

The Colossal Confusion that is
the Pottery Neolithic

(also known as the Late
Neolithic)

The Pottery Neolithic

- Appearance of pottery
 - Cooking pots and beverage servers
 - Decoration conveys society and ideology
- Economy depends heavily in fully domesticated livestock and plants
- Shift in settlement to accommodate new economy – smaller, more dispersed hamlets

Pottery Neolithic Sites

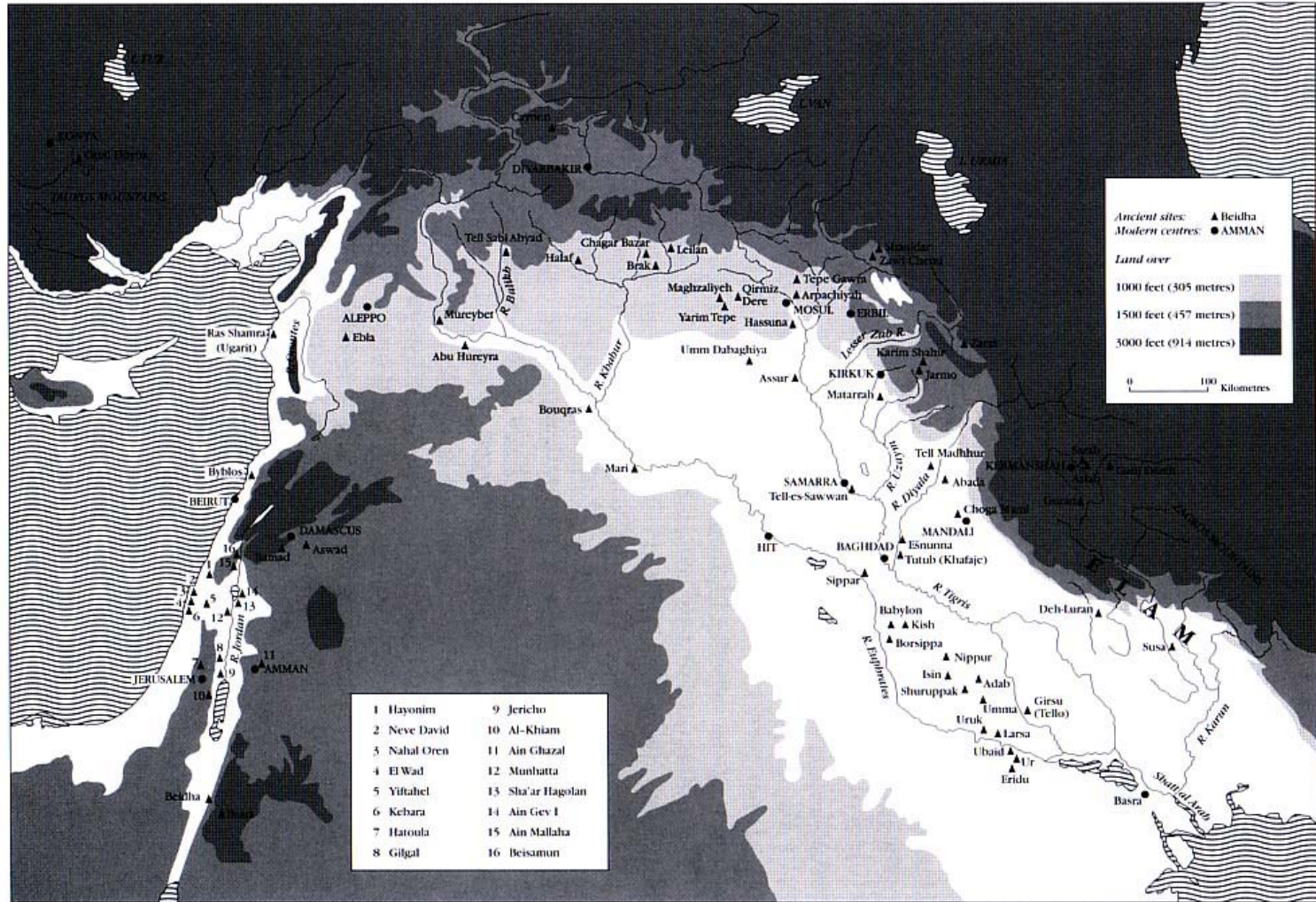


Figure 3.1 Map of the Levant, Mesopotamia and Western Iran with some prehistoric, protohistoric and historical sites

Source: Maisels 1993a

Chronology

<i>Pottery Neolithic Cultures</i>	<i>Dates (BP)</i>	<i>Type Site</i>
Levant: Late Neolithic Byblos: néolithique ancien néolithique moyen néolithique récent Yarmoukian Jericho IX Wadi Rabah & variants	ca. 8000-6000 ca. 7600-7100 ca. 7100-6800 ca. 6800-6200 ca. 7500-7000 ca. 7400-6800? ca. 6800-6200	Byblos Sha'ar HaGolan Jericho (level IX) Wadi Rabah
Zagros: Pottery Neolithic	ca. 8200-6000	Ganj Dareh D & Tepe Sarab
Mesopotamia: Pottery Neolithic Proto-Hassunan and Sottoan Hassunan Samarran Halafian	ca. 8200-7900 ca. 7900-7200 ca. 7500-6500 ca. 7200-6200	Umm Dabaghiya, Tell Sotto Tell Hassuna Tell as-Sawwan Tell Halaf & Arpachiya
Anatolia: Pottery Neolithic	ca. 8000-6000	Çatal Höyük, Can Hassan Hacilar, Mersin

The Pottery Neolithic of the Levant

Radiocarbon Years BP				Calibrated Years BCE				
	Period	Complexes	Industries	Facies	Selected Assemblages			
5000		Chalcolithic	Ghassulian		Ghassul	Shiqmim		
				Qatifian	Abuhamid			
6000	4	Late Neolithic	Wadi Rabah	Ziqlab	Coastal Neolithic	Ein el-Jarba	Tel Zaf	5000
							Munḥata 2a	Tabaqaṭ al-Bûma
7000	3		Yarmoukian	Jericho IX	Jericho		6000	
			PPNC	Tuwailan	Sha'ar ha-Golan	Tabaqaṭ al-Bûma 1		
8000	2	PPNB (Tahunian)	Late PPNB	Eastern Desert	Abu Thuwwab		7000	
				Middle PPNB	LPPNB	Aswadian	ṢAin Ghazal	
9000			Early PPNB	Eastern Desert	Munḥata 3	Beidha II		
	1	PPNA		Early Neolithic	Jericho	Baṣṭa	8000	
				Sultanian		ṢAin Ghazal		
10000		Natufian	Khiamian	Abu Madi I	Netiv ha-Gedud			
			Final Natufian	Final Harifian	Mushabian			
				Harifian			9000	

The Pottery Neolithic

- Begins ~8000 BP with the appearance of pottery and ends ~6000 BP with the beginning of the Chalcolithic (copper) Period
- Terminology
 - Yarmoukian (ca. 7500-7000 BP)
 - Jericho IX (aka Lodian) (ca. 7400-6800 BP)
 - Wadi Rabah and other variants (ca. 6800-6200 BP)
- “Origins” of Pottery
- Major shifts in social organization and settlement patterns
 - Villages, hamlets, and farmsteads
 - Household economies

Northern Levant

- Most of Lebanon and Syria
- “Everything” starts earlier in the north
- Earliest pottery at Tell al-Kerkh in Balikh Valley (Syria)
- DFBW
- Also early pottery at Amuq



Jarmo (after 8000 BP)

Byblos, Lebanon

- Strategic position for regional interaction
- Pottery:
 - DFBW resembles Amuq sites to north,
 - Red painted pottery like Wadi Rabah and Yarmoukian to south,
 - Other pottery distinctive (shell-impressed)
- Three main levels (néolithique ancien, moyen, récent)
- Scattered, small rectangular houses, single-room, plastered floors

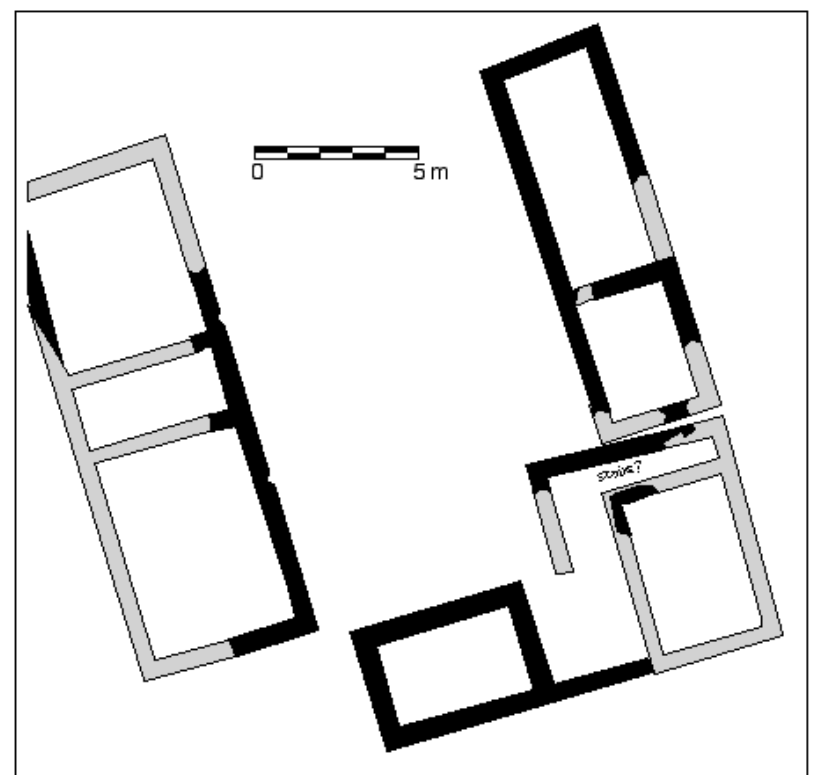
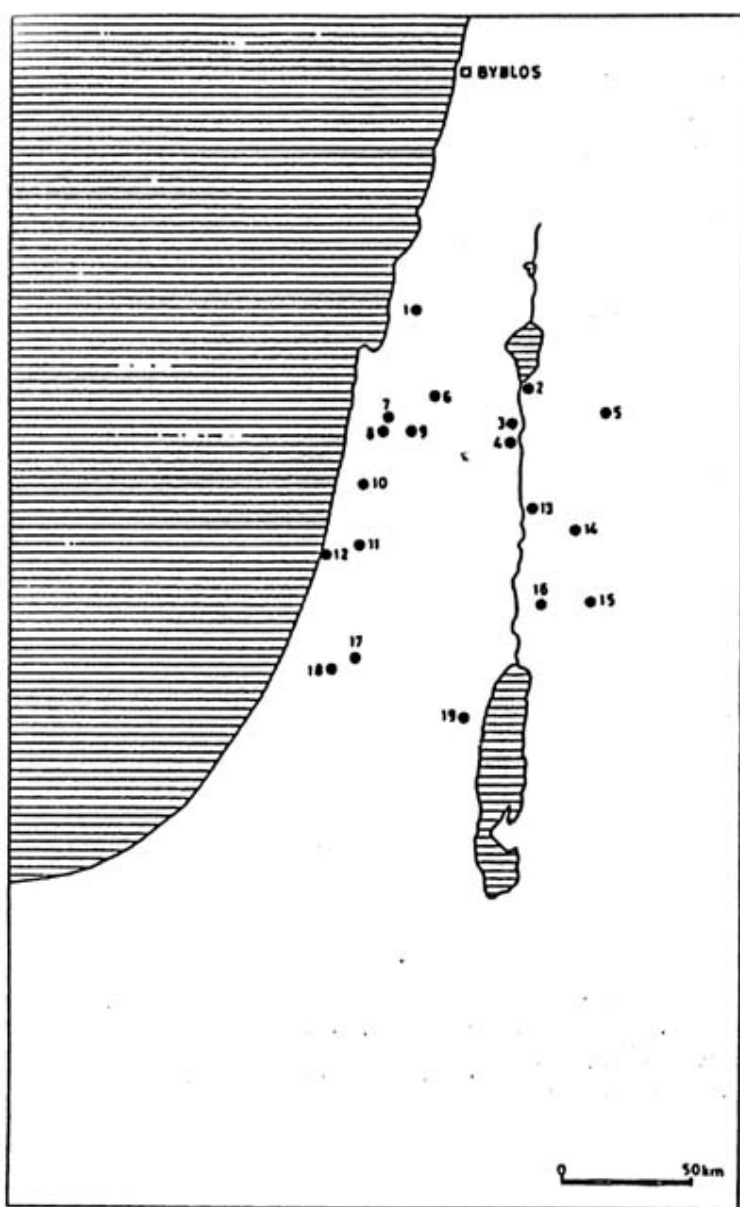


