

1. Name:	
I. Current	Sinop
II. Ancient name:	Sinuua (?), Sinope, Sinopolli
III. :	Sinope, Sinub
IV. History of the name:	According to the mythographic tradition the name Σινώπη (lat. <i>Sinōpe</i>) is connected with that of the Amazon queen Sinova, who was believed the legendary founder of the city, though another legend identifies Autolykus, son of Hermes and grandfather of Odysseus, as the ancient founder of Sinop. Some scholars supposed that the Hittite name “Sinuua” may be a toponym of Sinop (Del Monte & Tischler 1978, 358)
TITLE:	Sinop (Sinope)

2. Place:	
I. Country	Turkey
II. Geopolit	Sinop Province, south Black Sea coast. The Sinop region is surrounded by Kastamonu province, on the western side, and by Çorum and Samsun districts on the southern and eastern directions. Ancient Regio Pontica also Paphlagonia Region.
III. Administrative subdivision:	Sinop Municipality
IV.	The city is located in the central Black Sea Region (41°36'33"N 34°54'07"E), on the thin strip of land (less than 400 m wide in its widest point) of the isthmus of Boztepe, a promontory projecting into the Black Sea and forming together with İnceburun cape the largest peninsula of northern Anatolia, the Sinop Peninsula. The Pontic Mountains run east-west dividing the coastal zone from the inner part of the region and rise up to 1750 m at Zindan Dagi. The hardly accessible nature of the mountains always limited the connection of the city with the inner southern regions and naturally oriented the activities and interests of Sinop toward sea traffic and commerce. On the other hand, the particular geographical shape of the peninsula creates two bays, on the north-west side and on the south-east one. The Akliman natural harbour and Hamsilos bay were already known in the ancient times as natural shelters for ships.

3. Foundation date:	Prehistoric settlement, Bronze Age; Kaška settlement, about 2000 BC; Greek colony of Miletus, 7th century BC (630 BC, according a historical tradition dating back to Eusebius' <i>Chronographia</i>); Roman colony <i>Iulia Felix Sinope</i> after Julius Caesar's victory at Zela in 47 BC.
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4. Current condition:	Sinop has a good climate and a favourable geographical position, conditions which facilitated the development and the flourishing of the ancient colony. The two harbours, north and south of the city, are still in use, even if they lost their ancient commercial importance and are now site of touristic and military interest. The modern city shape, notwithstanding the developments underwent in the period of the Republic, after 1923, preserves tangible and relevant archaeological traces of the ancient features of the town, like the <i>cardo</i> (today partly coinciding with Sakarya street), parts of the city walls and the <i>castrum</i> . The area inside the wall perimeter still shows the typical street pattern of the Ottoman period, which had a decisive role in shaping the modern feature of the city, with its buildings, mosques, fountains. However, there are several archaeological and monumental remains providing evidences of the long history of Sinop, which has been well studied, from the prehistoric era to the Greek-Hellenistic age and the Byzantine-Seljuk periods. Besides the most renown monuments, such as the Serapis Temple and the Balat Kilise, the archaeological museum houses some important records of such a long history.
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5. History:

Thanks to its particular orographic structure, the Sinop region was a favorable site of settlement since most ancient times. According to recent archaeological researches the earliest settlements of the region probably date back to Early Chalcolithic Period, and continued to be very active throughout the Bronze Age (Dönmez 2011). Sinop was an important commercial center during the Assyrian Trade Colonies Period, as the findings from a number of settlements and cemeteries in the province indicate. As for later ages, despite the lack of direct archaeological evidence, we know from Hittite textual sources that several populations of the Black Sea region settled in the Sinop province, most importantly the Kaška. Since the end of Bronze Age, after the waning of Hittite Empire, populations from Thracia and Phrygia moved toward Anatolian regions and during the Iron Age other Eurasian nomadic tribes (Cimmerians) invaded the Black Sea coastal territory of Sinop. This phenomenon was an obstacle to the colonization of the area by the Greek and indeed a Milesian stable settlement in Sinop took place only at the end of the 7th century BC. Around 630 BC the Milesians founded a new city (Ivantchik 1997, 33-45), which became soon a rich and strategic commercial center in a wide trade network and was a bridgehead for the foundation of other Greek dependent sub-colonies, such as Kotyora, Kerasous and Trapezous. In the mid-5th century the colony went under the tyranny of Timesilaus, who was then deposed by the expedition of Perikles and Lamachus in 437 BC. In 370 BC Sinop was subjugated by the Persian satrap of Cappadocia, Datames, but was reconquered by Alexander the Great during the invasion of Asia Minor. In the Hellenistic age Sinop reached its apogee not only as a commercial but also as a cultural and artistic center, “the most important city of the coast”, according to Strabo (XII.3.11). The famous philosopher Diogenes the Cynic was born in Sinop. In 220 BC the city held out against the attack of Mithridates II, but in 183 BC it fell under the dominion of his nephew, Pharnaces I, who made of it the capital of the kingdom of Pontus, thus putting an end to the life of the city as an independent state. Part of the strong defensive city walls was built in this period and other important monumental works were undertaken under Mithridates VI Eupator (who was born in Sinop). During the Third Mithridatic War the Roman general Lucullus besieged and took the city in 70 BC, which then became part of the Roman province of Bithynia and Pontus. After the brief occupation by the king of Pontus Pharnaces II, Julius Caesar seized Sinop again, after the battle of Zela (47 BC), and established it as *Colonia Iulia Felix*.

