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Proto-historic Balochistan: Evidence from Mehrgarh

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ABSTRACT

The excavations done by the archaeologist in different parts of Balochistan, including Kech Valley at Meri Kalat and Shahi Tump, Mehrgarh at Kachi, and Suhr Damb at Naal, have provided valuable understanding of the prehistoric period of the region's proto-inhabitants. This paper aims to review the recently published archaeological papers, monographs, proceedings, and archives on the archaeological finding of Balochistan special focus on Mehrgarh. The findings indicate that Balochistan evolved from an autonomous and indigenous cultural society into a part of the Harappan civilization due to trading, religious interaction, and intersocietal interaction. Cultural developments in Balochistan during the fourth and third millennia B.C. connected this region with the Harappan civilization and, simultaneously, with Mesopotamia. During the British colonial period, one of the major obstacles in interpreting archaeological findings was analyzing Balochistan's prehistory in the light of historical perspectives that boosted the region's cultural achievements in antiquity. Furthermore, it emphasizes the need to use different analytical frameworks to accurately interpret historical events in Balochistan. Overall, this paper provides valuable insights into the prehistoric period of Balochistan and its cultural development over time.

KEYWORDS Balochistan, Harappa, Indus Civilization, Mehrgarh, Mesopotamia, Protohistoric

Introduction

Mehrgarh is one of South Asia's earliest and most significant archaeological sites, situated at the foot of the Bolan Pass in the northern part of the Kachi Plain in the Balochistan province of Pakistan. It was first discovered in 1974 and has since been excavated extensively, revealing a wealth of information about the ancient civilization that inhabited the region. This research paper examines the archaeological site of Mehrgarh, its historical context, and its contribution to understanding ancient South Asian societies.

Mehrgarh

Mehrgarh is situated at the foot of the Bolan Pass, in the northern part of the Kachi Plain in the Balochistan province of Pakistan (Fig. 1). The excavation of several sites in this area that included Mehrgarh, Nausharo, and Pirak was carried out by French Archaeological Mission to Pakistan under the supervision of Jean-Francois Jarrige. Based on these excavations, the chronological sequence of Mehrgarh was estimated

which is expended from the 7th to the 3rd millennium BC., which is again subdivided into seven main periods, from the pre-ceramic Neolithic to the Bronze Age(Jarrige & Lechevallier 1979; Jarrige 1985). So far, regarding the exact dating of the Mehrgarh concerned, C. Jarrige, in her recent paper, concluded that: "C datings of charcoals, due to some contamination, have sometimes shown little coherence with the stratigraphy and what we know of the archaeological context. We can, however, trust deletions to the 8th millennium BC…for the bottom and to c. 6000 BC for the top of our period I, while period II A and B cover the 6th millennium" (C. Jarrige 2005).

The initial aceramic Neolithic period I and Neolithic period II was succeeded by a series of uninterrupted settlements (Chalcolithic occupation periods–VII) to the period preceding that of the Indus culture(Jarrige *et al.* 1995). At Nausharo, Periods IB and IC represent the final occupation of Mehrgarh. Therefore succeeding period of site settlements correlated to a transitional stage from the earlier ones toward the Indus civilization.

Fig. 1. Location of archaeological sites of Mehrgarh and periphery areas (Source: Moulherat *et al.* 2002)

Aceramic Neolithic Period

The Neolithic period represents a transitional phase between an economy of hunter-gatherers and a real agricultural economy (C. Jarrige 2005). According to Jarrige *et al.* (2013), the aceramic Neolithic period comprises the following sublevels.

