

## The South-West expansion

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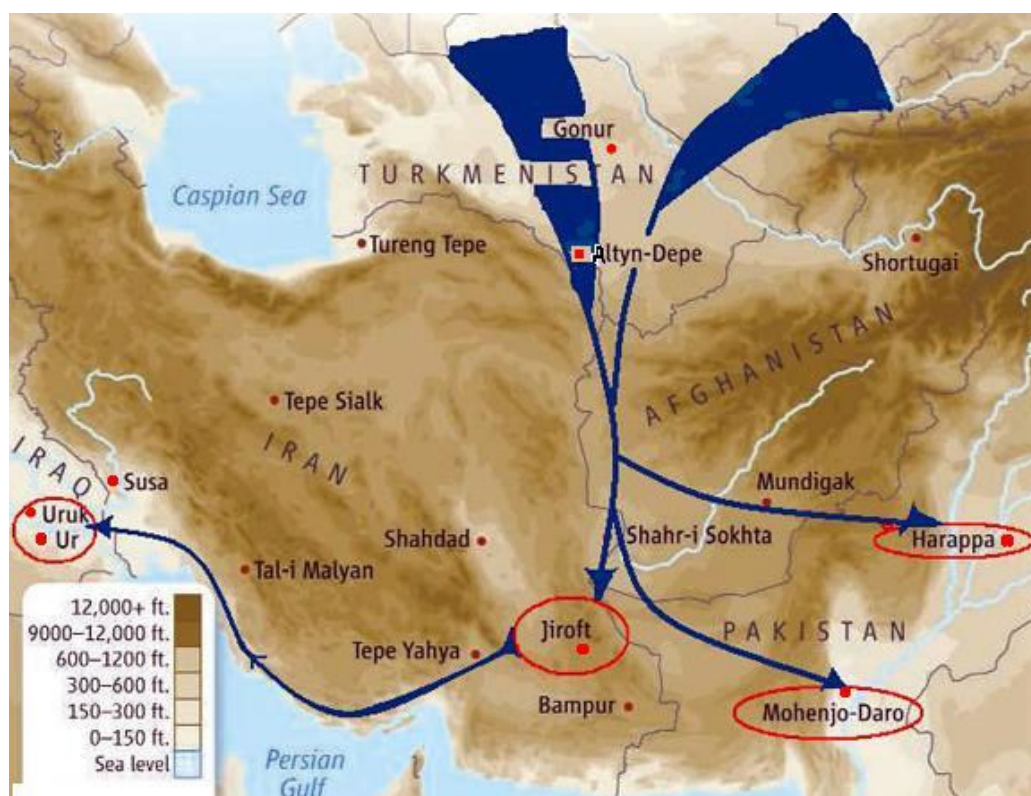
Archeologists long assumed that the cradle of civilization was southern Mesopotamia where 5,000 years old Sumerian texts and objects were found. But the origin of the Sumerian civilization is to a large extent unknown. We are now in the position to demonstrate that the Sumerian script owes its origin to the Central Asiatic pictographic seals.

A Science Magazine article entitled **Middle Asia Takes Center Stage** (1) claims the following:

**Long dismissed as a backwater, the vast area between Mesopotamia and the Indus Valley is now revealing a tapestry of wealthy urban centers that shaped humanity's first concerted attempt at city life.**

The article claims that instead of retelling the traditional story that civilization sprouted in Mesopotamia, archeologists began to assemble a far more complex picture in which dozens of urban centers thrived between Mesopotamia and the Indus Valley, adopting each others architecture and ideas. This was possible because all these urban centers could communicate in a common language which can be defined as the Proto-language.

Below we see a map of the region defined as Middle Asia. The common culture of this region starts from Turkmenistan, Uzbekistan and Kazakhstan in the north and includes Afghanistan, Iran and Pakistan ending in southern Mesopotamia. The arrows indicate the expansion route along rivers and sea coasts adopted by the early settlers some 6,000 years B.P.



In an article entitled: **Neglected Civilisation Grabs Limelight**, Andrew Lawler says (2):

**Four thousand years ago along the banks of the ancient Oxus River, which now separates Afghanistan from Uzbekistan, there were people who lived in vast compounds protected by high wall, produced their own bronzes, and stone seals, and traded their wares as far as the Persian Gulf and Palestine. Although these people would have been key players in Bronze Age Central Asia, their civilization remains an enigma because of 20<sup>th</sup> century politics.**

The vast territories in which this Central Asian civilization flourished have been defined as the Bactrian-Margiana Archeological Complex (BMAC) by Fredrik Hiebert and Victor Sarianidi who lead excavations in the region. "We are redefining the boundary of Central Asia" says Hiebert and claims that a single culture thrived in these regions. The original name of Bactria is **Belh** and the original name of Margiana is **Merv**. Both cities are ancient cultural centers of Turkic as well as Persian people. The correct definition of this vast region should be **Belh-Merv Archeological Complex**, but as A. Lawler says; politics was and is still influencing Archeology. Below we see the extent of the region defined as BMAC.



One of the important cultural sites discovered in BMAC is **Altyn Depe**, which means "**golden hill**" in Turkish (see map at the top of the page). When archeologists excavated this site they found a mud brick altar, built 3,200 years ago as a temple for worship of fire (3). The fire altar and several golden artifacts found in this site give strong support to the claim that the sun-worshipping people came to these regions from the north. The golden ibex found in Altyn Depe (below) is more than a simple piece of ornament, but is rather an important clue for the Central Asiatic origins of this culture (see **03-The Hidden Meaning of Pertoglyphs**).



The Uighur people of the ancient times followed the shallow river banks and pushed forward into the southern regions of BMAC in order to build new settlements. One such important cultural center is the city of Jiroft located in the south of present Iran. In the picture below we see a pot excavated in Jiroft on which a horned man with the feet of a bull is carved. We will find this same symbolism in different parts of the world, forming a strong support for a common Asiatic origin.



Below we see an inscribed brick from Jiroft. This script is totally unknown to the scholars and is waiting decipherment. The inscriptions on three mud bricks found until now could well be the Asiatic seal-based writing system predating the Sumerian cuneiforms as well as Linear Elamite, another script from Susa (see map above and also Chapter 13, **Evolution of Writing Systems**).



Inscribed brick from Jiroft

## References

- (1) **Science Magazine**, Volume 317, page 586, 3 August 2007.
- (2) **Science Magazine**, Volume 302, page 979, 7 November 2003.
- (3) **National Geographic Magazine**, Volume 177, page 58, March 1990.