



ABSTRACT SUBMISSION

Middle Bronze Age urbanism and organization in the southern Levant: assessment and analysis

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Abstract

The characterization of the Middle Bronze Age in the southern Levant as “urban” and composed of “city-states” reflects a long-standing tradition of scholarly interpretation of the socio-political landscape of the region during this era. However, the nature, organization, and processes of development of Middle Bronze Age urbanism or of the polities that composed it, are rarely questioned. In this paper, therefore, we ask what it means to speak of an “urban” society composed of “polities” during this era. What, precisely, is meant by “urban” and “urbanization” in a Bronze Age southern Levantine context? What were the polities of the Middle Bronze Age, and how may they be identified? Can we determine the ways in which they were organized, their territorial extent, and/or track their development over time? This paper seeks to establish methods and frameworks to understand the “urban” character and organization of the southern Levantine Middle Bronze Age, to identify the “polities” that existed in it, and to examine the ways in which these developed and changed throughout the era.

Keywords

Middle Bronze Age, southern Levant, urban, urbanism, polities

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