

Timeline

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| ca. 463 | First mention of central Asian Avars in Byzantine sources (Priscus) in connection with westward migration of Sabirs, Ogurs, Saragurs, and Onogurs |
| 527–565 | Emperor Justinian I |
| 552–555 | The Turks under Bumin destroy the central Asian empire of the Rouran |
| Dec. 558/Jan. 559 | First Avar embassy under Kandikh in Constantinople; Avars north of the Caucasus |
| 559 | Invasion by Cutrigurs under Zabergan stopped outside Constantinople by Belisarius |
| ca. 558–562 | Western Turks under Istemi in alliance with the Persians subdue Hephthalite Empire |
| 559–561 | Avars advance north of the Black Sea and defeat Sabirs, Utigurs, and Antes |
| ca. 560–582/83 | Baian, khagan of the Avars |
| 560/61–572 | Alboin, king of the Lombards |
| 562/63 | First Turkish embassy in Constantinople warns against alliance with the Avars |
| 562 | Sigibert I, king of the Franks, repels an Avar attack near the Elbe |
| 563 | Avars at the Lower Danube; negotiations about a settlement on Roman territory fail |
| 565–578 | Emperor Justin II |
| Nov. 565 | The Avar envoy Targitius arrives shortly after Justin II's coronation; the emperor refuses to pay further subsidies |
| 566 | A second Avar expedition against the Franks under Sigibert I is victorious; he buys off the Avars with foodstuffs and concludes an alliance with them |
| 566 | The Gepids defeat the Lombards with Byzantine support, but do not hand over Sirmium to the Byzantines as promised |
| Winter 566/67 | A Lombard embassy concludes an alliance against the Gepids with Khagan Baian, but only under great concessions |

- 567 Decisive victory of the Lombards under Alboin against the Gepids, whose king Cunimund dies in battle; the Avars occupy the land of the Gepids and besiege the Gepid capital Sirmium, which Byzantine troops under Bonus have occupied
- 567–574 Fruitless negotiations between the Avars and Byzantium for a new treaty
- April 568 Lombards and affiliated groups under King Alboin begin to leave Pannonia for Italy; the Avars occupy the land of the Lombards
- Late 568 Turkish embassy under the Sogdian Maniakh in Constantinople
- 569–571 Byzantine embassy under Zemarchus travels to the Turk khagan Sizabulos/Istemi
- ca. 570 Victory of Tiberius over the Avars
- 572 Beginning of the twenty-year war of Byzantium against the Persians; Avar pressure increases
- 574 Victory of the Avars over Tiberius; Emperor Justin II withdraws from politics, and in December appoints Tiberius Caesar
- Winter 574/75 A new treaty of the Avars with Byzantium fixes the annual subsidies at 80,000 solidi
- 576–577 Byzantine embassy under Valentinus meets the new Turkish khagan Turxanthus, who reproaches them because of the treaty with the Avars; Turks and subdued Utigurs take the Byzantine city Bosphorus/Kerch
- 578 First culmination of Slavic raids in Thrace; Avars attack the Slavic settlement area north of the Danube with Byzantine support after the Slavic prince Dauritas has killed Avar envoys
- 578–582 Emperor Tiberius II
- 579–582 Avars besiege Sirmium; the city capitulates after three years
- 582 The peace treaty between Baian and Tiberius leaves the subsidies at 80,000 solidi plus arrears
- 582–602 Emperor Maurice
- ca. 583–ca. 602/10 One of Baian's sons is khagan
- ca. 582/83 Inner conflicts in the Turkish Empire
- ca. 583 The Varchonite tribes Tarniakh, Kotzagir, and Zabender flee from the Turks and join the Avars
- 583/84 New wave of Slavic raids in the Balkan provinces; Greece is increasingly targeted

