



ABSTRACT SUBMISSION

The Erbil Plain Between the Empires: Evidence from the Late Iron Age, Hellenistic and Parthian Settlement Phases at Aliawa (KRI)

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Abstract

This paper aims to present and analyze archaeological data from the Late Iron Age, Hellenistic, and Parthian Settlement Phases of Aliawa (MAIPE – University of Milan) providing preliminary interpretations within the context of the Erbil Plain between early 6th c. BCE and early 3rd c. CE.

Data from the archaeological survey reveal changes in the settlement's extent during the first millennium BCE, with a progressive expansion culminating in the Parthian period. Evidence suggests a concentration of the occupation in these phases on the main mound. This assessment is corroborated by excavations conducted in 2022–2023 in Area B, which reveal a multi-stratified occupation from the 4th c. BCE to the 3rd c. BE.

Comparative analyses of the uncovered contexts have been conducted with coeval sites on the Erbil Plain as well as nearby areas. The ceramics from Aliawa align with the broader framework of Post-Assyrian, Hellenistic, and Parthian pottery production in Northern Mesopotamia, enabling a preliminary dating of the contexts in Area B.

The study of the Late Iron Age phases at Aliawa contributes to the ongoing debate on the poorly-known period following the Neo-Assyrian collapse, examining how this core land of the empire continued to be inhabited under subsequent rule.

Keywords

Settlement, Late Iron Age, Hellenistic period, Parthian period, Material Culture

Session

7. Characterizing culture ?

Type of paper

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