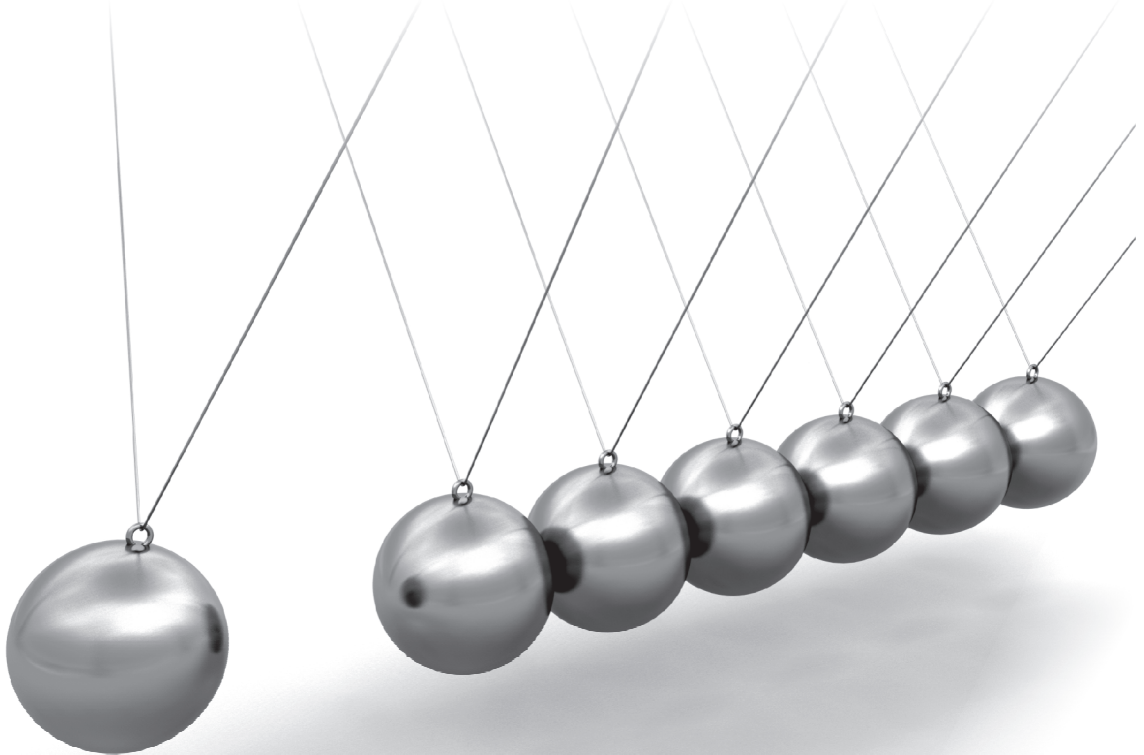


# Archaeology of Crisis

Edited by Staša Babić



1838

UNIVERSITY OF BELGRADE  
FACULTY OF PHILOSOPHY



*Faculty of Philosophy, University of Belgrade | 2021*



1838



**A**rchaeology  
of Crisis

*Edited by Staša Babić*

Edition *Humans and Society in Times of Crisis*

*Archaeology of Crisis*  
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Belgrade 2021

*Publisher*  
Faculty of Philosophy, University of Belgrade  
Čika Ljubina 18–20, Beograd 11000, Srbija  
www.f.bg.ac.rs

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*Set by*  
Dosije studio, Belgrade

*Printed by*  
JP Službeni glasnik

*Print run*  
200

ISBN 978-86-6427-176-9

This collection of papers was created as part of the scientific research project  
*Humans and Society in Times of Crisis*, which was financed  
by the Faculty of Philosophy – University of Belgrade.

