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Michele Minardi

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- 1 The paper focuses on the possibility of evaluating the incidence of the "impact" of the Achaemenid sway on modern south-eastern Iran (the Hormozgan, Kerman, and Sistan/Baluchestan provinces) in light of the still scant archaeological evidence at our disposal for this territory during the Late Iron Age (6th – 4th centuries BC). The author pays particular attention to the evidence from the Kerman Province and the territory of Sistan, areas that are, for the period considered, the better documented parts of the region under examination. Regarding the area that corresponds to the Kerman Province of today, the author tends to agree with hypotheses and conclusions formulated by Peter Magee (*Excavations at Tepe Yahya, Iran, 1967-1975. The Iron Age Settlement*, Cambridge, 2004). According to the evidence gathered at Tepe Yahya, Magee understands the Achaemenid influence in the region as a matter of ideological and political pressure on the local elites exerted by a centralized power that, nonetheless, allowed this centre and its territories to maintain a certain degree of economic autonomy. Concerning Sistan, unlike Kerman, this territory lacks of any archaeological evidence on the period prior to the establishment of the Achaemenid political control.

Maresca suggests that the higher “archaeological visibility” of Late Iron Age sites there may be due not to a real and dramatic “Achaemenid impact” in the area but instead due to the scarcity of analyses and/or investigations. The author concludes by asserting that the actual extent of the cultural influence exercised by the Achaemenid dynastic power in Sistan is still far from being evaluable with certainty.

AUTHORS

MICHELE MINARDI

Université de Bordeaux Montaigne