Figure 8. Rectangular rooms around a courtyard at Late Neolithic Byblos (after Dunand 1973). Grey indicates conjectural reconstruction.

The Yarmoukian Culture

- Earliest pottery in southern Levant
- Dates to mid-late 8th millennium
 - between 7500-7000 BP
- First excavated at Megiddo, but not identified until Sha'ar HaGolan figurines
- Type site: Sha'ar HaGolan
- Stratigraphically above PPN and below Wadi Rabah or similar cultures

The Yarmoukian (7500-7000 BP)



- Sha'ar HaGolan (type site)
- Megiddo
- Munhata 2B
- 'Ain Ghazal
- Jebel Abu Thawwab
- 'Ain Rahub
- Wadi Shu'eib
- Nahal Qanah Cave
- Nahal Zehora II
- Rehov Habashan
- Tell as-Saidiyeh

Yarmoukian Sites

- Site Location
 - Dense occupation of both sides of JV
 - Moderate occupation of Jezreel Valley, Central Hills, Coastal Plain, Jordanian highlands
 - No sites in Negev and Sinai
 - Focussed in narrow E-W band across central Israel and Jordan, spanning variety topographic units
 - Byblos neolithique ancien – different ceramic tradition
- Large farming villages (Sha'ar HaGolan and 'Ain Ghazal)
- Hamlets - small, multi-family sites
- Farmsteads – small, single-family sites

Yarmoukian Architecture

- Circular and rectilinear buildings, single and multi-roomed houses
- Courtyards, paved streets, storage facilities
- Stone foundations, *huwwar* surfaces, wide variety of pits in and outside houses
- Sha'ar HaGolan – hints at modern NE houses with living and storage rooms opening to large courtyard, houses separated by paved streets and alleys

'Ain Ghazal



Large, rectangular and apsidal stone houses



Yarmoukian Lithics

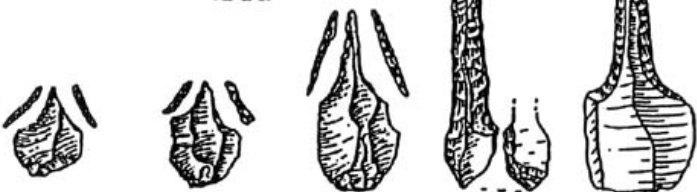
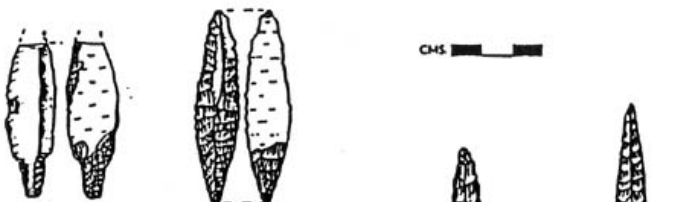
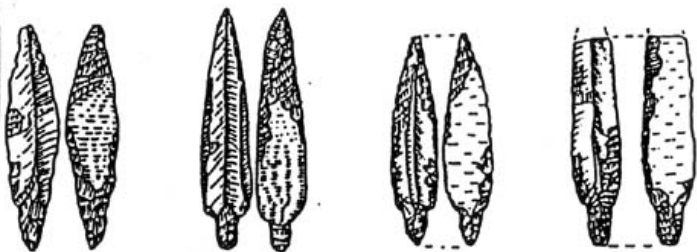
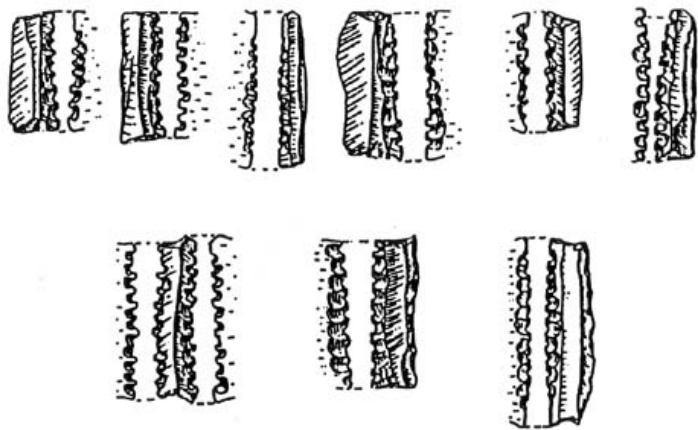


Fig. 2. Yarmoukian sickle blades, arrowheads, and awl-borers from Shaar Hagolan (after Stekelis, 1966).

Flake-dominated, blades still present

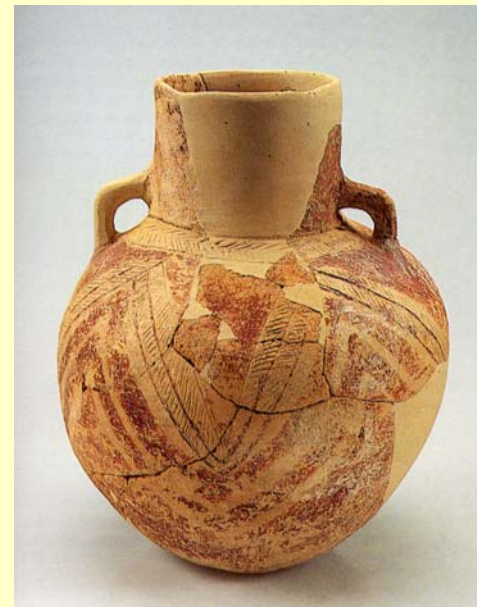
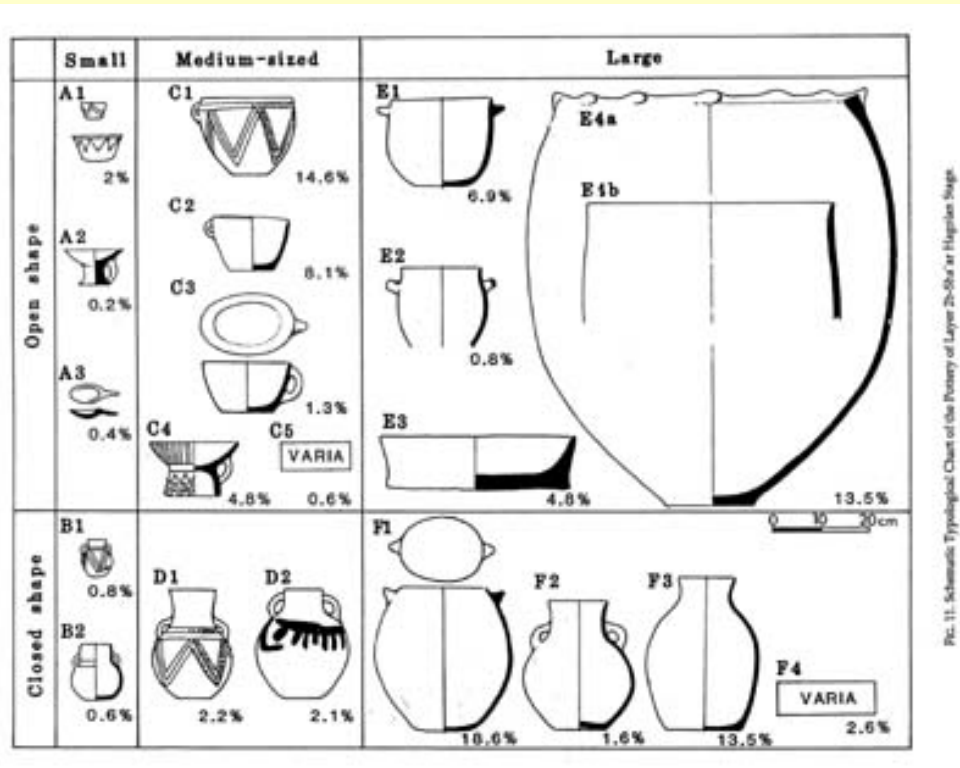
Main Innovation: Distinct subtypes of Byblos and Amuq points, appearance of small Haparsa & Herzliya point

Coarsely denticulated, bifacially retouched sickle blades

Bifacial knives, proto-tabular scrapers

Yarmoukian Pottery

- Necked jars with handles on shoulder
- Deep bowls with handles on rim

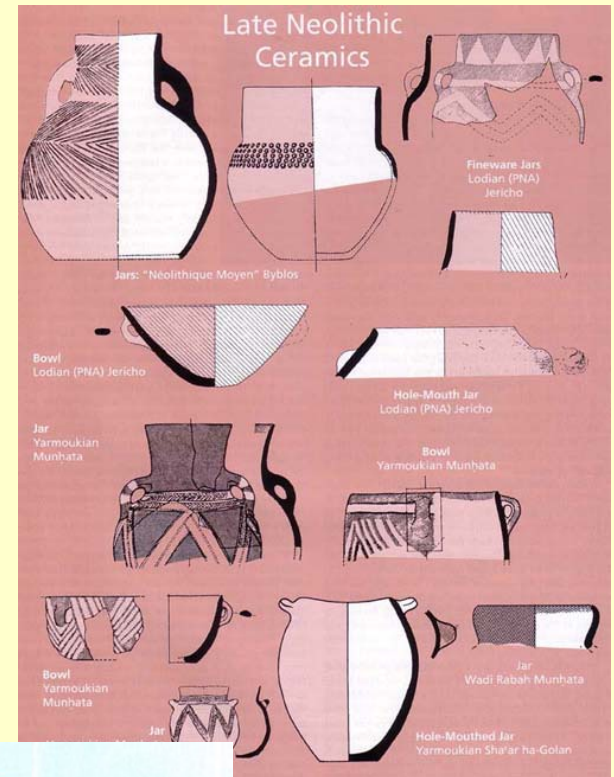


Nahal Qanah Cave (7500 BP)

