



ABSTRACT SUBMISSION

Hilltop Forts and Pasture Control: The Spatial Organisation of the Semi-nomadic Communities in the Late Bronze Age-Early Iron Age South-Caucasus

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Abstract

Towards the end of the Late Bronze Age and particularly during the Early Iron Age, the lifestyle of the majority of the communities of Eastern Anatolia and South Caucasus shifted towards a pastoral-based economy with a semi-nomadic social organization mainly structured around seasonal transhumance routes. Material culture, along with other cultural expressions, have demonstrated socio-economic continuity throughout this area also known from the Assyrian texts as Nairi lands. The scarcity of domestic architecture in contrast with the abundance of hilltop forts and funerary contexts, appear to confirm on one side a mobile type of lifestyle while on the other it suggests an emergent complexity and inequality within the socio-economic dynamics, perhaps tied to the control of the herds and the pasture lands. The paper aims at analysing the spatial organization of this phenomenon through its main sites, findings and characteristics as well as advancing a plausible interpretation of this mobile and, at the same time, fixed landscape.

Keywords

LBA-EIA, South-Caucasus, forts, pastoral nomads, Nairi lands

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