

CONTENTS

Abstract	i
Contents	iii
List of Tables & Figures	vii
Acknowledgements	ix
Introduction	1

CHAPTER 1 ARCHAEOLOGICAL INVESTIGATIONS IN SOUTH WEST ARABIA: AN HISTORIOGRAPHICAL OVERVIEW

1.1	Introduction	5
1.2	The chronology	6
1.3	An historiographical overview of pre-Islamic research in South West Arabia	6
1.4	Historiographical overview of research into the prehistoric archaeological record of the Tihamah	8
1.4.1	The prehistoric archaeological record of the Tihamah	9
1.4.2	The historic archaeological record of the Tihamah	12
1.4.2.1	Sites	12
1.4.2.2	Coins	15
1.4.2.3	Inscriptions	16
1.5	An overview of the dominant models for the study of the Tihamah plain	16

CHAPTER 2 THE TIHAMAH AS A REGION: PHYSICAL AND HISTORICAL EVIDENCE

2.1	Introduction	19
2.2	Physical and environmental character	19
2.3	Textual sources for a study of the Tihamah	21
2.3.1	Egyptian sources	21
2.3.2	Greek and Roman sources	22
2.3.3	Epigraphic South Arabian sources	24
2.3.4	Pre-Islamic Ethiopian sources	26
2.3.5	Medieval Islamic accounts	27
2.4	An historical over-view of the Tihamah from the 16 th –20 th centuries	28
2.5	The Tihamah as a region: an historical analysis	29

CHAPTER 3 A SYNTHESIS OF ARCHAEOLOGICAL RESEARCH AND THE CULTURE-HISTORY OF SOUTH WEST ARABIA FROM THE 6TH MILLENNIUM BC TO THE 6TH CENTURY AD

3.1	Introduction	31
3.2	Chronology	31
3.3	A regional study of pre-Islamic archaeological research	32
3.3.1	The Sayhad region	32
3.3.2	The Hadramawt	39
3.3.3	The Central Highlands	39
3.4	A synthesis of South West Arabian archaeology by period	42
3.4.1	The Neolithic	42
3.4.2	The Bronze Age	43
3.4.3	The Iron Age	44
3.5	Overview	46

CHAPTER 4 THE ARCHAEOLOGICAL EVIDENCE FOR THE CULTURE-HISTORY OF THE TIHAMAH IN THE PREHISTORIC PERIOD FROM THE 6TH TO THE 1ST MILLENNIA BC

4.1	Introduction	47
4.2.	The Neolithic	47
4.2.1	Chronology	47
4.2.2	Jizan area Neolithic middens	48
4.2.3	The Hodeidah area middens	50

4.3	The Bronze Age	53
4.3.1	Chronology	53
4.3.2	The Jizan area Bronze Age: Sihi	58
4.3.3	Midi	58
4.3.4	Al-Midaman	61
4.3.5	Al-Muhandid	62
4.3.6	Sabir	67
4.4	Synthesis: the culture-history of the Tihamah in the Prehistoric period	67
4.4.1	The nature and range of occupation on the Tihamah	69
4.4.2	Economic development on the Tihamah	71
4.4.3	Cultural dynamics on the Tihamah	