Yarmoukian Pottery

- Forms:
 - Short-pedestalled bowls, chalices, platter-basins, necked jars, hole-mouth jars
- Decoration:
 - Distinctive triangular, red-painted fields separated by reserve bands delimited by two incised lines
 - Incised herringbone pattern
- Flat or pedestalled bases
- Handles: knobs, ledges, small loop between rim and shoulder

Yarmoukian Pottery



Burial Customs

- Burials rare
- Sha'ar HaGolan single adult under cairn
- Munhata 2B single adult in pit
- Wadi Shu'eib two burials but unclear if belong to Yarmoukian or Jericho IX:
 - Child, flexed, lacking cranium found in stone circle below mud floor
 - Secondary burial of adult and child also lacking craniums
- Byblos NA – infants buried in ceramic jars, children buried flexed in cradle devices with pottery and bone tools, adults flexed on sides in single graves with no grave goods, cache of adult skulls in rectangular basin

Figurines and Art Objects

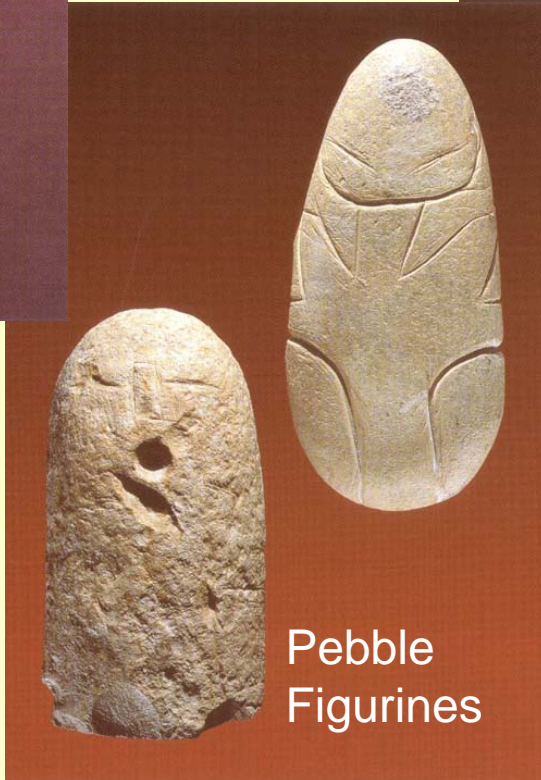


Very rich industry



Fertility Figurines

“Coffee-Bean Eye” Figurines



Representations of the sexes?

Pebble Figurines



Economy



- Little fauna recovered, mostly from 'Ain Ghazal
 - 70% domestic sheep/goat
 - 9% cattle
 - 11% pig
 - 6% gazelle
- Herd management or pastoralism
- Wide array plant remains:
 - Wheat, barley, lentils, peas, pistachio

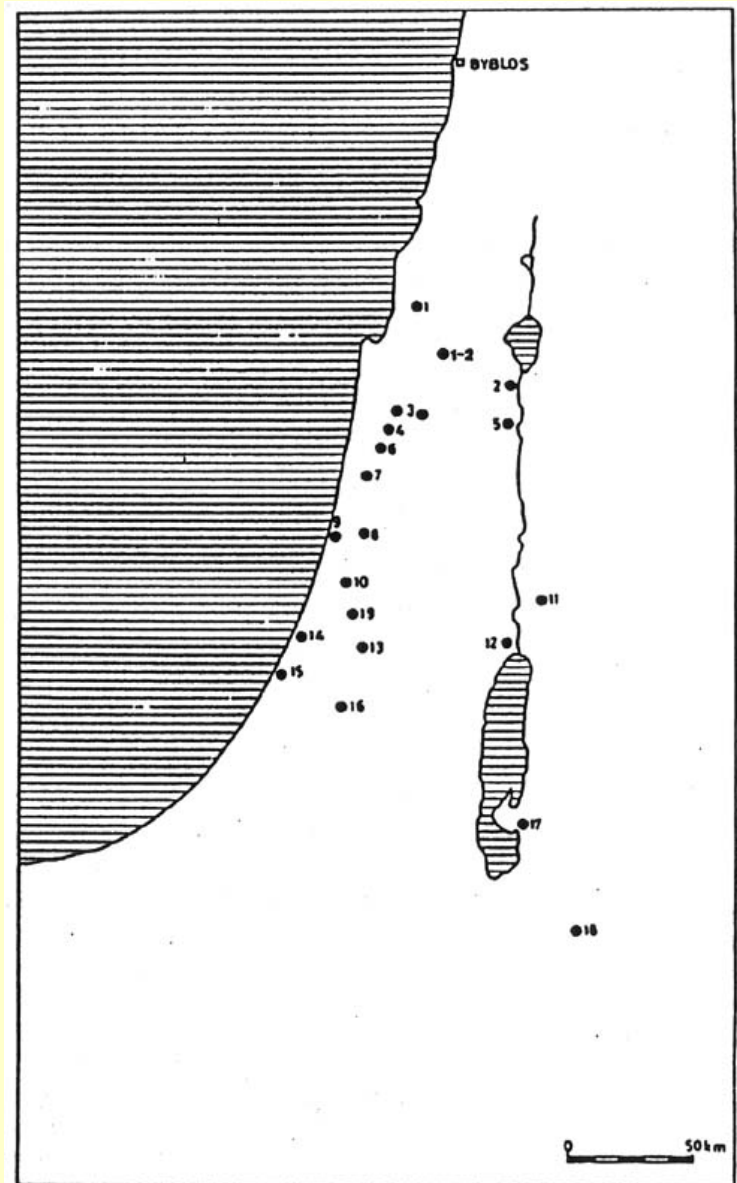
Summary

- Sites: 1) large, dense villages, 2) dispersed villages, 3) single-household sites, 4) cave sites
- Pottery decorated by incised herringbone pattern
- Bifacially retouched sickle blades with coarse denticulations
- Rich assemblage of art objects, especially pebble figurines at Sha'ar HaGolan and Munhata – new perceptions of humans and animals?

Jericho IX Culture

- Overlaps with end of Yarmoukian and continues afterwards
 - Earlier than Wadi Rabah, usually (but not always) later than Yarmoukian
- Also known as Lodian and PNA
- ca. 7400 – 6800 BP
- More southerly occupation of Levant
- First identified at Jericho (level IX) as first pottery culture at site with red painted and burnished decoration and unique handles and bases
- Argument over validity of Jericho IX as separate pottery Neolithic “culture”
 - “distinct” painted and burnished brown and red bands found in secure Yarmoukian and Wadi Rabah contexts

Jericho IX Sites

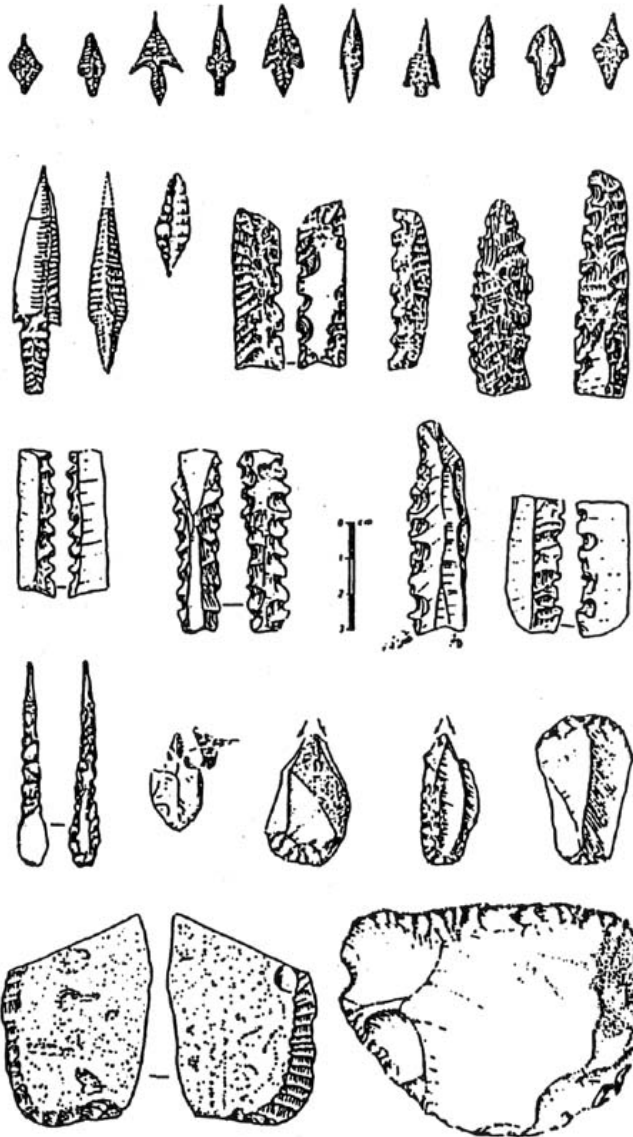


- Jericho IX (type site)
- Teluliot Batashi layer IV
- Lod
- Wadi Rabah
- Tell Ali
- Abu Zureiq
- Megiddo
- Nizzanim
- Givat Haparsa
- Herzliya
- Tell Lachish
- Wadi Shu'eib
- Dhra'
- Khirbet Dhariya
- Nahal Zehora II
- Horvat Usa

Jericho IX

- Yarmoukian and Jericho IX both occur at several sites, but partially contemporary?
- Throughout southern parts of coastal plain
- Rare sherds in north of Israel/Jordan
- Jericho, Dhra' only known sites in JV
- Wide range ecological zones and local tradition (not throughout NE)
- More southerly located than Yarmoukian, but overlap in central Israel and Jordan

Jericho IX Lithics



- Lack of information on unretouched debitage
- Bipolar cores absent
- Flakes dominate (blades overrepresented as tools)
- Same tool classes as Yarmoukian, but change in arrowhead types – Haparsa, Nizzanim, Herzliya, and transversal arrowheads
- Sickle blades thicker, wider, and curved or trapezoidal in shape
- Tabular scrapers

Fig. 8. Jericho IX arrowheads, sickle blades, borers, endscraper, burins, and tabular scrapers from Givat Haparsa (after Olami *et al.*, 1977).