It was a Byzantine dominion until the beginning of the 13th century, when, after the conquest of Constantinople by the Crusaders in 1204, was annexed to the kingdom of the Grand Comnenians of Trebizond and occupied by David Comnenos in 1205. However, few years later, in 1214, Sinop was taken by the Seljuqs, who killed David Comnenos during the seizure of the city. The dominion of the Seljuqs was nonetheless disputed by the rulers of Trebizond, and indeed the Emperor Manuel I reoccupied Sinop from 1254 to 1263, when the vizier Mu'in al-Din Sulaiman Parwana, better known as Pervane, took again the city. The Pervaneid dynasty ruled until 1322, after that the city fell into the hands of the dynasty of Candarid of Kastamonou and remained under its control until the fifteenth century. During the Seljuq period a large campaign of restoration and building was undertaken, with the strengthening of the city walls, the construction of an inner citadel and the foundations of new mosques and medreses. Finally, in 1461, Sinop was conquered by

the Ottomans. The 16th century, under Ottoman Empire, was a period of great flourishing and monumental building activity. In 1614 the city was sacked and set on fire by the Cossaks.

The following centuries marked a significant decline of its commercial and cultural importance, even if, on the other hand, its military and geopolitical strategic interest increased, due to the Crimean War between Ottoman Empire and Russia on Black Sea. The major military event involving Sinop was the sea battle fought on 30 November 1853 in the port of the city, when the Russian fleet, led by Admiral Nakhimov, completely destroyed the Ottoman forces of Osman Pasha. After the sea fight also the city was attacked and the battle became notorious as “the massacre of Sinop”. The war caused a more severe economic, social and political decline of the city. In 1924 Sinop became a province of the new Turkish Republic, what marked the beginning of its modern history.

