The Amuq Plain: A Millennial History of a Levantine Crossroads

Introduction

The Amuq Plain, known in classical antiquity as the "plain of Antioch" and in modern Turkish as the *Amik Ovası*, is a broad, fertile valley in the Hatay province of southern Turkey, bordering the Syrian Arab Republic.[1] For millennia, this region has served as a critical geographical and cultural nexus, a pivotal crossroads connecting the Anatolian plateau to the north, the Syro-Mesopotamian lowlands to the east, the Levant to the south, and the Mediterranean world to the west.[2] Its exceptional fertility, a product of thick alluvial soils deposited by the Orontes River and its tributaries, has supported dense and continuous human occupation since at least the 7th millennium BCE, making it one of the richest and most significant archaeological landscapes in the entire Near East.[1]

The paramount importance of the Amuq Plain in modern scholarship stems from the foundational chronological framework established there. The pioneering work of the University of Chicago's Oriental Institute in the 1930s resulted in the creation of the "Amuq Sequence," a detailed stratigraphic and ceramic typology spanning from the Neolithic to the Iron Age.[5] This sequence, designated by phases lettered A through V, has become a fundamental benchmark for dating and comparing archaeological assemblages across the Northern Levant and beyond, cementing the plain's status as a reference point for the cultural history of the wider region.[3]

This report synthesizes the vast body of research conducted in the Amuq Plain to present a comprehensive history of this storied landscape. It traces the region's long-term development, beginning with its geological formation and the establishment of the first Neolithic farming villages. It then examines the rise and fall of the great Bronze and Iron Age kingdoms that had their capitals on the plain's ancient mounds, or *tells*. Subsequently, the report details the region's dramatic transformation into the agricultural hinterland for the classical metropolis of Antioch, one of the great cities of the Roman and Byzantine Empires. Finally, it follows the plain's history through the medieval and Ottoman periods to its present-day status as a vital agricultural zone in the Republic of Turkey. By integrating evidence from geomorphology, archaeology, epigraphy, and historical texts, this analysis aims to illuminate the complex interplay of environment, culture, and politics that has defined the Amuq Plain for over eight millennia.

Table 1: The Amuq Chronological Sequence (Phases A-V)

This table provides a consolidated reference for the archaeological chronology of the Amuq

Plain, correlating the established phases with approximate dates, major historical periods, and key material culture indicators as identified at principal excavated sites.5

Amuq Phase	Approximate Dates (BCE)	Major Period	Key Material Culture Characteristics	Key Type-Sites
A	c. 6000–5500	Early Pottery Neolithic	Dark-Faced Burnished Ware (DFBW), simple coarse wares	Tell al-Judaidah, Dutlu Höyük
B	c. 5500	Middle Pottery Neolithic	Washed-Impressed Ware, continuation of DFBW	Tell al-Judaidah, Dutlu Höyük
C	c. 5500–5200	Late Pottery Neolithic	Halaf-related painted pottery	Tell Kurdu, Tell al-Judaidah
D	c. 5200–5000/4900	Early Chalcolithic	Transitional wares between Halaf and Ubaid styles	Tell Kurdu
E	c. 5000/4900–4400/4300	Middle Chalcolithic	Ubaid-related monochrome and bichrome painted wares	Tell Kurdu, Tell al-Judaidah
F	c. 4300–3500	Late Chalcolithic	Uruk-related wares, Chaff-Faced Simple Ware, arsenical copper	Tell al-Judaidah
G	c. 3500–3000	Early Bronze Age I	Wheel-made Plain Simple Ware, early tin-bronze metallurgy	Tell al-Judaidah
H	c. 3000–2800	Early Bronze Age II-III	Red-Black Burnished Ware (RBBW) / Khirbet Kerak Ware	Tell Tayinat, Tell al-Judaidah
I	c. 2800–2300	Early Bronze Age III-IVA	Continuation of RBBW, Plain Simple Wares, Ebla influence	Tell Tayinat
J	c. 2300–2000	Early Bronze Age IVB	Smeared-Wash Ware, Syrian Bottles, *Depas*	Tell Tayinat

			cups	
K	c. 2000–1800	Middle Bronze Age I	Painted wares, emergence of Alalakh	Tell Atchana
L	c. 1800–1600	Middle Bronze Age II	Syro-Cilician Painted Ware, Yamhad kingdom influence	Tell Atchana (Level VII)
M	c. 1600–1200	Late Bronze Age I-II	Nuzi Ware, Bichrome Ware, Cypriot and Mycenaean imports	Tell Atchana (Levels IV-I)
N	c. 1200–900	Iron Age I	Aegean-style painted pottery, local painted wares	Tell Tayinat, Chatal Höyük
O	c. 900–600	Iron Age II	Red-Slipped Burnished Ware, Assyrian-style pottery	Tell Tayinat, Chatal Höyük
P–V	c. 600 BCE – 600 CE	Iron III, Persian, Hellenistic, Roman	Later wares, largely unpublished from original sequence	Tell al-Judaidah

Part I: The Physical and Archaeological Landscape

Section 1.1: The Geological and Geographical Setting

The fundamental character of the Amuq Plain is a direct consequence of its dynamic geological setting. The plain is a tectonically active region, situated on the northern terminus of the Dead Sea Fault Zone (DSFZ), a major strike-slip fault system extending over 1,000 km from the Red Sea.[17] Geologically, the plain constitutes a down-faulted basin, or graben, that formed during the Late Pliocene (c. 3.6–2.6 million years ago) as a pull-apart basin between the Dead Sea Fault and the Karasu Fault.[17] This tectonic origin accounts for the region's pronounced seismicity, a recurring and often destructive force throughout its history that has

leveled cities, most notably Antioch, on multiple occasions.[17]
Topographically, the plain forms a roughly triangular expanse of approximately 500 square kilometers (190 square miles).[3] It is naturally enclosed by prominent mountain ranges: the Amanus Mountains (Turkish:
Nur Dağları) to the west and the lower Kurt Dağ mountains to the east, which create a well-defined geographical unit that often corresponded to a distinct political territory in antiquity.[17] The plain's exceptional fertility, which has made it one of Turkey's most productive agricultural regions, is derived from a thick layer of rich alluvium deposited over millennia by the floodwaters of the rivers that traverse it.[1] The soils are a complex mixture of alluvial and colluvial deposits, Terra Rossa, and basaltic soils, which have supported intensive cultivation for thousands of years.[17]
Beyond agriculture, the surrounding landscape provided a wealth of essential resources that were fundamental to the region's economic and technological development. The Amanus and Taurus Mountains were sources of high-quality timber for construction and fuel, as well as significant mineral deposits, including copper, serpentinite, and gold.[2] Access to these metal ores, in particular, played a decisive role in the Amuq's emergence as a center for metallurgical innovation from the Chalcolithic period onward.[7]

Section 1.2: Hydrology and Environment: The Orontes and the Lake of Antioch

The hydrology of the Amuq Plain is dominated by three primary river systems. The largest is the Orontes River (Turkish: *Asi Nehri*), which has its headwaters in Lebanon and enters the plain from the south. It is joined by the Kara Su river from the north and the Afrin River from the east.[2] The Orontes follows a meandering course across the southern portion of the plain before making an abrupt westward turn at Demirköprü, eventually flowing past modern Antakya to the Mediterranean Sea.[17]
Until its drainage in the mid-20th century, the central and western part of the plain was dominated by a vast freshwater lake known as the Lake of Antioch (Turkish: *Amik Gölü*).[5] At its peak, the lake covered an area of roughly 10,000 hectares and was surrounded by an additional 25,000 hectares of marshland, creating a massive wetland ecosystem.[17] This environment was a crucial habitat for hundreds of thousands of migratory birds and supported a vibrant local economy based on fishing, hunting wildfowl, pastoralism (grazing cattle and water buffalo), and harvesting reeds for construction and crafts.[17]
The physical environment of the Amuq was not a static backdrop for human history but rather an active participant, whose dynamic processes directly shaped settlement, economy, and even the survival of the archaeological record itself. Geoarchaeological investigations have revealed that the large lake of recent memory was a relatively late feature in the landscape's history.[17] Archaeological sites dating to the Bronze Age, such as AS 181, have been located deep within the former lakebed, indicating that when these settlements were occupied, the

lake was either significantly smaller or did not exist at all.[11] The major expansion of the lake and its surrounding marshes appears to have occurred much later, likely in the mid-to-late first millennium CE.[27] This expansion was not solely a natural process; it was intrinsically linked to human activity. Intensive land clearing and deforestation in the surrounding hills, particularly during the Roman period when settlement expanded into the uplands, led to massive soil erosion.[17] This surge in sedimentation choked river channels and caused the gradual aggradation of the valley floor, which in turn impeded drainage and fostered the growth of the lake and marshes.[17] This process has had a profound impact on the archaeological record, burying earlier landscapes under meters of alluvium. Hellenistic and Roman-era buildings, for instance, have been found buried beneath three meters of gravel and loam near the Amanus foothills.[27] Consequently, the visible distribution of ancient sites across the plain is a biased sample, heavily skewed by millennia of geomorphological change that has obscured many older and smaller settlements.[9] To understand the history of the Amuq, one must first account for the history of its landscape.