Jericho IX Pottery

- Different from Yarmoukian by:
 - Innovative use of red slip, paint and burnish
 - Different pre-firing technology
 - Different decorative elements and motifs
 - Different vessel shapes (mainly jars and bowls, with platters and pedestalled bowls absent)

Jericho IX Pottery



4. Jericho, Jericho IX Ware, painted sherds.



- Crude Ware: coarse, porous, straw-tempered, hand-made pottery of light creamy colour with burnished red slipped decoration, uneven surfaces
 - Upright bowls, hole-mouth jars with inverted rims, necked jars, loop and knob and lug handles, flat pedestalled and ring bases
- Fine Ware: wide, open bowls, small jars and cups of fine buff pottery with mineral temper, decorated with geometric pattern of burnished dark brown or red paint with horizontal band and chevron and with unpainted lattice reserve areas

Jericho IX Architecture



- Only evidence is isolated stone walls and plastered pits bordered by low walls
- Lots of pits, shallow depressions, and hearths
- Round sunken mudbrick structures from Lod

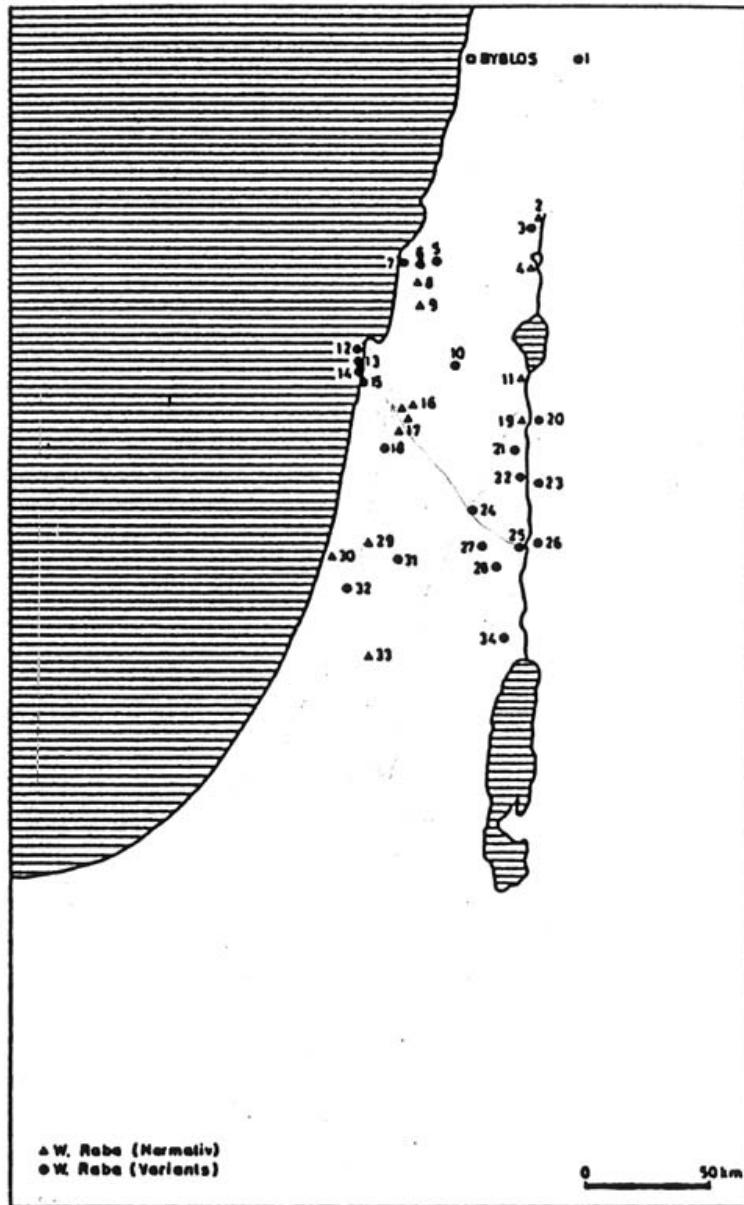
Jericho IX Burials, Economy, and Figurines

- Economy
 - Only faunal data from Nizzanim (sheep/goat, cattle, pigs common with gazelle and fish)
- Burials
 - Fragments of adults and a child below floor at Nizzanim
 - Two adults in primary interments in shallow pits, contracted position with skulls
- Figurines
 - Anthropomorphic figurine from Givat Haparsa
 - Clay fragment of animal from Teluliot Batashi IV
 - Typical Yarmoukian pebble and clay figurines absent

The Wadi Rabah Culture

- Identified by Kaplan (1958) from Tel Aviv area at site of Wadi Rabah by specific pottery assemblage
- “Normative” WR and Variants
- Dates to first half of 7th millennium
 - between 6800-6200 BP
- Stratigraphically always above Yarmoukian or Jericho IX and always below Ghassulian (Chalcolithic)
- Large (1-2 ha) villages and small farmstead

Wadi Rabah Sites



- Wadi Rabah
- Teluliot Batashi IV
- 'Ain al-Jarbo
- Tel Ali
- Abu Zureiq
- Munhata 2A
- Kabri
- Jericho VIII
- Beth Shean XVIII
- Tell Farah north
- Nahal Zehora I and II
- Byblos NM?

Wadi Rabah Lithics

- Flake dominated (>2:1)
- High densities of debitage, cores, and CTE's – on-site production
- Single-platform, irregular cores (not naviform)
- Almost complete lack arrowheads
- Sickle blades rectangular, backed and double-truncated
- Burins either very rare (Munhata) or very common (Nahal Zehora I)

Wadi Rabah Pottery

- Hand-made
- Coil construction
- Variety fabric compositions (tempers)
- Forms:
 - Variety of bowls, rounded, straight upright, carinated, V-shaped
- Decoration: plain smoothed, slipped, slipped and burnished, various incised, impressed, combed, painted, applied plastic motifs, red painted band around inside and outside of rim



3. 'Ein el-Jarba, Wadi Rabah Ware, sherds with incised and impressed decoration.



Wadi Rabah Pottery

- DFBW
 - small, thin, highly fired, carinated bowl of grit-free fabric, usually slipped and burnished a deep, glossy red or black
- Typical jar has bow rim and appears in all assemblages
- Handles: loop with splayed attachments, lugs, small pierced handles
- Hole-mouth jars common and pithoi
- Bases: flat, ring, convex



Wadi Rabah Pottery

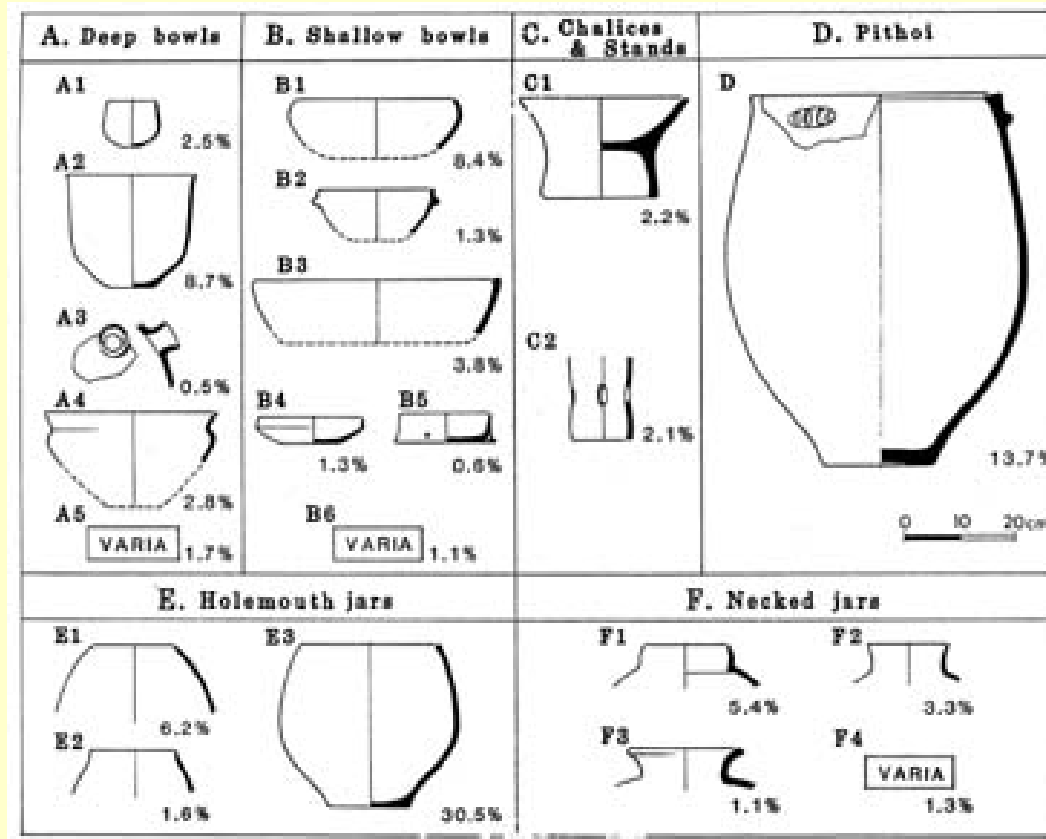
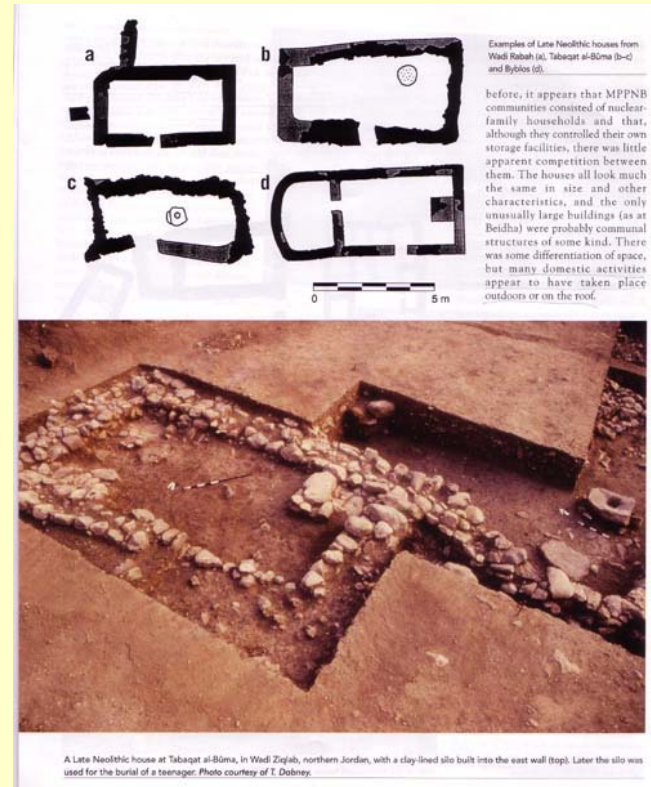


Fig. 25. Museum Typological Chart of the Pottery of Layer 2a-Rabah Stage

- Bow rims
- Carinations
- Criss-cross combing, punctates, impressed

Wadi Rabah Architecture



- Broad-Room houses
 - Rectangular dwellings with field-stone foundations, some with internal subdivisions, terre pisé floors
- Mudbrick walls, pits of various sizes and forms – burrow pits for mud
- Rounded, paved, lined pits
- Circular basins lined with plaster sunk into floors
- Small, irregular shaped paved areas found outside walls – outdoor activity areas