Area MR.03 SOUTH

This area was extensively studied during the first phase of the Mehrgarh expedition between 1977 and 1984 (Jarrige *et al.* 2013). Since 1977, seven field seasons have been carried out in this section, and the earliest architectures and material cultures, as well as the floral and faunal remains associated which the earliest period, was also excavated in this section (C. Jarrige *et al.* 1995). The sounding MR. 03 S, again revisited by French Archaeological Mission during the 1997-1998 field season, and several occupational deposits were discovered (Jarrige *et al.* 2013). During the second phase of

excavation in this section, an early aceramic period classified as Period I to a phase associated with curious-shaped pottery belonging to Period IIA was discovered. Based on materials excavated during the second phase of the Mehrgarh expedition Jarrige *et al.* (2013) concluded that the whole ruined mound was used as a large funerary zone during Periods I and IIA. However, in history, the same area was reused as living space, probably during the beginning of Period IIA (Jarrige *et al.* 2013).

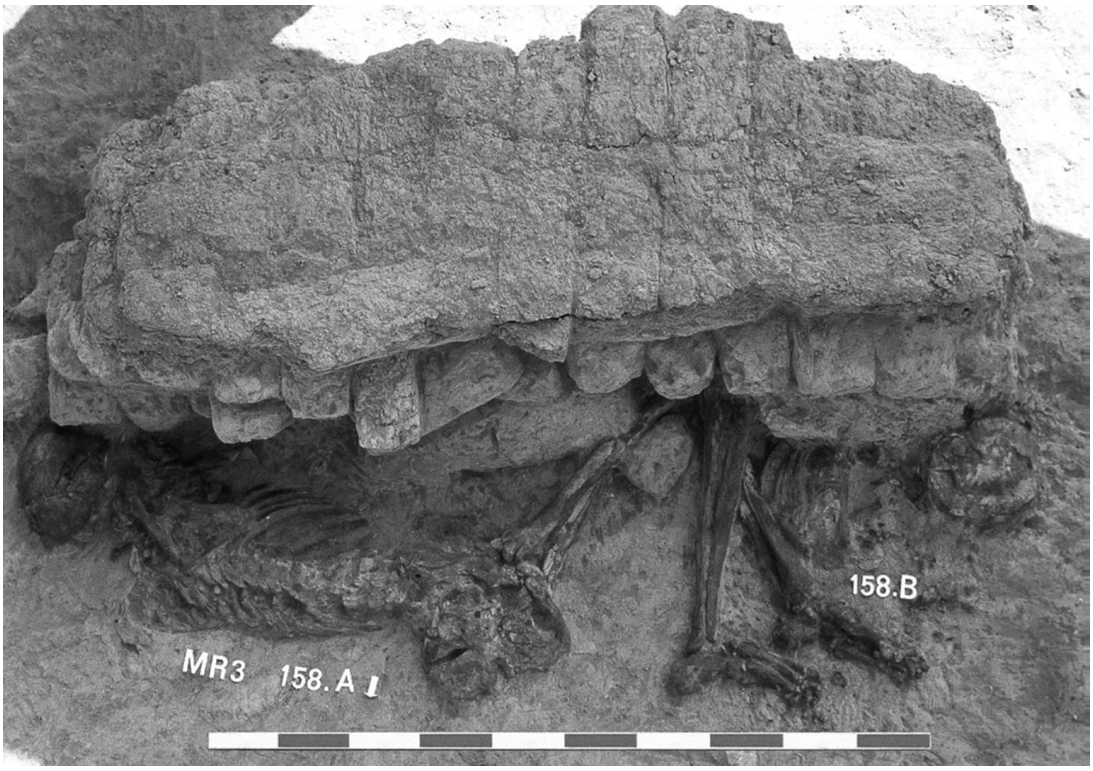

Fig. 2. Grave at Area MR. 03 South, note the side wall in the grave. The fluctuation of occupation levels and burial levels characterizes the Neolithic cycle. (Source: Moulherat *et al.* 2002)

Literature Review

Excavation in the Western part of MR.03 South (Field season 1998-99)

