



Svyatoslav I of Kiev sacked Atil in 968 or 969 CE. Ibn Hawqal and al-Muqaddasi refer to Atil after 969, indicating that it may have been rebuilt. Al-Biruni (mid-11th century) reported that Atil was again in ruins, and did not mention the later city of Saqsin which was built nearby, so it is possible that this new Atil was only destroyed in the middle of the 11th century.



Map showing the major Varangian trade routes: the Volga trade route (in red) and the Trade Route from the Varangians to the Greeks (in purple). Other trade routes of the 8th–11th centuries shown in orange (note that Atil is the major commercial outpost from which trade extends into the far reaches of "Deep Asia").

## Alleged site

The archaeological remains of Atil have never been positively identified. It has been hypothesized that they were washed away by the rising level of the Caspian Sea. However, beginning in 2003 Dmitri Vasilyev of Astrakhan State University led a series of excavations at the Samosdelskoye site near the village of Samosdelka (Russian: Самосделка) in the Volga Delta. Vasilyev connected artifacts from the site with Khazar, Oghuz and Bulgar culture, leading him to believe that he had discovered the site of Saqsin. The matter is still unresolved. In 2006 Vasilyev announced his belief that the lowest stratum at the Samosdelka site was identical with the site of Atil.<sup>[1]</sup> In 2008, this team of Russian archaeologists announced that they had discovered the ruins of Atil.<sup>[2]</sup>

## Gallery



## References

1. Vasilyev, D. "Итиль-мечта (The Itil Dream)" (<http://www.lechaim.ru/ARHIV/174/VZR/a02.htm>). Retrieved 2008-09-28.
2. Mirovalev, Mansur (2008-09-20). "Scholar claims to find medieval Jewish capital" ([http://web.archive.org/web/20080927200637/http://news.yahoo.com/s/ap/20080920/ap\\_on\\_re\\_eu/russia\\_lost\\_capital](http://web.archive.org/web/20080927200637/http://news.yahoo.com/s/ap/20080920/ap_on_re_eu/russia_lost_capital)). *Yahoo News*. Associated Press. Archived from the original ([https://news.yahoo.com/s/ap/20080920/ap\\_on\\_re\\_eu/russia\\_lost\\_capital](https://news.yahoo.com/s/ap/20080920/ap_on_re_eu/russia_lost_capital)) on 27 September 2008. Retrieved 2008-09-28.

## Further reading

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## Sources

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- Brook, Kevin Alan (2018). *The Jews of Khazaria, Third Edition*. London: Rowman & Littlefield Publishers, Inc. ISBN 9781538103425.

## External links

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- Russian archaeologists find long-lost Jewish capital (<http://www.abc.net.au/news/stories/2008/09/03/2354822.htm>)
- Atil entry from Dead Cities (in Russian) (<https://archive.today/20130113220122/http://archo-cities.ru/city/itil>)

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