- Fall 584 After the Byzantines have refused to raise the subsidies, the Avars capture Singidunum, Viminacium, and Augusta and march as far as Anchialus; failed mission of Comentiolus to the khagan
- Spring 585 A second Byzantine embassy under Elpidius concludes a treaty with the Avars that raises the subsidies to 100,000 solidi
- Fall 586 On the instigation of the fugitive Avar high priest Bookolabras, Maurice interns the Avar ambassador Targitius; the khagan renews his attacks and plunders Aquis, Bononia, Ratiaria, Apiaria, Durostorum, Zaldapa, Pannasa, Tropaeum Traiani, and Marcianopolis
- Sept. 586 Avar-led Slavic siege of Thessalonica fails
- 587 War in Thrace, fighting at Tomis and at Sabulente Canalis; Avar attacks on Mesembria and unsuccessful sieges of Beroe, Diocletianopolis, and Philippopolis; successful intervention of John Mystacon at Adrianople
- 587/88 Avars and Slavs take Patras and other Greek cities and begin to settle in Greece
- 591–616 Lombard king Agilulf
- 591 Peace treaty between Byzantium and the new Persian king Chosroes
- 592 Slavs attack Singidunum; Avar war, fighting at the Procliana Pass; siege of Drizipera; Avar victory at Heraclea; General Priscus besieged in Tzurullon; renewal of the treaty
- 592 Bavarian campaign under Tassilo I against Slavs
- 593 Campaign of Priscus against Slavs north of the lower Danube; victories over the groups under Ardagast and Musucius
- 594 Slavic raids against Zaldapa, Aquis, and Scopi; Petrus leads a campaign against Slavs, victory over the Peiragast group, and defeat at the Helibacius
- 595 Campaign of Priscus against the Avars, confrontation at Singidunum; Avar raid on inland Dalmatia
- 595 Bavarian attack on Slavs; counterattack by the khagan, Bavarian army routed
- 596–597 Eighteen months of peace along the Danube
- 596 Avars attack Thuringia; the Frankish queen Brunhild buys them off
- Fall 597 Avar campaign along the Danube; Avar army hibernates near Tomi

- 598 Fighting in Thrace, Comentiolus defeated at Iatrus; Avars capture Drizipera; their army decimated by the plague; Roman envoy Harmaton negotiates a rise of subsidies to 120,000 solidi
- 599 Offensive of Priscus on Avar territory: victories opposite Viminacium, and over the khagan's army at the Tisza
- ca. 600 Avar peace treaties with Lombards and Franks
- 601/2 Avars, Slavs, and Lombards raid Byzantine Istria
- 601 Avar army under Apsikh and Roman army under Petrus face each other at the Iron Gate
- 602 Avars under Apsikh defeat the Antes; Roman units under Guduin attack Slavs north of the lower Danube, but rebel against the order to hibernate in Slavic lands
- Nov. 602 Rebels under Phocas overthrow and kill Emperor Maurice
- 602–610 Emperor Phocas; new war against the Persians
- Aug. 603 A Slavic contingent sent by the Avars helps the Lombard king Agilulf to take Cremona
- ca. 604 Avar-Byzantine treaty; subsidies probably rise to 140,000 solidi
- ca. 602/10–626/30 Another son of Baian reigns as khagan
- 604 Slavic surprise attack on Thessalonica
- 609/10 Avar-Slav raids in Illyricum
- Fall 610 Civil war in Byzantium; Phocas overthrown
- 610–641 Emperor Heraclius
- ca. 611 Avar victory over the Lombard dux of Friuli, Gisulf II; capture of Forum Iulii/Cividale and deportation of the captives to Pannonia
- ca. 611 Bavarians under Garibald defeated by Slavs at Aguntum; Brunhild's enemies suspect her of plotting with the Avars
- ca. 615 Avars and Slavs capture Naissus and Serdica
- ca. 615 Siege of Thessalonica by Slavs under Chatzon
- 617 or 618 33-day siege of Thessalonica by Avars and Slavs under the command of the khagan
- ca. 618 Avar expedition to Thrace
- 618/19 Avar-Byzantine treaty (180,000 solidi?)
- June 623 Failed Avar ambush against Emperor Heraclius near Heraclea; raids inside the Long Walls
- 623 New treaty with subsidies of 200,000 solidi
- 623–638 Dagobert I, king of the Franks
- 623/24 Beginning of the successful rebellion of Slavs in Bohemia/Moravia under Samo

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| ca. 625–640 | Salona abandoned because of Slavic pressure, population moves to Split |
| Summer 626 | Great Avar siege of Constantinople with Persian support fails after ten days |
| Winter 627/28 | The Persian war ends with Byzantine victory; Heraclius in Ctesiphon |
| 630 | Frankish embassy in Constantinople |
| 630/31 | Throne conflicts in the Avar Empire between an Avar and a Bulgar contender; flight of the defeated Bulgars to Bavaria, where a large part is massacred; survivors under Alcicocus flee to the “March of the Vinedi” to Duke Walluc |
| ca. 631 | Large-scale Frankish attack on Samo’s kingdom repelled at Wogastisburc; Lombard victory over Slavs in the Alps |
| 630/35 | Bulgar Empire north of the Black Sea under Khan Kuvrat expands against Avars and Turks |
| 636–642 | Arab/Islamic expansion to Palestine, Syria, and Egypt |
| 642–668 | Emperor Constans II |
| 650s/660s | Death of Khan Kuvrat; dissolution of his empire and rise of the Khazar khaganate |
| ca. 660 | Death of Samo and dissolution of his kingdom |
| 662–671 | Grimoald, king of the Lombards |
| 662 | The dethroned Lombard king Perctarit, an exile at the Avar court, has to continue his flight because of diplomatic pressures by King Grimoald |
| 663 | Emperor Constans II fights the Lombards in southern Italy |
| 663 | Duke Lupus of Friuli rebels against King Grimoald; on Grimoald’s invitation, the Avars invade Friuli, and Lupus falls in battle; the Avars leave only when Grimoald arrives with his army |
| ca. 663 | Alzeco comes to Italy with his Bulgars and settles with Lombard consent in the duchy of Benevento |
| 668–685 | Emperor Constantine IV |
| July 677 | A conflict with the Slavic prince Perbund leads to a Slavic siege of Thessalonica |
| 678 | An Arabic fleet is defeated at Constantinople |
| 678/79 | The last attested Avar embassy in Constantinople congratulates the emperor on his victory |
| 680 | Bulgars under Asparukh defeat the Byzantines near the Danube delta; Bulgar khanate established in Moesia |