During the field season of 1998-99, French Archaeological Mission in Pakistan resumed excavations in the western part of MR. 03 South, to explore the very first occupational layers of the site. Moreover, the Mission was also interested in gathering information regarding the architectural remains and the associated artifacts in the deeper layers of this section. Similarly, the knowledge about the older funerary customs of the occupants of Mehrgarh in antiquity was also one of the objectives of that excavation. Some scientists were also interested in flora and fauna in the antiquity of this region which will help determine the relationship between the local inhabitants and food-production methods at the earliest level. For these purposes, excavations were undertaken in the western part of MR. 03 South. The area was subdivided into A1A, A2A, B1J, and B2J on a surface of about 58 sq m (Jarrige *et al.* 2013). The strata from bottom to top are as follows:

Level 1

The depth of this level is 6 meters from the top and is composed of a series of nearly horizontal brown ashy layers. The houses are built with mud-brick and measure

approximately 60 cm long. The walls are 35 cm wide and 0.8 m long. The building found on this level was extremely withered and eroded severely. One hammer stone and several stone mullers were uncovered in the southern room of this building. One of the most interesting features of this building was an intact portion of the wall coated with mud-plaster painted in plain red ochre (Jarrige *et al.* 2013). Some medium-sized grinding stones were also discovered on the floor of this building. Outside of the building, some stone tools and unbaked human figurines were also discovered at this level.

Level 2

An eroded rectangular structure of a house with walls 37.5 cm wide and 23 cm high was discovered at this level. Objects in this house comprise fragments of grinding stones, mullers and fragments of a tool, and a dull-edged blade made of bone (Jarrige *et al.* 2013).

Level 3

The main building structure at this level is a rectangular mud-brick structure. The building comprises several rooms; some were already excavated during the field seasons of 1981-1982, and the rest were done during the recent season of 1998-99. More than five rooms were discovered during the recent excavation; some were already studied during the previous visits. The four rooms were more or less comprised of the same size of 2.25 x 1.50 cm. Compared with houses discovered at lower levels, the walls on this level are made of two rows of brick were 27.5 cm thick and 0.80 m high. Streets connect the houses with two openings in the wall, and a fireplace was also found in the corner of one of the rooms (Jarrige *et al.* 2013). The walls were coated with clay materials common during the Neolithic period at Mehrgarh. Besides debris of ashes, the rooms were also filled with blades made up of bones, stone objects, unfinished calcite beads, and two small rings made of bone (Jarrige *et al.* 2013). (Fig. 3.)

Excavation in the Eastern part of MR.03 South

The eastern part is considered as the continuation of the excavation of the western part because the later levels in the western parts were eroded in the course of history. The area in question was also partially excavated in 1998. The following levels were studied during the excavation of 1998-99, and all of them belong to Period I of Mehrgarh.

Occupation Level 3

The house's walls were 45 cm wide and filled with thick red and black ashy deposits. The house was severely eroded due to being located in proximity to the edge of the cliff cut by the Bolan River (Jarrige *et al.* 2013).

Occupation Level 4

A four-roomed structure was discovered on this level. The walls are approximately 30 cm wide and reach a maximum height of 1.35 m, and are made of mud-brick. The rooms were filled with steatite beads, including steatite fragments and 22 non-punctured multilateral blanks of various sizes, and one small perforated disk bead (Jarrige *et al.* 2013). These objects were embedded in debris that filled the rooms and were not found on the floor. From this discovery, Jarrige *et al.* (2013) concluded that these objects were abandoned during manufacturing and assumed to the defective materials. Besides these beads, a stone axe was also uncovered in one of the rooms of

this house.

Occupation Level 6

On this level, a multi-roomed building was discovered during the field season of 1997. One rectangular-shaped (2.10 x 1.67 m) room was also uncovered from debris at the lower level. The floor consisted of a thin layer of clean clay filled with traces of red ochre and embedded with clay figurines and two stone axes (Jarrige *et al.* 2013).

Material and Methods

The research methodology will involve a comprehensive literature review of existing studies on Mehrgarh and the surrounding region. This will be followed by a detailed analysis of the archaeological artifacts found at the site, including pottery, jewellery, tools, etc.

