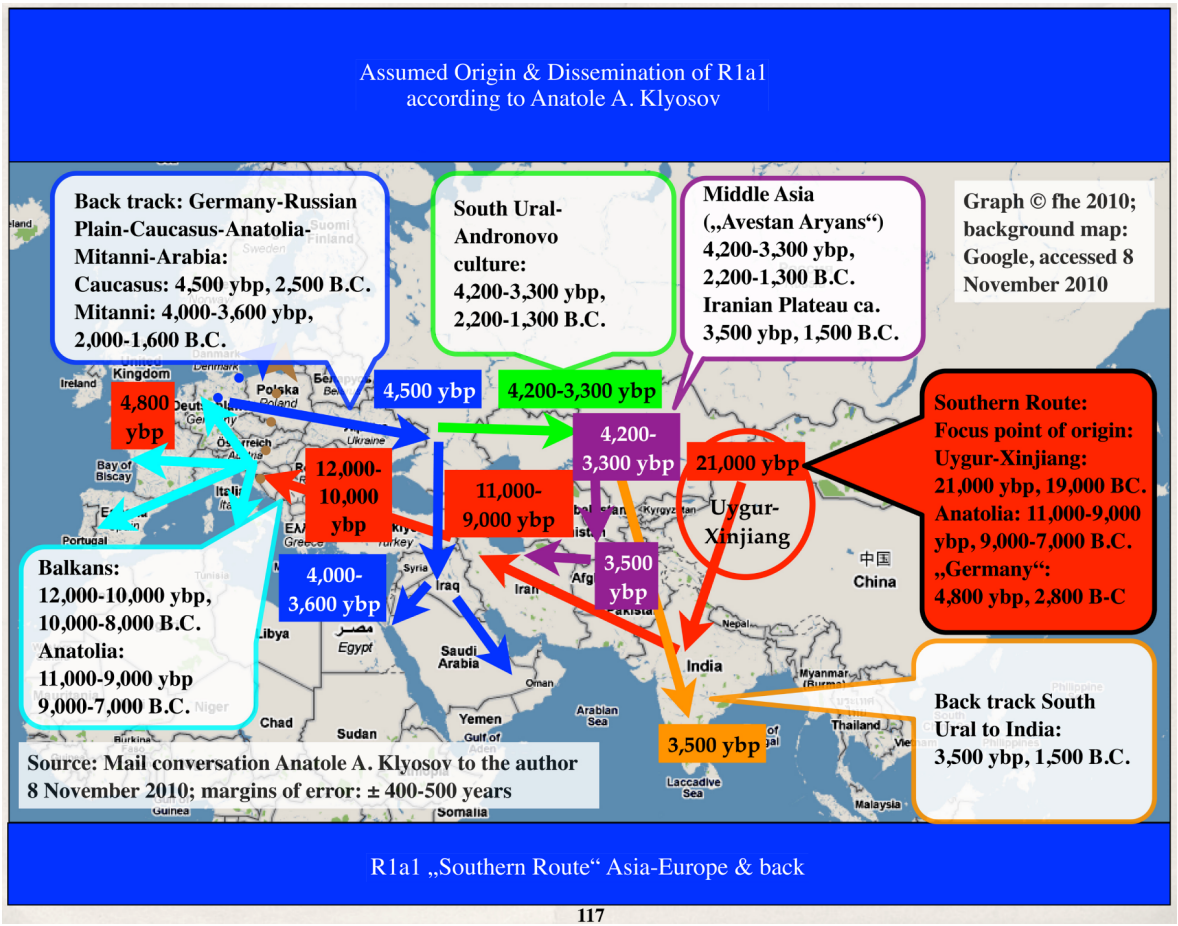

Figure 3.
Assumed Origin & Dissemination of R1a1 according to A. A. Klyosov (Hennerbichler, 2011: p. 117).

Copyright © 2012 SciRes.

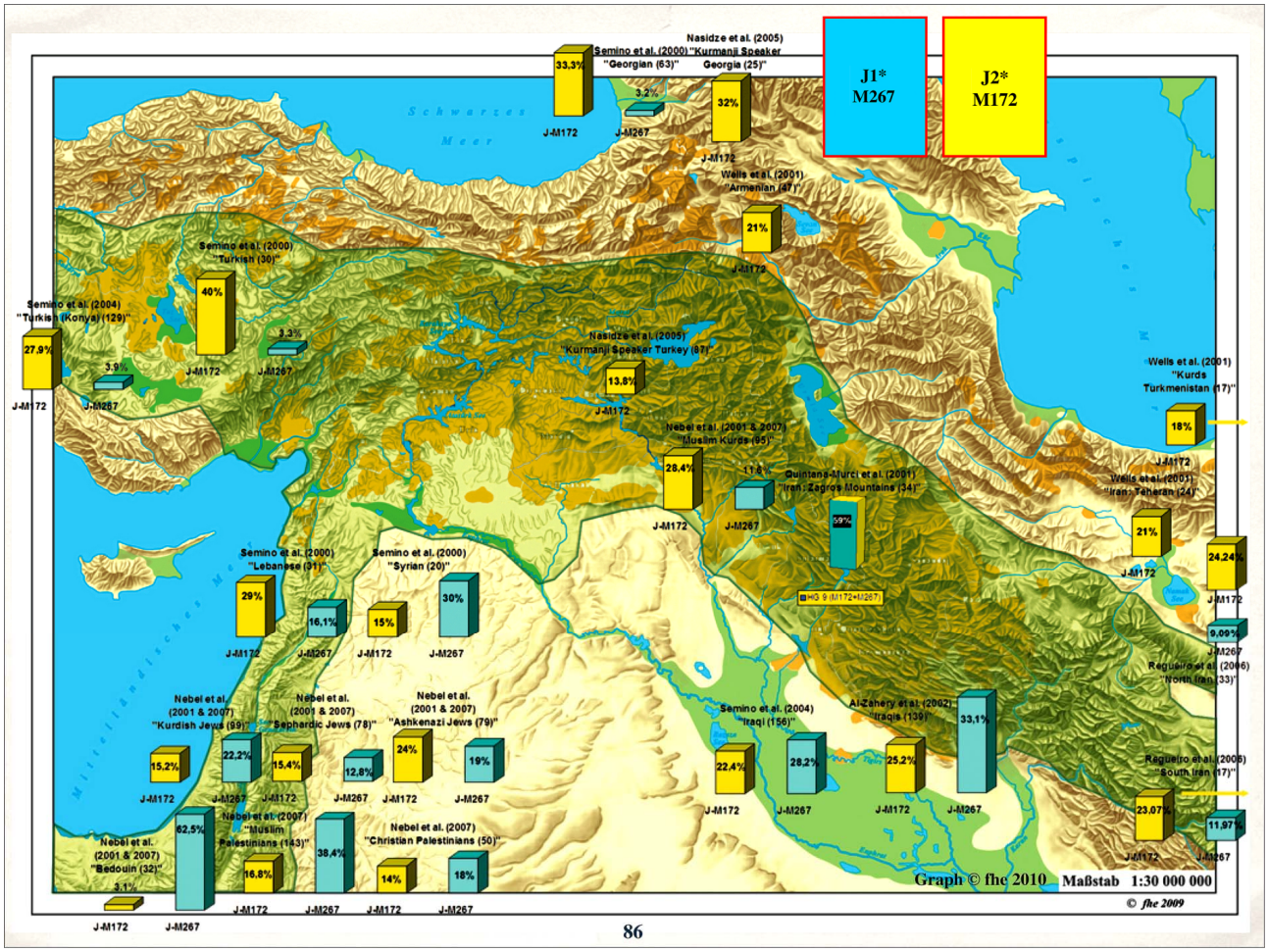

Figure 4.
Dominating J-lines in indigenous Kurdish ancestors Near-East & Eurasia (Hennerbichler, 2011: p. 86).

have obviously existed from very beginnings simultaneously at the same time in the far North (E-Anatolia, N-Mesopotamia) and the far North-East (Zagros and eastern plains of NW Iran of today). There are (ethno-) genetically no indications published that Kurds would have originated either in Anatolia or in Zagros regions (stretching east into NW of Iran of today), and would only later have moved in opposite directions. This particular finding of a simultaneous presence of Kurdish ancestors from eastern Anatolia to Zagros east seems above all convincingly best documented and backed up by substratum Eurasian J-clans in Kurdish ancestors. Further more, Kurds can't have descended from one particular single man, pair or tribe, even if special single linguistic terms would insinuate that. Nor can Kurds have originated geographically from one particular single place, area or region only. These findings are in contrast to assumptions of linguists like e.g. Rüdiger Schmitt (see Kárdakes) or Muhammad Dandamayev (see Carduchi), both in EIr online. Last but not least, the ancient habitat of Kurdish ancestors show especially in documented distributions of J-clan-forefathers distinct geographic characters of hilly and mountain areas, which apparently motivated ancient Mesopotamian (cuneiform) scribes to a common term label denominator: they characterized them predominantly and in a long standing terminological tradition as (Anatolia/N-Mesopotamia/Zagros) mountain dweller populations (mountaineers) in the far North and North-East.

Modal Kurdish Haplotype

Kurds developed on subclade J2-M172 an own typical genetic profile called "*Modal Kurdish Haplotype*" (KMH or MKMH for Muslim Kurds) with the following loci: 14-15-23-10-11-12 (quoted according to the 6 marker of the Jewish Cohen CMH [CMH-6]). The Kurdish J2-M172 KMH is also found in Jews and Armenians. The highest % have been measured so far in Yezidis in Armenia and in (Muslim) Kurds from Northern Iraq (MKMH): Yezidis (in Armenia): 11.9%, MK = Muslim Kurds (N-Iraq): 9.5%, Armenians: Frc/Ø: 5.7%, max.: 7.4%, SJ = Sephardic Jews: 2.6%, KJ = Kurdish Jews: 2.0%, PA = Palestinian Arabs: 1.4%, AJ = Ashkenazi Jews: 1.3%. Sources: Nebel et al. 2001, 2007; Yepiskoposyan, L[evon] 2007 (provided passim unpublished data), citing Weale et al. 2001.