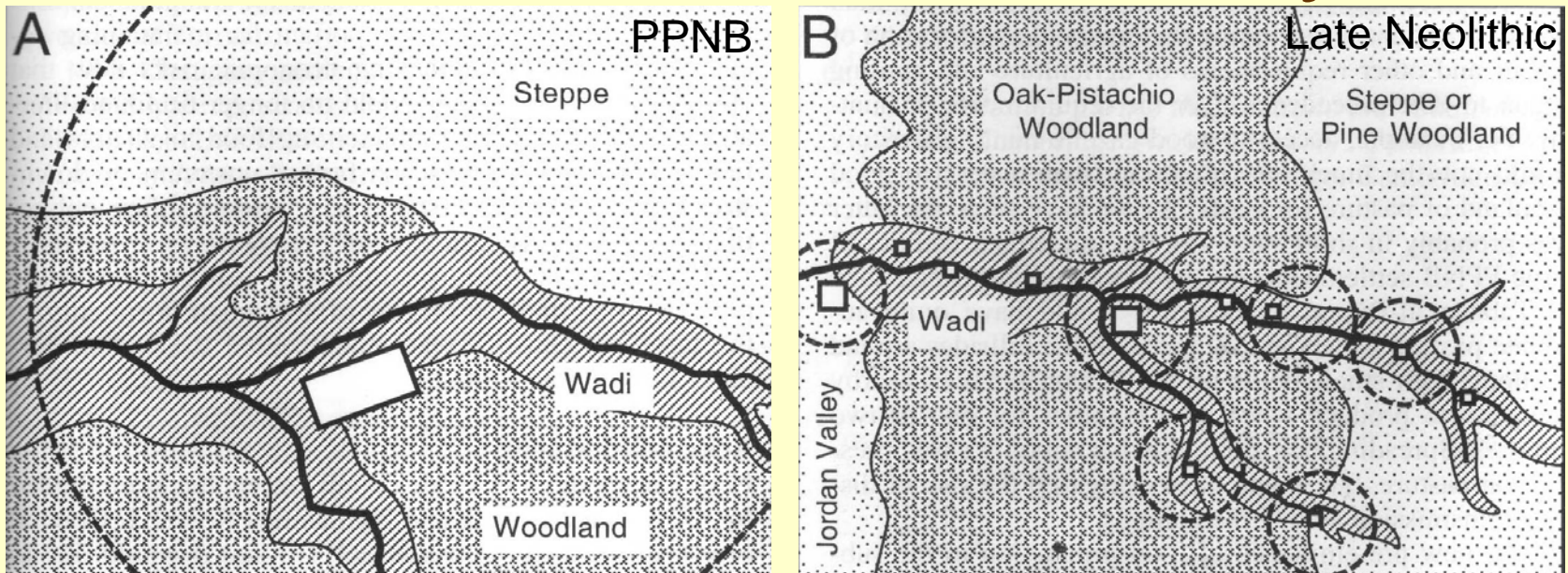
Burials, Figurines, Economy

- Burials
 - ‘Ain al-Jarba three individuals under house floor with skulls
 - Infant burial in jar from Nahal Zehora II, Tel Dan, Tell Teo
 - Cist graves of adults and children with whole pots in Wadi Ziqlab
- Figurines
 - Carinated hole-mouth jar with applied image of human figure dancing (‘Ain al-Jarba)
 - Clay animal figurines
- Economy
 - Dominance sheep/goat, rare wild species and fish
 - Spindle whorls, loom weights, other weaving equipment suggest use of animal products
 - Proto-type of churn – dairy use
 - Appearance of olives on coastal plain sites

Wadi Rabah Variants

- Ceramics different, but dating unclear
- Jericho layer VIII (PNB) unique
- Fazael/Farah region
- Beth Shean/Tel Tsaf “bichrome painted”
- Huleh Valley (Tel Teo, Tel Dan, Hagoshrim) earlier and like Lebanon sites
- Qatifian in southern Israel and Jordan
 - Jars with high, everted necks, handles on shoulder, scalloped hole-mouth jars with handles on belly

Wadi Rabah Summary



- Sites spread over wide area if include variants, throughout middle and northern Israel and Jordan (not south) – rural?
- Normative sites focussed around Jezreel
- Small hamlets (ca. 1 ha in size) and farmsteads
- By end of period, relied fully on domesticated plants and animals, olives in use, and churns indicate use of animals products
- Establishment of rural society!

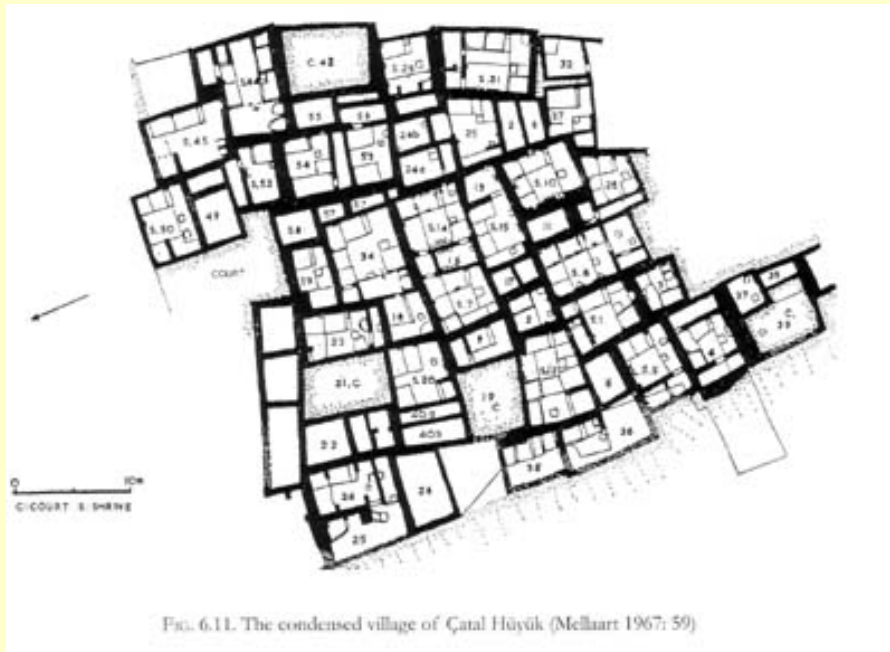
Issues in Pottery Neolithic

- Chronology
- Excavation methods: selection of indicative pottery and discard of all else, focus on “*fossil directeur*”
 - Cannot quantify
 - Cannot interpret “variant” sites because we select what to keep before we know what’s important

The Pottery Neolithic of Anatolia: Çatal Höyük

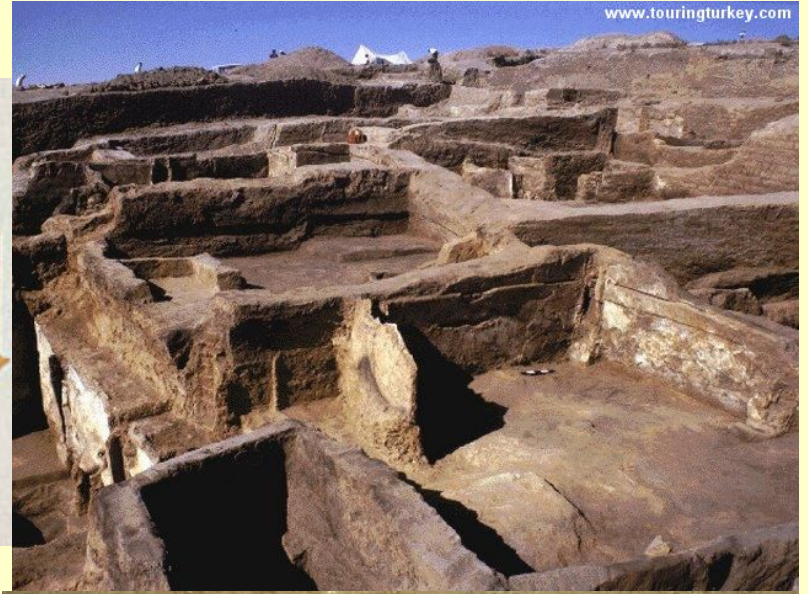
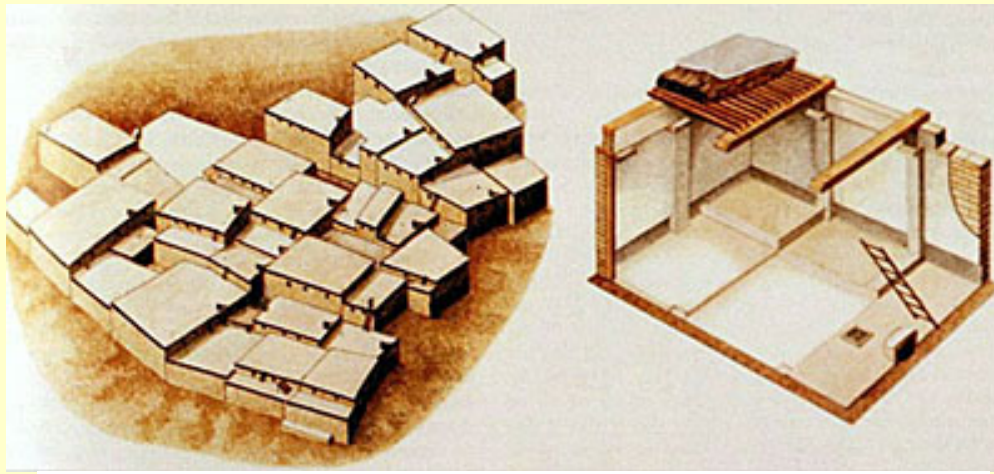


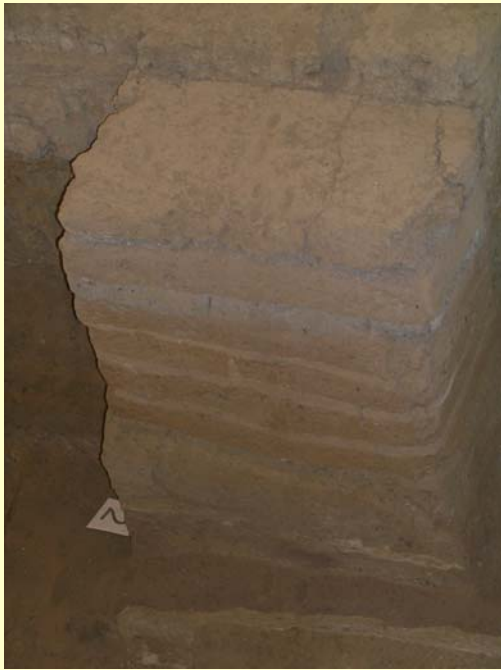
Çatal Hüyük



- Local Anatolian tradition
- Irrigation farmers
- Cattle-breeding
 - Importance of cattle
- Obsidian traders
- Early pottery (crude burnished wares)
- Ritual centre

