

Exploring 5,200-year-old Tepe Sadegh.

An orbital city in the Bronze Age settlement system of Shahr-e-Sokhte, an UNESCO World Heritage site in Sistan-Baluchestan

Project: Department of Prehistoric Archaeology, Institute of Archaeological Sciences, University of Bern, under supervision of Prof. Dr. Albert Hafner

Dissertation project: Setareh Ebrahimiabareghi

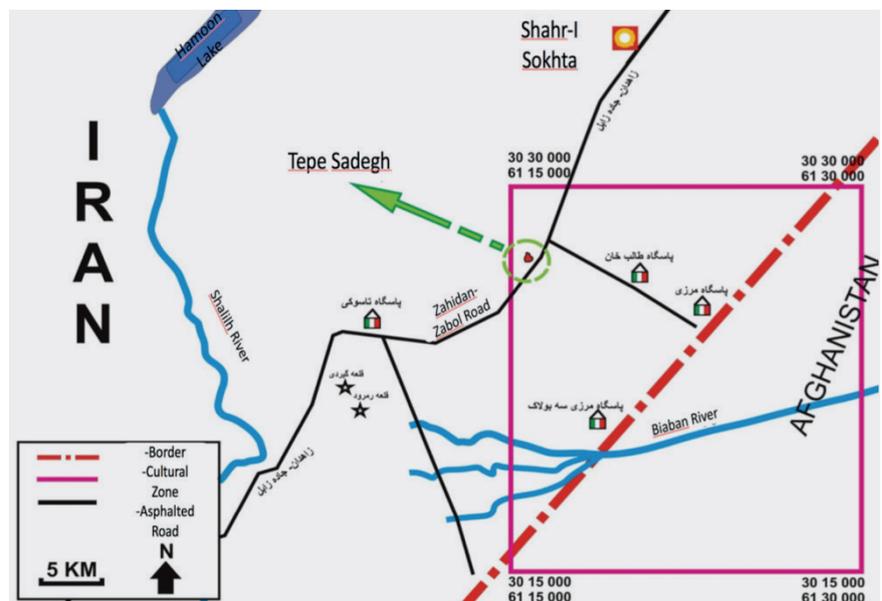
Shahr-e-Sokhte (in persian هتخوس رش, šahr-e sūhte, meaning 'burnt city', also written Shahr-i Sokhta, Shahr-e Sukhteh and Schahr-e Suchte) is a world-famous 5,200-year-old UNESCO World Heritage site in Sistan-Baluchestan Province. Around the central settlement of Shahr-e Sookhte around 30 satellite or orbital sites have been found. One of them is the site of Tepe Sadegh. The beginning of this settlement has been simultaneous with an intensive growth phase of Shahr-e-Sokhte and is of the same age. Due to the overwhelming importance of Shahr-e-Sokhte the orbital cities were researched in a much lesser extent than the famous central city. Shahr-e-Sokhte and Tepe Sadegh are situated in a perfect geographical situation between Pakistan, Indus valley and Mesopotamia.

Tepe Sadegh is located in south basin of Ghale Rostam, 75 km distance from Zabol. This site is one orbital sites of Shahr-e-sokhte that this site is situated 13 km of southwest of Shahr-e-sokhte. This site has oval shape 200m in 150m in constructional view of east-west. Its maximum height is 6m. this site was destructed by wind and water erosion, so some parts of surface of this hill (west and northwest) completely was destructed but east and southeast of this hill remained in better shape. Many cultural materials were discovered from this site such as: pottery, stone tools, some Furnace's waste, some figurines remain, some herbal findings that are very important C14, some oxidized bronze, architectural remains and etc. pottery is most material on this site that is very important. Pottery without glazing, plain and painted with engravings is the most type of pottery in Tepe Sadegh.