Jewish Modal Haplotypes

The Kurdish modal haplotype KMH: **14-15-23-10-11-12** differs in 6 attested micro-satellite loci only in one by one number: 16/15 (on 2nd position), compared with the Jewish "*Cohen*

Copyright © 2012 SciRes.

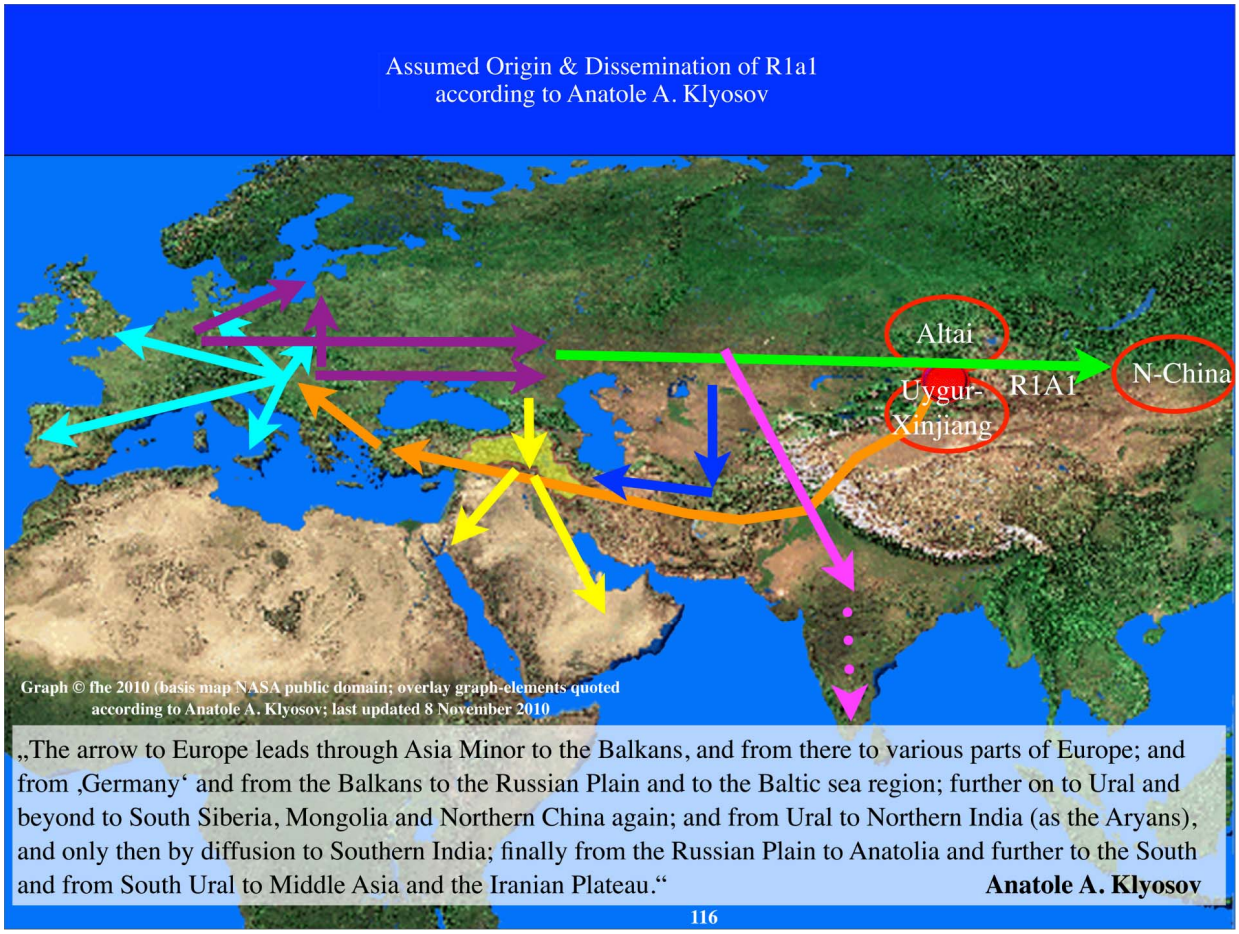

Figure 5.
Substantial R-lines immigrants from Asia (Hennerbichler, 2011: p. 116).

Modal Haplotype" CMH: **14-16-23-10-11-12**, developed on J1e*P58. The CMH is associated with the Jewish priestly caste of the Bible known as C(K)ohanim (singular "*Kohen*", "*Cohen*", or *Kohane*). A common ancestor of J1e* CMH lived 1,075 ± 130 YBP. There is also a newly detected Jewish Modal Haplotype on J2-M172 (J2a4*) with exactly the same 6 marker haplotype as that in haplogroup J1, but this according to Anatole Klyosov "*has nothing to do with the Cohens*" and "*is just a blind coincidence*"; see for details Hennerbichler (2011) 92.

The J1e*P58 CMH is also found in non-Jewish populations like Kurds and Armenians: KJ =Kurdish Jews: 10.1%, AJ = Ashkenazi Jews: 7.6%, SJ = Sephardic Jews: 6.4%, Armenians: Frc/Ø: 2%, max.: 3%, PA = Palestinian Arabs: 2.1%, MK = Muslim Kurds: 1.1%. Sources: Nebel et al. 2001, 2007; Weale et al. 2001.

Conclusions of cited authors: Nebel et al. (2001): "*Jews were found to be more closely related to groups in the north of the Fertile Crescent* (*Kurds*, *Turks*, *and Armenians*) *than to their Arab neighbours.*" [Turks = Anatolians in Turkey of today]. The Armenian DNA Genealogist Levon Yepiskoposyan agrees: "*Our data confirm the results of other researchers and indicate that Jews*, *Armenians*, *and Kurds belong to indigenous Near East and Anatolian populations who were the founders of the European and Middle East civilisations.*" (mail conversation to the author May 2007; for further references see Hennerbichler (2010), 247-260.

R1a1 and the "*Indo-Europeanization*" of Kurdish Ancstors

Palaeo/Archaeo-Genetic Evidence

Anatole A. Klyosov (2008 & 2009), passim quoting other scholars like Cadenas et al. (2009), is recording two migration waves of R1a1 into ancestral homelands of Kurdish forefathers in E-Anatolia/N-Mesopotamia and Zagros/East (NW Iran of today):

South Russia-Anatolia-Arabia (see **Figure 6**): Klyosov calculates the timeframe for migrating R1a1 tribes from areas of South Russia southwards via Armenia, to Anatolia, (partly NW Iran), and Arabia between some 4000 - 3600 years ago (2000-1600 B.C.), maybe 4200 - 3300 ybp (2200-1300 B.C.). According to this timespan calculations, R1a1 men (Klyosov: "*Aryan*") populated Ukraine/South Russia 4750 ± 500 ybp = 3240-2190 B.C., Anatolia 3700 ± 550 ybp = 2240-1140 B.C., and the Arabian Peninsula, Qatar & Arab Emirates 3750 ± 825 ybp = 2565-915 B.C.

Northwest Iran: The first and minor wave of R1a1 from the North to North-West Iran was according to Klyosov 4200/ 4000-3600 years before present (2200/2000-1600 B.C.); the second, principal move of R1a1 to North-Western Iran from the

Copyright © 2012 SciRes.