The modern transformation of the plain was equally dramatic. Between the 1940s and the 1970s, the Turkish State Hydraulic Works (DSİ) undertook a massive project to systematically drain the lake and its marshes to reclaim land for agriculture.[5] While this created vast tracts of highly fertile farmland, it also resulted in the complete destruction of a unique wetland ecosystem and its associated way of life.[26] The reclaimed land has since been used for intensive cultivation and major infrastructure projects, including the construction of Hatay Airport in 2007 on the former lakebed.[21]

Section 1.3: A Century of Discovery: The History of Archaeological Research

The history of archaeological inquiry in the Amuq Plain is a microcosm of the intellectual and methodological evolution of Near Eastern archaeology over the last century. From early efforts to establish cultural chronologies to modern, multi-disciplinary landscape studies, the research conducted here has consistently been at the forefront of the field.

The pioneering era of exploration began in the 1930s with the University of Chicago's "Syro-Hittite Expedition" (1932–1938).[32] Initially conceived to investigate the so-called "Syro-Hittite" kingdoms of the Iron Age, the project's scope quickly expanded.[22] The expedition's most enduring legacy from this period was the work of Robert J. Braidwood. In 1936, he conducted a groundbreaking systematic survey of the plain, identifying and cataloging 178 ancient settlement mounds (*tells*) and developing many of the surface survey techniques that became standard practice in the discipline.[1] The results were published in the seminal volume *Mounds in the Plain of Antioch: An Archeological Survey* (OIP 48).[34] The expedition also conducted excavations at several key sites, including Tell al-Judaidah, Chatal Höyük, and Tell Tayinat, which provided the stratified material for the Amuq cultural sequence (Phases A-J),

published by Robert and Linda Braidwood in
Excavations in the Plain of Antioch I (OIP 61).[5] Concurrently, the British archaeologist Sir Leonard Woolley was undertaking large-scale excavations at Tell Atchana (1936–1949), which he famously identified as the Bronze Age capital of Alalakh.[3] Together, these 1930s projects established the Amuq as a region of primary importance, defining a chronological framework that remains indispensable.
After a hiatus of several decades, research was reactivated in 1995 with the launch of the Amuq Valley Regional Projects (AVRP), a series of coordinated, interdisciplinary investigations.[1] This new phase of research represents the discipline's shift toward landscape archaeology, which focuses on understanding entire regions as dynamic systems rather than concentrating solely on major mounds. The AVRP incorporated modern technologies, including declassified Corona satellite imagery and GIS, to re-evaluate settlement patterns and map the plain's complex geomorphological history.[1] This work, particularly the geoarchaeological investigations led by Tony Wilkinson, has been instrumental in demonstrating how sedimentation and the changing size of the lake have affected the visibility of ancient sites.[3] The new surveys have more than doubled the number of known sites to nearly 400.[2] The modern era has also seen the resumption of large-scale excavations at the plain's three most important urban centers: Tell Kurdu (primarily Chalcolithic), Tell Atchana (Bronze Age), and Tell Tayinat (Early Bronze and Iron Age).[3] These new projects employ more controlled excavation methods than their predecessors, allowing for the recovery of subtle data and a critical re-evaluation of earlier conclusions, thereby refining our understanding of the plain's long and complex history.[39]

Part II: From First Villages to First Kingdoms (c. 6000–1200 BCE)

Section 2.1: The Prehistoric Sequence (Phases A-F): Neolithic and Chalcolithic Foundations

The story of settlement in the Amuq Plain begins in the Pottery Neolithic period, around 6000 BCE.[1] The earliest phases of occupation, designated Amuq A and B, are characterized by small, dispersed farming communities.[27] The signature artifact of this era is Dark-Faced Burnished Ware (DFBW), a distinctive handmade, dark-surfaced pottery that marks the beginning of the region's long ceramic sequence.[43] Even at this early stage, the inhabitants were familiar with metal, as evidenced by simple copper artifacts, likely used for ornamentation, found in Phase A contexts.[7]
The subsequent Chalcolithic, or Copper Age (Amuq Phases C-F, c. 5500–3500 BCE), was a

long and formative period of significant cultural and technological development. The plain was not isolated but was integrated into the broader cultural currents of the Near East. The pottery of Phase C shows clear affinities with the Halaf culture of northern Mesopotamia, while Phase E is dominated by Ubaid-related painted wares, indicating strong connections to the south.[7] The site of Tell Kurdu emerged as a major settlement during this time, with excavations revealing multi-room mudbrick architecture and evidence of a diverse subsistence economy based on farming wheat, barley, and chickpeas, and herding sheep, cattle, and pigs.[13]

This period was particularly crucial for technological advancement, establishing the Amuq as an incubator for metallurgical innovation. The region's development was not merely a passive reception of outside influences but was driven by local ingenuity fueled by strategic access to resources. Building on the simple copper use of the Neolithic, smiths in the Amuq progressed to more complex techniques. The evidence shows a clear and logical developmental trajectory: simple hammered copper in the earliest phases was followed by the discovery of alloying. In Phase F, smiths began producing arsenical copper, a harder and more durable metal created by deliberately mixing copper with arsenic-rich ores.[7] This technological step was a major innovation, made possible by the plain's proximity to the rich copper and other mineral sources of the nearby Taurus and Amanus Mountains, a connection confirmed by modern lead isotope analysis of ancient artifacts.[7] This multi-millennial local tradition of experimentation and resource exploitation laid the essential groundwork for the next great leap in technology: the creation of true tin-bronze in the subsequent Early Bronze Age.[7]

Section 2.2: The Early Bronze Age (Phases G-J, c. 3100-2000 BCE): Urbanization and New Peoples

The Early Bronze Age (EBA) ushered in a period of profound social and political transformation across the Near East, marked by the emergence of the first cities and state-ordered societies.[2] In the Amuq Plain, this era saw a significant shift in settlement patterns. The focus of occupation moved toward the southern part of the plain, and the site of Tell Tayinat grew to become the region's dominant urban center, a position it would hold for much of the third millennium BCE.[2]

A defining feature of the early part of this period (Amuq Phases H and I) is the appearance of a new and highly distinctive cultural assemblage. This is characterized by a handmade, highly polished ceramic known as Red-Black Burnished Ware (RBBW).[2] This pottery, also known as Khirbet Kerak Ware in the southern Levant, is part of a much wider phenomenon linked to the Kura-Araxes culture, which originated in Transcaucasia and northeastern Anatolia.[2] Its widespread appearance in the Amuq Plain suggests a significant cultural intrusion, likely representing the migration of new peoples or the powerful influence of their traditions into the region.[2]

By the mid-third millennium (EBA IVA, Amuq Phase I), the Amuq Plain was drawn into the political and economic sphere of the powerful city-state of Ebla (modern Tell Mardikh) in

Syria.[2] The spectacular royal archives unearthed at Ebla contain cuneiform tablets that refer to a city or region named
A-la-la-ḫu-um or *Alalaḫu*, which was a dependency of Ebla.[16] As the site of Tell Atchana (the later Alalakh) was not significantly occupied during this period, scholars convincingly argue that this Eblaite reference must correspond to the great EBA urban center at Tell Tayinat.[2] The texts from Ebla depict a complex relationship, with Tayinat paying tribute in silver to its overlord but also engaging in military conflict, underscoring its status as a powerful and semi-autonomous regional polity.[2]
The material culture of the final EBA phase (Amuq Phase J, c. 2300–2000 BCE), known primarily from excavations at Tell Tayinat, reflects the city's role as a major hub in interregional trade networks.[12] Alongside local Plain Simple Wares, finds include imported objects indicative of far-reaching connections, most notably a two-handled drinking cup of a type known as a *Depas Amphikypellon*, which has strong parallels in western Anatolia at sites like Troy.[2] This period also saw the culmination of the region's metallurgical prowess, with the Amuq G-J phases yielding some of the earliest known examples of true tin-bronze in the Near East.[7]

Section 2.3: The Age of Alalakh (Phases K-M, c. 2000-1200 BCE): A Vassal Kingdom at the Imperial Crossroads

