



ABSTRACT SUBMISSION

The Urban Bang reloaded. Exploring the Middle Bronze Age society at the dawn of urbanisation in Cyprus.

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Abstract

Significant socio-cultural and economic transformations emerged at the onset of the Bronze Age providing strong drives for economic growth and social change in Cyprus. However, it was not until the mature phase of the Late Bronze Age that an urban-ranked society with central authority emerged in Cyprus, reshaping the household-based communities into a hierarchical social system. It is gradually being accepted that settlements with evidence for supra-household levels of production, control and storage of goods already appeared in Cyprus toward the end of the Middle Bronze Age period (c. 1800-1650 BC). Ongoing investigations at Middle Bronze Age Erimi are supporting advancement in the definition of the social and economic settings characterising the formation of urban communities on the island.

The proposed paper aims to offer a comprehensive analysis of the social structure, delving into the examination of architectural practices involved in the significance of the built environment at Erimi. Through a detailed examination of the evidence from Erimi and coeval Cypriot communities, the ultimate goal of this paper is to demonstrate that new forms of supra-household organisation were emerging at the end of the Middle Bronze Age along with new forms of extended networking across the island and beyond.

Keywords

Cyprus, Erimi, Middle Bronze Age, Urbanization, social organization

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