

far from being purely Slav in origin or in temperament, but speak a purely Slavonic language, and number about five millions; the Slovenes, in the south-western corner of Austria, about one and a half million in number; and the Serbs or Serbo-Croatians, who total between nine and ten millions.

On looking at an ethnographic map of the Slavonic peoples it will be noticed that while the eastern and western groups are contiguous, these are separated from the southern group by a substantial layer of non-Slavonic nationalities, Roumanians, Hungarians, and Germans.

It is now generally accepted that the original home of the Slavonic peoples, or rather the home which for all practical historical purposes may be considered original, lay to the north of the Carpathians, between the rivers Vistula and Dnieper; probably it included the whole upper basins of these two rivers.

Those Slavonic peoples who are now called the Southern Slavs must gradually have migrated south, first over the Carpathians into the plains of Pannonia and the valley of the Danube, and later across the Danube into the Balkan peninsula. It is perfectly well known that the Balkan peninsula was entered by the Slavs only comparatively lately, towards the end of the sixth century, but when they crossed the Carpathians, and what happened from that time till they crossed the Danube, can only be conjectured.

The reason for their original move southwards is probably to be found in the irruptions of alien hosts to which the whole mass of the Slavonic people were subjected from the fourth century onwards. First the Goths from the west, then the Huns from the east, and finally the Avars, also from Asia, drove great wedges