



ABSTRACT SUBMISSION

Mega sites of the "Dark" Age in the South-Eastern Levant: Alternative Urban Models and Social-Economic Organizations at the Early Beginning of the Bronze Age (EB I)

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Abstract

The paper aims to delineate, on the base of the archaeological data, the nature of the social-economic organization of the large walled settlements appeared in Transjordan and Southern Syria during the Early Bronze Age I, like Jebel al-Mutawwaq, Jawa, or Sharaya. In particular, the purpose of the paper is to understand how the change of the subsistence economies and of the relation with the environment transformed the social relationships and the political organizations of these communities between the EB IA and the EB IB. The methodology used for the research is focused on a topographical analysis of the urban planning of these sites, trying to check the presence of inner divisions suggesting the existence of different "neighborhoods". Moreover, the methodology includes an architectural and functional analysis of specific buildings typical of these sites: the large open-air enclosures, starting from the Great Enclosure of Jebel al-Mutawwaq, the better known monument of this type. The understanding of the function and the role of these huge public buildings, could be one of the keys to interpret the nature of the social and political organization of the communities of the eastern Southern Levant during the first century of the 3rd millennium BC.

Keywords

Urbanization, Southern Levant, Early Bronze age I, Great Enclosure, Jebel al-Mutawwaq

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