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## EDITOR'S NOTE

In December 2019, a previously unknown coronavirus was registered and the severe and potentially fatal illness it causes swiftly spread around the world. On January 30, 2020, the World Health Organisation declared a state of Public Health Emergency, followed by the declaration of a pandemic on March 11 of the same year.<sup>1</sup> More than a year later, while this volume is submitted for publication, the world is still struggling with a plethora of severe problems initiated by, but by no means reduced to, the medical aspects of the current crisis. The disturbances in the economic and social activities further induce profound distress in everyday lives around the globe. Depending on the current state of the epidemic curve, we are advised to observe more or less rigorous measures of caution, most of them limiting our movements and contacts. While maintaining distance in the real world, we are connected virtually, various technologies enabling us to compare experiences of restricted interactions. One can thus get a glimpse of the diverse ways in which people around the world make sense of their changed worlds. Many express their thoughts in words, but some use other means. Like, a photo series that invites us to choose and arrange objects that are essential to us under the current predicament.<sup>2</sup> The similarities in created assemblages (an assortment of face masks, hand sanitizers, laptop computers, comfort food, books...), as well as idiosyncratic objects reflecting particular lifestyles (dog leash, musical instruments...), illustrate eloquently what archaeologists know so well: our lives are framed in materialities that shape and are being shaped by our practices. Under the drastically changed circumstances, such as the ones we are currently enduring, our relationship with our material surroundings also changes, creating new possibilities and constraints to our practices. Our present experiences are not unique and throughout the history of our species, human groups have faced various crises, caused by a wide range of factors. From massive changes in their environment, population movements and violent conflicts, to profound shifts in attitudes, beliefs and value systems, these events have caused disruptions in everyday practices of communities and have invariably been reflected in some material form.

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1 <https://www.who.int/emergencies/diseases/novel-coronavirus-2019>

2 <https://www.collater.al/en/paula-zuccotti-lockdown-essentials-photography/>

Bearing this in mind, the purpose of this collection is to investigate some of the instances of crises that afflicted past populations of the Central Balkans and adjacent regions, via the material traces accessible through archaeological investigation. The knowledge of the causes of disruptions and of the responses devised for overcoming them in the past may bring us closer to solutions applicable in our present. At the same time, the aim of the volume is to offer an insight into the vast range of approaches currently practiced by archaeologists, their possibilities and limitations, as well as synergies created in the domains of theoretical concepts and methodological procedures. The authors share the same working environment – the Faculty of Philosophy in Belgrade, and specifically its Department of Archaeology – but follow diverse research paths, illustrating the current state of the discipline in general, its many theoretical and methodological ramifications. It is our hope that our specific disciplinary knowledge of the past may contribute to more efficient responses to crises in the present and future.

Belgrade, May/June 2021

Staša Babić

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Marija Ljuština\*

Teodora Radišić\*\*

## ROMANI ANTE PORTAS? LA TÈNE POPULATIONS IN THE SERBIAN PART OF THE DANUBE BASIN IN THE 1<sup>ST</sup> CENTURY BC AND THEIR RESPONSE TO ROMAN PRESENCE

**Abstract:** The Roman state and its socio-economic influences spread to the south-eastern part of the Carpathian Basin during the last century BC. This gives rise to the question about the way Roman influences, along with their military and administrative presence in the last decades BC, affected the local communities of the Serbian part of the Danube Basin. Fibulae from La Tène sites Čarnok and Čurug have been analysed. The findings led us to presume the existence of wide networks of connectivity between the local Late La Tène communities in the Serbian part of the Danube Basin on the one side, and the northern Italy and south-eastern Alpine region on the other side. The mechanisms of acquisition and arrival of the fibulae remain under question, but it is reasonable to assume that the Roman presence in the south-eastern part of the Carpathian Basin did not disrupt preexisting contacts.

**Keywords:** fibulae, settlements, Late La Tène, Čarnok, Čurug

### Introduction

The Roman state and its socio-economic influences spread to the south-eastern part of the Carpathian Basin during the last century BC. This gave rise to the question about the way Roman influences, along with their military and administrative presence in the last decades BC, affected the local communities of the Serbian part of the Danube Basin.

A variety of interpretations of the nature of the contacts between the autochthonous communities and the Roman state covers the time span

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from the earliest time, the early 1<sup>st</sup> c. BC, to the time of important historical events in the last decades of the old era and the Roman conquest. One can assume that during the initial phase of establishing contacts, there was a series of possible interactions and different forms of connectivity between local individuals and communities on the one side, and the Roman world on the other. The interactions might have changed through time (Mihajlović, 2019, pp. 252–253). It is believed that the spread of the Roman state and its socio-political influences did not expand the normative set of Roman culture, but only some of its elements, which were selectively accepted, rejected, adjusted, and changed in accordance with numerous circumstances (Mihajlović, 2019, p. 252). Some of these practices were unconditional, some desirable, some developed spontaneously, while others were a part of “fashion trends” (Mihajlović, 2019, p. 253).

Although it is questionable if political, socio-economic, and military changes can be identified on the basis of tiny portable finds, i. e. if the presence/absence of finds such as fibulae can be indicative of the (non) existence of crisis, fibulae do have the potential to point to the (non)existence of contacts in certain periods. The reevaluation of the stylistic-typological and chronological determination of fibulae provides possibilities for an alternative perception of the initial contacts with the Roman world and its influences on the local communities in the Serbian part of the Danube Basin, not only in the course of the conquest of south-eastern Pannonia, but also after the conquest.

