

Hallan Çemi Tepesi

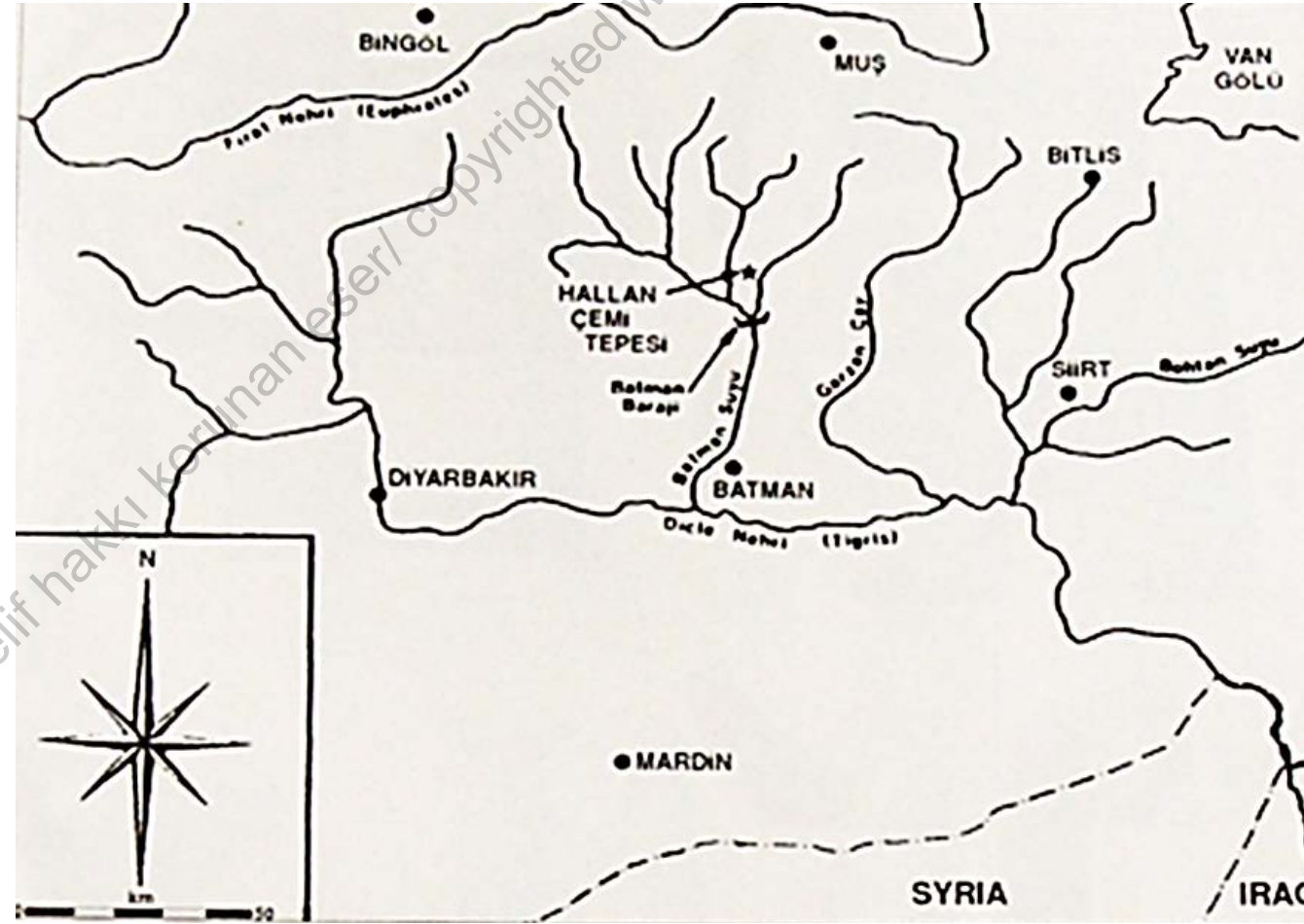
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Hallan Çemi Tepesi

- Hallan Çemi is located Batman Province.
- It is a small stratified mound situated on the West bank of the Sason river, a tributary of the Batman river and Tigris respectively.



- Hallan Çemi Tepesi was discovered in 1990, during the course of archaeological surveys designed to identify sites by dam construction associated with the «Güneydoğu Anadolu Projesi (GAP)».
- Hallan Çemi was excavated under directorates of Michael Rosenberg from university of Delaware and the Diyarbakır Museum for four seasons starting from 1991.