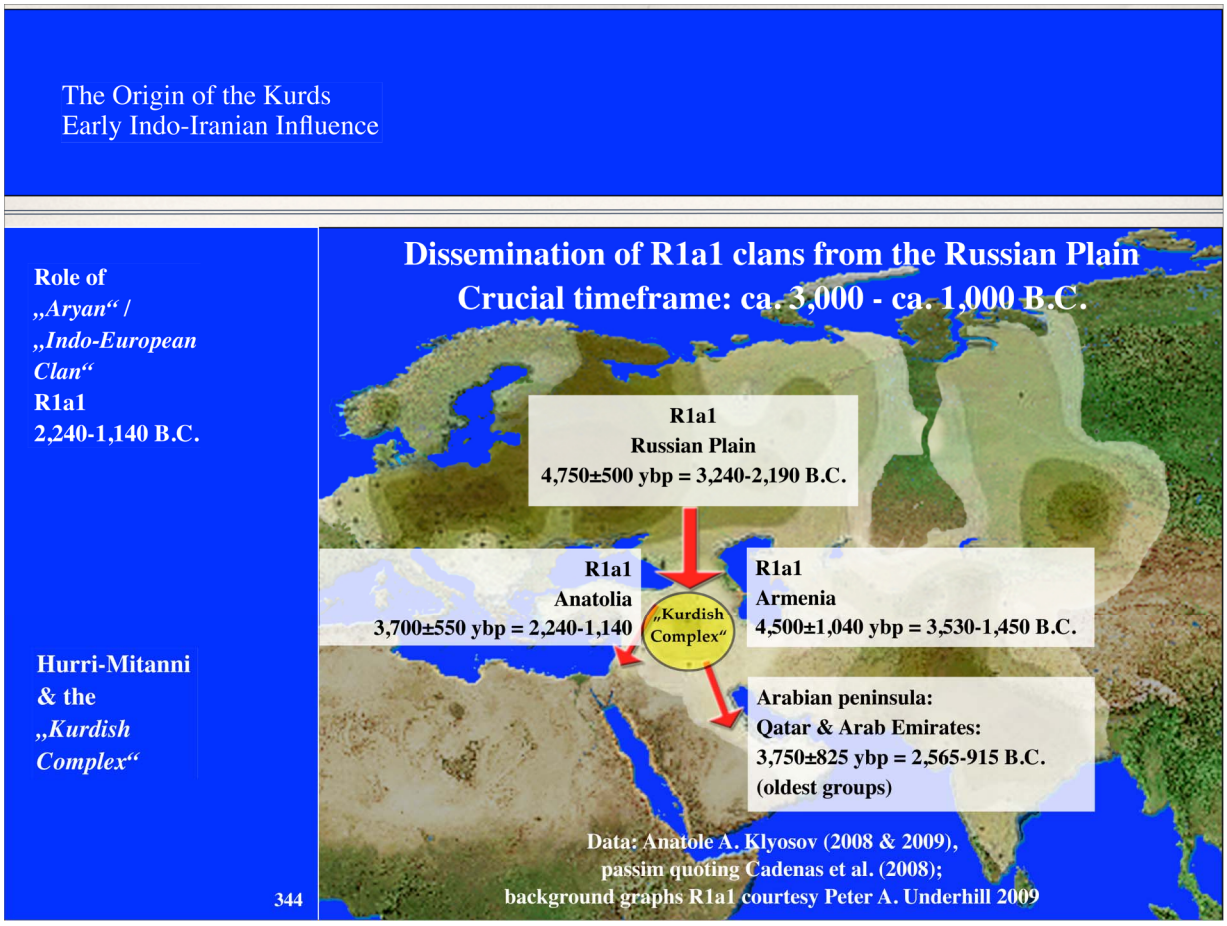

Figure 6.
Early "*Aryan*" ("*Indo-European*") R1a1 influence on Kurdish ancestors (Hennerbichler, 2011: p. 344).

Iranian Plateau only around 800-700-600 B.C.; R1a1 were spreading there from the Iranian Plateau as Old-Iranian speakers in areas of NW Iran (of today) like Media (and Parsua) since the 9th century B.C., and also from the North as part of Scythians during the 8/7th centuries B.C.; but "*this was AFTER the Aryans migrated to North-Eastern Iran ca.* 3500 *ybp* (1500 *B.C.*) *and settled there*", stresses Klyosov. Cited sources: Hennerbichler (2011) 112 - 118, 121, 134 - 138, 287, 340 - 341, 344 - 346.

DNA Genealogy of Kurds Living Today

Distribution of Y-DNA R1a1 Near East & Eurasia: Used published data: "*Ukrainians*" 50% - 65%, Zaza-Speaker 25.90%, Kurmanji-Speaker Turkey 12.70%, Muslim Kurds N-Iraq 11.60%, "*Armenia"* 9%, "*Tehran*" 2% - 4%, "*Syrian*" 10%, "*Lebanese*" 9.7%, Ashkenazi Jews 12.70%, Bedouin 9.40%. Data are quoted from: Semino et al. (2000), Wells et al. (2001), Nebel et al. (2001, 2007), Al-Zahery et al. (2003), Cinnioglu et al. (2004), Nasidze et al. (2004, 2005), Underhill et al. (2009); see for detailed references Hennerbichler (2010) 247-260.

This data indicate, that Kurdish descendants (speakers of the "*Kurdish Complex*"), who are still living in large numbers on ancient Hurrian-Mitanni soil, show the highest ever measured ethno-genetic percentages of R1a1 men ancestors in Eurasia. If it holds, that migrating (militarily organized) elites of R1a1 clan men were also involved in linguistic processes of Indo-Europeanizations in ancient Anatolia and Hurri-Mitanni areas as early as 2240-1140 B.C. from South Russia, ancestors of Kurds (speakers of the "*Kurdish Complex*") could have been substantially involved.

Historic Terminology

Ummān-Manda 21st CE B.C. - ca. 500 B.C.

The ancient Mesopotamian compound expression Ummān-manda obviously confirms the historic existence of migrating military groups and elites of various origins 21st CE B.C. to ca. 500 B.C. (shown in **Figure 7**). *Ummān* is explained from Akkadian for *ERÍN* (*.MEŠ*) meaning "*army troops*" (warriors). There is no consensus for the second component "*manda*", e.g. from Old Babylonian "*mandum*" = soldier; or Sumerian "*ma-(n)du(m)*" for terrain = distant mountain lands in the (far) east; also for many, numerous (questioned). Ummān-manda was used as generic term that could describe any ethnic group and denote various military entities and/or foreign populations/peoples in ancient Eurasia and Near East. In all are 51 sources between 21st - 7/6th centuries B.C. documented, that is from the time of Išbi-Irra, founder of the dynasty of Isin (2017-1985 B.C.), to the "*Spartoli Tablets*" of the Persian Achaemenid period (6th - 4th centuries B.C.). Main recent source of

Copyright © 2012 SciRes.

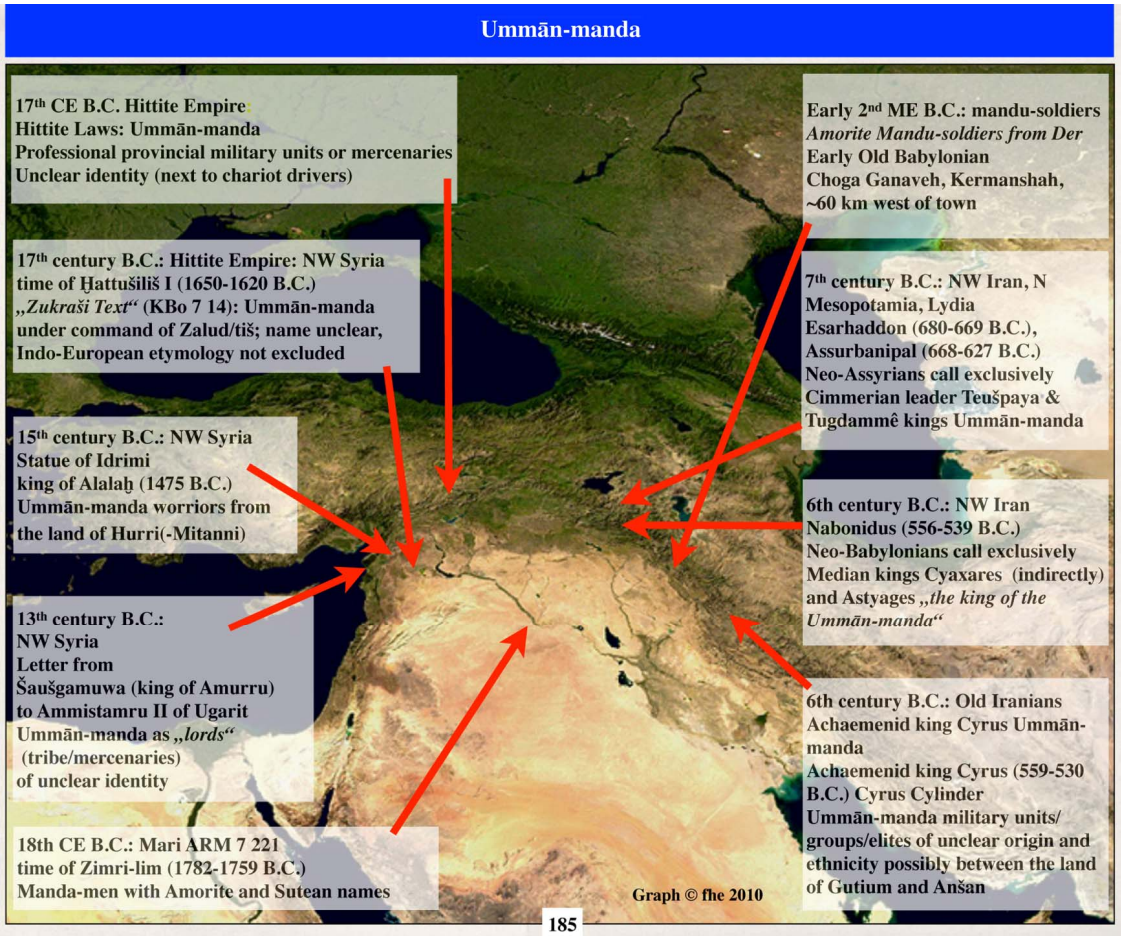

Figure 7.
Ummān-manda documented mainly on Hittitian, Hurrian-Mitanni & Semitic soil in N&NW&W and in NW Iran of today (Hennerbichler, 2011: p. 185).

reference is the Thesis of young Turkish scholar Selim Ferruh Adali (Ummān-manda and its Significance in the First Millennium B.C.), 2009, at the University of Sidney. 28 of the 51 sources, recorded by Adali, are part of Mesopotamian mythological literature, 23 can be regarded in a narrower sense as historical texts between 18th - 6th centuries B.C. Within that timeframe, Ummān-manda are portrayed as migrating military organized "*lords*"/tribes/groups/units/mercennaries of various origin, identity, and background. Historically, the term Ummān-manda was used in the North/West during the 18th/17th centuries B.C. mainly for Semites (including Semitic Akkadian/ Amorite? [Mandu-] soldiers [mercenaries?] in NW Iran Kordestan of today), in Hittite texts of the 17th century B.C. for migrating military elites from peripheral provincial areas of unclear origin (Hurrian background, possibly Indo-European elements), in the 15th century B.C. on Hurri-Mitanni soil, and in the 13th century B.C. in Ugarit-Amurru. In the North-East Neo-Assyrians (Esarhaddon 680-669 B.C., Assurbanipal (669-626 B.C.) labelled (exclusively) Kings of Cimmerians (of unclear origin) as Ummān-manda, Neo-Babylonians (like the last Babylonian king Nabonidus 556-539 B.C.) characterized for the first time and none but Old Iranians like Kings of Medes as Ummān-manda. Finally, on the cylinder of Achaemenid king Cyrus (559-530 B.C.) are Ummān-manda (of unclear identity) mentioned between Gutium and Anšan. See Hennerbichler (2011) 151 cf.