To shed light on some of the contacts, the focus of the present paper has been moved to the Late La Tène settlements in the region of Bačka – Čarnok and Čurug, which long remained outside the Roman borders. The elements of material culture indicative of contacts with other regions, which in the 1<sup>st</sup> c. BC were already under Roman rule – fibulae in the first instance – have been analysed. The fibulae were selected in accordance with the concept that the role of fibulae in costume is not only functional, as it can be observed in the context of expressing one’s identity, or status, and even reflect changes in dress occurring under new circumstances (Tonc, 2018, p. 247). Moreover, one should consider the possibility that fibulae reveal not only the acceptance of general trends, but also the current availability of certain goods.

## The Sites of Čarnok and Čurug on the Threshold of a New Era

The fortified La Tène settlement of Čarnok is situated in the central part of the Bačka plain, in the vicinity of the town of Vrbas. Its first phase

of occupation is linked to the establishment of an open settlement (middle or end of the 2<sup>nd</sup> c. BC), and the second to the raising of an earthen rampart. The third phase is the renewal of the settlement previously destroyed by fire (second half of the 1<sup>st</sup> c. BC) (Jovanović, 2012, pp. 74–75). According to M. Jovanović (2011, p. 131), by establishing the Roman authority in the Danube region at the beginning of the 1<sup>st</sup> c. AD, Čarnok remained out of reach of the Roman Empire but under its administration. She mentions a brick with the inscription H VII BR, sherds of Roman vessels, and a pair of silver fibulae as confirmation of that.

Already at this point it is important to discuss the find with the inscription and the cohorts to which it is connected. The cohorts VII Breucorum c. Rom. eq., one of the best-known auxiliary units, with dozens of its known stamp-types, was transferred to Pannonia Inferior and stationed at Lugio (Dunaszekcső, Hungary), from the reign of Antoninus Pius to the middle of the 3<sup>rd</sup> c. AD (Kovács, 2005, p. 245). Taking into consideration that provincial brick production had not started prior to the end of the 1<sup>st</sup> c. AD, and that most finds in the Lower Pannonia connected to this military unit date back to the 2<sup>nd</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> c. AD (cf. Брукнер, 1987, p. 34; Kovács 2005; Radman-Livaja 2012), we reached the conclusion that the stamped brick sherd could not be brought to the context of the 1<sup>st</sup> c. BC and the beginning of the 1<sup>st</sup> c. AD, so it cannot serve as confirmation that the settlement was under Roman administration. Interestingly, a large number of Roman bricks were found in the vicinity of Čarnok, in the walls of a medieval church-chapel (Шарановић-Светек, 1990, p. 46; Jovanović, 2011, p. 131).

If we consider the two extraordinary silver fibulae found in Čarnok, M. Jovanović (2012, p. 68) associated them with intense trade with neighboring regions. They were found in the layer above ruins of house no. 5, determined by D. Božič as Almgren 65 type and dated to the period 100–70 BC (Jovanović, 2012, p. 71, footnote 6). These two fibulae are small (3.8–4 cm) and not identical. They both have a rectangular foot with partially preserved decoration. As for the bows, one of the fibulae has four, while the other has five protuberant ornaments ending in crescent cavities (“consecrative horns”) (Jovanović, 2008, p. 69).

The multi-layered site of Stari Vinogradi in Čurug is situated in the Bačka region, on the south side of a former branch of the Tisa River. Two phases of occupation have been recognised: the earlier phase can be dated to the 2<sup>nd</sup>–1<sup>st</sup> c. BC while the later phase covers the first half of the 1<sup>st</sup> c. AD (Trifunović, 2014, p. 225). A contemporary necropolis (on the site of Detelinara) is recorded in the vicinity of the settlement (Трифунович, 2019).

