



ABSTRACT SUBMISSION

A Marxist view on the transformation of the Assyrian Society: conflicts, contradiction, and environmental change

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Abstract

Societies interact intricately with their environments, and concepts like resilience aim to capture this dynamic as one of adaptation and flexibility. However, societies are not monolithic entities merely reacting to external forces; internal conflicts and contradictions drive societal change. To analyze this interplay, I apply Karl Marx's theory of metabolism ("Stoffwechseltheorie"), recently conceptualized by Kohei Saito, which connects societal conflicts to environmental relationships.

To illustrate, I compare the Neo-Assyrian Empire, with its large-scale environmental interventions, to post-Imperial Assyria, where smaller-scale agency predominated. Using metabolism theory, I explore these transformations to move beyond binary notions of sustainability versus exploitation and overly systemic views of resilience.

Keywords

Neo Assyrian, human-nature interaction, inequality, Marx, post-imperial Assyria

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