Results and Discussion

Area MR. 03 NORTH

During the field season of 1996-1997, the area MR. The French team revisited 03 NORTH to extend the plans of the period I settlement. During the first phase (1977-1984) nine houses were excavated in the abovementioned area (Jarrige *et al.* 2013). However, the French team discovered eight more houses during the second excavation phase.

During the last visit to Mehrgarh, the French Mission discovered three more graveyards, i.e., 7, 8, and 9. Graveyard 7 was inert, and only the head was visible during the excavation. In one of the graves at the graveyard 8, a skeleton of an ochre-coated, 15 years old male was discovered. In graveyard 9, two east-west oriented graves were dug at the south-western corner of house VII. The orientation of graves are similar to MR .03 South (Fig. 2). The funerary artifacts comprised a large necklace of 700 shell beads, a shell belt, a basket coated in bitumen, and remains of animal offering (Jarrige *et al.* 2013). Interestingly, one of the dead was buried with two long grooved bone spindles along his chest (Jarrige *et al.* 2013).

The French team examined 24 skeletons discovered during the recent excavation and concluded that, out of 24, 9 are aged between 0 and 15.5 years, while 15 are adults (over twenty years). They determined the sex of only 13 remains due to deteriorating conditions of the skeleton and concluded that seven are male and six are female (Jarrige *et al.* 2013).

Human/animal Figurines from the Neolithic Level

During the second phase (1997 onward) of excavations undertaken by the French Mission, about 100 human figurines were excavated (C. Jarrige 2005). It is interesting to mention here the comparative ratio of human and animal figurines because it represented the interest of inhabitants of Mehrgarh in domesticated animals during different periods. For instance, in the period I, animal figurines are absent from levels 1 to 5 compared with levels 6 to 8, where these figurines constituted 10 to 20% of the total and on the other hand, they are absent in level 9. However, in later stages, the proportion increases: i.e. 29% in period II, 43% in period IIB, and all these animal figurines are made up of clay particles (C. Jarrige 2005). In contrast with the Neolithic period, during Chalcolithic period III, only one human figurine was found, with a proportion of 92% of animal terracotta figurines discovered (C. Jarrige 2005). One of the oldest human figurines was found in trench MR. 03 S is a tiny silhouette featuring a head, arms, and

legs cut out of a curved piece of mother of pearl (C. Jarrige 2005).

The human figurine is divided into two simple groups, i.e., the standing (or straight) figurines and the sitting (or fixed) figurines (C. Jarrige 2005).

The standing figurines

A total of 16 standing figurines were discovered either with a rounded base or with a flat base in the period I, through 1-8 levels. These human figurines were covered with red ochre. The early figurines are more abstract, compared with figurines discovered from level 8 where the head is represented with a rounded base, with a shaped nose and a slit of eye. Similarly in level 4, for distinguishing the sexual orientation of these figurines realistic breasts were added (C. Jarrige 2005).

The sitting figurines

For the first time these figurines were discovered in the period I, level 3 (C. Jarrige 2005). The total number of these figurines was 74, among which 56 are in period I, 16 of them were found in period IIA level, and 2 in period IIB (C. Jarrige 2005). Similarly, like standing figurines, they are also painted ochre-colored. These sitting figurines are again divided into three subgroups i.e., small, medium, and large (Fig 3).

The smallest item was discovered in the period I, from levels 1, 6 measured 2 cm, on the other hand, the largest one was 17 cm (C. Jarrige 2005). The larger figurines are bi-conical in shape, with one end for the head, and the other for the feet with large hips (C. Jarrige 2005). The small figurines are also bearing some applied elements such as ornaments or a belt around the belly. One of the figurine besides the belt around the belly also possessed straight hair adorned with small circular pellets (C. Jarrige 2005).

