

Social complexity In The Bronze Age Near East, Should This Be Considered A
Chiefdom Or A State - Using The Criteria Covered In The Module

Christopher Rea

1804572

HPAR 4005

Dr. Louise Steel

Contents

1 Title Page

2 Contents

3 Genetic continuation - Urban Revolution

4 Principles of ownership

5 Theocracy

6 Petrology & placement, concluding remarks

7 Concluding remarks

8-10 Bibliography

The Bronze Age Near East (4,400 - 1400 BCE) provides informative, sequential evidence, such as tempered copper alloys, significant ceramic typologies and architectural monumentalism that is further comprehended by new phylogenetic and architectural evidence, such as the Uruk ziggurat white temple or 'Hochtempel' type.

This significant generic evidence is analogous of the competitive display of the resources and labour necessary to build monumental structures of this scale, and can be further observed through principal comparative analysis (see: Haber et al (2010) & Steel (2011) by Vaskarides, Mazieres and Hadjipanagi et al 7(1): 2016, 9-11). Therefore, the expansion of the Cypriot Pafos - Ammochostas Chiefdoms into the formidable Troia maritime hegemony presents key finds for consideration.

The comparative utility of distribution patterns that can be observed throughout the ancient Near East, for example the Kaftari culture of Luristan, is indicative of trade in Cypriot and Armenian Copper chisel types. This significant factor requires further interpretation and is considered by Frame (37:2010) to be caused into effect by the contrasting evidence for distinctive copper ore types and smelting processes.

This critical factor, as adaptive radiation, means that the permanence and prominence of trans-Caucasian craftsmen-artisans and their multiple Bronze Age work-shop and hearth sites in Anatolia and Mesopotamia, and can be further interpreted through inspirational new disambiguous evidence.

These useful contexts are widely considered to be in accord with the historic Investiture of Shamash, as is known from the Standard of Ur (BM 1928 10.10.3) rediscovered by Leonard Woolley at Ur, and can be contrasted against the Victory Stele of Naram Sin (Louvre Sb 4) and basalt Stele of Hummarabi (Louvre Sb 8), as first propositioned by Jacques de Morgan in 1898 at Susa - now known to be from Sippar (Tell Abu Habbah, Iraq), Drivers & Miles (2:1955)

By looking closer in at the contrasting interacting polities that have been discovered from later Phokia - Smyrna - Tepe Godin (EBaII-III), regional populations can be subdivided into the distinctive generic selection or characterised by shifts to new levels of competition management, control and subsequent social coherence.

As can be observed by the contrasting symmetry applied to the decorated spindle whorls and distaff technology of the Indus Valley and elsewhere, this significant matriarchal factor (see: paragraph 2, p.7) is well orientated towards the prehistoric Great Khorasan Road, elsewhere considered to be subjective evidence for the occurrence of domestic use exotic items, for example caprids, cattle sp. and salt.

As can be observed in the Troia (UNESCO 849:1998) phases II-VI and through Aegean society and beyond, the inclusion of the first enclosed collective urban use hearth sites makes sense of the use and manipulation thereof specific fuels, such as Juniper, olive and broom wood derived charcoal as well as olive and nut oils.

The implications for these finds as diagnostic ¹⁴C evidence is an under-utilised resource, and is considered to be insightful thereof the interpretative chronology applied to the evidence for both regional and wide ranging commerce.

This significant factor can be contrasted against the occurrence of the conspicuous high handled amphora-rhyton vessel type, retaining informative patinas data, such as preserved lactose and other lipids, as is known throughout the Levant by the distinctive repertoire of this particular amphora type. The continuity administered can be thus be observed as useful longitudinal facts, and can be further interpreted as evidence for collective social complexity. There are of course dynamics of commerce to consider, retaining distinctive, variable traits - alluding to the affects of the political context for planning during the Bronze Age (Earle 16:1987, 208).

Emblematic reciprocity is therefore conspicuous of reflexive evidence for the evolution of defended access to resources and commodities (Maisels 1992). As there are considerable stratified finds to further consider, by unlocking the observable differential data (p. 3-4, 6), transmission between contrasting monumentalism and typology variation, for example the relevant three polished stone axes from the Hoard of Priam (1872), can be applied to practical investigation.

