Mehrnoush Soroush. "Urban Resilience and Hydraulic Continuity Against a Backdrop of Wars and Conquests, the Susiana Plain of Iran in the First Millennium CE"

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Mehrnoush Soroush. "Urban Resilience and Hydraulic Continuity Against a Backdrop of Wars and Conquests, the Susiana Plain of Iran in the First Millennium CE" in Ayda Alehashemi, Jean-François Coulais, Gilles Hubert (eds.). *Water & City: Hydraulic Systems and Urban Structures*. Paris: Éditions L'Œil d'Or, 2020, p. 69-81.

- 1 The paper is part of a volume collecting the proceedings of an international conference held in Yazd on September 2018, focused on the relationship between hydraulic infrastructures and urbanism in ancient and modern times.
- 2 In her contribution, the Author, relying on four case-studies (Shushtar, Jundishapur, Iwan-i Karkheh and Susa), stresses the interdependence of urban growth and irrigation practices in the riverine plain of Susiana during the 1st Millennium CE. Based on data from remote sensing, archaeological and architectural evidence, as well as relying on textual sources, the Author questions the paradigm of an alleged Sasanian administrative centralisation enhancing irrigation and settlement in the area to unprecedented and unparalleled levels. Indeed, long-term analyses demonstrate that urban life, hydraulic infrastructures and agricultural productivity were deep-rooted in Susiana and flourished there at least until the 9th-10th century CE, when some contraction is attested, mostly due to hydro-geological processes. In the Author's

opinion, aside from political upheavals, increasing surface erosion and downcutting of the river beds in some sectors of the region made river-based irrigation an increasingly expensive and scarcely productive strategy towards the end of the first Millennium CE.

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