

**ANCIENT DESTRUCTIVE EARTHQUAKES IN CHERSONESUS TAURICA
AND THEIR IMPORTANCE FOR SEISMIC DANGER LONG-TERM ASSESSMENT
OF THE SOUTH-WESTERN CRIMEA REGION**

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Abstract. To develop of previous author's efforts in the paper an attempt to recognize more decisive features of old destructed constructions and other signs of functional disturbances of social life in the region was undertaken. In the paper attention is focused on oldest period of the Chersonesus history, which was located for two thousand years at the tip of the Crimea peninsula, where well-known town Sevastopol exists now. Keeping in mind such a purpose as to bring into light genuine cause of the polis destruction the author has used archaeoseismic approach and some speculations basing on undirect signs of social life decay in two fixed periods IV and II centuries BC.

Keywords: destructive earthquake, macroseismic features of seismic destructed constructions, construction and grave disturbances, seismic danger, archaeoseismic method, antique period, Chersonesus, Heracleian peninsula, Sevastopol source region, South-Western Crimea region.