Medium-sized sitting figurines are mostly discovered in level I and also possess some applied belts around the abdomen. Similarly, traces of creeping serpents are observed on two fragmentary items. Compared with the sizes mentioned above of sitting figurines, the larger ones are bare, and no ornamentals were reported on these items (C. Jarrige 2005).

Importance of human figurines:(Neolithic Magic?)

Besides human figurines, some naturally curved pebbles were discovered in periods 7 and 8. These naturally occurring pebbles had a red colour coil resembling a snake, which was also found in small sitting clay figurines (C. Jarrige 2005). The symbolic snake on different figurines was also discovered in different Neolithic cultures from Central/Western Europe to Central Asia, but it is difficult to assume any conclusions about the presence of these figures (Gimbutas 1974; C. Jarrige 2005).

Influence of Neolithic Mehrgarh Culture on subsequent civilizations

Before the Dawn of the Indus Valley Civilization, Mehrgarh Culture was in full swing. It influenced itself and evolved internally and imprinted its influence on subsequent civilizations of neighbouring areas. During the Chalcolithic periods of VI, VII, at Mehrgarh and neighbouring Nausharo period I, these human figurines greatly evolved from female-only to male and female-separated figurines. (Jarrige, C. 1997). The most striking feature of "Mehrgarh civilization" is the transfer of its Neolithic culture during the post-Chalcolithic period particularly, during the Mehrgarh period VII (c. 3000-2600 BC), to his contemporaries such as Mundigak, periods III and IV (Casel 1961) and Shahr-i-Sokhta, periods II and III (Tosi 1968, 1969, 1983). The figurines discovered

during excavations to these two later archaeological sites have closely resembled the much older prototypes from Neolithic Mehrgarh (C. Jarrige 2005). From these examples, it is clear that before the influence of the Indus Valley Civilization on the whole area, Mehrgarh showed its influence particularly from the structures of figurines in the vast geographical zones extending from Central Asia to the Zagros. Mehrgarh retained that influence till the 2nd millennium when Indus Valley Civilization flourished (Jarrige, C. 1997). During that time the Mehrgarh itself came under the influence of Mature Harappan period which clearly evident in the pottery and human figurines.

Fig. 3. The stylistic evolution of the sitting figurines from period VI (C. Jarrige 2005).

Fig. 3. Ruins of rectangular shaped rooms of building excavated during 1998-98 survey.

Agricultural activities during the Neolithic Period (Mehrgarh)

The Proto climatic conditions of Mehrgarh always remain a big challenge for

archaeologists, because the general conception of wetter climate during the Neolithic period and gradual climate changes was postulated as one of basis of declining of Mehrgarh culture. According to Sir Aurel Stein (1931), who discovered several ancient Balochistan sites, prehistoric climate conditions were wetter than today.However, later on many scientists speculated that the climatic conditions had not changed to a large extent since the beginning of the Holocene period. On the contrary many scientists believe that these changes resulted from human exploitation such as deforestation and overgrazing than to climaticvariations. Therefore a group of paleontologist of French Mission started working on paleobotany to determine the protohistroic flora of Mehrgarh. Based on soil sampling analysis particularly extracting pollen flora from Neolithic period at Mehrgarh,Costantini and Costantini-Biasini, (1985) and Costantini, (1990) concluded that The results of pollen analysis showed that the region was dominated by a semi-lacustrine (prehistoric lake dwellings, marshy environment) or humid environment with a riparian (hydrophytes) vegetation, e.g. *Populus*, *Salix*, *Fraxinus*, *Ulmus*, and *Vitis*, associated in a typical hydrophytic complex, arranged in dense forests. The annual grasses (Poaceae) and leguminous plants are also associated in this forest. Later on Tamarix and Mimosaceae were dominating during the Neolithic period and that species such as *Populus, Vitix, Salvadora* and Oleacea would occur only after the Neolithic, maybe in connection with the development of irrigation system (Jarrige *et al.* 2013).

