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ABSTRACT SUBMISSION

Life and Death in the 3rd Millennium BCE Society of the Central Black Sea Region: Human Behaviors and Burial Practices

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Abstract

This study aims to understand the perception of death and its social implications among communities in the Central Black Sea Region during the 3rd millennium BCE. Burial traditions were examined by identifying key settlements and compiling an extensive list of graves and cemeteries. The analysis focused on grave locations, types, burial positions, orientations, the number of individuals, pre- and post-burial rituals, and grave goods crafted from metal, terracotta, and various materials. Methods such as radar charts were used to study grave orientations, while archaeological data provided insights into burial practices, regional and chronological variations, and material culture. Anthropological data helped assess demographic factors like age and gender. Psychoanalytic approaches were applied to interpret concepts such as death anxiety, the belief in an afterlife, spiritual practices, and the symbolic meaning of funerary rituals, correlating these with archaeological evidence. The findings reveal that burial traditions in the Central Black Sea Region reflect a shared cultural framework while displaying significant regional diversity shaped by geography and local dynamics. The study emphasizes the interplay between funerary practices and societal structures, offering a comprehensive view of life and death in Early Bronze Age communities.

Keywords

early bronze age, life , death, burial customs, social structure

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