At the dawn of the Middle Bronze Age (MBA), around 2000 BCE, the political geography of the Amuq Plain underwent another major shift. The primary urban center relocated from Tell Tayinat approximately 700 meters to the southeast, to the mound of Tell Atchana, which rose to prominence as the city of Alalakh.[14] For the next 800 years, Alalakh flourished as the capital of the local kingdom of Mukiš, which encompassed the Amuq Plain and its surrounding territories.[15] Throughout its history, Alalakh was a secondary power, a vassal kingdom whose fortunes were inextricably linked to the great empires that surrounded it.
Table 2: Shifting Hegemony and Urban Centers in the Amuq Plain (c. 2500–700 BCE)

Period / Amuq Phase	Dominant Amuq Center	Regional Hegemon / Major Influence	Key Evidence
EBA IV (I-J)	Tell Tayinat	Kingdom of Ebla	Eblaite cuneiform tablets mentioning *Alalaḫu* [2]
MBA II (K-L)	Tell Atchana (Alalakh)	Kingdom of Yamhad (Aleppo)	Alalakh Level VII archives; Mari tablets [14]
LBA I (M)	Tell Atchana (Alalakh)	Mitanni Empire	Inscribed statue of King Idrimi; Alalakh Level IV archives [14]
LBA II (M)	Tell Atchana (Alalakh)	Hittite Empire	Hittite administrative texts and sealings [14]

Iron I (N)	Tell Tayinat (as capital of Palistin)	(Post-Collapse Interregnum)	Hieroglyphic Luwian inscriptions of King Taita [51]
Iron II (O)	Tell Tayinat (as Kunulua)	Neo-Assyrian Empire	Assyrian annals mentioning Pattin/Unqi; Esarhaddon treaty [23]

During the MBA II (c. 1800–1650 BCE), Alalakh was a dependency of the powerful Amorite kingdom of Yamhad, centered on Aleppo.[14] The king of Yamhad granted the city to his brother, Yarim-Lim, who established a local dynasty that ruled from a magnificent palace (Level VII) containing administrative archives.[14] This prosperous phase came to a violent end around 1650 BCE with the city's destruction, an event attributed to the military campaigns of the Hittite Old Kingdom king Hattusili I.[14]

After a period of abandonment, Alalakh was re-established during the Late Bronze Age I (LBA I, c. 1500–1400 BCE) under the hegemony of the Hurrian-speaking Mitanni Empire.[4] The remarkable inscribed statue of King Idrimi, a local ruler of Alalakh, provides a detailed autobiographical account of how he, an exiled prince, regained his throne by becoming a vassal of the great Mitanni king Barattarna.[14] The palace of this period (Level IV) has yielded a wealth of cuneiform tablets and artifacts reflecting the city's renewed importance.[14]

The final chapter of Bronze Age Alalakh began in the 14th century BCE (LBA II), when the Hittite king Šuppiluliuma I decisively defeated the Mitanni Empire and incorporated all of northern Syria into the Hittite sphere of influence.[4] Alalakh became a key administrative and military outpost on the southern frontier of the Hittite Empire. Hittite officials oversaw the construction of massive fortifications, but they also integrated themselves into the city's long-standing religious traditions, co-opting the important local cult of the goddess Ishtar.[48]

The archaeological record of Alalakh paints a picture of a vibrant, cosmopolitan city, a true melting pot of the ancient world.[39] Excavations have unearthed an astonishing array of international goods: Minoan-style wall frescoes, Egyptian statuary and scarabs, Syro-Mesopotamian sculptures, and large quantities of imported pottery from Cyprus and the Mycenaean Aegean.[8] This material evidence vividly attests to Alalakh's central role in the interconnected diplomatic and trade networks of the Late Bronze Age "international age".[15]

However, this veneer of internationalism rested upon a remarkably stable and resilient local foundation. An apparent contradiction exists between the dramatic shifts in political control—from Amorite to Mitannian to Hittite—and the strong continuity observed in the local material culture, which remained predominant throughout these changes.[28] This puzzle has been largely resolved by a large-scale study combining ancient DNA and stable isotope analysis of human remains from Alalakh.[15] The results revealed a "very homogeneous gene pool," with isotopic data confirming that the overwhelming majority of the individuals sampled were of local origin and had grown up in the region.[15] This indicates that the intense international contact documented by elite goods and political texts did not translate into large-scale population movement or replacement. The cosmopolitanism of Alalakh was primarily an elite phenomenon, a network of kings, diplomats, merchants, and specialized

artisans operating above a large, stable, and culturally continuous local population. Alalakh's history thus challenges simplistic models of ancient imperialism, demonstrating how a city could be a vital node in global networks and subject to repeated foreign conquest while its core population maintained a strong and unbroken local identity.

Part III: Collapse and Rebirth: The Iron Age (c. 1200–738 BCE)

Section 3.1: A Post-Collapse Power Center (Phase N, c. 1200-900 BCE)

The widespread political and economic collapse that swept across the Eastern Mediterranean around 1200 BCE brought an end to the Late Bronze Age world order. The Hittite Empire disintegrated, and the extensive trade networks that had sustained cities like Alalakh were severely disrupted.[51] In the Amuq Plain, Alalakh was destroyed or largely abandoned, its 800-year reign as the region's capital coming to a definitive close.[14]

Yet, in the ensuing period, often characterized as a "Dark Age," the Amuq Plain did not fade into obscurity. On the contrary, it re-emerged as the heartland of a new and powerful regional kingdom.[51] The center of power shifted back to the long-dormant mound of Tell Tayinat, which grew to become the royal capital of this new entity.[51] A growing body of Hieroglyphic Luwian inscriptions, discovered at Tayinat and other sites like Aleppo, has revealed that this kingdom was known to its inhabitants as Palistin or Walastin.[51] Its rulers, such as the historically attested King Taita, adopted the titles and monumental script of the old Hittite emperors, consciously positioning themselves as the inheritors of an imperial legacy.[12]

The archaeological evidence from Iron Age I Tayinat (Amuq Phase N) reveals an affluent, complex, and culturally mixed society.[55] The material culture is not a simple continuation of past traditions but a dynamic blend of Late Bronze Age legacy and new innovations.[30] A particularly significant component of the ceramic assemblage is a locally made, painted pottery in the Aegean style (often termed Philistine Bichrome Ware), which is closely associated with the "Sea Peoples".[31] The presence of this pottery, alongside the Luwian inscriptions and local Levantine material, points to the formation of a new community composed of a Luwian-speaking elite, indigenous populations, and groups with origins in the Aegean world.[51]

Section 3.2: The Kingdom of Pattin (Phase O, c. 900-738 BCE)

In the later Iron Age (Amuq Phase O), the kingdom became known in the annals of the

expanding Neo-Assyrian Empire as Pattin (or Patina, likely a derivative of Palistin) or, in Aramaic, as Unqi.[23] Its capital city, Kunulua, is firmly identified with Tell Tayinat.[16] The kings of Pattin, continuing the traditions of their predecessors, undertook ambitious construction programs at Kunulua, transforming it into a formidable royal city.

Excavations have uncovered a monumental citadel gate complex, temples, and several large palaces built in a distinctive architectural style known as a *bit-hilani*, which features a columned portico leading to a main reception hall.[16] The city was adorned with impressive, finely carved basalt sculptures, including guardian lions, sphinxes, and colossal statues of rulers.[16] One of the most spectacular recent finds is a larger-than-life statue of an Iron Age king named Suppiluliuma, whose inscription records his military campaigns.[16]

The identity of this "Neo-Hittite" kingdom was not a simple continuation of the fallen Hittite Empire but a new, synthetic cultural and political construct forged in the crucible of the post-collapse world. The ruling elite strategically deployed the *symbols* of Hittite imperial power—royal names like Suppiluliuma, the Luwian hieroglyphic script, and monumental art styles—to project authority and claim a legitimate place in the new political landscape of the first millennium BCE.[16] However, the reality on the ground was far more complex. The material culture shows deep roots in local Late Bronze Age traditions, a significant Aegean component, and increasing Aramean influence over time, to the point that the Assyrians eventually knew the kingdom by its Aramaic-derived name, Unqi.[23] The name Palistin itself raises complex but compelling questions about a relationship with the Philistines of the southern Levantine coast.[52] The evidence suggests a process of cultural fusion, where a new Luwian-speaking elite established control over a diverse population that included indigenous Syrians, Arameans, and people of Aegean origin. The kingdom of Palistin/Pattin was thus a quintessential creation of the Iron Age, a dynamic and syncretic polity that perfectly reflected its position as a crossroads in the re-emerging Mediterranean world.