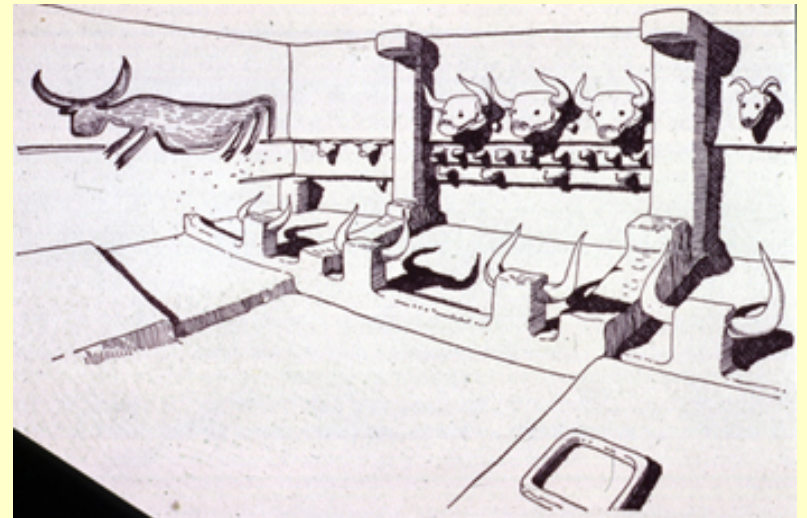
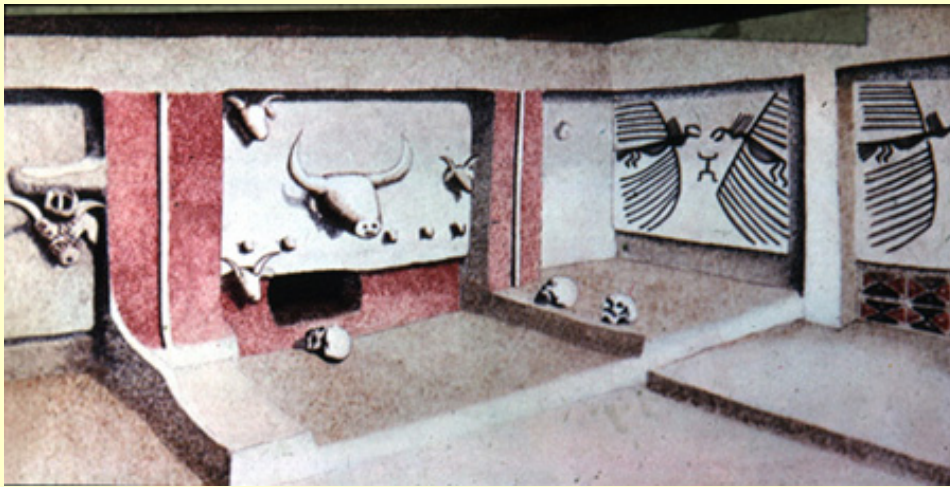






Standardized rectangular plan: living and storage rooms, roof entry

No alleyways or streets







The Pottery Neolithic of the Zagros

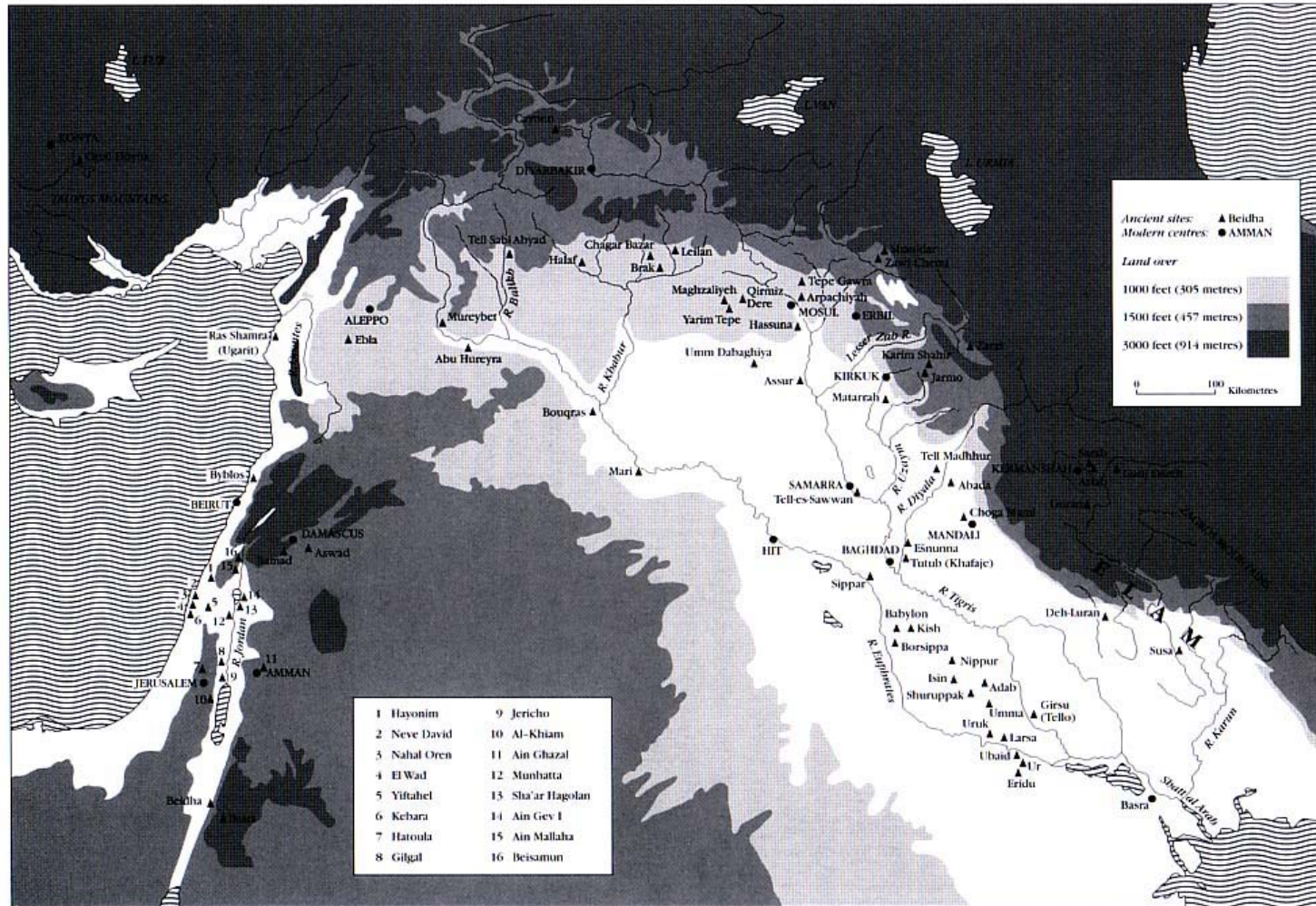


Figure 3.1 Map of the Levant, Mesopotamia and Western Iran with some prehistoric, protohistoric and historical sites

Source: Maisels 1993a

Ganj Dareh, western Iran



Ganj Dareh D

- Small village occupied second half 8th millennium (Yarmoukian), mudbrick architecture, several destructions by fire ending ca. 7000 BP
- Small, rectangular rooms of plano-convex bricks, some two-storey buildings with basement storage
- Niche with two wild ram skulls (earlier than Çatal Höyük)
- Earliest pottery in Near East – lightly fired chaff-tempered coarse ware forming large vessels (80 cm) and small mini-vessels (5 cm)
- Fired-clay human figurines with tall stalk-like heads and pointy breasts of “Tepe Sarab” style
- Infant burials below floors in cubicles, adults variable with grave goods (polished pendant)



ca. 8500-8000 BP



Tepe Guran (Luristan)

- Pottery spread from Ganj Dareh
- Occupied ca. 6500-5500 BC
 - Semi-permanent goat herding camp replaced at 6200 BC with mudbrick, permanent houses and appearance of farming tools
- Then, appearance pottery (PN) in lowest three levels
 - Burnished greyish-brown coarse ware of thick-sided bowls
 - Finer, plain buff ware with straw temper (“archaic ware”) and red/orange paint on buff slip with geometric designs (bowls and beakers)
- Farmers with “painted Jarmo ware” (red patterns, oblique lines)
- “Sarab Ware” (carinated bowls, bands and lozenges, chevrons, triangles on rim)

Tepe Sarab, western Iran

- Entire sequence of permanent sheep/goat herders and farmers
- No mudbrick structures (wood)
- Fine, red burnished and painted pottery (Sarab Ware)
- Female figurines – tall necks, no face, big breasts and thighs, nail impressed
- Wild boar figurines



Pottery Neolithic Sites

- Jarmo Levels 4-5
 - Pottery decorated with obliquely strung rows of dashes and blobs, stone houses, domestic pig
- Ali Kosh
 - Pottery introduced in last phase (Muhammed Jafar) phase



