Donald Whitcomb. "Landscape signatures in Sasanian archaeology"

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Donald Whitcomb. "Landscape signatures in Sasanian archaeology" in R. Payne & M. Soroush (eds.). *The Archaeology of Sasanian Politics*. (Special Issue: *Journal of Ancient History*, 2/2), 2014, p. 209-215.

- 1 In the first decade of the twenty-first century, Sasanian Archaeology witnessed an increasing interest in the number of landscape archaeological surveys and excavations undertaken. The current paper highlights the results of some of the new archaeological fieldworks within the Sasanian territory which help us to understand the Sasanian grand policy in terms of economic infrastructure and urbanization (from the establishment of the Sasanian empire in the middle of 3rd century to the early Islamic transitional period in 7th and 8th A.D.). The archaeological studies show that the establishment of the grand scale imperial projects such as great walls (Gorgān), great canals (Nahravān), great cities (Fīrūzābād) and etc., may reflect the Sasanian kings' desire for hyper-development; such 'noble, logical diagrams' can be seen in the regional development projects.
- 2 The paper also contains the useful information about the new regional data; the significant of traditional, undeveloped and description of the Sasanian city and reviews the theory of Hugh Kennedy regarding the structures of Sasanian cities and urban topography.. It may argue that some of the characteristics of the Islamic city may have been inherited from Sasanian models.

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