



ABSTRACT SUBMISSION

New Vistas on Early Manifestations of Southern Levantine Urbanization during the Early Bronze Age

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Abstract

One of the main points which scholars disagree upon in the research of early Urbanization of the southern Levant is the chronological stage in which one can identify urban settlements - either the early 3rd millennium BC (EBII), or the late 4th millennium BC (late EBIB). Recent excavations at sites like 'En Esur and 'En Zippori have yielded decisive evidence for the existence of cities already in the late 4th millennium BC (EBIB). The current paper will explore even earlier evidence for the emergence of urban characters in the Early Bronze Age. Starting at the mid-fourth millennium BC (EBIA), the appearance of fortifications and initial signs of planning at sites like Kafr Kana may illustrate the very beginning of this process. By the early EBIB, recent evidence from southern Israel testifies for a more developed process in which a possible ranked settlement system is related to the fortified Tel Erani, and in addition, several settlements in which planning, industrial areas and public buildings were found in the Judean Shephelah. The current paper will explore evidence from recently excavated combined with a new GIS study that illustrates these initial signs of early urbanization

Keywords

EBIB, urbanization, southern Levant

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