Several fibulae of different types have been found in the settlement. S. Trifunović stated that most frequent were the fibulae of the legionary type dating from the first half of the 1<sup>st</sup> c. AD to the beginning of the 3<sup>rd</sup> c. AD (Трифуновић & Пашић, 2003, pp. 268, 271 with ref., f. 6:5; Trifunović, 2014, pp. 235, 237 with ref., f. 16:5). Less frequent were La Tène specimens dating to the end of the 1<sup>st</sup> c. BC and the 1<sup>st</sup> c. AD (Трифуновић & Пашић, 2003, pp. 268, 270 with ref., f. 6:6; Trifunović, 2014, pp. 235, 237 with ref. f. 16:6) and those of the Pannonian-Noric type (Trifunović, 2014, p. 235, f. 16:7). The most comprehensive review of the fibulae from Čurug can be found in the e-book by S. Trifunović (2006), with pictures of previously published fibulae, but also new ones, mostly those defined as the legionary type. The same author presented another discovered fibula in the exhibition catalogue, but without determination of the type (Трифуновић, 2018, pp. 10–11). The exact number of fibulae from the site, as well as the context from which they originated are unknown<sup>1</sup>. A single fibula came from a reliable context – grave no. 40 at site of Detelinara, but without type determination (Трифунувич, 2019, f. 12, f. 19/9).

## Fibulae – Desirable Elements of Costume and the Cornerstone of Chronology

Having typo-chronologically analysed the mentioned fibulae<sup>2</sup>, we used these fashion-sensitive elements of costume to reconsider their interpretational value.

The most attractive in our collection are two silver fibulae from Čarnok (Fig. 1/1, 2), which can be defined as belonging to the Almgren 65 type, in spite of the fact that they are very specific and without direct analogies so far. Generally speaking, this type is characterized by a massive trumpet-shaped head with a triangular or trapezoidal open foot and wire bow, mostly rhombic cross-section, and decorated with a thickening that usually has three transverse ribs. They were usually made of bronze, rarely silver, while iron specimens are interpreted as imitations made in local workshops (Demetz, 1999, p. 28). It is assumed that some variants independently developed in territories outside the zone of origin (Ivčević 2001, p. 332), which is Roman Northern Italy (Demetz, 1999, p. 28; Sedl-

1 What strikes us as odd is the possibility that some of the fibulae from the mentioned publications (Трифуновић & Пашић, 2003; Trifunović, 2006; 2014; Трифуновић, 2018) are published more than once, but without cross-references.

2 The analysis was supported by Dr Marko Dizdar, Institute of Archaeology, Zagreb, to whom we express our greatest gratitude.

mayer, 2009, p. 118, Abb. 74) where they appear in the second quarter of the 1<sup>st</sup> c. BC and are mostly used during the reign of Caesar (middle of the 1<sup>st</sup> c. BC). Their appearance in the early Augustan age is only an isolated phenomenon (Demetz, 1999, p. 37). It is important to notice that most of the fibulae are made of bronze, while the exquisite fibulae from Čarnok are made of silver and do not fit in with the rest of the finds. However, their occurrence is indicative of the chronological context of the 1<sup>st</sup> c. BC.

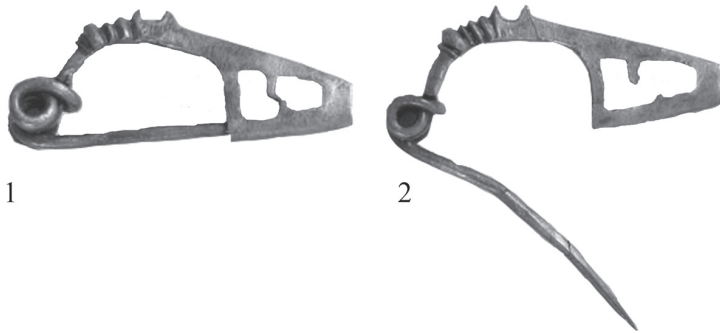
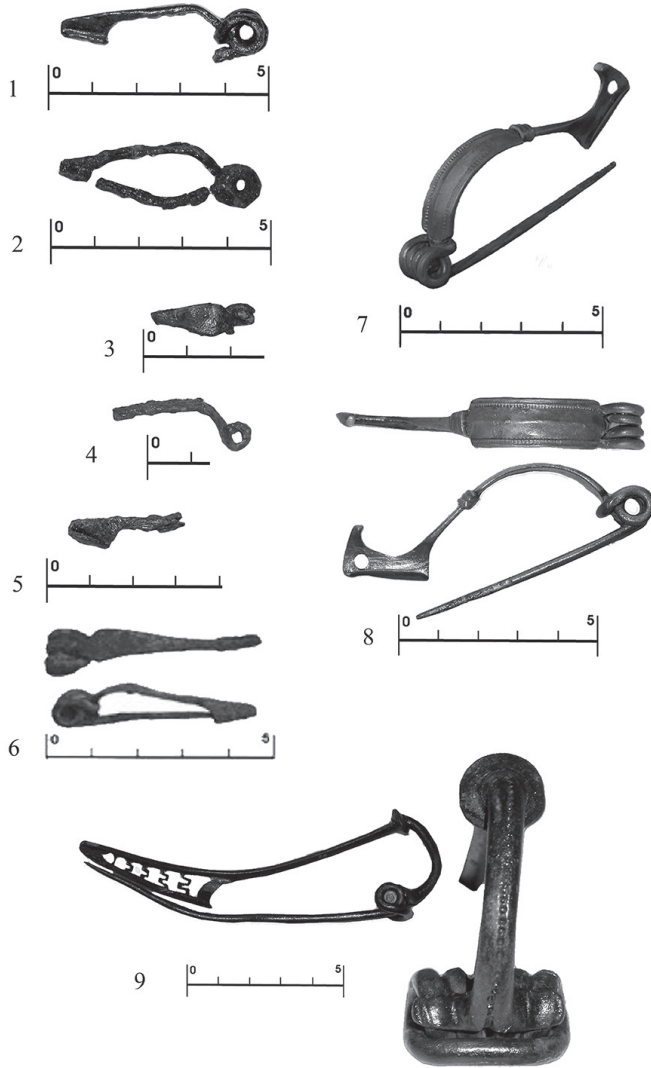