Chalcolithic Period

The MR. 02 is the largest area (75 hectares) and represents Period III, also categorized as Chalcolithic period of Mehrgarh. The Chalcolithic period started from the end of the 5000 BC to the beginning of the 4000 BC., (Jarrige, 1981, 1984). The area relevant with Chalcolithic period is again subdivided into several sectors. Different remains had been excavated including mud-brick buildings (dwelling and storage units), craftsmanship areas and an accidentally discovered cemetery (Sellier 1989). The discovery of cemetery attracted the attentions of French Archaeological Mission and has been subjected to two more excavation campaign in that area. During the Chalcolithic period the inhabitants of Mehrgarh were extensively involved in agriculture and animal husbandry.

Moreover, compared with later Neolithic period, during 3rd period metamorphic changes took place and changes are visible in its techno-economic status. The indicators of social changes have been seen in mass production of pottery, invention of wheel, metallurgy, bow-drill technique and diversification of agriculture, particularly introduction of exotic flora in this region which was not reported in early periods(Sellier 1989, Jarrige, 1981, 1984).This primitive industrial revolution in the life of inhabitants of Mehrgarh, support the assumption that an extensive population is enduring continuous demographic growth (Jarrige, 1985).

Chalcolithic Graveyard:

When excavated, the Chalcolithic graveyard of Period III yielded 99 human remains (Sellier 1989). The corpses were buried in east-west direction in which skull lied in eastward with the lower limb fixed (Fig. 4) Two-third of the bodies are buried individually are remaining are buried in pairs and the French Archaeological Mission also observes some multiple burial during the Period III. The objects discovered from these graves include white steatite beads made of semi-precious stone (lapis lazuli?), one copper/bronze compartmental seal and two pottery vessels (Sellier 1989). The sex and age of 99 burials present in Table 1. From the excavated burial it was hard to determine the exact age however, the percentage of males and females and immature of

different ages is mentioned in Table 1. Although compared with adult it is easier to estimate infant age because of teeth calcification and eruption, development of fusion of centers of ossification (Sellier 1989). The estimation of age factor is important in determining an area's prehistoric demography, which helps determine the social activities and status of these proto-human populations.

Table 1
Sex and age distribution among 99 burials excavated in the Chalcolithic period at Mehrgarh (Sellier 1989)

Adults: 73 (73.7%)			**Immature: 26 (26.3%)**					
Male	Female	Undetermined sex	0-2	2-5	5-9	9-12	12-14	14-18
28	20	25	3	5	9	5	1	3
38%	28%	34%	11.5%	19%	35%	19%	4%	11.5%

Fig. 4. Chalcolithic remains at Mehrgarh: note the east-west direction of corpses. (Source: Sellier 1989).

Bronze Age

The pre- and mature Harappan sites at Mehrgarh and surrounding areas were discovered on following mounds. Though these mounds were named differently due to their local affinities, these areas were connected in specific prehistoric times and represent that period. During the mature Harappan or Indus period the usage of metallurgy, particularly copper and bronze, was used extensively for making different stuffs. Some of the bronze age Mehrgarh sites are as follows:

Pirak

Raikes (1963, 1965) was first person who started the excavations at Kachi plain particularly at Pirak at the north of the Kachi plain. The area is located near Nari River a tributary of Bolan River near Sibi district Balochistan. He accidentally discovered this prehistoric site in 1956 when he was on his way from Quetta to Karachi by road and found a mound near the abandoned railway station of Pirak, seven miles south of Sibi

(Raikes, 1963). The local people named this mound as *Pirak Damb*. The surface materials were collected by Raikes (1963) and most of sherds of buff and pinkish plain pottery. The sherds collected from the mound's surface are rough and uneven; some of them are decorated and have been made on a slow wheel. Some of them also bear fabric marks on the lower outside surface. The materials obtained from Pirak during the first visit of Raikes (1963) and after publication concluded that these Bichrome ware were entirely new to Balochistan, particularly by the type of notched chart blades found on the surface (Raikes 1963). However, his assumption did not receive any positive support from the archaeologists of time; therefore he revisited (March 1964) the mound and published the results in 1964-1965 (Raikes 1965). Like Mehrgarh, the land on which Pirak mound found, owned by Chief of Raisani tribe and they were before extensive excavation started were well acquainted with the importance of these mounds.

