



## ABSTRACT SUBMISSION

# City Invincible? - The urban landscape of power at Qatna

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### Abstract

The paper seeks to understand the urban landscape of Qatna during the Middle Bronze Age as a landscape of power. It functioned as a symbol for the power of the kingdom of Qatna. This included the establishment of the ramparts, the gates and the royal palace. These constructions served defense or political-administrative purposes, but moreover had symbolic functions to construct and maintain power. Immense resources were employed for the execution of these monuments, and these resources and their mobilization can themselves be seen as symbols of power. In the lecture, we will portray the mentioned constructions, elaborate on the resources employed, and discuss their symbolic values as well as their functions. The study of the chronology of the monuments helps to understand the urban development of the city during the Middle Bronze Age. We will also demonstrate how the urban landscape lived on into the Late Bronze Age and continued to display an aspect of power, even though the real political importance of the city had long since diminished. The conquest of Qatna by the Hittites shows that a City Invincible can only exist as long as the institutions behind the ideological façade are vigorous.

### Keywords

MBA cities, landscape of power, city resources, palaces and fortification, Qatna

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### Type of paper

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