Figure 1. Fibulae from Čarnok (modified after M. Jovanović, 2008)

The meticulous stylistic-typological analysis of the fibulae from Čurug paints a different picture in comparison to the original publications. We defined the fibulae previously identified as legionary as belonging to the Vinkovci type – most probably a local variant of the Nauheim II type. The fibulae generally defined in the mentioned publications as La Tène types are of the Jezerine II type – products which point to communication with the area of north-eastern Italy and the south-eastern Alpine region, as is the case with the fibulae previously generally attributed to the Pannonian-Noric type, which should be more precisely defined as belonging to the Almgren 18 type. All of the types keep the chronological frames of the contexts inside the 1<sup>st</sup> c. BC, the Vinkovci type being made earlier, from the first half of the 1<sup>st</sup> c. BC, and the Jezerine II and Almgren 18 later, from the second half of the 1<sup>st</sup> c. BC.

Nowadays it is completely clear that numerous fibulae types are hidden under the term “legionary fibulae” in older literature, so there is need for the reevaluation of finds, because erroneous typological attribution leads to misleading interpretations. Generally, “legionary fibulae” from south Pannonia are dated from the second half of 1<sup>st</sup> c. AD to the 2<sup>nd</sup> c. AD, and are often connected with Roman military movements (Даутова-Рушевљан, 1987, pp. 60–61). According to recent literature, some of these finds belong

to the Late La Tène fibulae types, e. g. the Gorica type (Dizdar & Tonc, 2013, pp. 56–57) and the Jezerine type or their imitations (Drnić, 2013, pp. 49–50, f. 2, 3).



**Figure 2.** Fibulae from Čurug: Stari vinogradi – 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 7, 8, 9; Detelinara – 6 (modified after Trifunović, 2006; 2018; 2019)

In the case of Čurug, the legionary fibulae are attributed to the Vinkovci type (Fig. 2/1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6). This type of fibulae is made of bronze



and has a low triangular or leaf-shaped bow which can be undecorated or with varied decoration. The bow has a strap cross-section. The foot is rectangular or trapezoidal, without perforation. The lower part of the foot is bent to function as a catch-plate. The fibulae have a spring with four coils connected with an internal or external chord (Dizdar, 2003, p. 342; Dizdar & Tonc, 2013, p. 53; Dizdar, 2016, p. 37). It is assumed that the Vinkovci type is a substitute for the Nauheim type of fibulae (Dizdar, 2012, p. 124), a variant of this type of fibulae (Dizdar, 2003, p. 343). It is similar in shape and certain decoration (Dizdar, 2016, p. 37), but there are differences in the leaf-shaped bow, the decoration with concentric circles, and in the foot without perforation (Dizdar & Tonc, 2013, p. 52).

Fibulae of the Vinkovci type are characteristic for eastern Slavonia and Syrmia, and can be seen as products of local workshops (Dizdar, 2003, p. 342; Dizdar, 2012, p. 124; Dizdar & Tonc, 2013, p. 53). The Nauheim II type of fibulae can be generally found in the eastern part of Padania and Veneto, but also in the south and south-eastern Alpine region and northern Adriatic, dating back to the first half and beginning of the second half of 1<sup>st</sup> c. BC (Demetz, 1999, pp. 78–91, k. 25; Božič, 2008, pp. 50–65). Aside from the finds from Čurug, fibulae of the Vinkovci type lack context. Considering that it is probably a local variant of the Nauheim II type, this type can be dated to the early phase of the Late La Tène period – LT D1b (Dizdar, 2003, p. 343; Dizdar & Tonc, 2013, p. 53). However, their usage in the later phase of the Late La Tène period cannot be excluded (Dizdar, 2003, p. 342).

