



ABSTRACT SUBMISSION

Urartian influence on the archaeology of South Caucasus according to the archaeological data from Armenia

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Abstract

This presentation examines the presence and role of imported materials in Iron Age tombs from the northern region of the Republic of Armenia, with a focus on the Lori Berd necropolis. The analysis of archaeological material highlights that artifacts and practices associated with Urartu and other cultural groups of the Near East were primarily adopted by individuals of higher social status, serving as markers of prestige. While foreign-origin prestige objects circulated among an elite minority, the majority of material culture, including utilitarian items, continued to reflect local traditions rooted in earlier periods.

A detailed study of Iron Age tombs in Lori Berd has identified patterns in the placement of burial goods, demonstrating a differentiation between Urartian, Scythian, and local materials. Notably, the burial finds from the Urartian and Post-Urartian periods appear to have had a distinctly representative function, likely symbolizing power and status. These findings offer new insights into the symbolic and political significance of foreign material culture during the decline of the Urartian state and contribute to broader discussions on regional sociocultural dynamics during this transitional period.

Keywords

Urartu, South Caucasus, Cultural markers, Foreign influence

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