6. Description:	
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7. Harbour:	<p>Risen on the narrow isthmus connecting the Boz Tepe promontory with the mainland, Sinop is naturally endowed with two ports, one on the northern side, protected from the eastern winds, and the other one on the southern side, sheltered from the western and especially from the often fierce northern winds by the Inceburun promontory and by the isthmus itself.</p> <p>These natural harbours were already well known and appreciated in the ancient times. Strabo commented the highly favourable and safe conditions of the coast, “protected all round by ridgy shores, which have hollowed out places in them, rock-cavities, as it were, which the people call ‘choenicides’ these are filled with water when the sea rises, and therefore the place is hard to approach, not only because of this, but also because the whole surface of the rock is prickly and impassable for bare feet” (XII.3.11).</p> <p>The economic activity and the strategic interest of the Sinop harbours had changing fortunes throughout the long history of the city. Already when it became a Roman colony under Julius Caesar, its seaports began to lose some of their relevance, due to the growing importance of other port cities of Asia Minor, such as Amisos (today Samsun) or Ephesus, as main sea trading centre. During the Byzantine Age the decline of the maritime dominance of the city continued, in spite of the building activities. In the fourteenth century, under the Candarid dynasty, the trade of the Genoese fleet in the Black Sea gave new prosperity to the commercial role of Sinop, but its historical primacy declined again during the Ottoman Empire domination in favour of Samsun port.</p> <p>In the 18th century Sinop became a military naval base, the harbour was restored and a new shipyard built. However, the Sinop seaport became notorious in modern history for the battle between the Ottoman and the Russian fleets during the Crimean War, which was fought in 1853 in the southern bay of the city and involved also the destruction of the shore harbour defences.</p> <p>In more recent times, Sinop seaport regained a strategic interest thanks to its geographical position and its vicinity to Black Sea northern coasts of Soviet Union. It hosted a US naval base active as a listening post during the Cold War and dismantled in 1992.</p> <p>The practically uninterrupted activities of Sinop ports from ancient era to modern times made difficult systematic archaeological surveys and excavations of the harbour areas, even if recent deepwater expeditions before the coasts around Sinop discovered interesting wrecks, dating to Roman and Byzantine periods (from 2nd to 7th century), exceptionally well-preserved due to the deep anoxic waters of the Black Sea (Ballard <i>et al.</i> 2001).</p>
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<p>8. Fortification:</p>	<p>The defence system of Sinop is still preserved – though partly ruined – and is the main monumental feature and the most imposing architectural structure of the city. It is formed by a city wall, with a roughly rectangular design in plan, following the profile of the narrow neck of the isthmus on which the city rises. Large parts of the walls date back to the Roman period, built with isodomic masonry. However, other sections revealed the marks and traces of restorations and fillings of different ages. A series of towers is distributed along the perimeter, but without a clear regularity. The position of the towers was rather conditioned by the configuration of the two harbours and they served probably as watchtowers of the ports.</p> <p>Inside the city walls, the main modern street (Sakarya Caddesi), cutting the town centre east-west, overlies the ancient Roman cardo. During the Byzantine period and under the Seljuq government a castrum or an inner fortified citadel was built with a quadrangular shape. In its masonry it is possible to detect a large number of spolia and reused materials, documenting not only the different historical phases of construction and restoration but also the stratified history of the city. Of great interest are also the Seljuq inscriptions included in the building.</p>
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<p>9. Archaeological Monuments / museums:</p>	<p>In the modern city several remains of the ancient Sinop are preserved, the most impressive of which are the city walls and the castrum. The archaeological museum, founded in 1921 and transferred in its present building in 1970, houses a lot of finds dating back to Roman, Byzantine and Seljuq periods. Among the most important materials there are a marble statue of lions savaging a deer, dated to 4th century BC, and the Meydankapı mosaic, coming from a domus of the late-antique city, around 4th century AD, with the depiction of the Four Seasons and the Seven Muses. Also noteworthy is the collection of Byzantine religious objects, including icons from local churches. In the museum garden there are other interesting sculptures, mosaics, turban-topped gravestones and a pleasant fish pond. The Byzantine church of Balatlar (dated to 7th century AD), nowadays immersed in the modern urban context, was built on a Roman thermal building, of which a fresco cycle is still preserved.</p> <p>One of the oldest mosques of the city is the so-called Aladdin Mosque, built soon after the conquest of the city by the Seljuqs, in 1214. In the surroundings of Sinop there are sites of relevant archaeological interest, among these the rock graves near Salar Village (Boyaba), Ambarkaya and Terelek, which is situated in Köhler Village, all dated to 7th century BC.</p>
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<p>10. Textual sources:</p>	<p>Strabo, XII, 545; Herod. IV 12, Eustat. Commentarii, 248, 773, 970, Plut. Luc. 23.</p>
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12. Links:	http://www.persee.fr/doc/anata_1018-1946_1998_num_6_1_914 http://books.openedition.org/ifeagd/1084?lang=it http://www.kultur.gov.tr/EN,39619/sinop-museum.html http://sinop.bel.tr
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13. Visual material:	<p>1. Figure Sinop, Plan of the city, taken from Brayer A., Winfield D., <i>The Byzantine Monuments</i>, 1985.</p> <p>2. Figure View of the Sinop from the sea, engraving after Pieter van Woensel, <i>Aanteekeningen, gehouden op eene reize door Turkijen, Natoliën, de Krim en Rusland, in de jaaren 1784-89</i>, vol. II, Istanbul 1206 [1791].</p> <p>3. Figure Sinop view, Engraving after Don Francisco de Paula Vidal, <i>Historia contemporánea del Imperio Otomano, ó sea, De la guerra de Orient</i>, Madrid 1855.</p> <p>4. Figure Sinop view, drawing by Jules Laurent, engraving after Hommair de Hell, <i>Voyage en Turque et en Perse execute par ordre de Gouvernement Français pendant les années 1846, 1847, 1848</i>, Paris 1860.</p> <p>5. Figure Sinop, Old photograph view.</p> <p>6. Figure Sinop, Castel ruins.</p> <p>7. Figure Sinop, Tower of the castle.</p> <p>8a-d. Figures Sinop, Marina Port area.</p> <p>9. Figure Sinop, Archaeological Museum, Roman sculpture.</p> <p>10. Figure Sinop, Archaeological Museum, Byzantine capital.</p> <p>11. Figure Battle of Sinop (Crimean War), 1853, engraving.</p>
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14. Writer/date:	Silvia Pedone, December 2015.
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