

Iron Age was one of the most important periods in the history of the Eastern Mediterranean. It began about 1000BC and lasted up to the beginning of the Hellenistic Period in the 4th century BC. It was the time of profound changes and turbulent processes that re-defined and largely rebuilt the hitherto prevailing world of Late Bronze Age civilizations. In particular, it involved redesigning of the political system of the Bronze Age with its large states. This demise of these large entities from the preceding period paved the way for the plethora of smaller political entities emerging across the whole region. They built up and ultimately shaped the region in a new form of long-lasting significance. These developments in the Iron Age provided solid foundations for a speedy and very efficient unification of the whole region by the Hellenistic invaders in the 4th century BC. In the long-term perspective, it paved the way for the Romanization of Anatolia from the 2nd century BC onwards and later the establishment of Byzantine civilization.

The Late Bronze Age can be rightly viewed as the final step in the development of civilization that had continued since the Chalcolithic. This ultimately was a logical continuation of process that started in the Neolithic. As a result of these developments, the geopolitical system emerged made of unified and well organized huge empires in the Eastern Mediterranean such as Babylon, Assyria, Hittite, particularly advanced towards the end of this long-lasting process.

The beginning of the Iron Age brought about a new quality and many changes for the whole of Anatolia. The Hittite domination ended and the areas controlled by them were found themselves in the realm of influence of newly emerging states. The process of formation of these new kingdoms has never been scrutinized from the perspective of developments taking place in different regions away from the respective central area, in particular in relation to the character of rural landscape transformations. The transition from the Bronze Age to the Iron in such peripheral zones has never been scrutinized to any satisfactory detail either. Hence, in my project, I would like to examine the character of changes between those two periods. In particular, I aim at investigating whether the collapse of the Hittite structures involved a corresponding collapse in the organization of such peripheral region. I will also examine what elements in the new Iron Age rural landscape directly continued the older patterns of the Late Bronze Age origin.

Everything that got established during the Iron Age was further developed in the next periods starting from the Hellenistic period onwards. The Hellenistic period marks a very strong unification in the domain of society and culture all across the Eastern Mediterranean. The geopolitical conceptions were reestablished. The terrain of Anatolia was divided into both some bigger and smaller kingdoms, and the borders between them were shifting dynamically during the whole period

I will investigate also the character and extent of continuity between the regional pattern that emerged in the Iron Age in south-western part of Central Anatolia in the Hellenistic period as well as securitize its character as well as corresponding transformations and modifications. The character of landscape change in the Mediterranean coast seems to support this hypothesis. However, any detailed studies on these relations in such peripheral zones have not been carried out to date as they were mostly focused upon well-recognized center sites.

Hence south-western part of Central Anatolia is a very promising area to fill this evident gap in our understanding of the character different processes taking places in the zone beyond major political and cultural centers both in the Iron Age and Hellenistic period. From the historical standpoint, this part of Anatolia can rightly be understood as a peripheral zone. However, due to its geographic location, it was a bridge and the communicational route between major political centers, alternative for the coastal one. Thus, it became some kind of the hybrid zone where the cultural patterns originating from eastern and western centers got mixed up.