The great variety of pottery collected from this mound and black-on-red sherds with stylized pipal leaves (*Ficus* spp.) were attributed to late Harappan types. Proto-Indus and Indus ceramics were recognized, plus a characteristic ware related to Kulli pottery and showing a mixture with Harappan elements. This surface collection of potsherds was expanded in 1997 and allowed us to precisely identify the three sub-periods of the Mature Indus phase as evidenced at Nausharo (Fig. 5).

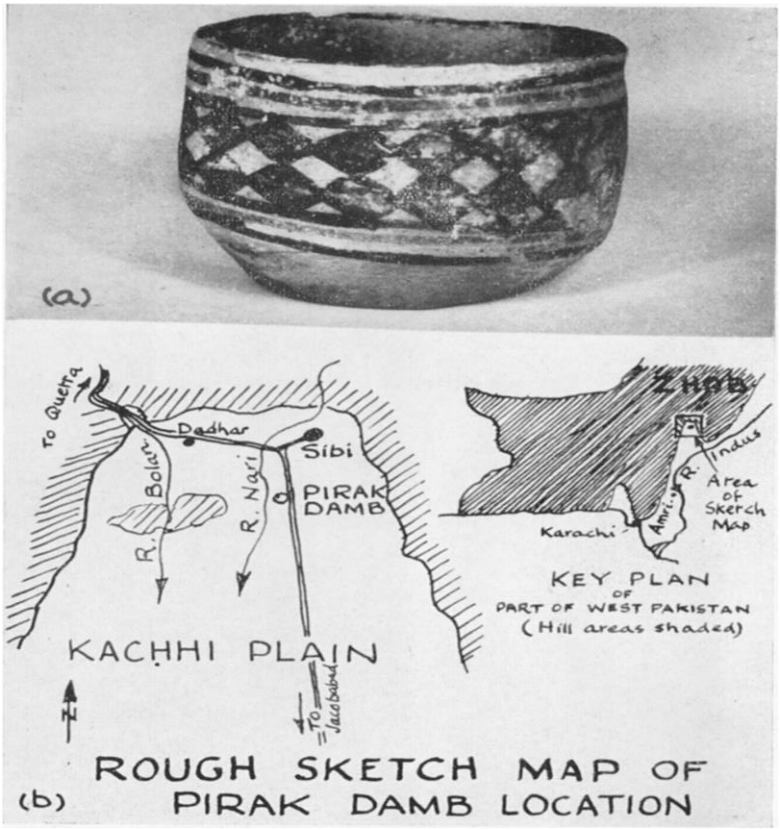

Fig. 5. Map of Pirak Damb (Raikes, 1963).

Judher Damb

South of the Kachi plain, *Judher Damb*was also surveyed by R.L. Raikes who recognized this site 'covered with sherds of pottery and other objects of Harappan type' (Department of Archaeology and Museums, Government of Pakistan, 1964). The area where this mound is located is a completely arid and a hot desert and put Raikes in shock when he first time saw such a large prehistoric city. In his short report about the

site he wrote:

> [...] (the site) is situated on the Kacchi plain 18 miles north-west of Jacobabad, between Jhatpat and Temple Dera railway stations, and about a mile west of the Jacobabad-Sibi highway [...] [it] is roughly 600 yards from north to south and 500 yards from east to west. Their height ranges from 25 to 35 feet. The main mound is divided by several rain-water gullies, which might prove to be ancient streets on the analogy of Mohenjo - Daro. On the eastern side is a row of five small mounds, slightly isolated from the main one (Shar & Vidale 2001).

