



SCHEDE

Gaussian dynasty

With Audoin - who became king after overthrowing Walthari, Wacho's minor son - power passed from the Lethings to the Gausi and the system of alliances, strengthened by the alliance with Emperor Justinian, changed. The Franks and the Gepids became enemies to the Longobards, whereas Justinian organised the marriage between Audoin and a daughter of Ermanafrius, king of the Thuringii, and Amalaberga, niece of the mythical Ostrogoth king Theodoric, from the Amali family.

Therefore, by will of the Emperor, the Ostrogoth blood of the prestigious Amali family blended with that of the Longobard Gausi. Alboin would be born from the marriage between Audoin and the Thuringian princess with Amali ancestors.

At the death of Theodoric (547), another phase in Central European history would start.

Firstly, the Longobards subjugated the Swabians (who until then had been protected by the Ostrogoths) and, with the agreement of Byzantium, settled in the Roman regions of Noric and Pannonia, which they had begun to conquer in 510.

In 551, a Longobard mercenary contingent was engaged by Narses, who led the imperial troops in the Greek-Gothic war between the Empire and the Ostrogoths that since 535 was devastating Italy. For the first time, the Longobards entered Italy and took part in 552 in the victorious battle of *Taginae* (now Gualdo Tadino).

ALBOIN GOES DOWN IN HISTORY

In the same year (551), the Longobards led by Audoin and backed by a corps of the Byzantine army invaded the territory belonging to the powerful Gepids and defeated them. Turismund, son of Thurisind, king of the Gepids, was killed in battle by Alboin.

Meanwhile, in Italy, the Greek-Gothic war was coming to an end. The Longobards would take part in the last phase and distinguish themselves in the decisive Battle of *Taginae* (Gualdo Tadino) in 552.

In 554, *Pragmatica Sanctio* by Justinian was promulgated and the imperial power over Italy was actually restored.

In Central Europe, the migration wave of a dreaded people, the Avars, from the Sarmatic plains stopped at the Tisza river.

In 650, Alboin became king of the Longobards after the death of his father. Soon after, Cunimund, new king of the Gepids (who took the throne as the second son after the death of his father Thurisind) waged war against the Longobards who, meanwhile, had allied with the Avars.

The Gepids, held in the grip of the Longobards and the Avars, were defeated and exterminated. Cunimund was killed and Alboin married his daughter Rosmunda.