The independence of Pattin, however, was ultimately short-lived. The westward expansion of the Neo-Assyrian Empire brought it into direct conflict with the states of the Levant. Assyrian annals record the kings of Pattin paying enormous tribute in silver, gold, tin, iron, and other luxury goods to rulers like Ashurnasirpal II.[16] After decades of resistance, political intrigue, and increasing pressure, the kingdom was decisively conquered by the Assyrian king Tiglath-Pileser III in 738 BCE. Kunulua was sacked, and the Amuq Plain was annexed and reorganized as an Assyrian province.[16]

Part IV: From Imperial Hinterland to Modern Province

Section 4.1: The Plain of Antioch: A Classical Metropolis and its *Chora*

The conquest of the Persian Empire by Alexander the Great and the subsequent founding of

Antioch on the Orontes by his general, Seleucus I Nicator, in 300 BCE inaugurated a fundamental and permanent restructuring of the Amuq region.[5] For the first time in nearly three millennia, the center of political and economic power shifted away from the ancient tells within the plain to a new, purpose-built Greek metropolis founded on its southwestern edge. In this new reality, the Amuq Plain was transformed into the *chora*—the vast agricultural territory—that sustained one of the ancient world's greatest cities.[1]

Throughout the Hellenistic and Roman periods, Antioch served first as the capital of the Seleucid Empire and later as the administrative capital of the Roman province of Syria, growing to become the third-largest city in the Roman Empire, surpassed only by Rome and Alexandria.[5] The agricultural wealth of the Amuq Plain was the bedrock of this prosperity, producing the grain, olives, wine, and fruit necessary to feed a massive urban population that may have approached half a million people at its peak.[5] The old, nucleated settlement pattern centered on tells gave way to a new landscape of dispersed farms, villages, and wealthy rural estates that carpeted the valley floor and, for the first time, began to systematically colonize the surrounding hills.[19]

During the Byzantine period, Antioch maintained its status as a crucial political, military, and religious center. It was the seat of the *Comes Orientis*, the governor of the Diocese of the East, and home to one of the five ancient Patriarchates of the Christian Church.[5] The plain continued its vital role as the city's breadbasket. This era, however, was also marked by a series of calamities from which the city never fully recovered. Devastating earthquakes, such as the one in 526 CE, and repeated sacks by the Sassanian Persians, notably by Khosrau I in 540 CE, inflicted immense damage and loss of life, initiating a long period of decline.[5]

Section 4.2: A Contested Frontier: Medieval and Ottoman Periods

Following the Battle of the Iron Bridge in 637 CE, Antioch and its plain fell to the armies of the Rashidun Caliphate, beginning centuries of Islamic rule.[20] The city, known as *Anṭākiyah*, remained an important frontier fortress but its commercial and political fortunes waned. The region became a contested borderland between the Islamic world and the Byzantine Empire. The Byzantines briefly recaptured the city in 969, only to lose it to the Seljuk Turks in 1084.[5]

A new chapter began in 1098, when the armies of the First Crusade captured Antioch after a grueling eight-month siege.[20] For the next 170 years, the Amuq Plain formed the core territory of the Latin Crusader state known as the Principality of Antioch.[58] The city experienced a partial revival as a strategic and commercial hub, but its fate was sealed in 1268. In that year, the Mamluk Sultan Baibars of Egypt besieged and captured Antioch, subjecting it to a catastrophic sack that saw most of its population massacred or enslaved.[58] This event was the final, irrecoverable blow. Antioch was never rebuilt as a major city. When the Ottoman Sultan Selim I conquered the region in 1517, Antioch had been reduced to a small, insignificant town,

and the once-thriving Amuq Plain, its former hinterland, had faded into relative obscurity.[5]

Section 4.3: The Modern Amuq

The Amuq Plain remained part of the Ottoman Empire until its dissolution after World War I. The territory, then known as the Sanjak of Alexandretta, was placed under the French Mandate for Syria.[58] In 1939, following a controversial referendum, France permitted the district to be annexed by Turkey, where it was incorporated as the modern province of Hatay.[5] The 20th century brought further profound changes to the landscape and society of the plain. The most significant was the state-led drainage of the Lake of Antioch and its vast marshes between the 1940s and 1970s, which radically altered the region's ecology to create new agricultural land.[5] The mechanization of agriculture, with a heavy emphasis on cash crops like cotton and wheat, has transformed the rural economy.[5] The modern city of Antakya continues to expand over the buried ruins of ancient Antioch, while the Amuq Plain carries on its millennia-old role as a vital agricultural heartland, now deeply integrated into the economy of the Turkish Republic.[5]

Conclusion: A Synthesis of a Storied Landscape

The eight-thousand-year history of the Amuq Plain is a compelling narrative of resilience, innovation, and adaptation at one of the ancient world's most critical crossroads. Its story is not merely a sequence of cultures and empires but a complex interplay between a dynamic physical landscape, the enduring identity of its inhabitants, and the powerful external forces that repeatedly sought to control it. The plain's unique geography, defined by its fertile soils, strategic mountain passes, and vital river systems, made it a perennial prize, fostering dense settlement from the Neolithic onward.

The archaeological record reveals a region that was far more than a passive recipient of outside influence. It was a technological incubator, where a long local tradition of craft and resource exploitation led to pioneering developments in metallurgy, from early copper use to the creation of some of the world's first tin-bronzes. It was a political barometer, with the alternating fortunes of its two great capitals, Tell Tayinat and Tell Atchana, directly reflecting the rise and fall of regional hegemons like Ebla, Yamhad, Mitanni, and the Hittite and Assyrian Empires. Throughout these dramatic political shifts, the evidence suggests a remarkably stable local population that absorbed and adapted foreign influences while maintaining a strong, continuous cultural identity.

The Iron Age demonstrates this capacity for creative synthesis most vividly, as a new Luwian-speaking elite forged the powerful kingdom of Palistin/Pattin by strategically deploying the symbols of a fallen empire to legitimize their rule over a new, multi-ethnic society. The ultimate transformation of the plain from a land of capital cities to the agricultural

hinterland of Antioch marks the final and most profound restructuring of its long history. A century of archaeological research has not only illuminated this rich past but has also mirrored the evolution of the discipline itself, from the culture-historical expeditions of Braidwood and Woolley to the modern, multi-disciplinary landscape approach of the Amuq Valley Regional Projects. This legacy of scholarship provides an exceptionally deep and nuanced understanding of a single region over the *longue durée*. Today, the primary challenge is the preservation of this irreplaceable cultural heritage, as the pressures of modern agricultural development and urban expansion threaten to erase the very archaeological record that makes the Amuq Plain a treasure of world history.

Works Cited

1. [1] The Amuq Survey and Related Projects. The University of Chicago.
2. [2] Welton, L. (2011). The Amuq Plain and Tell Tayinat in the Third Millennium BCE: The Historical and Socio-Political Context. *Journal of the Canadian Society for Mesopotamian Studies*, 6, 15-27.
3. [5] ʿAmūq. (n.d.). In *Encyclopædia Britannica*.
4. [17] De Giorgi, A. U. (2016). Geomorphology of the Greater Antioch Region. In *Antioch on the Orontes: An Archaeological and Historical Guide*. Cambridge University Press.
5. [38] The Alalakh Expedition. The University of Chicago.
6. [14] Alalakh. (n.d.). In *Wikipedia*.
7. [58] Hatay Province. (n.d.). In *Wikipedia*.
8. [4] Alalakh. (n.d.). In *Turkish Archaeological News*.
9. [18] Casana, J., & Wilkinson, T. J. (2022). The Paleoclimate of the Amuq Plain and the Archaeological Settlement Index: The Assessment of the Long-term Settlement Dynamics Throughout the Holocene. *ResearchGate*.
10. [35] The Amuq Survey and Related Projects. The University of Chicago.
11. [6] Mallowan, M. E. L. (1963). The 'Amuq Plain. *Antiquity*, 37(147), 185–192.
12. [3] Amuq Valley Regional Project (AVRP). (n.d.). *Alalakh Excavations*.
13. [32] Braidwood, R. J., & Braidwood, L. S. (1960). *Excavations in the Plain of Antioch I: The Earlier Assemblages, Phases A-J* (OIP 61). The University of Chicago.