*Judher Damb*occupies an important position on the way from Balochistan to the lower Indus basin where a quantity of multiple Mature Indus sites has been discovered. Beside normal Indus pottery, Raikes also noticed some pottery of indigenous origin and he elaborated:

> [...] a greenish - grey ware. It has a rough and thick texture, and is mostly plain. In some examples the neck is coated with a thick black slip. The usual painted decoration consists of a few black-painted thin horizontal lines, and occasionally single loops (Shar & Vidale 2001).

Surface-examination of the site in 1997 by the French Archeological Mission in Pakistan revealed numerous fragments of plain and painted pottery belonging to the first and the second stage of the Mature Indus period (Shar & Vidale 2001).

Nausharo

Based on pottery ware the archaeological site of Nausharo, categorized within the Mature Indus period. The site is located within the radius of Mehrgarh, on Kachi plain. The mound of Nausharo, from Mehrgarh stand point is important because Periods 1B and 1C represent the final occupation of Mehrgarh (Quivron 2000). The Nausharo again subdivided into Periods II, III and IV which are relevant with successive stages of Mature Indus period.

Period II

The Period II also represented the first stage of the Mature Indus Period which is also the beginning of the era of advanced urbanism (Quivron 2000). The new settlement of the population was similar to as observed in Indus Valley i.e., the lower city at the foothill of an acropolis with a monumental structure atop of ruins. The lower and upper parts of city were secured by a massive peripheral wall with an opening provided a gateway leading to blocks of dwelling houses and workshops (Quivron 2000). The houses were well planned and adjoining each other on either side of lanes and streets. Although, in initial stages of Period II only mud bricks were used in walls, but later on particularly at the fifth phase of this period Kiln-fired bricks were also used. Like Mohenjo Daro, at Nausharo, the French Mission also excavated a monumental drain system linked to a water reservoir and ran through the whole city then ended up at the southern part of the surrounding wall (Quivron 2000).The floor of the drain was carpeted with lodge-shaped bricks. The special form of these fired bricks also similar in resemblance as discovered in great number at Mohenjo Daro The artifacts which were discovered during this period were included a fragment of a seal in steatite bearing the head of a unicorn, a typical Indus Valley symbol. The inscriptions on these artifacts are similar; Indus script was scratched on black-coated jars, which are still not yet decipherable. These scratches on jars seem to be signatures of the artists who made these potteries and most probably belonged to people from Indus Valley who settled here

during Period II of Mature Indus Phase. In northern slope of the southern mound archaeologists found remains of a potter's workshop belonged to this period. The workshop was also used to store the pots after they have been and finished. Mery (1994) at this section of the mound found some 25 unfired clay vases, which confirmed the assumption that the workshop was also used for store room purposes. Similarly a pear-shaped kiln with an intact combustion chamber was also found in the southern part near the surrounded wall (Quivron 2000).

Period III

The previous systematic planning of housing schematic were abandoned by the inhabitants of this period and instead had their own to plan the building which seems, apparently that these prehistoric populations were sort of new settlers on this area. The changes in ceramic assemblages have also been apparent during this period. Although these changes are not classified as cultural break between these two phases, these changes for sure can be categorized as evolutionary changes, particularly recognizable in the pattern of ceramics (Quivron 2000). During this phase, city planning more emphasized on uniformity in the recurrent features in the house units (Jarrige 1994). Another important feature of this phase was the construction of a big drain which passed through the settlement at the same location to that used during the phase II, with slight modified in orientation (Quivron 2000). The artifices discovered during this phase belonged to Mature Indus period type that included numerous terracotta figurines, weights and seals (Quivron 2000).

Conclusion

The phase was severely damaged due to erosion caused by natural forces including water and wind (Jarrige 1994). There were enough artifacts mostly ceramics discovered to establish continuity with the Period III. This period also showed affinities with the Kulli (Kolwa area) cultural complex (Quivron 2000). In this regard, terracotta female figurines found at this period are semblance in the Kulli style, and similar example also found in Nidowari (Lasbela District, Balochistan).

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