



ABSTRACT SUBMISSION

Defining Transition: Settlement Patterns in the Kingdom of Ugarit from the Late Bronze Age to the Iron Age

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Abstract

The transition from the LBA to the IA in the Near East has often been portrayed as a period of collapse, with widespread destruction and abandonment. This narrative is particularly associated with the Kingdom of Ugarit, a pivotal region in the Northern Levant during the II millennium BCE, whose capital was destroyed by the passage of the Sea Peoples and never reoccupied again. This study aims to reassess this narrative.

Contrary to textual sources describing an alarming picture of famine, epidemics, and invasions, the archaeological evidence from Ugarit and surrounding areas suggests a more nuanced reality. The application of GIS technology and the integration of archaeological data from surveys and excavations help to balance the perspective of irreversible decline.

While key centres like Ugarit were destroyed, other sites show continuity into the EIA and significant development during the MIA. The analysis reveals regional continuity, particularly in the southern part of the kingdom. The application of the gravity model, as used in the Amuq Valley, provides new perspectives on regional dynamics and the role of political factors in matters of continuity.

Hence, this research aims to redefine transformations occurred in the land of Ugarit and contribute to discussions on transition.

Keywords

settlement pattern, survey, GIS, CORONA images, transition

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