Ummān-Manda and R1a1/R1b1

Areas in Eurasia, where Ummān-manda are documented, show geographically two distinct mainstreams with correlations to various forefathers of Kurds: the content of the vast majority of available Ummān-manda sources is concentrated in the North and North-West of Mesopotamia, where speakers of the "*Kurdish Complex*" have genetically inherited the highest percentages of R1a1 ancestors, and in a comparatively smaller number in the North-East, where the presence of foreign "*mandu*"-soldiers from Der in the South of Mesopotamia affirms also a tradition of Semitic migrating warrior elites into Zagros-mountain regions of ancient Guti lands. The historic cuneiform Ummān-manda sources are endorsing genetic timespan-calculations for R1a1 (see, however, below an alternative suggestion related to R1b) dispersal in Eurasian territories presented by Anatole Klyosov. He draws two principal conclusions out of them: 1st (see **Figure 8**): Ummān-manda seem to confirm (im)migrating R1a1 elites: "*The timeframe for migrating R1a1 tribes from areas of South Russia southwards via Armenia, to Anatolia, (NW Iran?) and Arabia seems to fit into a nearly identical timeframe for ancient term label sources like*

Copyright © 2012 SciRes.

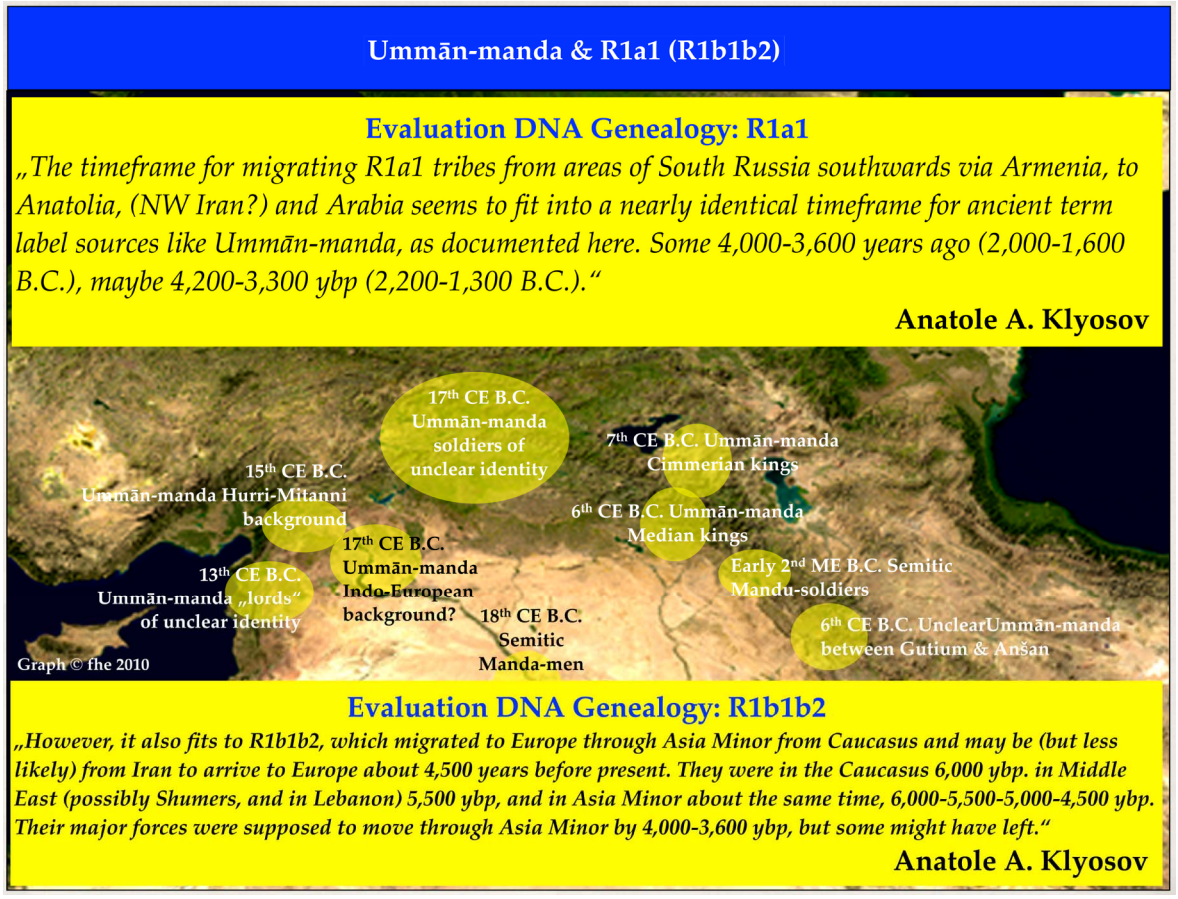

Figure 8.
Anatole Klyosov: Ummān-manda seem to confirm migrating R1a1 elites and possibly also a Sumerian origin (R1b) from the North (Hennerbichler, 2011: p. 188).

Ummān-manda, *as documented here. Some* 4000 - 3600 *years ago* (2000-1600 *B.C.*), *maybe* 4200 - 3300 *ybp* (2200-1300 *B.C.*)", Klyosov summarises.

Sumerian Origins from the North?

And 2nd, he sees in Umān-manda at the same time cuneiform evidence documented for possible origins of Sumerians from the North, and outlines: "*However*, *it also fits to R1b populations*, *which migrated to Europe through Asia Minor from Caucasus and may be* (*but less likely*) *from Iran to arrive to Europe about* 4500 *years before present. They were in the Caucasus* 6000 *ybp. in Middle East* (*possibly Sumers*, *and in Lebanon*) 5500 *ybp*, *and in Asia Minor about the same time*, 6000-5500-5000-4500 *ybp. Their major forces were supposed to move through Asia Minor by* 4000 - 3600 *ybp*, *but some might have left*" (Hennerbichler (2011) 188, 348). In a newest study (in print: "*Ancient History of the Arbins…*", *AA* 2012, *Vol.* 2, *No.* *, **-**) Klyosov enlarges upon these previous indications, and characterizes Sumerians more specifically as "*Arbins*", bearers of R1b haplogroup, who arose ~16,000 ybp from regions in South Siberia/Central Asia, and who along their migration route to the Middle East and South Mesopotamia apparently established the Sumer culture (and state). Sumers are the likely bearers of R1b1a2 haplogroup, Klyosov suggests, and Assyrians one of their oldest surviving descendants (note: source in print, pre-copy courtesy to the author February 2012).

Background Sumerian and Basque

Anatole Klyosov bases his hypothesis of a possible R1b(1a2) origin of (died out) Sumerians mainly on assumed (ethno-) genetic relations with Basques (living in West Europe now), who "*are almost totally R1b1b2*", as he defines, and on established linguistic similarities, including special forms of ergativity. "*There are no data on Sumerian haplotypes at all*", Klyosov concedes, "*however*, *basis of my hypothesis is that Basques are almost totally R1b1b2*, *that their language is* '*unclassified*', *some linguists place it into* '*Sino-Caucasian*'. *The Sumerian language is apparently also* '*unclassified*', *and placed also by some linguists into* '*Sino-Caucasian*'. *Therefore, Sumerians themselves could have been R1b1a2*, *and migrated from Anatolia where they had arrived from Central Asia westward and then South via the Caucasus*", Klyosov sums up. In essence, he suggests, that Sumerians and Basques were descendants of R1b populations, who originated ~16,000 ybp in South Siberia/ Central Asia, and later diverged into different separate subgroups, Basques in R1b1b2 moving westwards to Europe, and Sumerians possibly in R1b1a2, heading first to the Caucasus und then to Anatolia and Mesopotamia. In order to counter-check this new explanation attempt on an inter-disciplinary basis, it could be helpful, if experts in Sumerian would in a next

Copyright © 2012 SciRes.

step identify at least one archaeological skeleton find as presumably belonging to a deceased Sumerian, so that than in the process, a palaeo/archaeo-genetic examination of such a skeleton would give further indications to the genetic profile of its bearer and the possible origin.

Ummān-Manda and Sumer

Since inter-disciplinary research in Sumerian origins is still in earlier stages, further investigation will be needed to get a deeper insight. As far as cited cuneiform sources are concerned, there are none documented indicating Sumerian Ummān-manda. Still, at least in one mythical story with a moral, "*The Cutha Legend*", a fictional autobiography of Akkadian Naram-Sin (ca. 2273-2219 B.C., mi. chron.), a leading Sumerian, king Enmerkar, builder of Uruk in south Mesopotamia, is mentioned as bad and punished example for not to combat Ummān-manda. They were created by the gods as the enemy of civilization for some work of destruction, came from eastern Anatolia, entered the far North of Mesopotamia via the eastern Upper Khabur, later destroyed Gutium and Elam, and at the end were defeated by the gods themselves (**Figure 9**). Human beings are said to be powerless, should not interfere and obey the will of the gods. The Sumerian Enmerkar did not and was punished. The Akkadian Naram-Sin first ignored an omen, lost many troops, got a second chance, did not interfere, virtually doing nothing, and finally, the will of gods prevented the kingdom to collapse. It is not clear, whether this (kind of exceptional pacifistic) mythological creation/origin text with a strong theological basis implies glimpses of real history at all like the (mainly) peaceful takeover of power in Mesopotamia from Sumer to Akkad or immigration from the north. It seems to indicate, however, in the explained limited sense, correlations of Ummān-manda both to Sumer and Akkad. Further more, if it should hold, that Assyrians prove to be descendants of Sumerians, as suggested by A. A. Klyosov, evidence for Ummān-manda particularly in the North-West of Mesopotamia would have to be rechecked again for possible Assyrian activities (migration) in the area. Data published so far indicate no clear picture.

