



## ABSTRACT SUBMISSION

# Re-constructing Tell et-Tell (Ai) Territorial Identity and Its Cultural Dynamics in Early Bronze Age Palestine

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## Abstract

This research examines how spatial organization influenced the development of a shared yet imagined cultural framework in Early Bronze Age Palestine. Recent field reconstructions and targeted excavations at Tell et-Tell (Ai) have highlighted its unique territorial identity, revealed through analyses of the site's internal spatial organization and land use patterns. As one of the largest Early Bronze Age urban centers in the central mountains region of Palestine, Tell et-Tell exhibited limited resilience strategies shaped by its limited resource base and isolated location off major trade routes. Despite aligning with broader Early Bronze Age settlement patterns and internal urban designs, Tell et-Tell did not sustain its continuity into the Middle and Late Bronze Ages, distinguishing it from other contemporaneous entities. The socio-economic structures at et-Tell played a crucial role in defining internal and external cultural spaces, balancing urban and rural dynamics over its 800-year history. These spaces were characterized by a multi-tiered territorial identity shaped by a complex interplay of power, religion, and defense mechanisms. Archaeologists used later historical documents to frame this as a city-state system, a loosely defined political structure with imagined physical boundaries. This conceptualization requires re-examination considering newly emerged data and resources.

## Keywords

Urban Rural Dynamics, Ealy Bonze socio-economic structures, Tell et Tell (Ai), Cultural Spaces, Territorial Identity

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