



ABSTRACT SUBMISSION

A Reassessment of Iron Age Settlement Patterns and Chronology: Insights from the Northern Jordanian Plateau

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Abstract

In contrast to other regions within the Southern Levant, the Northern Jordanian Plateau remains a relatively understudied area. Systematic investigations were initiated in the 1960s with Mittmann's extensive surveys of the region, followed by a series of smaller-scale studies. These surveys revealed a high population density during the Iron Age, with over 70 sites identified. Nevertheless, only ten of these sites have undergone excavation, and the findings from just five have been published. The lack of excavations and the absence of well-stratified materials have resulted in an incomplete understanding of settlement patterns on the plateau, preventing the establishment of a reliable chronology for the Iron Age based on material culture. In light of these considerations, this paper critically reviews recent surveys and excavations to provide insights into the settlement history of the plateau and its role during this period of societal reconfiguration. In addition, it introduces a chrono-typological study conducted as part of the researcher's doctoral study, focusing on a well-stratified Iron Age pottery assemblage from Tell Ushayer (Irbid). This study aims to reconstruct and refine the region's Iron Age ceramic chronology.

Keywords

The Northern Jordanian Plateau, Iron Age chronology, Settlement patterns, Tell Ushayer, Chrono-typological study

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