



ABSTRACT SUBMISSION

The Ninevite 5 Phenomenon. Facing Urbanization in North Mesopotamia: A View from the Countryside

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Abstract

The Ninevite 5 phenomenon developed between the Middle-Upper Khabur basin (Syrian Jezirah) and the Middle Tigris region (Iraqi Kurdistan) during the first half of the 3rd millennium (EJZ 1-2 Final/ETG 2-3) i.e. between "First" and "Second Urbanization". Although scholars are reluctant in defining this phenomenon as a "culture", many agree that this was a period of ruralization, characterized by the emergence of small agricultural and pastoral villages and by the contraction of larger sites. Perhaps we may reassess this framework. The excavations of small and medium-sized rural sites in Western Jezirah (e.g. Tell Arbid and Tell Barri), the re-examination of data from the Eski Mosul Dam Salvage Project, together with a preliminary data analysis provided by recent excavations in the Iraqi Kurdistan area (e.g. Bash Tapa, Bassetki, Gird Lashkir, Muqable III) allow us to reconsider rurality from a non-urban perspective. Moreover, to explore the role of this multi-faceted rural world during the increase of social complexity, and the strategies by which these local communities, with their specific identities, were actively engaged in the "globalization" process that characterized the advent of the Second Urbanization, i.e. the appearance of cities and the state-making process during the mid-3rd millennium North Mesopotamia.

Keywords

Rurality, Ninevite 5, Urbanisation, North Mesopotamia

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