In Search for Ergativity

Nevertheless, there are long-standing efforts notably by linguists to try to find answers to Sumerian and indeed Mesopotamian origins by searching for oldest traceable linguistic roots and special common ancient language features like ergativity. This keyword not only indicates a linguistic coherence between ergativity in both Basque and Sumerian, apparently based on common ancient roots, but shows also implications to ancestors of speakers of the "*Kurdish Complex*". A brief summary note: Piotr Michalowski, leading linguistic Sumerian expert, Professor of Ancient Near Eastern Languages and Civilizations at the

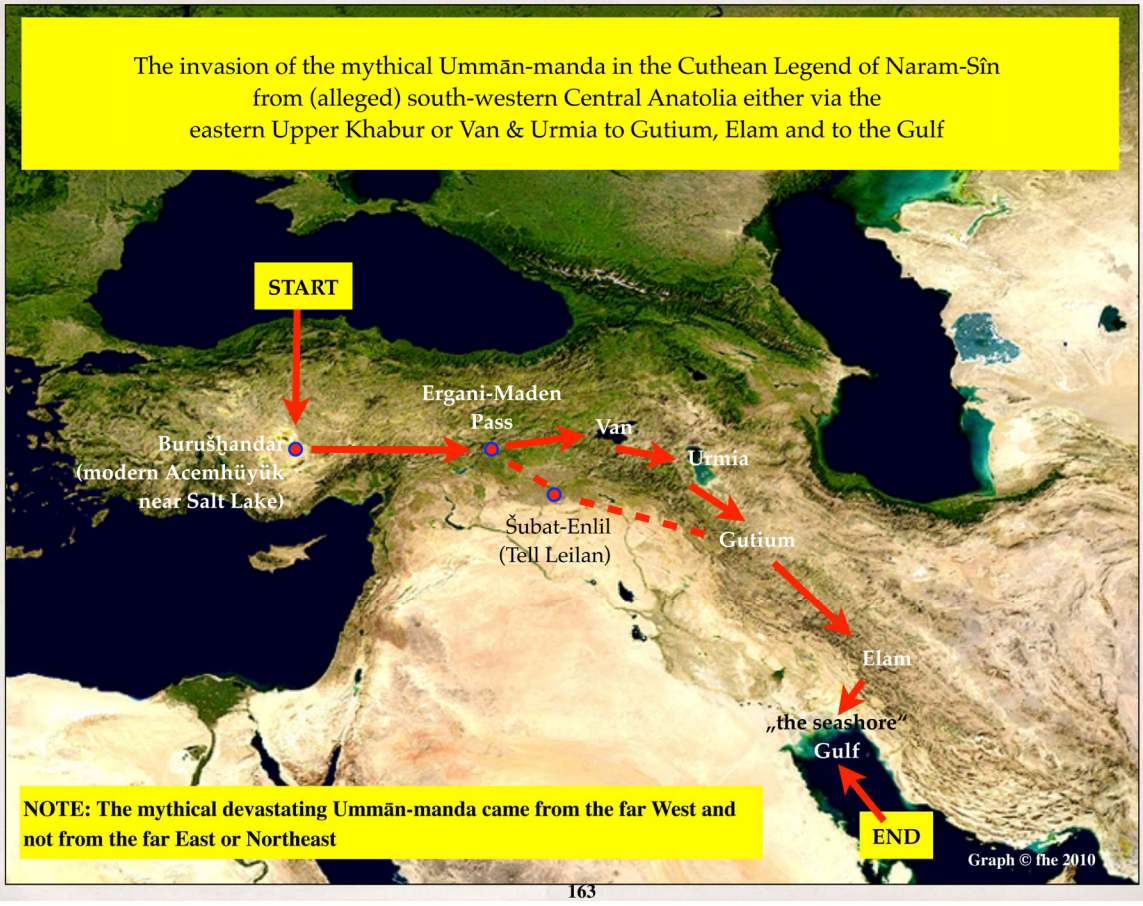

Figure 9.
The invasion of the mythical Ummān-manda in the Cuthean Legend of Naram-Sin in two interpretations of Piotr Michalowski and Michael C. Astour (Hennerbichler, 2011: p. 163).

Copyright © 2012 SciRes.

University of Michigan, Ann Arbor, USA, is suggesting a broad Sumerian language origin hypothesis, based on sweeping findings of Johanna Nichols, Prof. Emeritus at the Linguistic Department of the University of California, Berkeley, USA. According to Michalowski, Sumerian played a key role of an areal, genetic and linguistic (ergative influenced) continuum of "*unclassified*", "*isolated*" languages (including Basque) in ancient West-Asia (Mesopotamia) before the Semitic spreads. Though, he offers no specific own explanation attempt, who the Sumerians ethnically were and where they might have originated from, his hypothesis shows apparent similarities to considerations, e.g. DNA experts like Anatole Klyosov are following. Even so, Michalowski's position to (ethno-) genetic DNA research remains ambivalent. On the one hand, he mentions attempts (e.g. ground-breaking ones by LL Cavalli-Sforza, l.c. ed. 1997) to link the evolution, distribution and diversification of language(s) with human genetic traits, but distinctly puts a question mark over it, phrasing: "*whatever one might think of these works*". On the other hand, he praises studies of linguist Johanna Nichols like "*her highly influential book on Linguistic Diversity in Space and Time*" (Chicago University Press 1992) as "*a new way of juggling genetic and areal linguistic history*", and subsequently uses the term "*genetic*" himself (next to "*areal*") to characterize Sumerian as part of a linguistic continuum in Western Asia before the Semitic spreads. Basically, Michalowski supports the view, that Sumerian "*was one*, *if not the major spoken language in Mesopotamia from very early on*", that "*short of a miracle we shall never go back much farther than*" Sumerian, and that "*we must also accept that there is at present no evidence at all for any other early language in the area*". That is why he is (also) dismissing "*archaeological sets of data*" as "*unrelated*", which are interpreted as indications for processes of foreign (im)migrating elites in(to) ancient Mesopotamia (citing Tom Jones, ed., *The Sumerian Problem*. New York: Wiley 1969). Michalowski pillows his dismissal of archaeological data possibly indicating a Sumerian immigration into Mesopotamia arguing, such (im)migration would have produced at least one other dominating early ancient language next to Sumerian in Mesopotamia, and (most likely) documented in writing, which according to him is not the case. Michalowski dismisses older findings as unfounded, notably by (Old-) Austro-Silesian born Benno Landsberger (1890-1968), a leading Assyrologist of his time, who advanced as early as 1943 the theory of a substratum language of people that cultivated farming in south Mesopotamia during the early Ubaid period (ca. 5500-4500 B.C.), possibly deriving out of the Samarra Culture (ca. 5500-4800 B.C.) on the Tigris in northern Mesopotamia. Landsberger called this assumed substratum language of Ubaidians "*Proto-Euphratian*". Later, end of the 1990s, Gonzalo Rubio showed in an analysis (1999) that special names for rivers, cities and specific trades (potter anti coppersmith) before Sumerians appeared in south Mesopotamia would constitute merely linguistic borrowings but not represent a full fledged pre-Sumerian substratum language called "*Proto-Eurphratian*". This finding is interpreted by Piotr Michalowski as further indication for arguing against immigration of pre-Sumerian dominating speakers in Mesopotamia. Michalowski is following, however, "*genetic and areal linguistic traits*" laid out by Johanna Nichols, and is entertaining himself a common origin explanation attempt for "*Isolates*" like Sumerian. He cites "*a broad-sweeping statement*" of Nichols (1994: p. 74), where she positions in a chain of ergative languages Basque next to "*three families of the Caucasus*", Elamite, Sumerian, and Hurro-Urartean in "*ancient Near East*", and points out, ergativity is relatively stable in areal terms, and ergative languages tend to cluster together. Michalowski seems to agree to the latter, confirms, that Sumerian had ergativity as special linguistic feature ("*ergative argument marking*"), but dismisses the assumption of Nichols, describing Elamite, the dominating language at the time before the Semitic spreads in the Southwest, also as ergative. Michalowski corrects, Elamite was "*not stativ-activ on an ergative base*", and showed no ergativity. Indicating at the same time, that Elamite, therefore, belongs to a (linguistic, areal, and genetic) different language continuum, not influenced by ergativity, and that a lack of this linguistic characteristic in Elamite could not back up a Sumerian origin from the South theory. This latter consecutive assumption Michalowski does not express verbatim, but characterizes Sumerian in more general terms as "*remnant of a much broader linguistic continuum*, *areal if not genetic*, *that had occupied much of Western Asia before the Semitic spreads*". Within such a broader ergative influenced language continuum of "*Isolates*" in Western Asia before the Semitic spreads, he positions two, Sumerian and Hatti, occupying "*a historical niche*" in Eurasia, "*analogous to Basque and Etruscan in Europe*", as he concludes. Thereby, he leaves key questions unanswered and open like possible direct historic connections between Basque and Sumerian, not only on common linguistic grounds such as ergativity, which he agrees to, but also on other crucial ones as well, which he explicitly also mentions in his analyses, like areal, ethnic, and (indeed) genetic (without elaborating).