Map of the Upper Tigris drainage showing location of Hallan Çemi



A general view from Hallan Çemi with some trenches

- Today, the mound is completely submerged due to the rise of the Batman dam water in certain periods.



What is archaeological trench?

1. a hole made by excavating. A part of grid system.
2. an area in which excavating has been done or is in progress, as an **archaeological** site.



- Based on the presence of substantial architecture and the seasonal availability of the different types of animal and plant remains found at the site, Hallan Çemi was clearly occupied on a year-round basis.
- On the evidence we have from the sites of Hallan Çemi and Çayönü, it appears that the Aceramic Neolithic A cultures in southeastern Turkey remain relatively close to the Near Eastern models known from Syria and the Levant.



Stone bench in public building 1



Public building 1

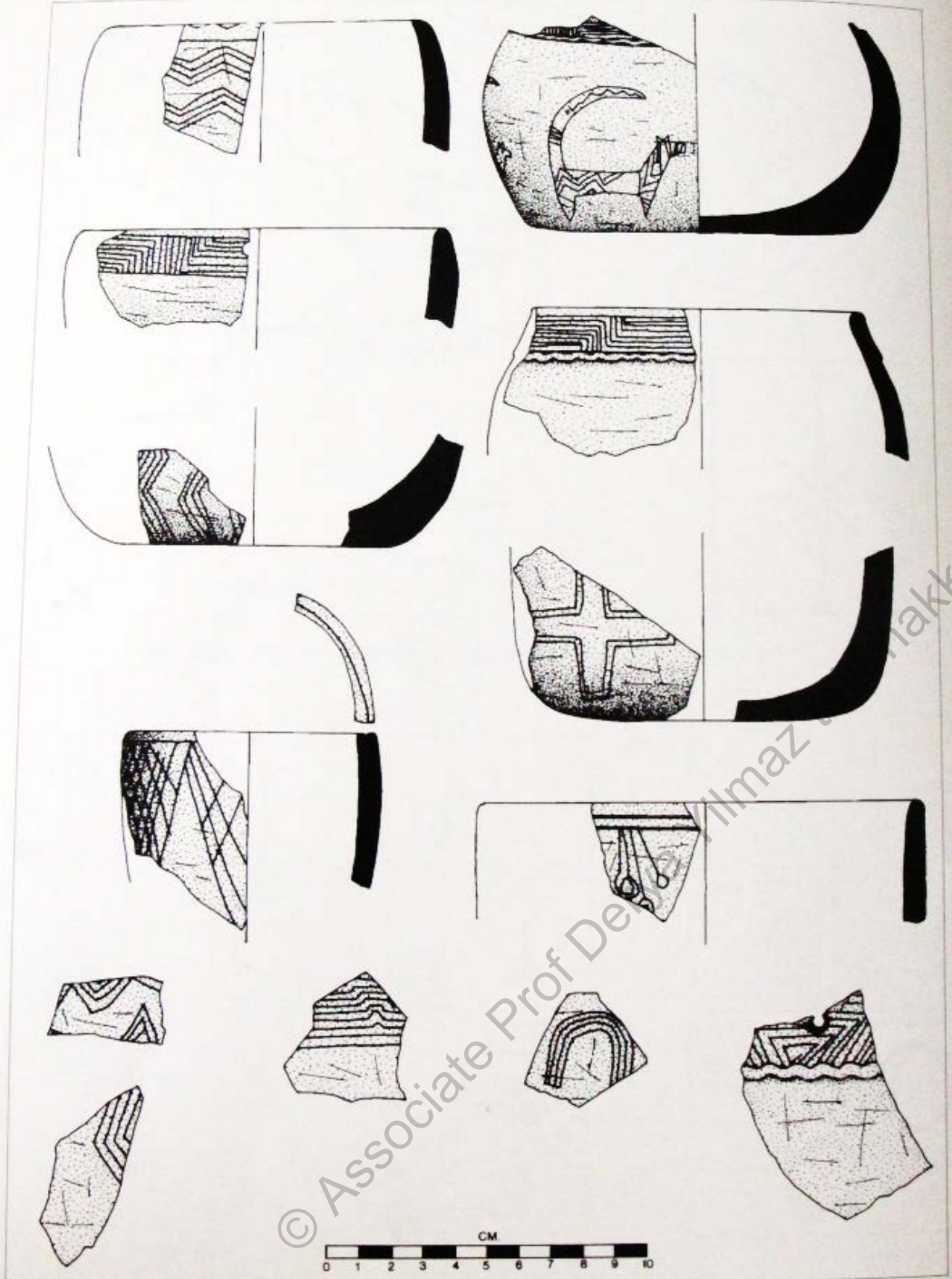
- Community organization: the spatial layout of the Hallan Çemi Neolithic community consisted of a variety of structures and features arranged around an open central activity area that was 15 meter in diameter.