This critical observation connects the distinctive polygonal plan of other monumental enclosure sites to the significant prehistoric urban centres of the Balkans, northern Syria and Iraq, primarily established on the control of commodities - during the Bronze Age period resources such as tin ores, selective breeding for livestock, high yield grains and the technology of secular reforms required for seasonal agrarian planting identifies that visible economic factors are therefore in accord with the functionalism propositioned by the Childe's ten point model (TPR 21:1950)

As identified by Bucchuber (59:2009) at Bronze Age Troy, the linear portico and hearth in the Megaron courtyard, located adjacent to the white plastered hall within the north east monumental enclosure at Hisarlik Tell (phase IIc), is a compelling new case for copper alloy bracelet and pin typology analysis. These diagnostic finds are considered to be in accord with the formidable Ebla (Idlib Province, Northern Syria) stratigraphy, and can be further contrasted against the Troy IIb gold, gilt-silver and pottery Depas amphikypelon and other significant typologies, such as wheel thrown ceramics.

Thus, the northern Levant regional pottery vessel type, such as the Rhyton and subsequent diagnostic slip can be contrasted against the conspicuous occurrence of other stylistic finds, for example the wide ranging animistic - anthropometric clay model projections and cuneiform script transmission that is well known from Ebla (Tell Mardikh - Idlib, n.Syria). This archaeology is first observed by Hogarth in 1908 and is formally characterised by Blegen (1932-9).

The occurrence of specific high status material culture finds, such as the Pyxis container is further comparative evidence for both social identity and social stratification. The Chiefdoms social networks and social differentiation that is administered through the cumulative evidence for contrasting social complexity therefore makes a strong case for the ethnography and exchange networks preserved at Thermi, Troy, Beycesultan and Karatas.

Thus, principles of ownership as verifiable trends in the socio-political development of the Levant is made clear. The presence of finds reviewed as inter-regional contacts between chiefdoms - as first identified at Hisarlik Tell by Calvert, Schliemann, Dörpfeld (1872) and Wilburg (1888-90) usefully positions stratigraphy within a contextualised panorama illustration (identifying sequence phases II - VI). This useful plan and aspect review projects significant find locations and architectural components that are comparable with Bronze Age Uruk (Heidelberg 2002)

The contrasting Argolid phase 1 shaft graves from Mycenae, retained by a conspicuous corbelled or vaulted chamber or Tholos (Blegen 1939) further identifies the early Bronze Age Chiefdoms of the northern Aegean in accord with the disambiguous evidence for centralised decision making (p.4, paragraphs 1-2) is appropriately displayed by the significant three gold rings from the Griffin Warrior tomb at Pylos (see: The Palace of Nestor Excavation by Stocker & Davis 2015).

As identified by the social theorist Thorstein Veblen (1857 - 1929) in 1899, monumentalism constructs regional trends through evidence for incremental proliferation (After: Childe 21:1950,11-15). Therefore how will the gold assays shape up as cohesive phasing data? As this socially complex factor is evidence for social inequality or social cohesion, the dichotomy is defined by parallel phenomena, such as access to and the control thereof specific 'artisans', as can be correlated against the substantial Aigina (Cyclades) and Cypriot metallurgy.

Therefore, commodities composition, as differential evidence, redefines the moities structure of Bronze Age society, for example the economics of internecine warfare. This signifying factor is well attested by the primary mtDNA generic references from modern day Cyprus (Kyrenia - Nicosia - Pafos - Limassol - Larnaka, correlated

against the heterochronous finds from Akrotiri - Aetokremnos; Anatolia - Balkans - Danube - Greece - Caucasus - Crete - Italy - Levant.

The contemporary finds and distribution patterns elsewhere observed (Lebanon - Iraq - Baghdad - Egypt - Susa - Indus Valley) are thus indicative of the centralised hierarchies of the ancient Near East.

Therefore, evidence for monumental continuity is administered through distinctive construction phases, for example the later occurrence of ashlar and conglomerate masonry at Mycenae (the Tomb of Aigisthos, the Lion Tomb of Mycenae and Katos Phornos), widely considered to be evidence for sociopolitical differentiation.

The Babylonian type iconography engraved onto the three gold rings further administers competitive display as directly influenced by the technologically distinctive Levant antecedents, contrasted against the later Treasury of Atreus and Tomb of Klytemenestra. By connecting the comparative exploitation of the Argive Plain to the significant economic and agrarian narrative of the critical south west Peloponnese, the evolution of the elite monuments of power and enclosure causes into effect the eventual urban evolution of Sahlin's four levels of stratification: the visible state subdivisions:

- 1.theocratic
- 2.militaristic
- 3.group orientated
- 4.individualising

The longevity of the Aegean Thalassocracy, as maritime culture, looks closer in at the Argolid socio-political construct (Fitzsimmons 2011), making sense of the evidence for social complexity at Phanaglia, Prosymna and Berbati.

