
The protohistoric monuments in eastern Algeria and their archaeological significance

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Abstract

The massive stone graves, or megalithic tombs, are among the most notable aspects of the protohistoric era; different kinds of monuments can be found in the north-eastern part of Algeria. In Algeria, a substantial number of dolmen graves were discovered in a geographical region stretching from Constantine to the Tunisian border. This territory includes various places such as Roknia, which is a necropolis in the Guelma region of north-eastern Algeria, comprising more than 3000 megalithic tombs, a significant type of stone-built burial monument in the history of funerary architecture in the ancient Maghreb during Protohistory. Excavations were undertaken already by J.R. Bourguignat and General Faidherbe. The discoveries are preserved since then (consisting of skulls, ritual objects and personal ornaments) at the Bardo Museum of Ethnography and Prehistory in Algiers. This study presents prehistoric body adornments discovered in the megaliths and focus on their archaeological importance and significance.

Keywords: megalith, adornment, metal, excavation

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