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HIS133: World Civilization 1:OA

12 September 2021

Reconstructions of the Past: the Key to Reconstructing our Future

Judging from these reconstructions and photos, one of the factors which shaped the layout of early settlements was having domesticated animals, such as dogs and horses (Morillo p. 40). The type of domesticated animals and humans living in these settlements would be a factor that shaped the construction of these settlements, including their outlines and elevated terraces. To contrast two illustrations, the Çatal Höyük in Anatolia extracted from the Library of Congress and the Togolok 21 in Margiana (Turkmenistan) extracted from the works of David W. Anthony are both designed differently due to the inhabitants of these settlements and the new discoveries over time. The Togolok 21 did not have many elevated surfaces because of the many horses humans domesticated in this settlement during the Bronze Age. The new discovery of bronze sparked a new era of bronze-age riders, and we know that horses lived here because of the illustration highlighting the entrance for the horses and the description Setphen Morillo, author of *Sources for Frameworks of World History: Networks, Hierarchies, Culture* provides of David Anthony's work referenced in a citation: "*The horse, the wheel, and language: how bronze-age riders from the Eurasian steppes shaped the modern world*" (Morillo, Miles & Anthony, pp. 10; 424). This depiction contrasts from the Çatal Höyük in Anatolia extracted from the Library of Congress in many ways. An example of this is the many ladders this illustration presents (Morillio, Miles & Library of Congress, p. 10). The ladders reveal evidence of a settlement with no horses, because there are no ramps illustrating a way for the horses to enter into this

settlement. The roofs are also not very large for domestic horses to move around in such an enclosed environment, whereas the Togolok 21 provides more room for such animals to move freely in an open terrain.

These settlements have changed over time, and one may observe this transformation by reviewing the two settlements in Morillo's *Sources for Frameworks of World History* by comparing them to the "preconditions and elements" presented in Morillo's *Frameworks of World History*. Morillo provokes an important thought to the reader as he writes, "Finally, settlement made metallurgy possible (or at least much easier to develop), since smelting and casting metal ores takes heat that can only be created in fires contained in specially built enclosures" (Morillo 40). The smoke arising from the corner presented in the Togolok 21 reveals that the smelting process was more common in the time frame of this settlement – 2300-1700 BCE – than the time frame of the Çatal Höyük – 7500-5700 BCE.

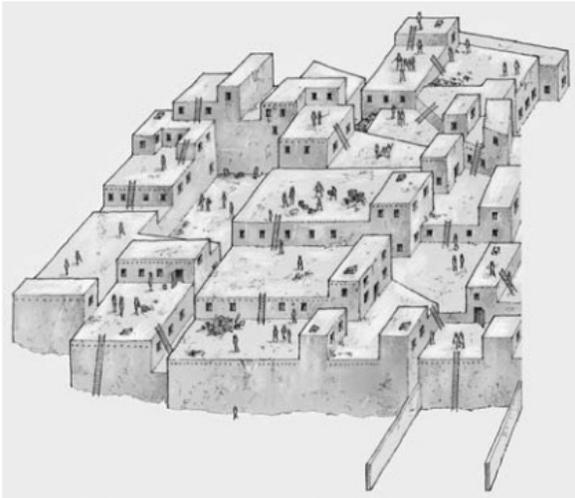
Differentiating the Mohenjo Daro and the Temple Ziggurat may be a more challenging task given that the Temple Ziggurat has no date labeled below the title, while the Mohenjo Daro has an approximate date of 2600-1900 BCE. However, there are some clues as to the domesticated animals and primates living in these settlements. Morillo's *Frameworks of World History: Networks, Hierarchies, Culture* presents a table of dates which may hold the key to understanding the primates residing in these settlements. This table displays the timeframe of the Agrarian era from 8000 BCE to 700 CE (Morillo p. 21). The Mohenjo Daro's time frame fits within the Agrarian era, which demonstrates to the primary source analyst the primates living in this settlement along with their networks, hierarchies and cultures. During this time period, there were chiefdoms, states and empires operating in emergent, long-distance networks. Since this was the era between the Hunter-Gathering and Industrial eras, homosapiens have already

established a more complex network than that of the Neanderthals, although they have not fully evolved as the homosapiens of the Industrial era have. Observing these two settlements, one may conclude that the Mohenjo Daro's walls are constructed with many bricks and natural resources built by an earlier primate, a construction not as developed as one existing in the Industrial Era (Morillo & Miles p. 11). However, the Iraq reconstruction of the Temple Ziggurat appears to be more developed than the Mohenjo Daro construction.

