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The Kreewing /krieviņi/ sub-ethnic group – waiting for Prometheus.

Until very recently, a small but highly productive sub-ethnic group known as the Kreewings /Krieviņi/ lived in the Bauska region of Latvia. Descendants of the Baltic Finns – the Votians – not only laid the foundations for the modern Bauska region but also had a strong influence on the formation and further development of the Latvian state.

Having lost their folklore and language at the end of the 19th century, the Kreewings /Krieviņi/ left behind a galaxy of outstanding statesmen, artists and literary figures, phenomenal actors, and scientists. They had strong and prosperous farms and a special virtue characteristic only of the Votic origin.

Experts believe that the Kreewings /Krieviņi/, as a sub-ethnic group, merged with the Latvians and Lithuanians and disappeared from the historical record. This raises the question: why do the descendants of the Kreewings /Krieviņi/ still remember their ancestors and take pride in belonging to the once powerful Kreewings /Krieviņi/ families of Latvian historic region Zemgale?

In order to put forward a hypothesis and find an answer to the question of what the basis for the success of the Kreewings /Krieviņi/ in their new place of residence was, the author used an interdisciplinary approach. By combining methods from social anthropology, sociology, history, and ethnography, it became possible to identify the historical memories and keys to self-esteem of the descendants of the Kreewings /Krieviņi/ today, as well as to trace the evolution of perceptions of the Votic people and Kreewings /Krieviņi/ in general in ethnography, biographies, literature and public discourse.

The insight that changes the prevailing view of Kreewings /Krieviņi/ history and its role in shaping local identity is that Kreewings /Krieviņi/ were not war prisoners, but, in modern terms, 'colonists' with special rights and different dynamics of coexistence and later assimilation within the Latvian environment.

During his presentation, the author will discuss the elements and characteristics of the "Kreewing code" and outline the historic trends and current situation of the Kreewings /Krieviņi/ sub-ethnic group and its fate shortly in light of postmodern trends.

Together, we will seek an answer to the question of whether the Kreewings /Krieviņi/ sub-ethnic group is truly 'dead' or whether it is merely in a deep sleep, awaiting its Prometheus.

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