Large paved building in level 2



Public building 2



Decorated stone bowls

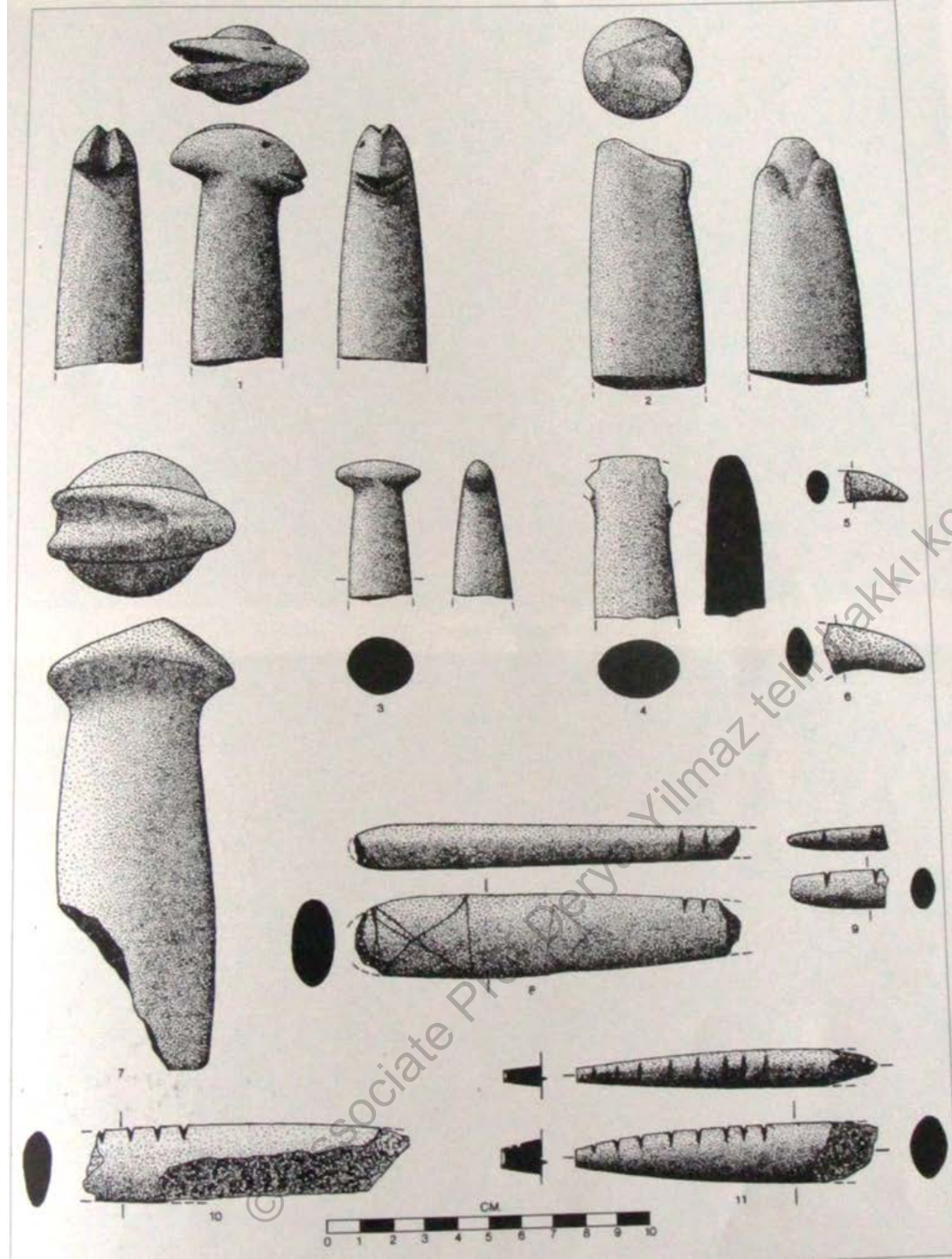
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Stone bowls

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- Cultural affiliations: The finds from Hallan Çemi also contain evidence of cultural relationships to other cultures, including earlier, contemporary and later ones. Chipped stone assemblages shows a strong typological links from Zawi Chemi Shanidar.