Ergative in Sumerian and Gorani

Sumerian origin theories along ancient roots of ergativity are illustrated here in some detail, because they are directly correlated to developments of ergativity in Old Iranian, and therefore, provide also valuable insights into ancient roots of Kurdish. The evolution of ergativity in (Old) Iranian is illustrated authoritatively by leading Iranologist Gernot Windfuhr in the first German version "*Die Herkunft der Kurden*" of the author (Hennerbichler, 2010: pp. 199-208), and recently in the revised new English edition (Hennerbichler, 2011: p. 375). Therein, Windfuhr describes the ergative as "*trans-indoiranian*". All Iranian languages went through an ergative phase, and had at one time phases of "*full*" ergativity, he notes. The origin of ergativity he assumes in areas of the Bactrian-Margian Archaeological Complex (BMAC) in south Central Asia. From there, ergativity diverged in different regional forms (of Iranian). "*Tense-split ergative constructions in* (*some*) *past tense forms*" were developed only in later times, Windfuhr explains. Much earlier, the imperfect was formed from the present tense stem (and remained in the nominative-accusative). There are only two Iranian languages, which until today did not carry out the step to tense-split ergative constructions: Gorani ("*Kurdish Complex*") in Eurasia and ("*Neo-Scythian*") Yaghnobi in Central Asia, Windfuhr explains. Both (Gorani and Yaghnobi), "*independent developments*", though, would show common ancient linguistic roots within a northern (Old) Iranian language continuum. DNA Genealogist Anatole Klyosov agrees: available genetic data confirm common R1a1 ancestors for both, speakers of the "*Kurdish Complex*" and Yaghnobi (Hennerbichler, 2011: p. 371).

Discussion: If ergative constructions from the present tense

Copyright © 2012 SciRes.

stem are historically older than those from past tenses (tense-split), there are several possibilities for an explanation: a) that the imperfect from the present tense stem in (Iranian) Gorani ("*Kurdish Complex*") is historically older than the split-ergative in Sumerian; but then, there is no evidence for an (Old) Iranian Gorani at the same time of an early ancient Sumerian; b) therefore, it seems more likely that this is so in (Old) Iranian, and that the linguistic tradition in Iranian, forming the imperfect from the present tense stem like in Gorani ("*Kurdish Complex*"), could have originated somewhere else (near the BMAC complex in south Asia?). Meaning, in this case, it couldn't say anything directly about the development of split-ergativity in Sumerian, but it would not exclude the possibility, that the ergative in Sumerian and Basque could also go back to assumed common linguistic, and areal, and genetic roots in (south) Central Asia. And, last but not least, such ancient forms of ergativity in Gorani and Yaghnobi, seem to confirm (again) indications for a Northern origin of Old Iranian speaker immigrants into Kurdistan, and not from the South or South-West, which would be crucial for a proper understanding of the evolvement of Kurdish.

Multi-Linguistic Kurdish Ancestors

In linguistic terms, timespan calculations for two major immigration waves of R1a1 elites from Asia via areas of South Russia southwards via Armenia, to Anatolia, 2240-1140 B.C., and in minor parts into NW Iran of today, 2200/2000-1600 B.C., as calculated by Anatole Klyosov, as well as the second, principal move of R1a1 to North-Western Iran from the Iranian Plateau around 800-700-600 B.C., seem to support findings of linguists, who are describing different processes of "*Indo-Europeanizations*", and independently from each other. A full picture is, however, far from clear. This applies in particular for traces of linguistic Indo-European elements in West-Asia, ca. 2240-1140 B.C. One of the leading experts in this field, the late renowned Austrian Indo-Europeanist Manfred Mayrhofer (1926-2011), documented numerous pieces of evidence of an "*Indo-Aryan in Old West-Asia*" ("*Indo-Arisch im Alten Vorderasien*") ["*Etymologisches Wörterbuch des Altindoarischen*", Heidelberg, 1992-1996]. "*The anthology is until today controversial*", Mayrhofer conceded, "*considerable voices of skepticism and rejection are still faced by representatives of the possibility*" (translated from German, l.c. vol II, 330; see also Hennerbichler, 2010: pp. 131-133). Interestingly, earlier in 1965, Mayrhofer dismissed in one cited crucial term, the anthroponym ^{m}Za-a-lu-d/ti-iš (Zāludi or Zayaludi), assumed Indo-European elements as "*implausible*" (without further elaboration). Zalud/tiš is mentioned in the so called "*Zukraši Text*", a 17th century B.C. Hittite text, attributed to Hattusilis I (1650-1620 B.C.), as leader of the Ummān-manda and Hurrian troops. While there is still no consensus on the term ^{m}Za-a-lu-d/ti-iš, the obvious correlation to migrating militarily organized Ummān-manda elites from far away, and a nearly identical timeframe for the presence of R1a1 in the area, encouraged Anatole Klyosov to offer a new IE based explanation identifying Zalud/tiš as commander of "*from far away people*": Klyosov suggests: "*Zaludi*: *meaning in Russian*: '*Beyond people*', = *geographically*: *It is* "*far away*, *beyond where people live*". "*Za*" *means beyond*, "*ludi*" *people. It must have an IE origin*" (source: Hennerbichler, 2011: p. 348). Klyosov noticed that this is, of course, can be a plain coincidence. That is to say, and taken at this point as an interim result, linguistic research continues to leave the possibility of "*Indo-Europeanization*" processes on (Hurrian-) Mitanni soil during the 2nd millennium B.C. open, and unanswered, but there is (still) no (undisputed) evidence to prove it one way or the other. Whereas, there seems to exist largely consensus on oldest cuneiform documented sources for earliest verifiable influences of immigrating (R1a1) Old Iranian speakers on an indigenous, local population in areas of NW Iran of today, including Kurds (Parsua 843 B.C., Media 834 B.C., Scythians 8/7th ce. B.C., and the later Par-su-aš 691 B.C., but representing obviously a distinct independent development in the South-West, and unrelated to origins of Kurds). Out of available data Gernot Windfuhr draws the following conclusion for earliest traces of an (Old) Iranian Kurdish: "*The first stages of the language of Iranianized Kurds could go back to the pre-Median or pre-Achaemenid periods*" (Hennerbichler, 2011: p. 383). To go further back in history, Windfuhr assumes a Proto-IE also for Kurds (speakers of the "*Kurdish Complex*"): "*All Iranian-speakers of today including the Kurds south of the BMAC* (*Bactrian-Margian Archaeological Complex*) *must have spoken non-Iranian languages at one time*" (Hennerbichler, 2011: p. 313). To round up available historic evidence: In the 21st century B.C. central Zagros areas of Kurdistan were attested in cuneiform sources as multilingual ("*many-tongued*", see ETCSL c.1.8.2.3). Consecutive, from ca. 1000 until ca. 600 B.C. "*Kurdistan*" was dominated by Hurro-Urartian (terms), as Ran Zadok, leading Mesopotamian cuneiform expert of the University of Tel Aviv, Israel, documented in an authoritative study ("*The ethno-linguistic character of northwestern Iran and Kurdistan in the neo-Assyrian period*", Old City of Jaffa 2002). Further more, Gernot Windfuhr detected contact features both with a Northern Old-Iranian language continuum and preserved rare ancient forms of ergative making (Hurrian-Urartian), and, finally, an apparently frequent "*language shift*" over time in Kurdistan, to name but the most striking linguistic features. Therefore, in course of history, forefathers of ethnic Kurds spoke apparently several languages, starting with an assumed Proto-IE, followed by a longstanding multi-lingual tradition, attested since the 21st century B.C., then by a dominating Hurro-Urartian (terminology), since the 9th century B.C. showing oldest influences of immigrating Old Iranian speakers on indigenous forefathers of Kurds from NW Iran (of today), and finally, frequently shiftet language(s), that is to say, they managed to switch from one (ancient) language to another. All in all, confirming that speakers of the "*Kurdish Complex*" spoke indeed forms of an ancient languages B.C. like Old Iranian, and as a result, could have existed already B.C.

KRD: Mesopotamian Terminology

Even more complicated than traces for ancient Kurdish (languages), are various (waxing and waning) term labels to describe and understand, with whom Mesopotamians denoted mountain people of multi-ethno-cultural background in the far North and North-East. While, on the one hand, this inter-disciplinary study backs up observations elsewhere, that it seems not convincing to try to prove the existence of whole ancient people(s) using exclusively cuneiform Mesopotamian terminology, because for the most part Mesopotamians did not have such a consistent understanding of foreign neighbours at all. A few examples, to underpin that Mesopotamian labels like Guti, Cimmerians or Medes did not denote single people: Guti: Marc

Copyright © 2012 SciRes.