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| ca. 680 | Kuver and his mixed group of Sermesianoi break free from Avar Pannonia and settle in the Keramesian Plain; failed plot of Mavros against Thessalonica |
| 685–695, 705–711 | Emperor Justinian II |
| 712–744 | Liutprand, king of the Lombards |
| ca. 713/14 | Destruction of Lorch by the Avars |
| 742 | The Carantanians under Boruth repel an Avar attack with the support of the Bavarian duke Odilo; beginning of Bavarian overlordship and Christian mission in Carantania |
| 748–788 | Tassilo III, duke of the Bavarians |
| 768–814 | Charlemagne, king of the Franks |
| 774 | Charlemagne defeats the Lombard king Desiderius and becomes king of the Lombards |
| 782 | Avar embassy meets Charlemagne at Lippspringe; an Avar army appears at the Enns |
| 788 | Tassilo III dethroned and confined |
| 788 | Frankish-Avar War; Avars defeated near the Italian and Bavarian borders |
| 790 | Avar embassy in Worms; no consensus on the boundary |
| Aug. 791 | A Frankish-Lombard army takes an Avar fortification at the Italian border |
| Fall 791 | Great Avar campaign led by Charlemagne, departing from Lorch in September and proceeding to the Rába without much resistance; horse pestilence, return via Savaria |
| 791–end of 793 | Charlemagne in Regensburg; preparations for an Avar war, works for Danube-Main canal |
| 793–795 | Saxon uprising |
| 794/95 | Inner conflict in the Avar Empire; death of the khagan and the <i>iugurru</i> s |
| 795 | Envoys of the tudun meet Charlemagne at Hliune at the Elbe and offer submission |
| Fall 795 | A Frankish-Slav army under Woynimir advances to the “ring” of the khagans and sacks it |
| 796 | The tudun comes to Charlemagne, submits, and is baptized; an army under Pippin of Italy and Duke Eric of Friuli sacks the ring again; the khagan submits; a synod at the Danube deals with the conversion of the Avars |
| 797 | Campaign of Eric of Friuli in Pannonia; fights against Slavs |
| End of 797 | Avar embassy meets Charlemagne at Herstelle |

- 798 Bishop Arn of Salzburg is raised to archbishop with a view to the eastern missions
- 799–803 Great Avar uprising against the Franks
- 799 Eric of Friuli is killed by the residents of Tarsatica; Prefect Gerold I is murdered during a campaign against the Avars
- 802 The counts Chadaloh and Goteram fall in a fight against Avars near the castellum Guntionis
- 802/03–814 Bulgar khan Krum
- 803 The Franks finally put down the Avar revolt; the tudun comes to Charlemagne at Regensburg and submits
- ca. 804 Campaign of the Bulgar khan Krum against the Avars
- Early 805 The Christian kapkhan Theodore visits Charlemagne in Aachen and asks for land because of Slavic attacks; he obtains the region between Carnuntum and Savaria, but dies soon
- Sept. 805 The Avar khagan asks Charlemagne to reestablish his supreme rule; on September 21, he is baptized with the name Abraham in the Fischa river
- 805 The capitulary of Thionville institutes Lorch as a toll post toward Slavs and Avars
- 811 A Frankish army mediates in fights between Avars and Slavs in Pannonia; the *canizauci*, the tudun, and other Avar and Slavic princes are summoned to Aachen
- 811 Emperor Nicephorus invades Bulgaria and falls in battle; in the Bulgar army, Avars are also attested
- 814 Khan Krum plans to attack Constantinople; his army is said to have included Avar mercenaries; Krum dies before putting the plan into action
- 822 Last attested Avar embassy at the Frankish court
- 828 The administrative reform of the eastern territories of Bavaria removes the Avar tributary principality