Sculpted pestles (Havan eli) and notched batons (tokmak)

Zawi Chemi Shanidar

- A cave in northern Iraq at an altitude of 745 meters. A small village site outside, Zawi Chemi Shanidar, has produced some evidence for early farming, whose levels at the summit of the cave are about 10000 BC.



An animation of living at Shanidar, with some of the people whose skeletons were discovered there.

Locations of Shanidar and Hallan Çemi



Small finds



Bison skull in public building

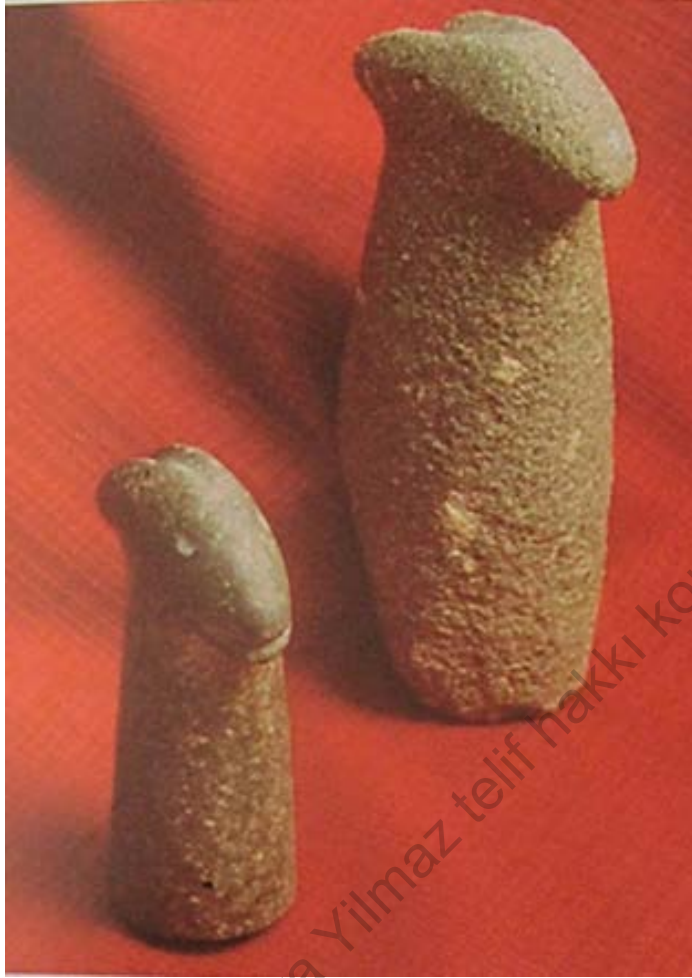


Miniature stone horns



Carved bone snake

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Sculpted pestles in various forms

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Polished stone mace heads

What is mace head ? (plural mace heads) The blunt ball or ornament on the top of a mace, usually made of metal or stone.