Van De Mieroop: "*Thus the term Gutian has no value as indication of a specific people and merely suggests uncivilized people from the Zagros. Any hostile group could be called Gutian.* […] *In the first millennium Gutium could be used as a geographical designator to refer to all or part of the Zagros region north of Elam*, *interchangeably with other terms*" (Gutians, in EIr-online). Cimmerians: Carola Metzner-Nebelsick: She sees no available terminological prove for Cimmerians as a distinct single people, and defines Cimmerians ("*Kimmerier*") as merely "*in Kriegsverbänden organisierte mobile Gesellschaft*(*en*)": mobile societies organized in warrior units (RGA 16 (2000), 504-523, cf. 509-10). Medes have in quoted ancient Ummān-manda sources simply a meaning of ethnically and linguistically unspecified inhabitants of Hinterland/provincial areas in the far Northeast (of NW Iran of today). See Hennerbichler (2010) 88-92, Hennerbichler (2011) 184. However, on the other hand, it is indeed possible to document a long-standing tradition and sustainable continuity over at least ca. 1700 years (2200-600 B.C.), in which Mesopotamian scribes showed a fairly common (although heavy politically influenced waxing and waning) understanding of neighbours from different ethnic, linguistic and cultural background in the far North and North-East as inhabitants of the mountains (mountain populations/people, mountaineers), and that Mesopotamians used a good number of different terms (umbrella labels) to characterize them. Best known are half a dozen. Out of them, only one terminological compound umbrella label did stand the test of time and survived over millennia until today: assumed Sumerian based *kur*-stem terms (cuneiform KRD) for inhabitants of mountain (land). They show a direct correlation to forefathers of Kurds in the sense that they are geographically cumulative firm attested in ancient ancestral heartlands of substratum J and immigrant R1A1 ancestors of Kurds in (Northern Fertile Crescent areas of) Eurasia. In most cases they characterise vaguely several mountain populations of undefined ethnical background, respectively coalitions of them, and point only in a few like the "*kur-ti*" in the far North (rather vaguely) to a kind of related (mountain nomad) tribal structures. Main reasons for the survival of *kur*-stem terms are: they were based and embedded in a fairly long tradition and continuity of an otherwise inconsistent cuneiform Mesopotamian terminology, long before Greek and Roman authors messed them up further, made it in documented cuneiform sources to sort of a mass popularity, were easy to understand and pick up, even by the majority of people, who could not read and write, were neutral in their massage, and distinct in identifying foreign neighbours in mountains (hilly areas) of the far North and North-East. Where as similar terms, possibly based on Akkadian "*quardu*" for warlike (mountain) people like "*kar-da*", did not prevail, because they were pejorative burdened and used to degrade mountain populations in the far North and North-East as uncivilized, since they were not urban organized like lowland Mesopotamians. Interestingly, this xenophobian terminological practice, to label mountain nomads in contrast to urbanite law/hilly-land Mesopotamians as uncivilised, changed during the 1st half of the last millennium B.C.E. significantly, when militarily organized Old Iranian immigrants in "*Media*" in NW Iran of today were called "*from far away people*" and their leaders accepted on a more equal footing as "*city lords*". In sharp contrast, were mountain coalitions in the same region since the 22nd century B.C. marked down under the compound label "*Guti*" as "*apelike creatures with canine instinct* (*feelings*)" (c.f. e.g. "*The cursing of Agade*", ETCSL c.2.1.5, lines 151-158). Suggesting, that Kurd for mountaineers could stem indeed from Sumerian based compound *kur*-stem (KRD) label terms. Cuneiform sources evidence for that:

Kur-Stem Terms Prevailing

Most popular land/mountain label ca. 3000-1000 B.C. are substantially and authoritative documented by "*The Pennsylvania Sumerian Dictionary Project* (*ePSD*)" (online: http://psd.museum.upenn.edu). The listed terms in overview: Šubartu, Šadû, ^{KI}, kalam, mada, Ummān-manda, kur, kurti, karda. Details: ^{KI} is statistically in EPSD with 32,279 instances most far-reaching used, peak 2500-2000 B.C. with 29,607, and 2000-1500 B.C. with 2433; kur (>kur-ti) ca. 3000-1000 B.C. with 2494, peak 2000-1500 B.C. with 1231; mada: mainly 2500-1500 B.C. with 1441, peak 2500 B.C. with 1122; kalam: 3000-1500 B.C. with 704 instances, peak 2000-1500 B.C. with 609; further [no statistics published in EPSD for]: *Ummān-manda* (ca. 2100-700/500 B.C.) 51 sources (SF Aladi 2009), and *S*[*Š*]*ubir*/*S*[*Š*]*ubar*[*t*]*u*[*m*] as well as "*Šadû*" (Akkadian equivalent for Sumerian "*kur*"). Indications: ^{KI} for land depended as affix attachment on terms, and therefore, was not suitable as sustaining term itself; *mada*: was most popular used during Ur III period. As label for mountain land/people was *mada* over time increasingly marginalised by "*kur*"-stem terms and mainly applied for Umland/Hinterland/Province (people). Since the 1st half of the 1st millennium B.C. Mesopotamians characterised inhabitants of "*Media*" vaguely as (multi-ethnocultural) Hinterland-people in far away terrain in the North-East (Northwest Iran of today). *S*[*Š*]*ubir*/*S*[*Š*]*ubar*[*t*]*u*[*m*] and "*Šadû*" never achieved mass popularity among Mesopotamian scribes and were not established as dominating terms for mountain people/land. Ummān-manda did denote militarily organized elites from far away people but not in particular of special mountain areas.

Conclusion

Newest available inter-disciplinary data of Palaeo/Archaeo-Genetics, DNA-Genealogy, Archaeology, Historical Terminology, Linguistics and Science of History, presented in this inter-disciplinary analysis provide strong indications that both ethnic forefathers of Kurds as well as ancestors of linguistic speakers of the "*Kurdish Complex*" have existed in their ancestral Eurasian homeland already B.C.E. Valuable historic pieces of information were contributed by findings both of Palaeo/Archaeo-Genetics and DNA-Genealogy. By that, it was above all possible to outline a traditional aborigine ancestral habitat of Kurds (speakers of the "*Kurdish Complex*") geographically for the main parts located in a wider Eurasian Northwest, largely outside and northwest of Iran of today. Ethno-genetically, it could be shown, that Kurds derived obviously out of a broader, pre-IE multi-cultural substratum of the Near East and Eurasia, and were in early ancient layers predominantly shaped by first Neolithic Northern Fertile Crescent farmer and shepherd aborigines. Genetically, they seem to be close related to other Near East and Eurasia substratum aborigines like Jews and Armenians (Nebel et al. & L. Yepiskoposyan). References for the very historic existence of Kurds and speakers of the "*Kurdish Complex*" B.C.E, could also been evidenced linguistically, most notably by leading Iranologist Gernot Windfuhr, who presented

Copyright © 2012 SciRes.

various conclusive examples of a reconstruction of earliest stages of the "*Kurdish Complex*", including ergativity, despite the fact, that "*from Old and Middle Iranian times*, *no predecessors of the Kurdish*" language(s) "*are yet known*" (Ludwig Paul: Kurdish Language(s), in: EIr-online). Virtually all presented, available data are pointing to immigration origins of ancestors, who brought forms of Old Iranian to earliest aborigine Kurds in Eurasia, from the North, practically none from the South or Southwest, as hypothesized by some linguists. In all examined crucial terms, —ethno-genetically, linguistically, and geographically, —Kurds (speakers of the "*Kurdish Complex*") seem to be distinctly multi-composed, and not single-constructed. This insight, however, lead on the one hand to the conclusion, that specific (popular) term-labels like Kurti, Cyrtians or Carduchi could neither prove a single-tribe origin of Kurds (speakers of the "*Kurdish Complex*") nor an assumed exclusive geographic one, and on the other hand, do not allow for explanation attempts, to pinpoint their origins down to a specific single area, or settlement, nor to a one and only family, tribe, respectively lineage. Still, it was possible, to document evidence for origins of Kurds (speakers of the "*Kurdish Complex*") in a much broader (but as a result vaguer) sense, of multi-ethno-genetic-cultural mountain dweller civilizations, who contributed essentially to the cultivation of areas from eastern Anatolia to Zagros east. Not more and not less. Meaning, that these geographically broad pillowed findings of an ancestral Kurdish habitat leaves room open for interpretation, where its influence areas might have ended, and who precisely might have belonged to such Kurdish mountain civilisations from early origins on. The on-going, contrasting debate will most likely continue to be influenced by different views on these questions. A final, conclusive and undisputed Kurdish origin consensus, all involved disciplines could agree to, seems not in sight. Nonetheless, the new inter-disciplinary findings presented here suggest also a new understanding of Kurds (speakers of the "*Kurdish Complex*") similar to that one of "*Austrians*": "*Österreich*(*er*)" [Austria(ns)] derives from Ostarrîchi, first recorded in 996 AD, meaning (ost = east) > "*eastern borderlands*" or casually "*Ostler*" ("*easterner*"). This umbrella compound expression comprises a variety of terms. Some sound similar like "*Österreicher*", "*Ober-Österreich*(*er*)" (Upper Austrians) or "*Nieder-Österreich*(*er*)" (Lower Austrians), others completely different like "*Wien*(*er*)" (Vienna(ese), "*Steiermark*/*Steirer*" (Styria/n), "*Kärnten*(*ner*)" (Carynthia/n), "*Salzburg*(*er*)" (Salzburg/ian), "*Tiroler*" (Tyrolian) or "*Vorarlberger*" (Vorarlbergian). Which explains, that not all Austrians share the family name (compound term label) "*Österreicher*" but call (identify) themselves (as) Austrians. Similar, "*Kurd*" seems to derive from the assumed Sumerian originated word stem "*kur*", first recorded millennia back B.C.E., meaning [kur = mountain/land] > "*inhabitants of the mountains*" or casually mountaineers ("*Bergler*"). The umbrella compound expression "*kur*"-comprises also a variety of terms, some sound similar like "*kur-ti*", in a wider sense "*kar-da*" too, others completely different like G/K/Quti, Lullubi, Arrapha, Urbilum, Zamua, Mehri or Babanhi, and in addition et aliae translated into Greek and Roman like Kárdakes, Carduchi, or Cyrtii (Cyrtioi). Which illustrates as well, that not all Kurds (speakers of the "*Kurdish Complex*") share this family name (compound term label), but obviously most of them call themselves "*Kurd*" and identify with a common homeland "*Kurdistan*" (land of Kurds). Indicating, that Kurds seem to be descendants of many ancient (substratum) ancestors in Near-East and Eurasia, who spoke over time various languages, the present Iranian being only the last one.