Thus, the construction and decline of the first palatial megaron (Troy VI) is contrasted against modern commerce, as can be identified by the Chinese 'String Of Pearls' ports in the straits of Corinth, Mediterranean (Ashkelon), Red Sea and Gulf of Aden littorals.

A comparative analysis of the sectional evidence hard finds at Troy, such as the orthostat feature that is located within stratum VIIb corresponds to further monumental evidence for the Period II Temple complex, making sense of the conspicuous occurrence and composition thereof white painted wares from stratum I-II (see: Thayer, M. ed. by Pervika, Rose and Joblonka 29(8):2009).

The wider chronology for centralisation and control in the Levant (p.1) can thus, through pottery repertoire, be scrutinised for Balkan comparisons at Thermi, Beycesultan and Karatas (After: Harpster 2019)

As the stratified layering of the south west sectors at Troy has been destroyed by fire (stratum VI-VII), the central evidence for an axial foundation trench (south east or north west of the topographical setting) requires that the transverse portico, hearth and courtyard features are subjected to spacial interpretation. The evidence for integration into society can thus be observed as adjacent features to the surrounding landscape, and are distinctive axial factors.

The variations in comparable degrees of erosion, thereof the contrasting 'domestic' and votive vessel typologies requires mediating commentary.

Is this evidence for a syntax of mutual cooperation as an the emergence of a state from the control of prehistoric chiefdoms?

By utilising the criteria covered in the module the insightful later Roman period contexts at Troy identifies that the occurrence of the long ranging Berenice (Benghazi) amphora type (stratum VIII-IX) reconstructs the subjective evidence for socio-political differentiations.

Social complexity in the Bronze Age Near East is therefore based on the evidence for commerce, and is considered to be caused into effect by chiefdoms controlled by the interacting polities of state formation and decline (Bachhuber 59:2009)

Word count: 1,773

Bibliography

Drivers, G.R., Miles, G.C. (2):1955 The Babylonians Laws, Clarendon Press, Oxford

Buchhuber, C. (59:2009) The Treasure Deposits Of Troy - Rethinking Crises And Agency In The Early Bronze Age Citadel
Anatolian Studies, Cambridge University Press

Dörpfeld, W. (1902) Troia Und Ilion. Ergebnisse Der Ausgrabungen In Den Vorhistorischen Und Historischen Schichten Von Ilion, Blegen, C.W. (1950) 'West Of The Wall' by Joblonka, P. (2009) and White Painted Ware by Thayer, M. in Beyond

The Citadel, A Map Of Greater EBA Troy ed. by Pernika, E., Rose, C.B., Jablonka, P., Ünlüs, S. and Blum, W.E. 29(8):2009

EBA Troy, Chronology, Cultural Development And Interregional Contacts
Proceedings Of An International Conference Held At The University Of
Tübingen, Studia Troica. Rudolf Habelt, Bonn

Earle, K.T. (16:1987) Chiefdoms In Archaeological Perspective
Annual Review of Archaeology. Palo Alto, University of California

Easton, D.F. (44:1994) Priam's Gold, The Full Story
British Institute At Ankara, 10 Carlton House, London SW1Y 5AH

Fitzsimmons, R.D. (2006) Monuments Of Power And The Power Of Monuments. The
Evolution Of Elite Architectural Styles At Bronze Age Mycenae
University of Cincinnati

Harpster, M. (1) 2019 Mendeley Data For Using Polygons to Model Maritime
Movement in Antiquity
<http://dx.doi.org/10.17632/fsf33w9ccr.1>

Hulthén, B. (6:1977) On Ceramic Technology During The Scanian Neolithic And
Bronze Age. Stockholm Institute Of Archaeology At The University Of Stockholm,
Theses And Papers In North European Archaeology, Stockholm

Frame, L. (37:2010) Metallurgical Investigations At Godin Tepe, Iran. Part 1
The Metal Finds. Journal Of Archaeological Science, Elsevier

Maisels, C.K. (1993) The Near East: Archaeology In The Cradle Of Civilisation
Routledge, London & New York

Steel, L. (2011) Cypress Before History, Bristol Classical Press, London

UNESCO 849:1998 (Troy)

<https://whc.unesco.org/en/list/849/>

Uruk-Warka Collection: https://www.uni-heidelberg.de/hcch/collections/uruk_warka.html

Voskarides, K., Mazieres, S., Hadjipangi, D., DiChristofano, J., Ignatiou, A., Stefanou, C., King, R.J., Underhill, P.A., Chiaroni, J., Dltas, C. (7(1):2016)

Investigative Genetics (Bio-Med Central) Springer-Nature (Holtzbrinck Publishing Group), Stuttgart