

For years scholars tended to think that emerging of the first urban civilization in the region of Southern Levant has been caused by patterns brought there from Egypt. In the Early Bronze Age I period relationships between this two regions has been established which resulted in presence of Egyptians newcomers on nowadays Southern Israel and Gaza strip lands.

In order to verify this thesis we started in 2013 an archaeological excavations at Tel Erani site in Israel. The works led to uncover a part of the city's arrangement dated to Early Bronze Age I period and an Egyptian trading post located within it. Today we know that when Egyptian newcomers appeared at the site, Tel Erani already has been enclosed by thick 8m wide defensive wall and what's more there was also a residential part where buildings of public character has been located. Those discoveries shows that the society which has been living there was on much higher level of organization than previously thought. Tel Erani which at his time covered space of ca 24ha must have had some kind of authorities and stable economy which provided the possibility to feed significant number of citizens.

We think that it is possible to reject the theory says that the impulse form Egypt led to emergence of first cities in the Levant. So what were the basis of rapid development of Levantine societies, especially in Northern Negev region? Was it, for example lucky coincidence of different climate and economical factors? During the following stage of our research we would like to investigate development of Tel Erani society before the appearance of Egyptians. We are planning further excavation works at the site and survey works in its vicinity to gain knowledge about the economical background of the site. We also want to continue on looking for the course of the defensive wall with usage of so called noninvasive methods like geophysics and aerial photography. Beside field works we are planning laboratory works as an attempt to reconstruct fauna, flora, landscape and climate in order to see what possible influence they could have on local economy and social development.

The scientific problems posed in this project come as result of earlier works at Tel Erani site which has been done by team directed by me. The works concern very basic questions, of key importance for studies on prehistory of the Levant. So far no one, also due to political reasons, has made an attempt to solve this problems in a complex way. We think that as the only one mission works both in Egypt and Israel, for further development of the discipline, we have to try deal with them.