While there are clues pointing towards evidence, the information these reconstructions and pictures depict cannot tell us the exact dates of the Temple Ziggurat presented. I would like to know the time frame of this ziggurat, because this information might be the underlying clue as to what era this construction was built. This would provide a ton of information for us, such as the era, sub-era, dates, networks, hierarchies and even the cultures of the primates living in similar settlements. If historians can unlock this valuable information, the youth in our modern day and age can unlock the greatest archaeological mysteries for generations to come.

2.2a: Çatal Höyük

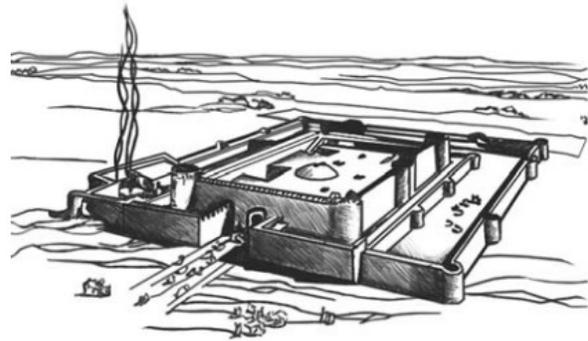
Anatolia, c. 7500–5700 BCE



From: Library of Congress.

2.2b: Togolok 21

Margiana (Turkmenistan), c. 2300–1700 BCE

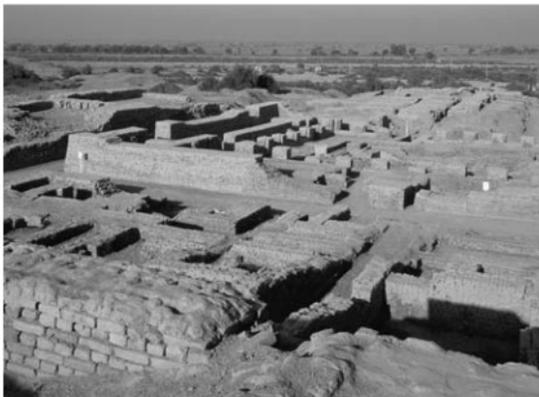


From: Anthony, David W. *The horse, the wheel, and language: how bronze-age riders from the Eurasian steppes shaped the modern world*, (Princeton, NJ: Princeton University Press, 2007), pp. 424 (Fig. 16.4).

Patterns and Parameters: Development of the Agrarian World since 10,000 BCE 11

2.2c: Mohenjo Daro

Indus valley, c. 2600–1900 BCE



From: National Museum of Pakistan, Karachi.

2.2d: A Temple Ziggurat

Agargouf, Iraq. Reconstruction.



From: © DeA Picture Library / Art Resource, NY.

QUESTIONS:

1. Judging from these reconstructions and photos, what factors shaped the layout of early settlements? That is, what concerns did the builders of these settlements have? Did they change over time?
2. What information can these reconstructions and pictures not tell us? What would you like to know about these settlements that this kind of evidence cannot tell you?

Bibliography:

- Anthony, David W. fig. 16.4 *Togolok 21* from *The Horse, the Wheel, and Language: How Bronze-Age Riders from the Eurasian Steppes Shaped the Modern World*. Princeton, NJ: Princeton University Press, 2007. Print.
- Çatal Höyük: Anatolia, c. 7500-5700 BCE*. Library of Congress. Accessed 12 September 2021.
- Morillo, Lynne Miles, and Stephen Morillo. *Sources for Frameworks of World History: Networks, Hierarchies, Culture*. Oxford University Press, Vol. 1, NY, ISBN 978-0-19-933227-4, 2014. Print.
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