14. [34] Braidwood, R. J. (1937).
Mounds in the Plain of Antioch: An Archeological Survey (OIP 48). The University of Chicago.
15. [39] Yener, K. A. (2004). Amuq Valley Regional Projects.
The Oriental Institute 2003–2004 Annual Report. The University of Chicago.
16. [41] The Tell Tayinat Archaeological Project. (n.d.). University of Toronto, Department of Near & Middle Eastern Civilizations.
17. [64] Tayinat Archaeological Project. (n.d.). University of Toronto.
18. [59] Tayinat Archaeological Project (TAP) Online. (2012).
Ancient World Online.
19. [16] Tell Tayinat. (n.d.). In
Wikipedia.
20. [11] Harrison, T. P. (1999). The 1999 Amuq Valley Regional Project Survey.
Unpublished Report.
21. [12] Welton, L., Batiuk, S., & Harrison, T. P. (2014). Revisiting the Amuq sequence: a preliminary investigation of the EBIVB ceramic assemblage from Tell Tayinat.
Levant, 46(3), 339-370.
22. [46] Edwards, S. (2019).
Ebla's Hegemony and Its Impact on the Archaeology of the Amuq Plain in the Third Millennium BCE (Doctoral dissertation, University of Toronto).
23. [65] Pucci, M. (2019).
Excavations in the Plain of Antioch III: Stratigraphy, Pottery, and Small Finds from Chatal Höyük in the Amuq Plain (OIP 143). The University of Chicago.
24. [50] Yener, K. A. (2017). The Social and Political Importance of Cult and Ritual at Alalakh during the Hittite Period. In
La Syrie et ses voisins à l'âge du Bronze. OpenEdition Books.
25. [48] Late Bronze Age II (1400-1300 BC). (n.d.).
Alalakh Excavations.
26. [15] Skourtanioti, E., et al. (2020). Genomic History of the Bronze Age Southern Levant.
Cell, 181(5), 1146-1157.
27. [51] Harrison, T. P. (2019). Neo-Hittites in the Land of Palistin: Renewed investigations at Tell Ta'yinat on the Plain of Antioch.
ResearchGate.
28. [56] The Toronto Expedition. (n.d.).
Tayinat Archaeological Project.
29. [52] Palistin. (n.d.). In
Wikipedia.
30. [21] Amik Ovası. (n.d.).
Reyhanlı Kaymakamlığı.
31. [23] Amik Ovası. (n.d.). In
Wikipedia (Turkish).

32. [25] Amik Gölü. (n.d.). In
Wikipedia (Turkish).
33. [26] Atahan, M. (2002). Amik Gölü'nün Kültürel Ekolojisi.
Dergipark.
34. [66] Akar, M. (2018). Amik Ovası M.Ö. 2. Binyıl Yerleşimleri ve Seramikleri.
Dergipark.
35. [49] Akar, M. (2021). Mukiş Krallığı'nın Başkenti Aççana Höyük (Eski Alalah Kenti) Çok Yönlü Arkeolojik Araştırmaları.
Mustafa Kemal Üniversitesi.
36. [1] The Amuq Survey and Related Projects. The University of Chicago.
37. [42] Tell Kurdu Höyüğü. (n.d.). In
Wikipedia (Turkish).
38. [67] Tell Tayinat. (n.d.).
TAY Project.
39. [68] Tell Tayinat. (n.d.).
TAY Project.
40. [61] Tell Tayinat. (n.d.). In
Wikipedia (Turkish).
41. [32] OIP 61. Excavations in the Plain of Antioch I: The Earlier Assemblages Phases A-J. The University of Chicago.
42. [69] Braidwood, L. S. (1960). Excavations in the Plain of Antioch 1. the earlier assemblages, phases A-J.
Archive of Mesopotamian Archaeological Reports (AMAR), 560.
43. [37] Pucci, M. (2019).
Excavations in the Plain of Antioch III (OIP 143). The University of Chicago.
44. [70] Dodd, L. S. (2019). Digital Archaeology and the Oriental Institute's OCHRE Data Service.
Austrian Academy of Sciences.
45. [34] OIP 48. Mounds in the Plain of Antioch: An Archeological Survey. The University of Chicago.
46. [36] Braidwood's Amuq Survey Volume Online at the OI. (2010).
Ancient World Online.
47. [71] Braidwood, R. J. (1937). Mounds in the plain of Antioch: an archeological survey.
Archive of Mesopotamian Archaeological Reports (AMAR), 563.
48. [22] Braidwood, R. J. (1937).
Mounds in the Plain of Antioch: An Archeological Survey (OIP 48). The University of Chicago.
49. [13] Tell Kurdu Excavations. (n.d.). The University of Chicago.
50. [72] Özbal, R. (2018). The Neolithic of the Amuq Valley.
Austrian Academy of Sciences.
51. [7] Yener, K. A. (1996). The Amuq Valley Regional Project, 1995.

The Oriental Institute 1995–1996 Annual Report. The University of Chicago.
52. [73] Özbal, R. (2010).
The emergence of pottery in West Asia. (Doctoral dissertation, METU).
53. [54] Knapp, A. B., & Manning, S. W. (2016). Crisis in Context: The End of the Late Bronze Age in the Eastern Mediterranean.
American Journal of Archaeology, 120(1), 99-149.
54. [31] Yener, K. A. (1998). Amuq Valley Regional Project.
The Oriental Institute 1997–1998 Annual Report. The University of Chicago.
55. [74] Chalcolithic. (n.d.). In
Wikipedia.
56. [75] Chalcolithic Europe. (n.d.). In
Wikipedia.
57. [27] Gerritsen, F., & Özbal, R. (2008). Settlement and Landscape Transformations in the Amuq Valley, Hatay.
ResearchGate.
58. [76] Joglekar, P. P. (2015). Crafts and Technologies of the Chalcolithic People of South Asia: An Overview.
Indian Journal of History of Science, 50(1), 42-54.
59. [28] Tell Atchana/Alalakh. (n.d.).
University of Tübingen.
60. [14] Alalakh. (n.d.). In
Wikipedia.
61. [15] Skourtanioti, E., et al. (2020). Genomic History of the Bronze Age Southern Levant.
Cell, 181(5), 1146-1157.
62. [47] Middle Bronze Age I (2000-1800 BC). (n.d.).
Alalakh Excavations.
63. [3] Amuq Valley Regional Project (AVRP). (n.d.).
Alalakh Excavations.
64. [53] Tell Ta'yinat. (n.d.). The University of Chicago.
65. [16] Tell Tayinat. (n.d.). In
Wikipedia.
66. [57] Harrison, T. P. (2021). The Iron Age I–II Transition in the Northern Levant.
Journal of Ancient Near Eastern Religions, 21(2), 325-353.
67. [77] Pucci, M. (2023). Storage and Food Control in the 'Amuq from the Late Bronze to the Iron Age.
ResearchGate.
68. [30] Pucci, M. (2019). The Iron Age I–II in the Amuq.
Austrian Academy of Sciences.
69. [39] Yener, K. A. (2004). Amuq Valley Regional Projects.
The Oriental Institute 2003–2004 Annual Report. The University of Chicago.
70. [2] Welton, L. (2011). The Amuq Plain and Tell Tayinat in the Third Millennium BCE.

Journal of the Canadian Society for Mesopotamian Studies, 6, 15-27.
71. [19] De Giorgi, A. U. (2016). The plain of Antioch and the Amuq Valley. In *Ancient Antioch*. Cambridge University Press.
72. [62] The Lost City of Antioch. (2020). *YouTube*.
73. [78] Antiochene Studies. (n.d.). *Brepols*.
74. [63] Ersoy, Z. (2020). French Travelers and Ottoman Antioch. *Journal of the European Architectural History Network*, 12(1).
75. [20] Antioch. (n.d.). In *Wikipedia*.
76. [23] Amik Ovası. (n.d.). In *Wikipedia (Turkish)*.
77. [26] Atahan, M. (2002). Amik Gölü'nün Kültürel Ekolojisi. *Dergipark*.
78. [21] Amik Ovası. (n.d.). *Reyhanlı Kaymakamlığı*.
79. [79] Yılmaz, E., & Avdan, U. (2022). 1980 Yılı Amik Ovası Taşkınının Tarihi Uydu Görüntüleri ile İncelenmesi. *Dergipark*.
80. [80] Amik Valley. (n.d.). In *Wikipedia*.
81. [69] Braidwood, L. S. (1960). Excavations in the Plain of Antioch 1. the earlier assemblages, phases A-J. *Archive of Mesopotamian Archaeological Reports (AMAR)*, 560.
82. [32] OIP 61. Excavations in the Plain of Antioch I: The Earlier Assemblages Phases A-J. The University of Chicago.
83. [43] Al-Maqdissi, M. (2022). Tell al-Sour (Homs, Syria): The Pottery Assemblage of Strata B2 (Area P) from the Sixth Millennium bc. *Syria*, 99, 1-28.
84. [81] Braidwood, L. S. (1960). Bibliography. *ResearchGate*.
85. [82] Pucci, M. (2019). Bibliography. *SMEA*.
86. [19] De Giorgi, A. U. (2016). The plain of Antioch and the Amuq Valley. In *Ancient Antioch*. Cambridge University Press.
87. [36] Braidwood's Amuq Survey Volume Online at the OI. (2010). *Ancient World Online*.
88. [34] OIP 48. Mounds in the Plain of Antioch: An Archeological Survey. The University of Chicago.
89. [71] Braidwood, R. J. (1937). Mounds in the plain of Antioch: an archeological survey.

Archive of Mesopotamian Archaeological Reports (AMAR), 563.