CHAPTER 5 THE ARCHAEOLOGICAL EVIDENCE FOR THE CULTURE-HISTORY OF THE TIHAMAH IN THE IRON AGE

5.1.	Introduction	73
5.2	The Iron Age chronology	73
5.3	The Iron Age sites on the Tihamah	74
5.3.1	The Jizan area Iron Age evidence	74
5.3.2	Al-Hamid	75
5.3.2.1	Al-Hamid: the excavation results	75
5.3.2.2	Al-Hamid: the material culture	78
5.3.2.2.1	Environmental evidence	79
5.3.2.3	Al-Hamid: chronology	79
5.3.2.4	Al-Hamid: interpretation	81
5.3.3	Waqir	83
5.3.4	The Iron Age Hodeidah area middens	84
5.3.5	STN	85
5.4	Coin hoards from the Tihamah	86
5.4.1	The Bajil coin hoard	86
5.4.2	The al-Madhariba hoard of gold Aksumite and late Roman coins	87
5.5	Inscriptions from the Tihamah	87
5.6	Synthesis: the culture-history of the Tihamah in the Iron Age	90
5.6.1	Iron Age chronology: a review	90
5.6.2	The Iron Age settlements on the Tihamah	92
5.6.2.1	The character of the Iron Age sites on the Tihamah	92
5.6.2.2	The relation of the Iron Age sites to the Bronze Age sites on the Tihamah	93
5.6.2.3	The relation of the Iron Age sites on the Tihamah to Iron Age sites in the Sayhad region and Central Highlands	94
5.6.3.	Settlement systems	96
5.6.3.1	The agricultural basis of the sites on the Tihamah	96
5.6.3.2	Cultural connections between sites on the Tihamah	97
5.6.3.3	Economic connections between sites on the Tihamah	97
5.6.3.4	Political connections between sites on the Tihamah	97
5.6.4	The epigraphic data from the Tihamah: evidence of connections	98
5.6.5	Relations between the Tihamah and the inland Sayhad region	99
5.6.6	Relations between the Tihamah and the Horn of Africa	99

CHAPTER 6 RELATIONS BETWEEN THE HORN OF AFRICA AND SOUTH WEST ARABIA FROM THE 6TH MILLENNIUM BC TO THE 6TH CENTURY AD

6.1.	Introduction	101
6.2	A history of archaeology in the Horn of Africa	101

PART I: PREHISTORIC EVIDENCE (c.6th-1st millennia BC)

6.3	The dissemination of domesticated plants and animals	103
6.3.1	The dissemination of domesticated plants	103
6.3.2	The dissemination of domesticated animals	105
6.4	Obsidian	107
6.5	Ceramics	107

6.5.1	African ceramic parallels with pottery from Sihi	108
6.5.2	African ceramic parallels with pottery from the Hodeidah area	109
6.5.3	African ceramic parallels with pottery from Sabir	109
6.6	Megalithic monuments	112
6.7	An overview of relations between the Horn of Africa and South West Arabia in the prehistoric period	112

PART II: THE HISTORIC PERIOD (c.1st millennium BC-6th century AD)

6.8	The pre-Aksumite culture	114
6.8.1	Chronology	114
6.8.2	Pre-Aksumite data	116
6.8.2.1	The epigraphic record	116
6.8.2.2	Architecture	117
6.8.2.3	Art and iconography	118
6.8.2.4	Ceramics	119
6.8.3	Pre-Aksumite contacts between the Horn of Africa and South West Arabia: the published interpretations	120
6.8.4	Pre-Aksumite contacts between the Horn of Africa and South West Arabia: a re-examination	121
6.8.4.1	Pre-Aksumite cultural contacts with South West Arabia	121
6.8.4.2	Pre-Aksumite political contacts with South West Arabia	123
6.8.4.3	Pre-Aksumite economic contacts with South West Arabia	124
6.9	The Aksumite culture	125
6.9.1	Chronology	125
6.9.2	The Aksumite data	125
6.9.2.1	Coins	126
6.9.2.2	Inscriptions	126
6.9.3	Aksumite contacts between the Horn of Africa and South West Arabia: the published interpretations	127
6.9.4	Aksumite contacts between the Horn of Africa and South West Arabia: a re-examination	127
6.10	An overview of relations between the Horn of Africa and South West Arabia from the Neolithic to the 6 th century AD	128

CHAPTER 7 SYNTHESIS: THE PRE-ISLAMIC TIHAMAH IN ITS REGIONAL CONTEXT FROM THE 6TH MILLENNIUM BC TO THE 6TH CENTURY AD

7.1.	Summary of research	131
7.2	A chronology for the pre-Islamic Tihamah	132
7.3	Key themes	134
7.3.1	The pre-Islamic cultures on the Tihamah	134
7.3.2	Pre-Islamic cultural contacts with regions beyond the Tihamah	136
7.3.3	Pre-Islamic economic developments: the Neolithisation of the Tihamah	137
7.3.4	Pre-Islamic economic relations on the Tihamah and with neighbouring regions	138
7.3.5	Pre-Islamic socio-political organisation on the Tihamah	140
7.4	Future research	143

BIBLIOGRAPHY	145
--------------	-----