

PREHISTORIC CULTURES OF SONQOR PLAIN

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In Archaeological view, Kermanshah Province is one of the most important cultural domain in Iran that is known up to now .It has a great effect on the history and culture of Zagros mountain and the west of Iran. Total human life's periods and stages have been passed in this region from Paleolithic to pre-historic period, historic period and Islamic period. The following obtained remains prove our statement, Caves such as: Shekarchian (Carlton S.Coon,1949), Khar (Carlton S.Coon,1951), Warwasi rock shelter (Bruce Howe,1960), ancient settlements such as: Gakia(Smith), Sarab (Louis D.Levine,1974), Ganj Dareh (Smith,1968),Asiab (Braidwood,1961),Seh Gabi (Louis D.Levine,1974), Godin (Cayler T.Young,1969), Chogha Gawaneh (Abdi,1999) and etc.

This region had an important role in expanding the trade between Mesopotamia's people with poor resources and Iran plateau, mountain region and oriental region with rich resources (Hole,1987).

Having appropriate climate and natural– economical geography lead it to enter food production period. Different anthropology– archaeology schools considered it as an archaeological lab, and some expeditions such as Robert Braidwood "The Iranian prehistoric project,1959-61" and Louis D. Levine" The Neolithic and Chalcolithic periods in Mahidasht, 1975" studied this region.

In spite of several archaeological investigations and regular surveys in central Zagros and Kermanshah province and after a century of these activities, a few areas of this cultural territory are unidentified up to now. One of them is Sonqor with an area about 2320 square kilometers.

The lack of regular archaeological investigations lead us to be unaware of the attendance process of first groups, the quality of primeval settlement in plain, the history of group and social evolution, regional and Tran regional communication and trade, political, social and economical structures.

In spite of this fact, many excellent evidence and documents are collected by our preliminary survey that are explained and commented in terms of their arrangement in prehistoric periods.

These documents show that this region has many prehistoric settlement such as Tepe Khodaei, Tepe Sheikh Jalil, Tepe Ab Naz, Tepe KalGah Zaman, Tepe Ali Baig, Tepe Gabristan and etc. These ancient settlements have a great importance on development of cultural and social organizations in Kermanshah region.

To have a comment on gathering data from two season surveys in Sonqor, In first step, this article introduce prehistoric periods and their cessation and permanence, and in the next step, prehistoric settlement model of this region is discussed.