

The topography of human settlement in Cyprus during the Early and Middle Bronze Age

Giorgos Georgiou

This thesis studies the topography of human settlement in Cyprus during the Early and Middle Cypriot period, a period spanning about 900 years (ca. 2400-1500 B.C.). Towards the fulfillment of the aims of the thesis a Catalogue was compiled, containing all the sites where remains of this period have been located (486 sites). The study and analysis of the geographical distribution and time duration of the sites were conducted in order to outline the changes that took place in the social structure, as traced on topography. In order to achieve accuracy in the documentation of the changes that took place in topography, the geographical space and the time span covered by this thesis are divided according to the following method: The geographical space of Cyprus is divided into twelve geographical Regions, in order to verify if the phenomena noted on topography vary in the different regions of the island. As far as space is concerned three more variables are studied, (a) the proximity to the cupriferous geological strata, (b) the proximity to the sea coast and (c) the elevation. In order to study these variables, the area of the island is divided into six Zones and three Elevation Zones. The time span is divided into five chronological horizons. The distribution of sites in the different regions and zones is studied within the frame of the five chronological horizons. The shifts in topography documented by the present thesis indicate that the structure of society of the island during the Early and Middle Cypriot period did not remain static. On the contrary, three historic episodes come to light: (a) The process from the foundation of a new system of social structure to its expansion and its consolidation throughout the island. (b) The process from the culmination of the new system to a period of serious alterations. (c) The process from the period of alterations to the transformation which comprises the initial phase of urbanization that occurred during the Late Cypriot period. The thesis was divided into five parts. The First Part is the presentation of the trends and problems that have been dominant during the previous research on the topography of Early and Middle Cypriot period until today. The Second Part is the presentation of the methodology that the present study has followed in order to document the geographical distribution and the time duration of the sites. The Third Part is the Catalogue of the 486 sites. In the Fourth Part, following the dating of each site, the geographical distribution of the sites is studied throughout the five chronological horizons. The Fifth Part presents the conclusions of the present study.