

Wadym Orehowskyi, Doctor of Historical Sciences, Professor,
<https://orcid.org/0000-0002-8037-3135>
Chernivtsi Institute of Trade and Economics of KNUTE, Chernivtsi

PHINICIAN CIVILIZATION AS AN EXAMPLE OF THALASSOCRACY IN THE ANCIENT MEDITERRANEAN

Summary

The article is devoted to the disclosure and characterization of the main directions of trade and colonization activity of the population of ancient Phoenicia. The author notes that it was the Phoenicians who created a type of civilization in the Mediterranean called thalassocracy. It was characterized by a focus of economic, political and cultural life on activities related in one way or another to the sea, shipping and trade. The reason for this, as noted in the article was a small area of the country, which was unable to feed the entire population. Therefore, the Phoenicians were forced to exchange or purchase a significant part of the necessary goods from neighboring nations. They became the first "real merchants", "rulers of the ancient seas".

Active trade contacts were facilitated by the high level of shipbuilding, which was famous for such cities as the Bible, Tire and Sidon. The most profitable and extremely common industry was the production of purple - a dye derived from marine mollusks.

The author devoted the second part of the article to the colonization activities of the ancient Phoenicians, noting that in conducting trade, colonizing new territories, the Phoenicians acted as pioneers, explorers of new lands. One of the most impressive expeditions was the voyage of the Phoenician squadron around the African continent, which was carried out in the VI century BC by order of the Egyptian pharaoh Necho II.

Natives of Phoenicia became the first in human history to cross the Mediterranean Sea from east to west. On the way here, a number of settlements were created that could serve as bases for ships, as well as strongholds in military conflicts. The most important of these was Carthage, a state that survived Phoenicia itself and for several centuries was a powerful rival of the Roman Republic.

The Carthaginians continued to develop new lands and spaces. Between about 505 and 450 BC, the Senate of Carthage sent a squadron led by the navigator Gannon. Gannon's ships passed through the Strait of Gibraltar and headed south, along the coast of West Africa. The ending point of the expedition was the territory of modern Liberia.

In conclusion, the author notes that the Phoenicians created one of the most prosperous civilizations in the Mediterranean. Mostly commercial nature of the latter led to the active search for new markets and colonization of open lands. Moreover, it was here that the natives of Phoenicia long dominated the waters. They made an invaluable contribution to the development of trade and the development of the sea routes of the Old World.

Keywords: economic history of Phoenicia, shipping, trade, colonial policy, shipbuilding, money, merchant.

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