Byzantium Beneath the Black Sea

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The Black Sea is a particularly auspicious site for deepwater investigations. Two Byzantine shipwrecks from the late 5th century A.D. were discovered in the Eastern Black Sea in 2007. These wrecks present a unique opportunity to understand the shipbuilding technology and trade practices of the Byzantine era, as well as the environmental conditions that prevailed during this time. The wrecks are located in the Prypiat River estuary, which acted as a major trade route for goods traveling from the Black Sea basin to the Mediterranean. The shipwrecks consist of two large vessels, one of which is a trireme, a type of warship used by the Byzantine navy. The wrecks are currently being investigated by a team of archaeologists using advanced technologies such as underwater photography and video. The goal of the investigation is to understand the shipbuilding technology and trade practices of the Byzantine era, as well as the environmental conditions that prevailed during this time.