



ABSTRACT SUBMISSION

The long arm of Egypt: The Jordan Valley in the Late Bronze Age/Iron Age

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Abstract

In the Late Bronze Age, Egyptian dominance was a major factor in the Southern Levant. From Amenhotep III onwards, this area was firmly in Egyptian hands. There were administrative centres and garrison cities. In general, local rulers were given freedom to rule their land as long as their loyalty (like their taxes) went to Egypt. How significant was the influence of Egyptian culture on the Southern Levant? Are "Aegyptiaca" really just a sign of trade relations? Gifts from the elites? Or a sign of identification? Overall, the question arises as to whether and how mercenaries (only men? Or with their families?) can be traced in the archaeological evidence. There is no doubt that members of the "Sea Peoples" served as mercenaries from the 14th century BC onward for Egypt - and possibly also in the Jordan Valley. Was their presence enough to leave a cultural footprint? Were they part of an army on individual military campaigns to only disappear once again? Were they trying to preserve their identity or did they prefer to "be Egyptian"? These questions will be tackled by comparing the material culture of sites in the Jordan Valley during Late Bronze Age/Iron Age transition.

Keywords

Late Bronze Age, Jordan Valley, cultural markers, Egypt, Mercenaries

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