

An archaeological survey of sites of Kech-Makran, Balochistan, Pakistan

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Abstract

Kech-Makran remained a trans-migrational route of South-Central Asia that witnessed several expeditions and migrations. In this respect, the archaeological and historical importance of Kech-Makran laid the foundation of many archaeological researches and excavations. Ancient occupations of Makran was firstly reported by Major E. Mockler British political Agent in 1870-75. Sir Aurel Stein has also conducted archaeological explorations in Makran area in 1927-28, and in the 1960s, American Missions conducted a salvage excavation at the site of Sutkagen Dor in Makran under the directions of George F. Dales. Further, this area was extensively investigated by the French mission under the supervision of Roland Besenval (1987 to 2007). This paper is an archaeological survey by the author conducted during his MPhil research; comparative studies of the previous archaeological fieldwork of previous archaeological missions were taken into account. This is an attempt to trace out the ancient occupations and cultures of Kech-Makran and evaluate them to the cultures of present. In this regard, a comprehensive archaeological survey and documentation was undertaken to establish the cultural profile of the area (Chalcolithic Era). Moreover, this research is further focused on the comparative study of the different sites in the Indo-Iranian Borderlands and would attempt to design a better chrono-cultural sequence of Kech-Makran.

Keywords: Kech-Makran, cairn, gabarband, chrono-cultural, Chalcolithic, Miri Qalat, grinding stone.