The Pottery Neolithic of Mesopotamia

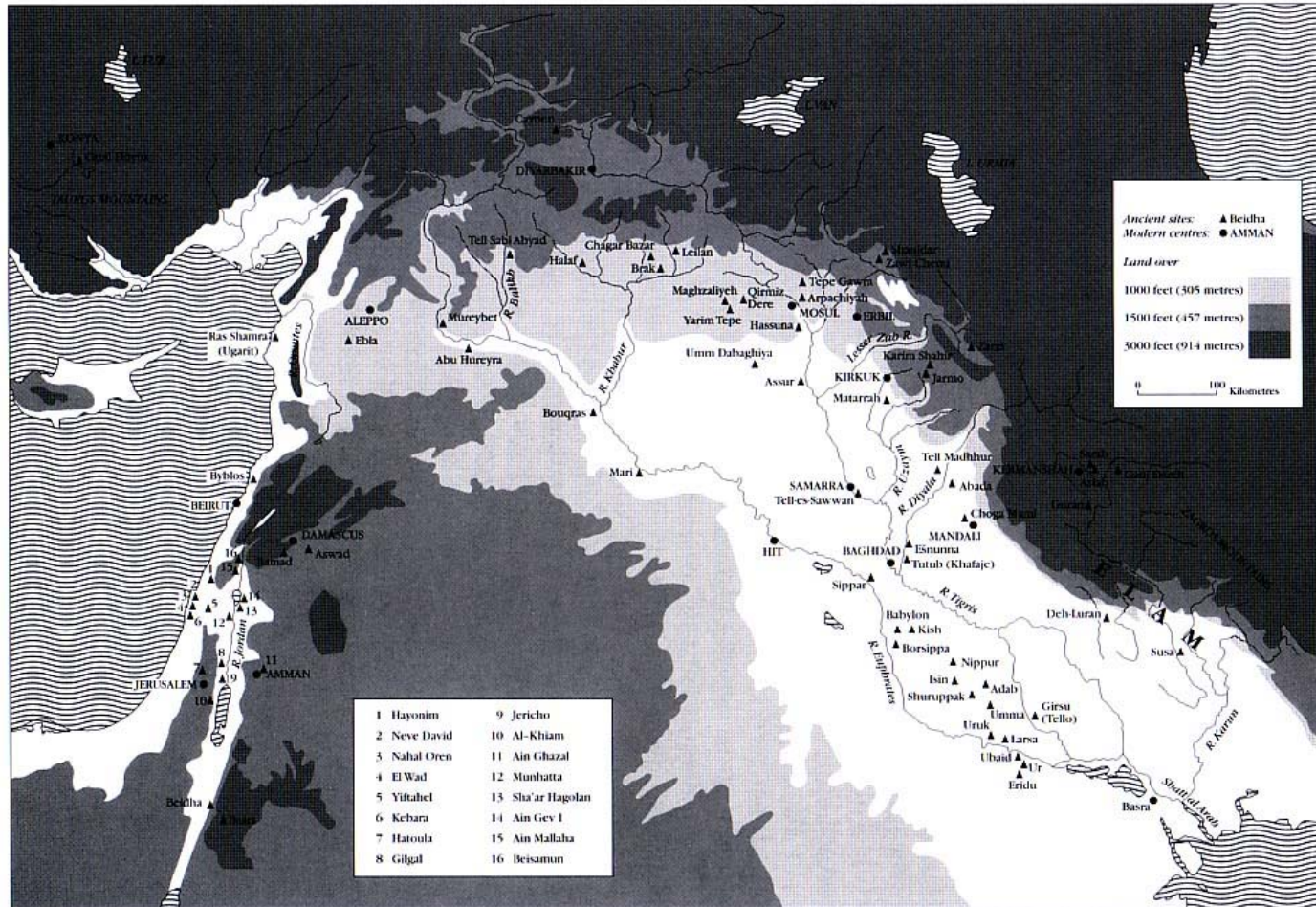


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Chronology

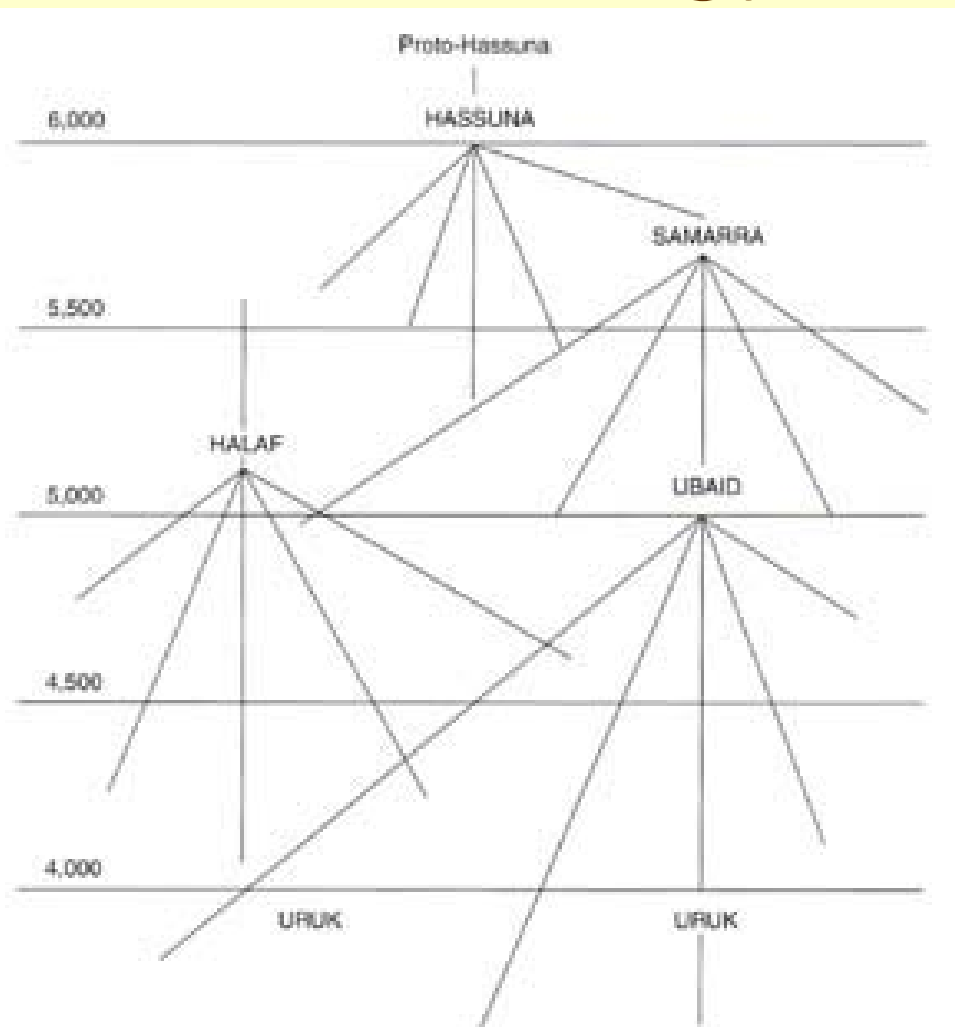
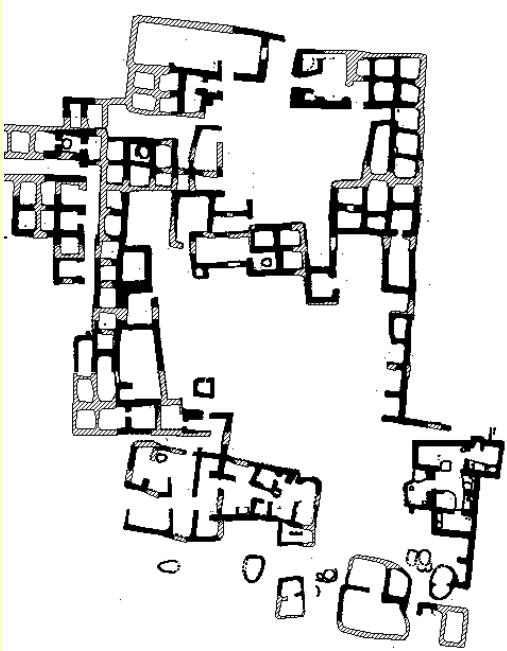


Figure 3.14 Interdigitation and succession of prehistoric and protohistoric Mesopotamian cultures, showing descent of Sumerian Culture from Samarra through Ubaid. Uruk is a *period* named from the city

Proto-Hassunan and Sottoan (8200-7900 BP)



- Umm Dabaghiya (Jazira at Jebel Sinjar)
 - Contemporary to end PPNB and into PN in Levant and very similar
 - Large, pueblo-like buildings with 4 building periods, 1 cultural entity – shows shift from oval pit-dwellings to permanent clay slab structures (mostly for storage)
 - IV largest and contains plain and painted (fine burnished and red on cream) pottery
 - Fine marble vessels, onager hunters

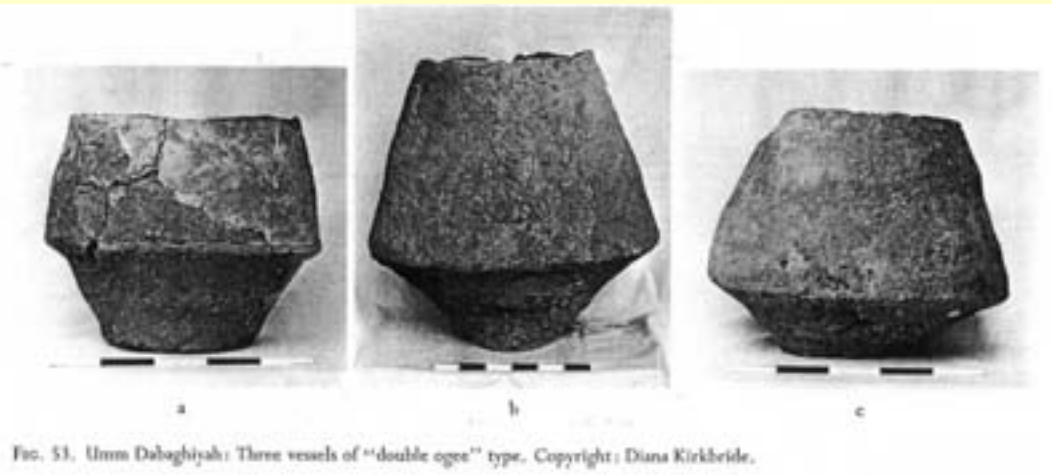


FIG. 53. Umm Dabaghiya: Three vessels of "double ogee" type. Copyright: Diana Kirkbride.

Hassuna (7900-7200 BP)

- First fully-fledged Neolithic society known from Tell Hassuna, excavated 1945
- Rectilinear farmhouses that demo spread of villages and farms with mixed economy
- Pottery: standard painted wares, standard incised and painted-and-incised ware (Hassuna trademark)
- Husking trays for baking bread
- Economy based on rainfall and groundwater agriculture

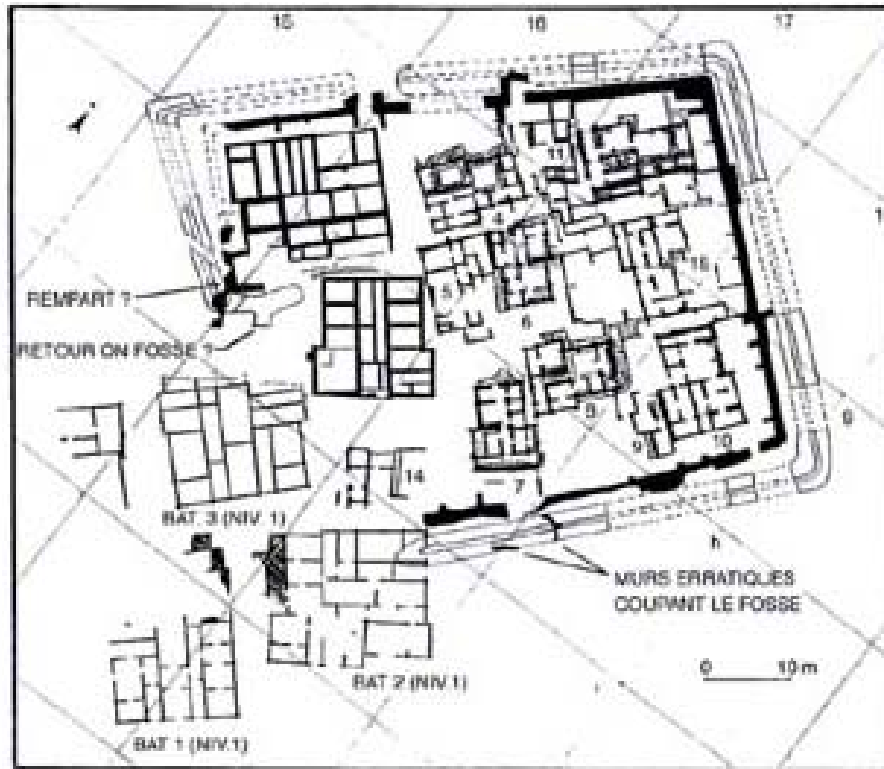
Hassunan Pottery



Hassunan Figurines



Samarra (7500-6500 BP)



Tell es-Sawwan, Level III superimposed upon Level I (the earliest)