The Jezerine type of fibulae, originally created in the territory of north-eastern Italy, is characterized by a spring of four coils, connected by an internal chord, a rectangular foot, a ring at the bow-foot transition, and a bow of strap or roof-shaped cross-section, decorated with longitudinal ribs, although it does show typological diversity (Demetz, 1999, pp. 99–101; Drnić, 2013, p. 46). The specimens from Čurug (Fig. 2/7, 8) came from a settlement context, but it is unclear in which features they were found. Initially, the chronological position of this fibulae type was not particularly precise, with dates ranging from the middle of the 1<sup>st</sup> c. BC to the end of the first third of the 1<sup>st</sup> c. AD (Drnić, 2013, p. 47 with ref.). They were associated with to the Roman conquest of southern Pannonia and the presence of Roman legions in the area in the last decade of the 1<sup>st</sup> c. BC and the 1<sup>st</sup> c. AD (cf. Drnić, 2013, p. 48 with ref.; Petković, 2010, p. 38). On the other hand, recent papers recognize them as one of the most popular types of fibulae and assign them to the LT D2 – more precisely, the period between 40 and 15 BC (Božič, 2008, pp. 49, 146–147; Sedlmayer, 2009, p. 171; Drnić, 2013, pp. 47–48). According to I. Drnić (2013, p. 56), the Jezerine type of fibulae

from the Croatian and Serbian Danube region could not have resulted from the presence of the Roman army in this part of the limes, but rather through intensive trade and exchange with the north-eastern Italian region and the south-eastern Alpine region (Drnić, 2013, p. 56).

Besides the Jezerine II type of fibulae, copies of this type were made in local workshops in southern Pannonia (Dizdar, 2003, p. 342; Dizdar & Tonc, 2013; Drnić, 2013, pp. 48, 53). They have similar construction characteristics to the Jezerine II type, but are smaller and without perforation on the foot (Dizdar & Tonc 2013, p. 53). Based on archaeometric analyses, it is supposed that they were produced in areas other than northern Italy (Drnić 2013 with ref.). They are assumed to demonstrate, together with the Vinkovci type, the ability of local workshops to meet the market demand and the desire to wear a “modern” type of fibulae, and that they are indirect proof of contact and/or exchange of ideas (Dizdar & Tonc 2013, p. 53).

The fibulae of Almgren type 18 (Fig. 2/9) have a curved wire bow with a button and elongated openwork foot (sometimes with stepped or key-shaped decoration), and spring of four or six coils, the construction of which provided a base for variants (Demetz, 1999, pp. 116–122). They appeared after the mid-1<sup>st</sup> c. BC and were most probably worn in the early Augustan age (Demetz, 1999, p. 122). The main distribution area of Almgren 18 type lies in the Alpine region, but they appear in the Adriatic hinterland (the Lika region and the Una valley) (Dizdar & Tonc, 2013, p. 60, map 1). It is assumed (Dizdar & Tonc, 2013, p. 60) that their distribution in Croatia points to the continental routes of trade or movements of people, for example from Noricum where such fibulae are well represented (Sedlmayer, 2009, pp. 23, 131, f. 84).

## Roman Expansionism and Barbarian Society

There is no dispute about Rome’s foreign policy, which was largely driven by the personal interest of certain elite groups, as well as individuals who used warfare and the extraction of external resources to increase their wealth and prestige. The period of the Late Republic was marked by social and political violence, both internalised in the form of civil war and externalised by conquering new territories (Fernández-Götz et al., 2020, p. 1633 with ref.). No matter whether scholars in their recent papers shift the focus from humans to things, or concentrate more on the human component in analysing Roman expansionism (cf. Fernández-Götz, et al. 2020), it is important to be aware that different areas, periods, social context, kinds of interaction, and types of objects could contribute to very differ-

ent mechanisms of acquisition of non-local goods and their use, and that particular cases should be treated taking into account all of the specifics (Mihajlović, 2014, p. 195).

