
The Bronze Age in Algeria: the state of the question

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Abstract

The Bronze Age is a period generally confined between the Neolithic and the Iron Age and is known as a transitional phase. This period is characterized by the human use of copper metal, as it was only used in the manufacture of small tools such as jewelry and funerary furniture, in light of the use of this element by the peoples of the Maghreb and Algeria. There is ambiguity and many questions about this subject: Were people in Algeria familiar with the early mining techniques? In what period did this happen, and is there a possibility of local development of these techniques in Algeria? What is the origin of the remains of bronze tools that were found in several sites? Based on the available data and remains, even if they are limited in number, the metal ages in the Maghreb can be considered as a transitional stage between the Neolithic and the dawn of history, when humans continued to use lithic tools at the same time. Many researchers also considered the emergence of the exploitation of minerals in the Maghreb as a technological revolution that furthered social and economic development at the sites where bronze objects were found in western Algeria, including the Cherchell, Tipaza, and Bologhin regions, as well as sites in the Tiaret and Oran regions. These remains belong to an era that precede protohistory and follow the Neolithic, in addition to the remains of megalithic tombs that contain bronze objects in the northeast of Algeria.

Keywords: Bronze Age, Algeria, archaeological remains, megalithic cemeteries

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