

Roberto Dan, Davide Salaris. “A Study of Protohistoric and Historical Settlement Patterns in the Qara Zīā’-al-Dīn Plain, Iran”

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Roberto Dan, Davide Salaris. "A Study of Protohistoric and Historical Settlement Patterns in the Qara Žiā'-al-Dīn Plain, Iran", *East & West* 3 (62)/2, 2022, p. 7-41.

- 1 The two authors conducted a comprehensive study of archaeological sites in the Qara Žiā'-al-Dīn valley, located in northwestern Iran, a pivotal region serving as a hub between Lake Van, the valley of the river Araxes, and the basin of Lake Orumiyeh. Their objective was to investigate the dynamics of land management and control, along with the diachronic development of settlement patterns in the area. GIS played a crucial role in the study, facilitating a detailed examination of the landscape. The authors also delved into the role of visibility and intervisibility in the decision-making process of constructing specific sites, particularly fortresses.
- 2 The study presents a comprehensive catalogue of archaeological sites from the prehistoric period to the Middle Ages, focusing on the Urartian period. Additionally, identifying potential new archaeological sites through Remote Sensing and GIS analyses is highlighted. Based on the gathered data, the control over access routes to the valley and inner territories emerged as a critical factor influencing the location of fortified sites. Unfortunately, the general incompleteness of the data prevents a systematic study of protohistoric settlement patterns. However, organised control over

the plain and a significant intervisibility between fortified centres were clearly attested during the Urartian era.

AUTHORS

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