90. [65] Pucci, M. (2019).
Excavations in the Plain of Antioch III (OIP 143). The University of Chicago.
91. [7] Yener, K. A. (1996). The Amuq Valley Regional Project, 1995.
The Oriental Institute 1995–1996 Annual Report. The University of Chicago.
92. [83] Iamoni, M. (2016). The Land of Nineveh Archaeological Project: The Ceramic Repertoire from the Early Pottery Neolithic to the Sasanian Period.
ResearchGate.
93. [84] Todd, I. A. (1987). The Chalcolithic Period in the Vasilikos Valley.
Getty Publications.
94. [85] Balbo, A., et al. (2014). First results of the new archaeological project at Tell Qarassa North (Sweida, southern Syria).
Paléorient, 40(1), 93-108.
95. [44] Nieuwenhuyse, O. P., et al. (2018). Painting, Polishing and Firing Pottery in the Neolithic of the Near East.
Levant, 50(3), 261-289.
96. [29] Wilkinson, T. J. (2005). Introduction. In
The Amuq Valley Regional Projects, Volume 1 (OIP 131). The University of Chicago.
97. [2] Welton, L. (2011). The Amuq Plain and Tell Tayinat in the Third Millennium BCE.
Journal of the Canadian Society for Mesopotamian Studies, 6, 15-27.
98. [86] Welton, L. (2019). Northern Levantine Spheres of Interaction: The Role of the Amuq in the Late Chalcolithic and Early Bronze Age.
University of Toronto.
99. [87] Gates, M.-H. (2013). The Early Bronze Age at Kinet Höyük.
Peeters Online Journals.
100. [88] Friedman, E. (1996). Technological Style in Early Bronze Age Anatolia.
Dissertation Proposal, The University of Chicago.
101. [24] Harrison, T. P. (2018). The Metals Trade and Early Bronze Age Craft Production at Tell Tayinat. In
Overturning Certainties in Near Eastern Archaeology. Brill.
102. [8] Pucci, M. (2019). The Iron Age I–II in the Amuq.
Austrian Academy of Sciences.
103. [60] Osborne, J. F. (2017). Exploring the Lower Settlements of Iron Age Capitals in Anatolia and Syria.
Antiquity, 91(357), 693-709.
104. [53] Tell Ta'yinat. (n.d.). The University of Chicago.
105. [55] Harrison, T. P. (2019). Shifting Networks and Community Identity at Tell Tayinat in the Iron I.
American Journal of Archaeology, 123(2), 291-329.
106. [89] Manning, S. W., et al. (2020). Beyond megadrought and collapse in the Northern Levant.

PLOS ONE, 15(10), e0240799.

107. [16] Tell Tayinat. (n.d.). In
Wikipedia.

108. [9] Yener, K. A., et al. (2000). The Amuq Valley Regional Project, 1995-1998.
American Journal of Archaeology, 104(2), 163-220.

109. [90] Cooper, J. S. (2020). Ancient Egypt and the Near East.
Oxford Research Encyclopedia of African History.

110. [45] Yener, K. A. (1995). Amuq Valley Regional Project.
The Oriental Institute News & Notes, 148.

111. [91] The Amuq Valley Regional Project 1995-1998. (n.d.).
ETANA.

112. [92] Mellaart, J. (1971). Anatolia, c. 4000-2300 B.C. In
The Cambridge Ancient History. Cambridge University Press.

113. [93] Sitting at the Crossroads: Cilicia in the Iron Age. (n.d.).
ArcGIS StoryMaps.

114. [6] Mallowan, M. E. L. (1963). The 'Amuq Plain.
Antiquity, 37(147), 185–192.

115. [10] Robert J. Braidwood. (n.d.). In
Encyclopædia Britannica.

116. [33] Rizk Allah, W. W. (2021). Robert Braidwood and his Prehistoric Projects.
Journal of the Faculty of Archaeology, Cairo University.

117. [94] Braidwood, R., & Braidwood, L. (1960). Excavations in the Plain of Antioch I.
ORBi.

118. [3] Amuq Valley Regional Project (AVRP). (n.d.).
Alalakh Excavations.

119. [40] Gerritsen, F., & Özbal, R. (2008). Settlement and Landscape Transformations in the Amuq Valley, Hatay.
ResearchGate.

120. [95] Amiran, R. (1964). Review of
The Cambridge Ancient History. *American Historical Review*, 69(2), 417-418.

121. [69] Braidwood, L. S. (1960). Excavations in the Plain of Antioch 1. the earlier assemblages, phases A-J.
Archive of Mesopotamian Archaeological Reports (AMAR), 560.

122. [32] OIP 61. Excavations in the Plain of Antioch I: The Earlier Assemblages Phases A-J. The University of Chicago.

123. [96]
Excavations in the plain of Antioch 1, The earlier assemblages phases A. J. (1960).
Sudoc.

124. [37] Pucci, M. (2019).
Excavations in the Plain of Antioch III (OIP 143). The University of Chicago.

125. [97]

The Cambridge Encyclopedia of Archaeology. (1980). *Archive.org*.

126. [98] Oriental Institute Publications (OIP). (n.d.). The University of Chicago.
127. Inaccessible Source.
128. Inaccessible Source.
129. Inaccessible Source.
130. Inaccessible Source.
131. Inaccessible Source.
132. Inaccessible Source.
133. Inaccessible Source.
134. Inaccessible Source.
135. Inaccessible Source.
136. Inaccessible Source.
137. Inaccessible Source.
138. Inaccessible Source.
139. Inaccessible Source.
140. Inaccessible Source.
141. Inaccessible Source.
142. Inaccessible Source.
143. Inaccessible Source.
144. Inaccessible Source.
145. Inaccessible Source.
146. Inaccessible Source.

Works cited

1. The Amuq Survey and Related Projects | Institute for the Study of ..., accessed August 13, 2025, https://isac.uchicago.edu/research/projects/amuq-survey-and-related-projects
2. The Amuq Plain and Tell Tayinat in the Third Millennium BCE - University of Toronto, accessed August 13, 2025, http://sites.utoronto.ca/tap/assets/welton_csms-2011.pdf
3. AMUQ VALLEY REGIONAL PROJECT - Alalakh, accessed August 13, 2025, https://www.alalakh.org/amuq-valley-regional-project-avrp/
4. Alalakh | Turkish Archaeological News, accessed August 13, 2025, https://turkisharchaeonews.net/site/alalakh
5. ʿAmūq | Middle East, Syria, Plain - Britannica, accessed August 13, 2025, https://www.britannica.com/place/Amuq
6. The 'Amuq Plain | Antiquity | Cambridge Core, accessed August 13, 2025, https://www.cambridge.org/core/journals/antiquity/article/amuq-plain/0C002E27F1B6A738DBD8A2FD992434E8
7. AMUQ VALLEY PROJECTS - Institute for the Study of Ancient Cultures, accessed August 13, 2025, https://isac.uchicago.edu/sites/default/files/uploads/shared/docs/ar/91-00/95-96/95-96_Amuq.pdf

8. The Amuq Region during the Iron Age I–II: Formation, Organisation and Development of a Community, accessed August 13, 2025, https://austriaca.at/0xc1aa5572%200x003bca5c.pdf
9. The Amuq Valley Regional Project, 1995-1998 | Request PDF - ResearchGate, accessed August 13, 2025, https://www.researchgate.net/publication/269982187_The_Amuq_Valley_Regional_Project_1995-1998
10. Robert J. Braidwood | American anthropologist - Britannica, accessed August 13, 2025, https://www.britannica.com/biography/Robert-J-Braidwood
11. the 1999 amuq valley regional project survey - University of Toronto, accessed August 13, 2025, http://sites.utoronto.ca/tap/assets/1999amuqregionalsurvey.pdf
12. Revisiting the Amuq sequence: a preliminary investigation of the EBIVB ceramic assemblage from Tell Tayinat - ResearchGate, accessed August 13, 2025, https://www.researchgate.net/publication/286684004_Revisiting_the_Amuq_sequence_a_preliminary_investigation_of_the_EBIVB_ceramic_assemblage_from_Tell_Tayinat
13. Tell Kurdu Excavations: | Institute for the Study of Ancient Cultures, accessed August 13, 2025, https://isac.uchicago.edu/research/projects/tell-kurdu-excavations
14. Alalakh - Wikipedia, accessed August 13, 2025, https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Alalakh
15. Human mobility at Tell Atchana (Alalakh), Hatay, Turkey during the 2nd millennium BC: Integration of isotopic and genomic evidence - PubMed Central, accessed August 13, 2025, https://pmc.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/articles/PMC8244877/
16. Tell Tayinat - Wikipedia, accessed August 13, 2025, https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Tell_Tayinat
17. The Geomorphology of the Greater Antioch Region (Chapter 2) - Cambridge University Press, accessed August 13, 2025, https://www.cambridge.org/core/books/antioch-on-the-orontes/geomorphology-of-the-greater-antioch-region/ED22E8AB175406A386F3FEA16EE438C9
18. (PDF) The Paleoclimate of the Amuq Plain and the Archaeological Settlement Index: The Assessment of the Long-term Settlement Dynamics Throughout the Holocene - ResearchGate, accessed August 13, 2025, https://www.researchgate.net/publication/366426629_The_Paleoclimate_of_the_Amuq_Plain_and_the_Archaeological_Settlement_Index_The_Assessment_of_the_Long-term_Settlement_Dynamics_Throughout_the_Holocene
19. The plain of Antioch and the Amuq Valley (Chapter Three) - Ancient ..., accessed August 13, 2025, https://www.cambridge.org/core/books/ancient-antioch/plain-of-antioch-and-the-amuq-valley/ED72CBEDA5CC45955FEFEF9B525E5CA8
20. Antioch - Wikipedia, accessed August 13, 2025, https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Antioch
21. Amik Ovası - T.C. Reyhanlı Kaymakamlığı, accessed August 13, 2025, http://www.reyhanli.gov.tr/amik-ovasi
22. UNIVERSITYf PENNSYLVANIA LIBRARIES, accessed August 13, 2025,

