



ABSTRACT SUBMISSION

The political economy of farming in Middle and Late Bronze Age western Anatolia

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Abstract

Research into the economic basis of political power in the Middle and Late Bronze Age north-east Mediterranean has largely been restricted to the southern Aegean and central Anatolia. The region between them, western Anatolia, has received less attention, despite evidence for its importance as a hub that connected the Aegean and Middle East and shaped the trajectories of both regions. Across the second millennium BC, fortified citadels became major nodes within long-distance trade networks and the seats of 'kings' controlling territorial polities. Making up an enigmatic political entity referred to as Arzawa, they became major disrupters of Hittite territorial expansion. While growing research is refining maps of regionalism and exchange across western Anatolia, our understanding of the social, political and economic systems underlying Arzawan kingdoms is more limited. This is particularly true of agropastoral production, despite its recognised importance to political economies within neighbouring regions. In this paper, I present the results of ongoing research that seeks to address this lacuna through analysis of archaeobotanical remains from Middle and Late Bronze Age sites across western Anatolia. I synthesise diverse snapshots into the agroecology and organisation of agricultural production towards a model of the political economy of farming within Arzawa.

Keywords

Farming, Political economy, Anatolia, Aegean, Archaeobotany

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