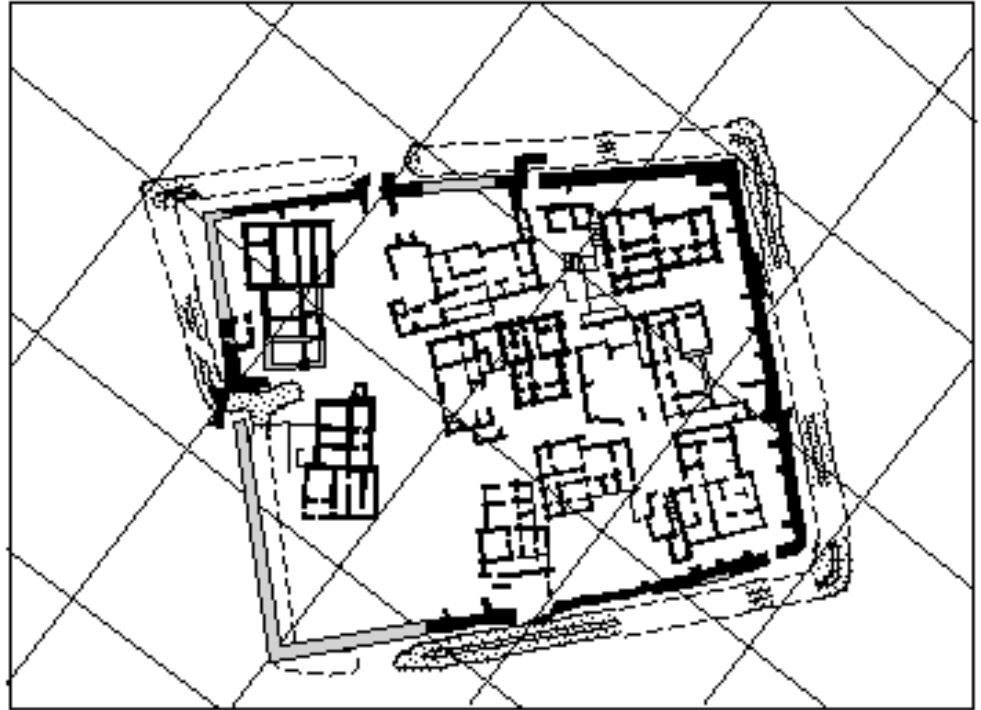
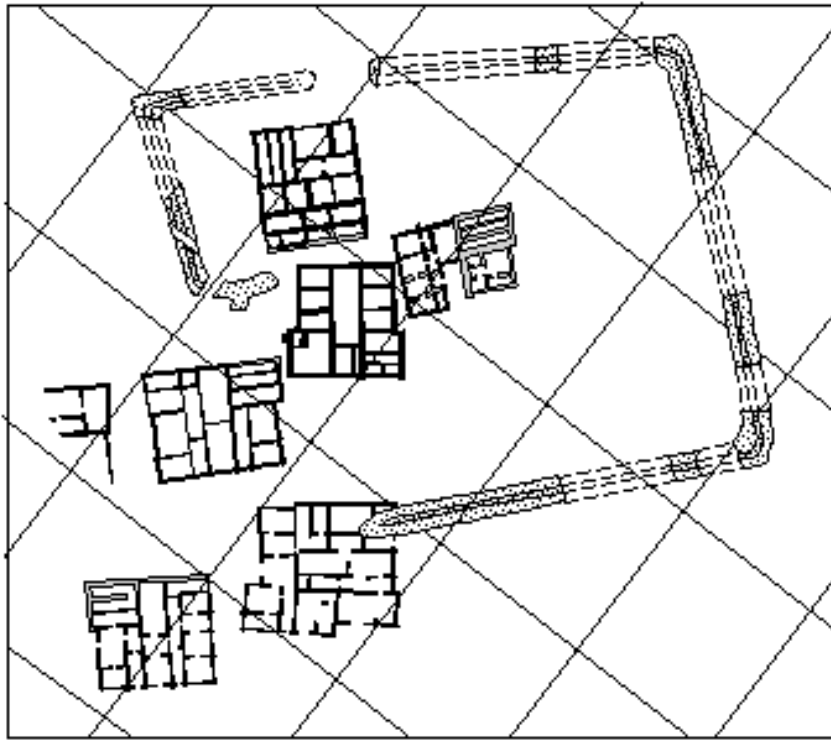
Source: Breuquier 1992:78

- Partly contemporary with Hassunan, but spread to south plains (colonization lowlands by irrigation farmers (canals))
- Highly decorated pottery
- Precursors to Ubaid – Uruk – Sumerian civilization

Tell as-Sawwan (type site)

- One of most completely excavated sites
- First nucleated settlement in Mesopotamia
- Early phase – Tripartite buildings for extended or polygamous buildings
- Later – T-shaped houses with two storeys (stairwells) surrounded by enclosing wall with gates
- Social interactions: social “areas” within enclosure, inaccessible parts, doorways of houses suggest related families
- T-houses later converted to granaries and walls unused – redistribution and chiefdoms
- Figurines similar to Yarmoukian ones

Tell as-Sawwan



Level I: coarse, poorly fired bowls, tripartite buildings (Hassunan)

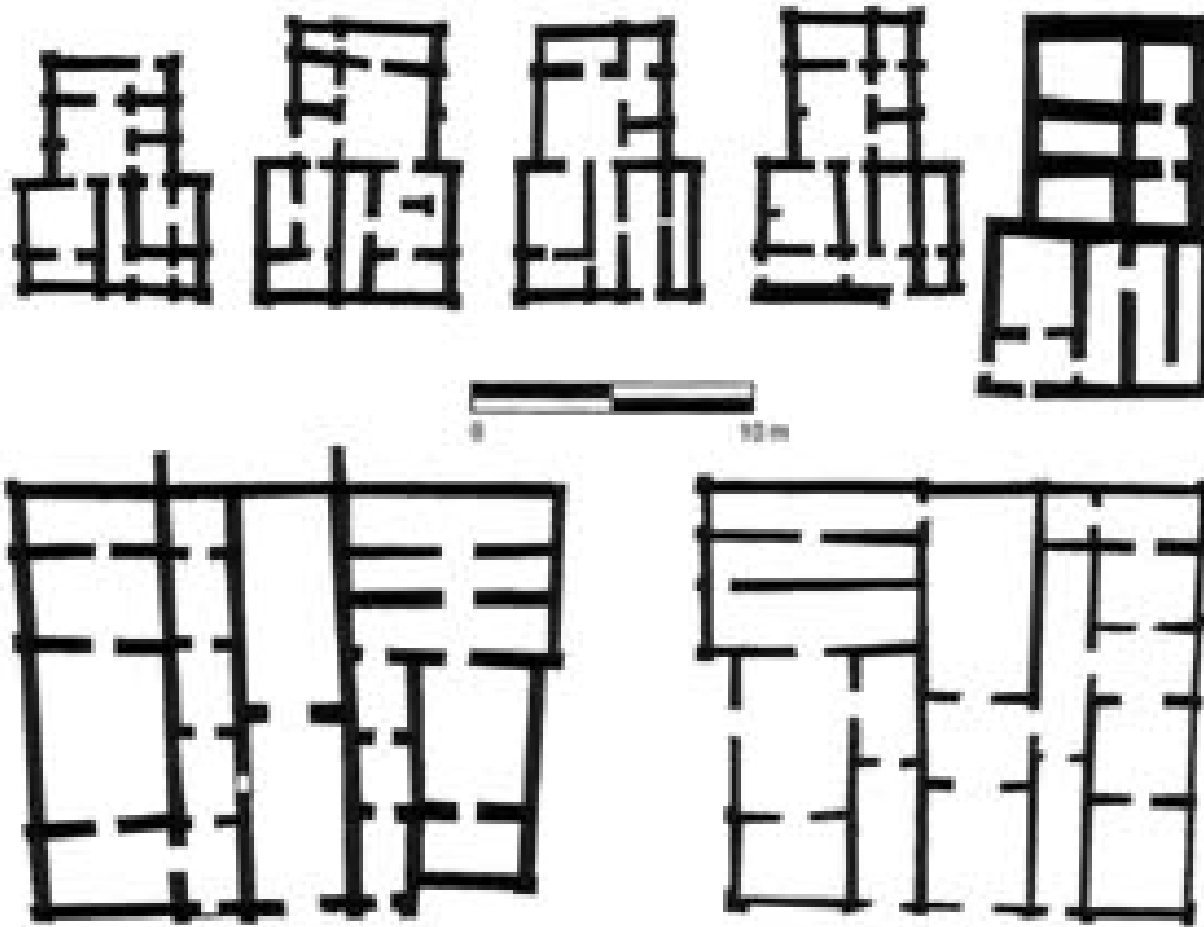
Level II: appearance Samarra ware, reconstruction of tripartite buildings

Level III: fortifications and T-shaped buildings

Level IV extensions on T-shaped buildings, plaster-walled granaries

Level V: Halafian

T-Houses and Tripartite buildings

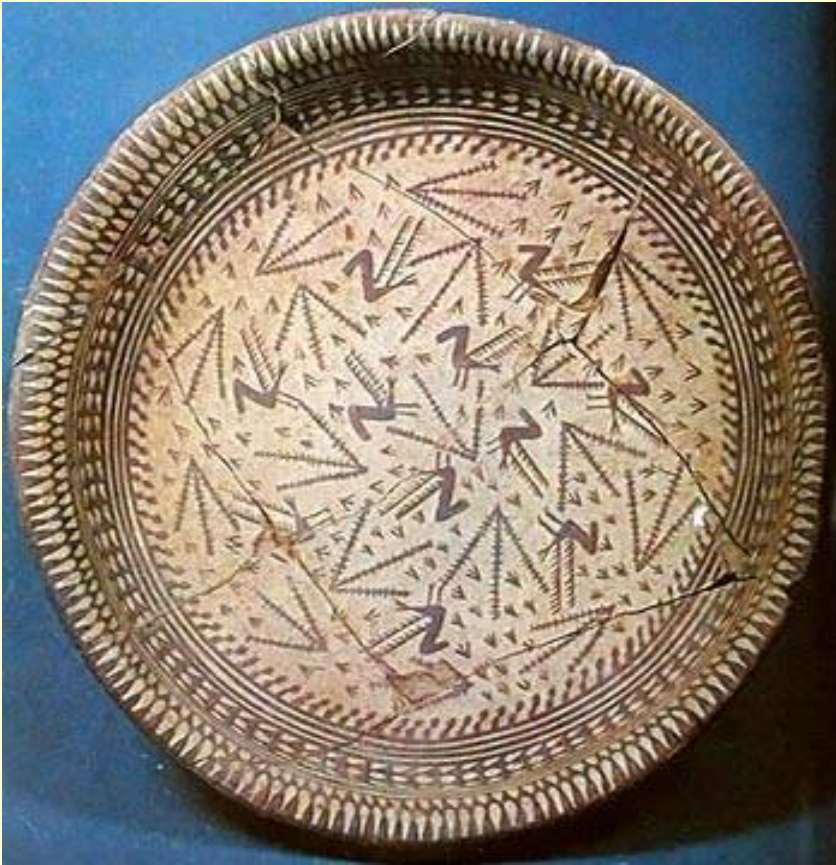


Plans of "T-houses" from Level IIIa at Tell as-Sawwan (top), and "tripartite" buildings from the earlier Tell as-Sawwan Level I (bottom).

like Çayönü, while, in the Samarran of Iraq, we find, especially at Tell as-Sawwan, tripartite buildings and "T-houses" dominate. At Abu Hureyra, the houses have a standard plan based on pairings of long rectangles.

Such consistency of plan within some sites required no architects, as adherence to standard plans is quite typical of "primitive" architecture, which the inhabitants build themselves, and "vernacular" architecture, whose inhabitants, along with specialists and neighbors, participate in

Samarran Pottery



Highly decorated pottery
Bowls and jars common
Geometric and animal motifs



Samarra



Painted "Face Pots"