https://isac.uchicago.edu/sites/default/files/uploads/shared/docs/oip48.pdf
23. Amik Ovası - Vikipedi, accessed August 13, 2025, https://tr.wikipedia.org/wiki/Amik_Ovas%C4%B1
24. Chatper 4 The Metals Trade and Early Bronze Age Craft Production at Tell Tayinat in - Brill, accessed August 13, 2025, https://brill.com/view/book/edcoll/9789004353572/B9789004353572_004.xml
25. Amik Gölü - Vikipedi, accessed August 13, 2025, https://tr.wikipedia.org/wiki/Amik_G%C3%B6l%C3%BC
26. AMİK GÖLÜ'NÜN KÜLTÜREL EKOLOJİSİ (Cultural Ecology of Lake Amik) - DergiPark, accessed August 13, 2025, https://dergipark.org.tr/tr/download/article-file/3152
27. Settlement and Landscape Transformations in the Amuq Valley, Hatay. A Long-Term Perspective Introduction - CORE, accessed August 13, 2025, https://core.ac.uk/download/pdf/149241545.pdf
28. Late Bronze Age Tell Atchana - Universität Tübingen, accessed August 13, 2025, https://uni-tuebingen.de/fakultaeten/mathematisch-naturwissenschaftliche-fakultaet/fachbereiche/geowissenschaften/arbeitsgruppen/urgeschichte-naturwissenschaftliche-archaeologie/ina/archaeobotanik/forschung/tell-atchana/
29. oriental institute publications • no. 131, accessed August 13, 2025, https://isac.uchicago.edu/sites/default/files/uploads/shared/docs/OIP_131.pdf
30. The Amuq Region during the Iron Age I–II: Formation, Organisation and Development of a Community - FLORE, accessed August 13, 2025, https://flore.unifi.it/retrieve/e398c37f-c294-179a-e053-3705fe0a4cff/07_Pucci.pdf
31. AMUQ VALLEY REGIONAL PROJECT, accessed August 13, 2025, https://oi.uchicago.edu/sites/default/files/uploads/shared/docs/ar/91-00/97-98/97-98_Amuq.pdf
32. OIP 61. Excavations in the Plain of Antioch I: The Earlier Assemblages Phases A-J, accessed August 13, 2025, https://isac.uchicago.edu/research/publications/oip/oip-61-excavations-plain-antioch-i-earlier-assemblages-phases-j
33. 1909 : 2003 - EKB, accessed August 13, 2025, https://aafu.journals.ekb.eg/article_280563_4a20010ebeeff2c45e2b6f22edbc6188.pdf
34. OIP 48. Mounds in the Plain of Antioch: An Archeological Survey, accessed August 13, 2025, https://isac.uchicago.edu/research/publications/oip/oip-48-mounds-plain-antioch-archeological-survey
35. isac.uchicago.edu, accessed August 13, 2025, https://isac.uchicago.edu/research/projects/amuq-survey-and-related-projects#:~:text=From%201932%20to%201938%2C%20Robert,team%20discovered%20178%20ancient%20settlements.
36. AWOL - The Ancient World Online: May 2010, accessed August 13, 2025, http://ancientworldonline.blogspot.com/2010/05/
37. PLAIN OF ANTIOCH - ResearchGate, accessed August 13, 2025,

https://www.researchgate.net/profile/Marina-Pucci/publication/333001103_OIP143_Excavations_Plain_Antioch_part_1_cover/links/5cd58b8b299bf14d9589358f/OIP143-Excavations-Plain-Antioch-part-1-cover.pdf
38. The Alalakh Expedition | Institute for the Study of Ancient Cultures, accessed August 13, 2025, https://isac.uchicago.edu/research/projects/alalakh-expedition
39. AMUQ VALLEY REGIONAL PROJECTS, accessed August 13, 2025, https://isac.uchicago.edu/sites/default/files/uploads/shared/docs/03-04_Amuq.pdf
40. Settlement and Landscape Transformations in the Amuq Valley, Hatay - ResearchGate, accessed August 13, 2025, https://www.researchgate.net/publication/250138513_Settlement_and_Landscape_Transformations_in_the_Amuq_Valley_Hatay
41. The Tell Tayinat Archaeological Project | Department of Near & Middle Eastern Civilizations, accessed August 13, 2025, https://www.nmc.utoronto.ca/research/research-publications/research-projects/tell-tayinat-archaeological-project
42. Tell Kurdu Höyüğü - Vikipedi, accessed August 13, 2025, https://tr.wikipedia.org/wiki/Tell_Kurdu_H%C3%B6y%C3%BC%C4%9F%C3%BC
43. Tell al-Sour Late Neolithic (Homs region 6000–5500 bc) - OpenEdition Journals, accessed August 13, 2025, https://journals.openedition.org/syria/15055?lang=en
44. Full article: Investigating Late Neolithic ceramics in the northern Levant: the view from Shir, accessed August 13, 2025, https://www.tandfonline.com/doi/full/10.1080/00758914.2018.1453213
45. THE AMUQ VALLEY PROJECTS, 1995 - Institute for the Study of Ancient Cultures, accessed August 13, 2025, https://isac.uchicago.edu/sites/default/files/uploads/shared/docs/nn148.pdf
46. Ebla's Hegemony and Its Impact on the Archaeology of the Amuq Plain in the Third Millennium BCE, accessed August 13, 2025, https://utoronto.scholaris.ca/server/api/core/bitstreams/e106520a-7e27-4113-a732-2ca859ba16b2/content
47. MIDDLE BRONZE AGE I (2000-1800 BC) - Alalakh - Tell Atchana, accessed August 13, 2025, https://www.alalakh.org/middle-bronze-age-i/
48. LATE BRONZE AGE II (1400-1300 BC) - Alalakh, accessed August 13, 2025, https://www.alalakh.org/late-bronze-age-ii/
49. Mukiş Krallığı'nın Başkenti Aççana Höyük, Eski Alalah Kenti Çok Yönlü Arkeolojik Araştırmaları: Yeni Sorular, Yeni Sonuçlar - Akademik Veri Yönetim Sistemi, accessed August 13, 2025, https://avesis.mku.edu.tr/yayin/d62c2093-a7fc-4118-9b07-29eebf78a4e5/mukis-kralliginin-baskenti-accana-hoyuk-eski-alalah-kenti-cok-yonlu-arkeolojik-arastirmalari-yeni-sorular-yeni-sonuclar
50. Cult and Ritual at Late Bronze Age II Alalakh: Hybridity and Power under Hittite Administration - OpenEdition Books, accessed August 13, 2025, https://books.openedition.org/ifeagd/3548
51. Neo-Hittites in the "Land of Palistin": Renewed investigations at tell ..., accessed August 13, 2025,

