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Aurélie Daems

- 1 In this vast paper, the question is posed of what role Media played within the Assyrian Empire and how/why the Empire on its turn expanded in the Zagros area. The author suggests two stages in the Assyrian expansion in the Zagros: a first annexation by Ashurnasirpal II and a second one during the reigns of Tiglath-Pileser III and Sargon. Media appeared to have a special place within the Assyrian Empire: it was termed a barbareous, strong political and distant power. It is also the only polity south of the Mannean influence area receiving the title of *bel ali*, which is conventionally translated as 'city lord' and sometimes as 'king'. Seen the '*primitively structured culture*' of Media it is argued that the Assyrian expansion was not the result of a treath from the Zagros. Instead, annexation within the Empire was more a result of a political need: the Zagros people were considered to be crucial in helping Assyria on a more international level; in an attempt to strenghten it against upcoming enemies such as Urartu and Elam. The annexation of Media to Assyria would imply military aid and supply of horses in their battles. This annexation did not affect local ruling policies too much: deportations to

the Empire were being avoided, and only through the gentle treatment of the local elite could the annexation be made possible/acceptable.

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Thèmes : 3.2.2. Pré-Achéménides et Achéménides

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