



ABSTRACT SUBMISSION

From Mesopotamia to the Iranian Plateau: On the High Road in a Diachronic Perspective

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Abstract

The Central Zagros region, representing a crucial corridor linking the Iranian Plateau and Mesopotamian lowlands, has been a pivotal cultural and trade crossroads since ancient times. Its unique geography, characterized by a series of mountains and valleys, has shaped settlement patterns and trade routes. From the Bronze Age onwards, this region witnessed the development of major communication routes, notably the “Great Khorasan Road”. The Iron Age saw the rise of fortified citadels along this route, strategically positioned to control the territory. The Achaemenid, Seleucid, Parthian, and Sasanian empires recognized the strategic importance of the Central Zagros. They left their signatures through monumental structures, inscriptions and bas-reliefs that showcase the grandeur and power of these ancient dynasties. The region’s enduring importance is evident in its continued role as a cultural and historical nexus, linking civilizations and shaping the course of history in the whole macro-area

Keywords

Iran, Central Zagros, Cultural Landscape, Connectivity, Trade routes

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