



ABSTRACT SUBMISSION

Investigating the Trend of Urban Development in Sistan Region from the Achaemenid Period to the Timurid Period According to the Findings Obtained from Archaeological Surveys

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Abstract

The urbanization in Sistan began in the third millennium BC and then numerous cities were formed in the region over different periods, as noted in historical sources. Based on archaeological surveys carried out in Sistan, Iran and south of Afghanistan, over 2000 ancient sites were identified, some of which appear to be remnants of ancient cities of Sistan due to their extent and architectural structures. These sites include Dahaneh Gholaman, Qala Farah, Qala Sam, Nad-e Ali, Zahedan-e Kohneh, Sarotar, and Pishavaran-e Hamoun. In this paper, with a comparative survey of these sites from an archaeological and architectural viewpoint, while identifying their real identity, the urban structure of each site is recognized. Ultimately, the urbanism trend in Sistan from the Achaemenid era to the Timurid Period is revealed. The results suggest that the main and central cities of Sistan, which have been relocated many times throughout the history due to various reasons, can be categorized into three types, i.e. unenclosed cities, enclosed cities, and castle towns. Regarding the internal structure of the cities, they can be divided into two groups: regular cities with intersecting streets and irregular cities featuring organic streets.

Keywords

Sistan, Archaeological Survey, Ancient Cities, Urban Structures, Architectural Style

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