

Preface by the Series Editor

The 25th volume of the OREA series by Sabina Cveček is dedicated to the sites Çukuriçi Höyük (Turkey) and Platia Magoula Zarkou (Greece) and their interdisciplinary socio-cultural contextualization in the Aegean world of the 3rd millennium BCE. Both sites constitute a crucial part in the research focus of our department, concentrated in the *Prehistoric Phenomena* research group managed by the series editor. The integration of the western and eastern coasts of the Aegean Sea into a socio-cultural approach and its additional much broader contextualization within southeast Europe, prehistoric Anatolia and western Asia forms a methodological and theoretical fundament of our group's research.

Initiating an interdisciplinary team of PhD students within the funded DOC-team program of the Austrian Academy of Sciences in 2015 not only supported our main aims but also offered new perspectives. The expertise and theoretical background in modern socio-cultural anthropology offers a wider and partially different perception for the understanding and modelling of our archaeological and scientific data beyond the traditional ethnoarchaeological approach. Sabina Cveček and her PhD student-collaborators managed a team-based and in-depth study with a focus on the role of households very successfully and with solid results.

The present book demonstrates the successful outcome of Sabina Cveček's thesis in integrating the two prehistoric sites to shed new light on the social organization in the Early Bronze Age Aegean and western Anatolia. The role of households, modes of production and types of economies, craft specialization, types of exchange systems and further aspects are systematically analysed within the context of non-state social organization. She suggests a 'great man model' for the EBA Çukuriçi communities different than the assumed 'big man model' for the Platia Magoula Zarkou inhabitants. Overall, she argues convincingly for a more complex socio-political organization model in the Aegean Early Bronze Age, including multiple types existing contemporaneously in the 3rd millennium BCE. Her results are based on the huge datasets and archaeological studies of both sites, also available for the interested reader.

The Platia Magoula Zarkou project by Eva Alram-Stern successfully accomplished the publication of the previously excavated stratigraphies and selected materials as the 23rd OREA volume, which provides the important data and their contextualization for some aspects discussed in the present study. The primary data, materials and related analyses of the second prehistoric site in focus are continuously published in the Çukuriçi Höyük series, of which the present open access monograph on *Household Economies in the Early Bronze Age Aegean* by Sabina Cveček represents its 4th volume. Her studies are part of our long-term investigations on the prehistory of the Ephesos region and the central Aegean coast of western Anatolia with a focus on the results of our excavations at Çukuriçi Höyük conducted between 2007 and 2014. The already published Çukuriçi volumes on the introductory framework of chronology, stratigraphy and contexts (OREA 5), on the Late Chalcolithic settlements and materials (OREA 7) and on the Early Bronze Age metallurgy (OREA 22) form the backbone to the present volume, together with the currently c. 90 papers on various topics and scientific analyses related to the Çukuriçi remains available via the open access and online repository of the Austrian Academy of Sciences Press (<https://epub.oeaw.ac.at/ERC-Prehistoric-anatolia>). Additional volumes on the Early Bronze Age architecture and stratigraphy as well as on textile production have been completed and will come out soon, some parts of them having already been available to the author at the time of writing.

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Barbara Horejs
Scientific director of the Austrian Archaeological Institute
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