https://www.researchgate.net/publication/285718053_Neo-Hittites_in_the_Land_of_Palistin_Renewed_investigations_at_tell_ta'yinat_on_the_plain_of_antioch
52. Palistin - Wikipedia, accessed August 13, 2025, https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Palistin
53. Tell Ta'yinat | Institute for the Study of Ancient Cultures - The University of Chicago, accessed August 13, 2025, https://isac.uchicago.edu/research/projects/amuq/tell-tayinat
54. THE IRON AGE POTTERY FROM ALALAKH/TELL ATCHANA: A, accessed August 13, 2025, https://livrepository.liverpool.ac.uk/3022477/1/201055609_Feb2018.pdf
55. Shifting Networks and Community Identity at Tell Tayinat in the Iron I (ca. 12th to Mid 10th Century B.C.E.) | American Journal of Archaeology: Vol 123, No 2, accessed August 13, 2025, https://www.journals.uchicago.edu/doi/full/10.3764%2Faja.123.2.0291
56. The Toronto Expedition - Tayinat Archaeological Project -, accessed August 13, 2025, https://tayinat.artsci.utoronto.ca/the-toronto-expedition/
57. The Iron Age I–II Transition in the Northern Levant: An Emerging Consensus? - Tayinat Archaeological Project - - University of Toronto, accessed August 13, 2025, https://tayinat.artsci.utoronto.ca/wp-content/uploads/2021/11/Harrison_JJAR_1_2021.pdf
58. Hatay Province - Wikipedia, accessed August 13, 2025, https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Hatay_Province
59. Tayinat Archaeological Project Online, accessed August 13, 2025, http://ancientworldonline.blogspot.com/2012/09/tayinat-archaeological-project-online.html
60. Exploring the lower settlements of Iron Age capitals in Anatolia and Syria | Antiquity, accessed August 13, 2025, https://www.cambridge.org/core/journals/antiquity/article/exploring-the-lower-settlements-of-iron-age-capitals-in-anatolia-and-syria/EE969C5E60D9772EB23687B81CB97660
61. Tell Tayinat - Vikipedi, accessed August 13, 2025, https://tr.wikipedia.org/wiki/Tell_Tayinat
62. Antioch: the Forgotten Rome of the East - YouTube, accessed August 13, 2025, https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=JMPrxUdMpRE
63. À La Recherche De L'Espace Perdu: Architecture, Urban Fabric, and French Travelers to Antioch (1784–1914), accessed August 13, 2025, https://journal.eahn.org/article/id/7527/
64. Tayinat Archaeological Project -, accessed August 13, 2025, https://tayinat.artsci.utoronto.ca/
65. PLAIN OF ANTIOCH - FLORE, accessed August 13, 2025, https://flore.unifi.it/retrieve/e398c380-cc7f-179a-e053-3705fe0a4cff/OIP%20143%20Excavations_in_Antioch%20part%201.pdf
66. AMİSOS / AMISOS - DergiPark, accessed August 13, 2025, https://dergipark.org.tr/tr/download/article-file/509314
67. TAY-Yerlesme Dönem Ayrıntıları, accessed August 13, 2025,

http://tayproject.org/TAYages.fm$Retrieve?CagNo=9109&html=ages_detail_t.html&layout=web
68. TAY-Yerlesme Dönem Ayrıntıları, accessed August 13, 2025, http://www.tayproject.org/TAYages.fm$Retrieve?CagNo=2891&html=ages_detail_t.html&layout=web
69. Excavations in the Plain of Antioch 1. the earlier assemblages, phases A-J - Academic Commons, accessed August 13, 2025, https://commons.library.stonybrook.edu/amar/560/
70. Unlocking Legacy Data: Integrating New and Old in OCHRE, accessed August 13, 2025, https://www.austriaca.at/0xc1aa5572%200x003bca70.pdf
71. Mounds in the plain of Antioch: an archeological survey, accessed August 13, 2025, https://commons.library.stonybrook.edu/amar/563/
72. 5. The Amuq C Culture, accessed August 13, 2025, https://austriaca.at/0xc1aa5576_0x003c0582.pdf
73. the social and symbolic role of early pottery in the near east, accessed August 13, 2025, https://etd.lib.metu.edu.tr/upload/12623432/index.pdf
74. Chalcolithic - Wikipedia, accessed August 13, 2025, https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Chalcolithic
75. Chalcolithic Europe - Wikipedia, accessed August 13, 2025, https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Chalcolithic_Europe
76. Crafts and Technologies of the Chalcolithic People of South Asia: An Overview, accessed August 13, 2025, https://www.researchgate.net/publication/276883644_Crafts_and_Technologies_of_the_Chalcolithic_People_of_South_Asia_An_Overview
77. Fig. 2. Late Bronze Age/Iron Age transitional levels in the 'Amuq sites... - ResearchGate, accessed August 13, 2025, https://www.researchgate.net/figure/Late-Bronze-Age-Iron-Age-transitional-levels-in-the-Amuq-sites-with-evidence-of-grain_fig2_368952830
78. Series - Antiochene Studies - Brepols Publishers, accessed August 13, 2025, https://www.brepols.net/series/ANT
79. (PDF) 1980 YILI AMİK OVASI TAŞKININ TARİHİ UYDU GÖRÜNTÜLERİ İLE İNCELENMESİ - ResearchGate, accessed August 13, 2025, https://www.researchgate.net/publication/368575139_1980_YILI_AMIK_OVASI_TASKININ_TARIHI_UYDU_GORUNTULERI_ILE_INCELENMESI
80. Amik Valley - Wikipedia, accessed August 13, 2025, https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Amik_Valley
81. PDF - DergiPark, accessed August 13, 2025, https://dergipark.org.tr/tr/download/article-file/4990514
82. STUDI MICENEI ED EGEO-ANATOLICI - FLORE, accessed August 13, 2025, https://flore.unifi.it/retrieve/e398c380-ff75-179a-e053-3705fe0a4cff/2019%20Pucci%20SMEA.pdf
83. (PDF) The Land of Nineveh Archaeological Project: The Ceramic Repertoire from the Early Pottery Neolithic to the Sasanian Period - ResearchGate, accessed August 13, 2025, https://www.researchgate.net/publication/303094098_The_Land_of_Nineveh_Arc

haeological_Project_The_Ceramic_Repertoire_from_the_Early_Pottery_Neolithic_to_the_Sasanian_Period
84. Chalcolithic Cyprus - Getty Museum, accessed August 13, 2025, https://www.getty.edu/publications/resources/virtuallibrary/0892362073.pdf
85. From the Natufian to the Chalcolithic in Southern Syria: The Qarassa archaeological evidence - OpenEdition Journals, accessed August 13, 2025, https://journals.openedition.org/paleorient/537
86. Northern Levantine Spheres of Interaction: The Role of the Amuq in the Late Chalcolithic and Early Bronze Age | Department of Near & Middle Eastern Civilizations - University of Toronto, accessed August 13, 2025, https://www.nmc.utoronto.ca/research-publications/faculty-publications/northern-levantine-spheres-interaction-role-amuq-late
87. PEETERS ONLINE JOURNALS, accessed August 13, 2025, https://poj.peeters-leuven.be/content.php?id=3289556&url=article
88. Technological Style in Early Bronze Age Anatolia | Institute for the Study of Ancient Cultures, accessed August 13, 2025, https://isac.uchicago.edu/research/research-archives-library/dissertations/dissertation-proposals/technological-style-early
89. Beyond megadrought and collapse in the Northern Levant: The chronology of Tell Tayinat and two historical inflection episodes, around 4.2ka BP, and following 3.2ka BP | PLOS One, accessed August 13, 2025, https://journals.plos.org/plosone/article?id=10.1371/journal.pone.0240799
90. Ancient Egypt and Southwest Asia | Oxford Research Encyclopedia, accessed August 13, 2025, https://oxfordre.com/africanhistory/display/10.1093/acrefore/9780190277734.001.0001/acrefore-9780190277734-e-1199?p=emailAObtPPa.cwa/k&d=/10.1093/acrefore/9780190277734.001.0001/acrefore-9780190277734-e-1199
91. The Amuq Valley Regional Project 1995-1998 | ETANA, accessed August 13, 2025, https://etana.org/node/3997
92. CHAPTER XVIII - Cambridge University Press, accessed August 13, 2025, https://resolve.cambridge.org/core/services/aop-cambridge-core/content/view/83E33EBE7C965659965F1D288C2BF97E/9781139054256c18_p363-416_CBO.pdf/anatolia_c_40002300_bc.pdf
93. Sitting at the Crossroads: Cilicia in the Iron Age - ArcGIS StoryMaps, accessed August 13, 2025, https://storymaps.arcgis.com/stories/b6ab8a5d402347e9952da28b0408e74a
94. ORBi: Detailed Reference - ULiège, accessed August 13, 2025, https://orbi.uliege.be/handle/2268/204930
95. Ancient and Medieval, accessed August 13, 2025, https://academic.oup.com/ahr/article-pdf/69/2/417/984214/69-2-417.pdf
96. Excavations in the plain of Antioch 1, The earlier assemblages phases A. J. / by Robert J. Braidwood and Linda S. Braidwood ; with appendixes by Joan Crowfoot Payne and Hans Helbaek - Sudoc, accessed August 13, 2025, https://www.sudoc.fr/067564569
97. Full text of "Early Civilizations of the Old World" - Internet Archive, accessed

August 13, 2025, https://archive.org/stream/B-001-000-174/B-001-000-174_djvu.txt
98. Oriental Institute Publications (OIP), accessed August 13, 2025, https://isac.uchicago.edu/research/publications/oriental-institute-publications-oip