

Fortresses and castles of the first millennium BC on the southern part of lake Urmia, Iran

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ABSTRACT:

For a long time, Northwest of Iran have played a very special role in history of Iran due to its political and cultural importance and mineral reserves. Because of its specific ecological and strategic conditions, this area had experienced many economical and military changes during its history and, hence, was an important target for neighbours' invasions. In the late 9th century BC, Urartu's economic, political and cultural power increased, and they seized part of Manna, a region around Urmia Lake. Urartian influence in northwest of Iran was due to strategic reasons and for preventing a dominant Assyrian power. Since the late second millennium BC and the first half of the first millennium BC, this region have frequently invaded by Assyrians. In order to confront these invasions, Urartian and Mannaeen people constructed many castles in the region. It seems that the castles constructed by people contemporary with Urartians, specially the Mannaeen ones, were imitations of Urartian castles exists.

Keywords:

Northwest of Iran, Urartu, Manna, Castle.