



## ABSTRACT SUBMISSION

# The 13th-revival of Southern Syria: the Transjordanian and Palestinian Highlands Compared

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## Abstract

After the conquest of the Crusader states, the Ayyubids began to actively invest in the rural infrastructure and economy of Bilʿd al-Shām. These measures were continued and intensified during the first century of Mamluk rule. Imperial fiat, combined with local initiative, led to the resettlement of long-abandoned places, the revival of agricultural land, and increased security.

This paper documents the kinds of proto-urban settlements that developed, as a result, during the late Ayyubid and early Mamluk periods. The contemporary sites of Tall ʿIsbān, an urbanizing village in central Transjordan, and Khirbet Beit Mazmāl, an amiral estate and village on the outskirts of Jerusalem, are central highland sites resettled after centuries of abandonment in the early 13th century. The excavations, led by the author, have identified at these sites very different typologies of settlement form and function. The presentation, based on a combined reading of the archaeological and botanical records and Mamluk-era documentary sources, will consider the impact of the iqṭʿāʾ and endowment (waqf) systems, agrarian markets, and the security priorities of the Ayyubid and Mamluk states on the ways these places were resettled, grew, and declined. The long-term legacy of imperial interventions at the sites will also be discussed.

## Keywords

Ayyubid, Mamluk, Transjordan, Palestine, proto-urban

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