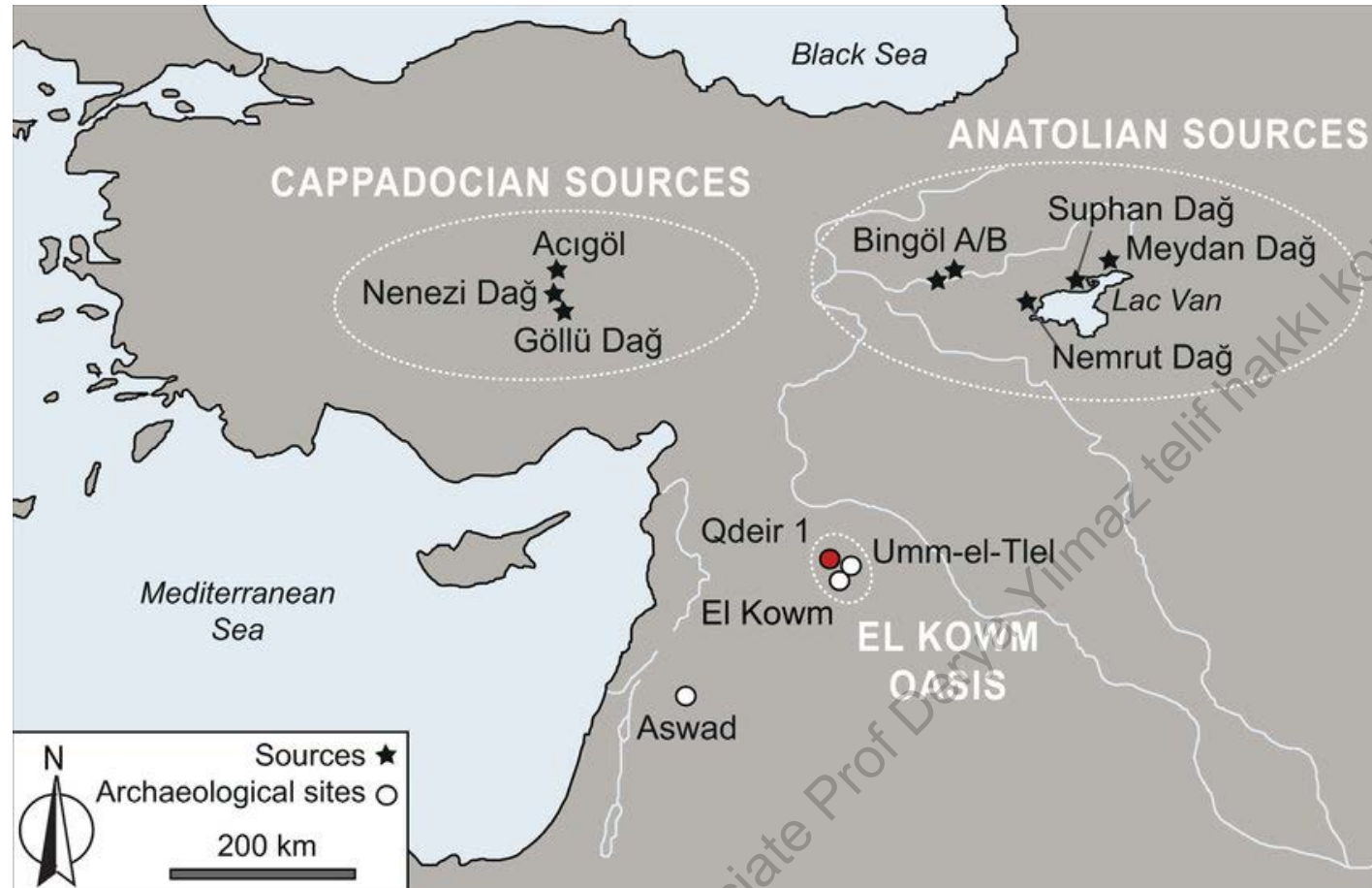


- Economy: Though Hallan Çemi was occupied by a fully sedentary society, the economy of site's inhabitants was based primarily on the hunting-gathering of wild animals and plants.
- Tools were made from flint and obsidian. The closest obsidian source is Nemrut Mountain at a distance of three days (100 km). There is evidence of malachite, a copper ore, being imported and suggesting the existence of a trading network. Staples included lentils, almonds and pistachios. Whereas sheep and goat were usually the first animals to be kept as livestock by Near East communities, it appears that Hallan Çemi began with pigs.

Nemrut Obsidian sources



What is Obsidian ? It is a naturally occurring volcanic glass formed when lava extruded from a volcano cools rapidly with minimal crystal growth.



Raw obsidian and obsidian blades



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Selected References

Rosenberg, M., 1999, « Hallan Çemi», in **Neolithic in Turkey the cradle of civilization New Discoveries**, edt. By M. Özdoğan, N. Başgelen, Arkeoloji ve Sanat Yayınları, İstanbul: 25-35.

Watch series

1. On 15 October 2021 at 21.00 on the **Arkeolojiahaber youtube** channel, Prof. Dr. Aslı Erim Özdoğan will give a speech on "Çayönü Hill, yesterday, today and tomorrow".

Link: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=gfxd77C009c>

2. You can watch the documentary titled "Anadolu'nun Kadim Hikayesi/ Ancient Story of Anatolia" broadcast on the **Moving Stones channel**.

Link: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=59ioilcaw2g&t=483s>