Of great significance for our study is the fact that the impact of the challenging and often violent environment of the frontier zone on the identity constructs and social dynamics of certain autochthonous communities from the southern part of the Carpathian Basin between the late 1<sup>st</sup> c. BC and first decades of the 1<sup>st</sup> c. AD has already been studied, taking into consideration a series of funerary contexts containing weaponry and military equipment of Roman and indigenous origin (Dizdar & Radman-Livaja, 2015; Egri, 2018). Local elites were undeniably in contact with the Romans decades before the conquest and it can be presumed that many of them felt attracted to the Roman way of life. In order to preserve their position and wealth they had to strike arrangements with the Roman invaders, who in turn had good reasons to rely on local forces in order to reduce the financial burden of the occupation as well as the strain on manpower (Dizdar & Radman-Livaja, 2015, p. 222). M. Egri (2018, p. 103) claimed existence of some local individuals who took advantage of the situation and the state of crisis to pursue their own personal agenda, especially if they were at least partially familiar with the functioning of the Roman system of power and authority due to previous contacts. The focus of our study was actually moved further to the past and those previous contacts. The different contexts of settlement sites where the analysed objects were caught in circulation and presumably everyday use has proven to be very instructive.

## Mechanisms of Acquisition

Archaeological material from south-eastern Pannonia proves that local communities had direct or indirect contacts with northern Italy and the south-eastern Alpine region in the 1<sup>st</sup> c. BC. This area was important as a zone from which ideas, technological knowledge and prestigious commodities originated (Dizdar & Tonc, 2013, p. 51). These contacts are confirmed by the presence of bronze vessels dated to the LT D1 phase (Popović, 1992, p. 61; Dizdar & Radman-Livaja, 2004, p. 50), and by certain types of fibulae and Roman Republican coins from the later LT D2 phase (Popović, 1987, pp. 105–106; Dizdar & Tonc, 2013). The mechanisms of their acquisition are still being debated, but one should consider the presence of different kinds of exchange (not only in the commercial sense) in the case of items of dress accessories and jewellery – objects

owned by a wide array of social classes. Fibulae findings certainly prove the continuity of established relations, as evidenced by imports of bronze vessels in the earlier period (Dizdar, 2012, p. 124). An increasing number of LT D2 fibulae have been discovered in the Eastern Slavonian sites, such as those of the Gorica, Almgren 18, and Jezerine type examples (Dizdar & Radman-Livaja, 2015, p. 216). Further to the east and across the Danube, the pattern is repeated in the region of Bačka, as revealed by the sets of fibulae from the sites of Čarnok and Čurug. The connecting region of Sarmia offers a number of finds ready for reinterpretation, for which we expect to fit both in the typological and chronological sense.

Material culture of the LT D2 period is indicative of increasingly stronger contacts and an openness towards western influences. The nature of initial contacts is still under debate, but different archaeological material has different potential for understanding life in the last century BC. Among other items, fibulae are considered to be a good testament to the contacts and connectivity. They are even more important because they are objects of everyday use, and were used by a wider span of social strata, in contrast to prestige goods. The selection of fibulae is more indicative of the adoption of new costumes and influences than prestige goods that had reached only the elite (Dizdar & Tonc, 2013, pp. 51–53, 65). The situation analysed in the settlements in Bačka can be seen as a confirmation of the concept proposed by Dizdar and Tonc (2013), in which a wide array of population groups embraced new trends expressed by the use of bronze fibulae, but also an indicator of the mechanisms used by the elite to maintain their western contacts, as evidenced by the silver fibulae.

## Conclusions

Although the number of finds in the south-eastern part of the Carpathian Basin that belong to the later phase of the Late La Tène period (LT D2) is much smaller than in the preceding period (LT D1), and lacks prestige goods, the fibulae of the north Italic provenance still demonstrate the continuity of previously established connections (cf. Dizdar 2012, p. 124; Dizdar & Tonc, 2013, p. 53). It is also important to note that in recent years one can observe an increase in the number of LT D2 fibulae in this territory. The distribution maps of fibulae of non-local origin have been somewhat changed by recent finds, showing that our present thoughts regarding the material culture of the autochthonous La Tène populations can be biased due to the unsatisfactory state of research. The noticeable lack of fibulae from this period can be the consequence of their erroneous

attribution to later periods and types, which further led to their disappearance from the horizon of scholars and papers dealing with Late La Tène and Early Roman periods.

Reinterpretation of the material resulted in the recognition of not just the direct imports from the west, but also substitutes made in the local workshops (cf. Dizdar & Tonc, 2013). The traditional perspective recognised this kind of artefacts as self-explanatory evidence of trade ties between the Roman state and the communities living on its fringes, viewing the concept of activities for pure economic gain exclusively from the Roman perspective. The confirmed existence of local workshops and artisans in their efforts to satisfy the increased need for fashionable goods, changed our perspective towards a model in which a significant share of local populations simply followed new trends in fashion and/or dress codes from the radiating western zones. As already stated, fibulae as part of clothing is a better indicator of the adoption of new costumes and influences than prestige goods that only reached the elites.