REFERENCES

AAA (American Anthropological Association) (1996). Statement on biological aspects of race. *American Journal of Physical Anthropology, 101,* 569-570. doi:10.1002/ajpa.1331010408

Adali, S. F. (2009). *Ummān-manda and its significance in the first millennium B.C.* Ph.D. Thesis, University of Sidney. http://ses.library.usyd.edu.au/bitstream/2123/4890/1/sf-adali-2009-thesis.pdf

Al-Zahery, N. et al. (2002). Y-chromosome and mtDNA polymorphisms in Iraq, a crossroad of the early human dispersal and of post-Neolithic migrations. *Molecular Phylogenetics and Evolution, 28,* 458-472. doi:10.1016/S1055-7903(03)00039-3

Asatrian, G. (2009). Prolegomena to the study of the Kurds. *Iran and the Caucasus, 13,* 1-58. http://ia600505.us.archive.org/14/items/ProlegomenaToTheStudyOfTheKurds/Asatrian_kurds.pdf

Blau, J. (2009). Kurdish language. II. History of Kurdish studies. http://www.iranicaonline.org/articles/kurdish-language-ii-history-of-kurdish-studies

Campanile, G. (1818). *Storia della regione del Kurdistan e delle sette di regione ivi esistenti*. Naples.

Cavalli-Sforza, L. L., Menozzi, P., & Piazza, A. (1994). *The history and geography of human genes*. Princeton: University Press.

Cinnioglu, C. et al. (2004). Excavating Y-chromosome haplotype strata in Anatolia. *Human Genetics, 114,* 127-148. doi:10.1007/s00439-003-1031-4

Comas, D. et al. (2000). Georgian and Kurd mtDNA sequence analysis shows a lack of correlation between languages and female genetic lineages. *American Journal of Physical Anthropology, 112,* 5-16. doi:10.1002/(SICI)1096-8644(200005)112:1<5::AID-AJPA2>3.0.CO;2-Z

Ekins, J. et al. (2005). An updated world-wide characterization of the cohen modal haplotype. *American Society of Human Genetics Annual Meeting*, Salt Lake City. http://www.smgf.org/resources/papers/ASHG2005_Jayne.pdf

Garzoni, M. (1787). *Grammatica e vocabolario della lingua Kurda*. Rome.

Hennerbichler, F. (2011). The origin of the Kurds. Lecture—Borsdorf. edition winterwork.

Hennerbichler, F. (2010). Die herkunft der kurden. Interdisziplinäre studie. *Historisch-anthropologische Studien*. Schriftenreihe des Instituts für Historische Anthropologie in Wien. Bd. 23., Frankfurt am Main, Peter Lang Verlag, 247-260.

Klyosov, A. A. (2008). Origin of the Jews via DNA genealogy. *Proceedings of the Russian Academy of DNA Genealogy, 1,* 54-232.

Klyosov, A. A. (2009a). DNA Genealogy, mutation rates, and some historical evidences written in Y-chromosome. I. Basic principles and the method. *Journal of Genetic Genealogy, 5,* 186-216.

Klyosov, A. A. (2009b). DNA Genealogy, mutation rates, and some historical evidences written in Y-chromosome. II. Walking the map. *Journal of Genetic Genealogy, 5,* 217-256.

Klyosov, A. A. (2009c). A comment on the paper: Extended Y chromosome haplotypes resolve multiple and unique lineages of the Jewish priesthood. *Human Genetics, 126,* 719-724. doi:10.1007/s00439-009-0739-1

Klyosov, A. A. (2011a). The slowest 22 marker haplotype panel (out of the 67 marker panel) and their mutation rate constants employed for calculations timespans to the most ancient common ancestors. *Proceedings of the Russian Academy of DNA Genealog, 4,* 1240-1257.

Klyosov, A. A. (2011b). DNA genealogy of major haplogroups of Y chromosome (Part 1). *Proceedings of the Russian Academy of DNA Genealogy, 4,* 1258-1283.

Klyosov, A. A. (2011c). Haplotypes of R1b1a2-P312 and related subclades: Origin and "ages" of most recent common ancestors. *Proceedings of the Russian Academy of DNA Genealogy, 4,* 1127-1195.

Klyosov, A. A. (2012). Ancient history of the Arbins, bearers of hap-

Copyright © 2012 SciRes.

logroup R1b, from Central Asia to Europe, 16,000 to 1500 years before present. *Advances in Anthropology*, in the press.
Landsberger, B. (1943). Die anfänge der zivilisation in mesopotamien. *Ankara Universitesi Fakültesi Dergesi, 2,* 1943-1944.
Landsberger, B. (1944). Die geistigen leistungen der sumerer. *Ankara Universitesi Fakültesi Dergesi, 3,* 1944-1945.
MacKenzie, D. N. (1961). The origins of Kurdish. *Transactions of the Philological Society, 86.*
Michalowski, P. (1999). Sumer dreams of subartu: Politics and the geographical imagination. In K. van Lerberghe, & G. Voet (Eds.), *Languages and Cultures in Contact* (pp. 305-315). Leuven.
Michalowski, P. (2000). The life and death of the Sumerian language in comparative perspective. *Acta Sumerologica, 22.*
Michalowski, P. (2006). The lives of the Sumerian language. In: S. L. Sanders (Ed.), *Margins of Writing, Origins of Cultures.* The Oriental Institute of the University of Chicago.
http://wwwpersonal.umich.edu/~piotrm/DIGLOS%7E1.htm
Nasidze, I. (2004). Mitochondrial DNA and Y-chromosome variation in the Caucasus. *Annals of Human Genetics, 68,* 205-221. doi:10.1046/j.1529-8817.2004.00092.x
Nasidze, I. (2005). MtDNA and Y-chromosome variation in Kurdish groups. *Annals of Human Genetics, 69,* 401-412. doi:10.1046/j.1529-8817.2005.00174.x
Nebel, A., Filon, D., Brinkmann, B., Majumder, P., Faerman, M., & Oppenheim A. (2001). The Y chromosome pool of Jews as part of the genetic landscape of the Middle East. *American Journal of Human Genetics, 69,* 1095-1112. doi:10.1086/324070
Nebel, A., Filon, D., Oppenheim, A., & Faerman, M. (2007). *The Genetic history of populations in the southern levant as revealed by Y chromosome polymorphisms*. British Archaeological Reports (BAR) International Series No. 1603, Oxford: Archaeopress, 257-270.
Nocentini, A. (1993). Power and limits of the genetic classification of languages. *The Mankind Quarterly, 33,* 265-281.
Nichols, J. (1992). *Linguistic diversity in space and time*. Chicago: University Press.
Niebuhr, B. G. (1847). *Vorträge über alte Geschichte, an der Universität zu Bonn gehalten*. Berlin: G. Reimer.
Paul, L. (2008). Kurdish language.
http://www.iranica.com/articles/kurdish-language-i
Quintana-Murci, L. et al. (2004). Where west meets east: The complex mtDNA landscape of the southwest and central Asian corridor. *American Journal of Human Genetics, 74,* 827-845. doi:10.1086/383236
Richards, M., et al. (2000). Tracing European founder lineages in the near eastern mtDNA pool. *American Journal of Human Genetics, 67,* 1251-1276.
Rozhanskii, I. (2010). Evaluation of the convergence of sets in STR phylogeny and analysis of the haplogroup R1a1 tree. *Proceedings of the Russian Academy of DNA Genealogy, 3,* 1316-1324.
Rubio, G. (1999). On the alleged pre-Sumerian substratum. *Journal of Cuneiform Studies, 51,* 1-16. doi:10.2307/1359726
Semino, O. et al. (2000). The genetic legacy of paleolithic homo sapiens sapiens in extant Europeans: A Y chromosome perspective. *Science, 290,* 1155-1159.
Socin, A. (1903). Die sprache der Kurden. In W. Geiger, & E. Kuhn (Eds.), *Grundriss der Iranischen Philologie*. Strassburg: Karl J. Trübner.
Soltysiak, A. (2006). Physical anthropology and the "Sumerian problem". *Studies in Historical Anthropology, 4,* 145-158.
Speiser, E. A. (1930). Mesopotamian origins: The basic population of the near east. Pennsylvania: University of Pennsylvania Press, 110-119.
Straus, L. G. (1998). The peopling of Europe: A J.A.R. debate. *Journal of Anthropological Research, 54,* 399-420.
Weale, M. E. et al. (2001). Armenian Y chromosome haplotypes reveal strong regional structure within a single ethno-national group. *Human Genetics, 109,* 659-674.
Wells, R. S. et al. (2001). The Eurasian Heartland: A continental perspective on Y-chromosome diversity. *Proceedings of the National Academy of Science USA, 98,* 10244-10249. doi:10.1073/pnas.171305098
Windfuhr, G. (2011). The Kurdish complex. In F. Hennerbichler (Ed.), *The Origin of the Kurds. Lecture—Borsdorf,* edition winterwork.
Underhill, P. et al. (2000). Y chromosome sequence variation and the history of human populations. *Nature Genetics, 26,* 358-361. doi:10.1038/81685
Underhill, P. et al. (2001b). The phylogeography of Y chromosome binary haplotypes and the origins of modern human populations. *Annals of Human Genetics, 65,* 43-62. doi:10.1046/j.1469-1809.2001.6510043.x
Underhill, P. et al. (2009). Separating the post-Glacial coancestry of European and Asian Y chromosomes within haplogroup R1a. *European Journal of Human Genetics, 18,* 479-484.
Zadok, R. (1984). *The ethno-linguistic character of northwestern Iran and Kurdistan in the neo-Assyrian period*. Old City of Jaffa: Archaeological Center Publications.
Zadok, R. (1984). *The Elamite onomasticon*. Annali/Istituto Universitario Orientale, Naples.

Copyright © 2012 SciRes.