Aims: The main aim of my scheduled study is to set up a reliable chronological framework of the settlement activities in the site of Tepe Sadegh that is in coherence with the stratigraphical information from the excavation. On this basis a thorough study and pre-



1. Tepe Sadegh, Eastern View, (Excavation Report, Shirazi, 2012:15).



2. Situation of Tepe Sadegh (Excavation Report, Shirazi, 2012:14).

sentation of the found materials and the archaeological record (architectural remains) will be possible. Based on the new data from Tepe Sadegh it will be possible to highlight the role of Tepe Sadegh for trading in Bronze Age. And also try to analytical types of earthenware data of Tepe Sadegh.

Methodology: Up to now no radiocarbon dates (synonym: C14 dates) of the site exist. In order to set up a reliable chronology of the settlement activities at Tepe Sadegh a radiocarbon dating of a minimum of 10 samples should be undertaken. Due to the extreme

dry conditions of the area, in many layers of Tepe Sadegh traces of reeds and woods have been recognized. This is an outstanding situation, since especially short-living reed fibers allow good results in radiocarbon dating. In contrast, the sampling of wooden charcoal, the most common sampling material risks to give too old data (due to the so-called old-wood-effect). Radiocarbon dating of the samples could be done in the facilities of the University of Bern (possibility for using the MICADAS AMS-technology for especially small samples.)

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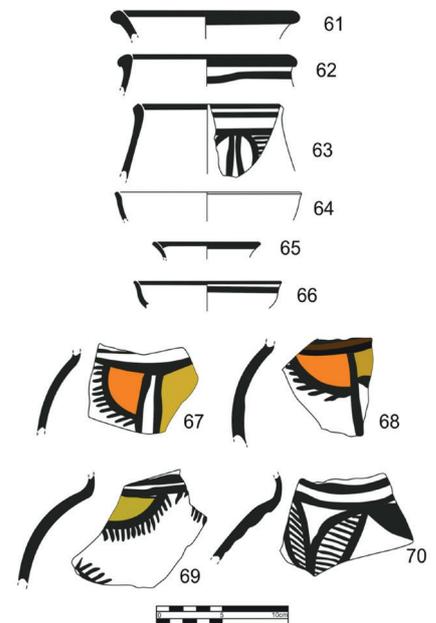
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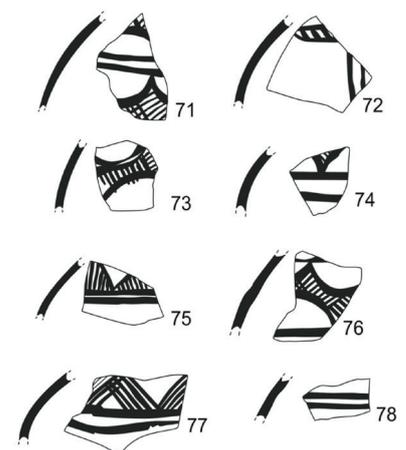
3. Distribution of Pottery on the hill, (Excavation Report, Shirazi, 2012:17)



4. Pottery Samples of Tepe Sadegh, (Excavation Report, Shirazi, 2012:46)

My archaeological research will be based on the excavated finds and the archaeological record of the site. Up to now neither the finds nor the pottery from Tepe Sadegh are studied or published. In order to be able to classify the materials according to international standards, drawings and photographs are a first condition. A special focus will be put on the systematic study of pottery industry from Tepe Sadegh. For clarifying the outstanding position of the Bronze phase of Tepe Sadegh in the pre-history of southeast of Iran and also trading role of this site in southeast of Iran and neighbor countries, I will discuss all Bronze sites of Iran and its relation to neighbor countries sites.

Achievements: A major achievement would consist by establishing the evolution of the stratigraphy, the architecture, the pottery and the chronology of the Tepe Sadegh site. Due to the exceptional rareness of study on orbital sites of Shahr-e-sokhte, Tepe Sadegh has the potential to rewrite parts of the narrative of Near and Middle East Bronze Age. Further, I propose urgent necessary research at Tepe Sadegh on remains of cultivated plants and domesticated animals. Up to now no research in this direction has been undertaken. My plan is to find interested institutions within Switzerland for further collaboration (mainly University of Basel, Institute for Integrative Prehistory and Archaeological Science).



5. Pottery Samples of Tepe Sadegh, (Excavation Report, Shirazi, 2012:47)

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