The results of the analysis of the fibulae from Čurug and Čarnok led us to presume the existence of wide networks of connectivity between the local Late La Tène communities in the Serbian part of the Danube basin on the one side, and northern Italy and the south-eastern Alpine region on the other. The specimens from Čurug show that fibulae directly or indirectly pointing to contact with the mentioned region can be found during the whole 1<sup>st</sup> c. BC. The fibulae of the Vinkovci type, being equivalent to the western Nauheim II fibulae, reflect expansion of trends and local acceptance and adjustment, while the later, original western forms of the Jezerine II and Almgren 18 types are indicators of uninterrupted contacts despite increasing Roman influence and military presence in the last decades of the 1<sup>st</sup> c. BC. The mechanisms of acquisition and arrival of the fibulae remain under question, just like the period of time during which they were locally used. These aspects can be debated only after comprehensive analyses of both individual archaeological finds, and individual settlements with all their elements of material culture. In this moment it can be presumed that the Roman presence in the south-eastern part of the Carpathian Basin did not disrupt preexisting contacts. Moreover, we should not suppose that all transformations of the Late La Tène world caused by imperial penetration affected all aspects of local communities' lives equally quickly and extensively. Generally speaking, it is essential to remember that political, social, and military changes, just like crises, are not easily detectable when dealing with tiny portable archaeological finds, such as fibulae. However, rapid changes in political spheres on the threshold of a new era had a great range of consequences, traceable in the material culture of the subsequent period.

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## ROMANI ANTE PORTAS? ЛАТЕНСКЕ ПОПУЛАЦИЈЕ СРПСКОГ ПОДУНАВЉА И ЊИХОВ ОДГОВОР НА РИМСКО ПРИСУСТВО

**Апстракт:** Током 1. века п. н. е. ширење римске државе досегло је југоисточне области Карпатског басена, због чега се поставља питање на које начине је римско војно и административно присуство утицало на локалне заједнице српског дела Подунавља. Анализиране су фибуле из каснолатенских насеља у Чарноку и Чуругу. На основу резултата може се претпоставити постојање широких мрежа повезаности локалних каснолатенских заједница српског Подунавља са једне, и северне Италије и југоисточноалпске регије са друге стране. Иако механизми набавке и пристизања фибула остају под знаком питања, може се претпоставити да римско присуство у југоисточном делу Карпатског басена није зауставило претходно успостављене контакте.

**Кључне речи:** фибуле, насеља, касни латен, Чарнок, Чуруг

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CIP – Каталогизација у публикацији –  
Народна библиотека Србије, Београд

902/904(4-12)(082)

316.728(37)(082)

94(37)(082)

94(4-12)(082)

ARCHAEOLOGY of Crisis / edited by Staša Babić. –  
Belgrade : Faculty of Philosophy, University, 2021 (Beograd :  
Službeni glasnik). – 245 str. : ilustr. ; 25 cm. – (Edition Humans  
and Society in Times of Crisis / [University of Belgrade - Faculty of  
Philosophy])

“This collection of papers was created as part of the scientific  
research project humans and society in times of crisis ... “ -->  
kolofon. – Tiraž 200. – Editor’s note: str. 7–8. – Napomene i  
bibliografske reference uz radove. - Bibliografija uz svaki rad. –  
Апстракти.

ISBN 978-86-6427-176-9

а) Археолошка налазишта -- Југоисточна Европа --  
Праисторија -- Зборници б) Археолошки налази -- Југоисточна  
Европа -- Праисторија -- Зборници в) Римско царство --  
Свакодневни живот -- Стари век -- Зборници

COBISS.SR-ID 53413641





While writing the texts collected in this volume, the authors have been living through an extraordinary experience, coping with everyday tasks made more complex by the crisis we have been facing, and creating new habits necessary to navigate the new environment. Although exceptional from our point of view, our present experience is far from unique, and the human history is replete with turbulent periods of crisis, profoundly disrupting the habitual order.

The aim of this collection is therefore to investigate some of the situations of crisis in the past from the archaeological perspective, in a search for insights that may help us to better understand and cope with the present one. At the same time, the papers demonstrate some of the vast possibilities of archaeological investigation to contribute to our understanding of the world we live in, as well as of the past societies whose material traces we study.

