

aid of Rome under whose leadership they successfully drove their enemies north of the Danube in 332

The Vandals soon forgot their lesson, invaded the Roman provinces, and were again defeated. They next armed their slaves to increase their fighting power and, finally finding these new



auxiliaries beyond their control, once more sought the protection of Rome. The Emperor Constantine awarded them large tracts of land in the region of modern Thrace, Croatia and the North of Italy, hoping to use the traditional enmity of Vandal and Goth to his own advantage.

In 405 AD the Vandals joined the forces of Radagisus, an Illyrian adventurer, and setting out to plunder Italy, crossed the Po without opposition, sacking all cities in their path before settling down to besiege Florence.

The Roman armies which relieved Florence were insufficient to crush the remains of the Vandal and barbarian army, who were permitted together with the Suevi Alani and Burgundians, to enter Gaul and Spain, where they remained. The Vandals chose southern Spain where they settled until 429 AD, in which year Count Boniface, then commanding the Roman armies of Africa, invited them to his assistance in a rebellion into which he had been tricked.

Under their king, Genseric, 50,000 effective Vandal troops landed in what is now Algeria and Tunisia, where they found considerable native unrest and great support by the Donatists, a sect whose protests against abuses and worldliness in the

church had taken a violent form and were then being actively persecuted by the Catholics. Genseric perceiving his opportunity soon seized the greater part of the province, excepting only Cathage and Hippo Regis, which latter city was promptly besieged. Hippo Regis held out until after the death of St Augustine, who was spared the triumph of the Vandals and their Donatist allies.

Eight years later with the fall of Carthage the Vandals were in possession not only of the granaries of Rome and the overseas estates of the senators, but were building up a naval force with which they attacked Sicily, sacked Palermo and raided the Lucanian coast.

In 455, after the death of Valentinian, the Vandals suddenly appeared off the Tiber, seized the port and warehouses of Ostia and marched on the almost undefended city of Rome where, after the intervention of the Patriarch Leo, the city was given over to 14 days of pillage by the Vandals and Moors who carried off all the portable treasures spared by the Goths in 410. They did not forget to rob the Empress of her jewels and her daughters of their liberty.

The Vandals reigned in Africa essentially as a military aristocracy. They did not seriously affect the indigenous population and they rapidly succumbed to the enervating climate, so that in 530, after only a century of occupation, they fell to the Byzantines under Belisarius, who conquered Africa in two battles.

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The Huns came originally from the confines of China and appear to have migrated westward in two streams about 93 AD, one group passing towards the Volga and the other continuing along the steppes of the modern Ukraine, where they soon came into conflict with the Goths in the area between the Black Sea and the Danube.

The pressure they exerted on the Goths caused the latter to cross the Danube and to seek refuge once again within the Empire, but the conditions of their entry having been broken