

IN THE LIGHT OF CERAMIC EVIDENCE THE END OF KURA-ARAXES CULTURAL COMPLEX IN THE ERZURUM REGION

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The Early Bronze Age culture of Eastern Anatolia, namely Kura-Araxes Culture, Karaz Culture or Early Trans-Caucasian Culture had existed in a huge area which extends from the Caucasian Range to Philistine. The culture lasted almost two thousands years from mid. 4th to mid. 2nd millennium BC, and this long-termed endurance created several chronological and geographical chronic problems in the understanding of the structure of the mentioned culture. These problems show differences from its denomination to its chronology. Because of the greatness of chronological and geographical, this culture is determined as “a cultural complex” by most archaeologists. According to most, these chronical problems can be solved by increasing local investigations. In the light of this approach, in this paper we want to discuss results of a project, which was performed in recent years in the Erzurum Region. The most important stage of this project is the reconsideration of the earliest excavations in the Erzurum region, in the light of results of the new investigations in this area (etc. Sos Höyük excavations).

As known, the Erzurum Region, especially with Karaz, Pulur and Güzelova mounds, has a special place within the spectrum of this culture. The assemblage provided by the earlier researches has been improved by the recent ones, and a clearer consideration about the region is much more possible today. The ceramic evidence from these three sites presents data about this culture from earliest to the final stage. The stages of cultural developments of the Kura-Araxes can be traced when the ceramic evidence from the key sites of the Erzurum region are considered. Especially the ceramic assemblages from Pulur and Güzelova can submit interesting clues related to the end of this cultural complex in this area. The main aim of this paper is to take these entire data involving this case collectively in hand, and introduce a construction for the end of this cultural complex at least for the Erzurum Region.