

**Ancient Kech-Makran, Balochistan: Synthesis of
Previous Archaeological Fieldwork and Results of
New Surveys in Shahrak and Sami, Kech Valley**



By

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Dedication

Dedicated

To My Grandfather

Haji Rafeeq Ahmed Baloch (Late)

&

Justice Shakeel Ahmed Baloch

Candidate's Declaration

I hereby declare that this M. Phil thesis currently submitted bearing the title, **“Ancient Kech-Makran, Balochistan: Synthesis of Previous Archaeological Fieldwork and Results of New Surveys in Shahrak and Sami, Kech Valley”**, is result of my individual research and has not been submitted concurrently to any other institution/University for any other degree.ms

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Supervisor's Declaration

I hereby declare that the M. Phil candidate **Mr. Imran Shabir** has completed his thesis titled, “**Ancient Kech-Makran, Balochistan: Synthesis of Previous Archaeological Fieldwork and Results of New Surveys in Shahrak and Sami, Kech Valley**”, under my supervision. I recommended it for submission in candidacy for the Masters of Philosophy in Asian Studies, Taxila Institute of Asian Civilizations (TIAC), Quaid-i-Azam University, Islamabad.

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Final Approval

This is to certify that we have read the thesis submitted by **Mr. Imran Shabir** and it is our judgment that this thesis is of sufficient standard to warrant acceptance by the Quaid-i-Azam University, Islamabad, for the award of the Degree of Master of Philosophy in Asian Studies.

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Abstract

Kech-Makran remained a transmigrational route of South-Central Asia that witnessed several expeditions and migrations. In this respect, the archaeological and historical importance of Kech-Makran laid the foundation of many archaeological researches and excavations. This is a synthesis of previous archaeological fieldwork which were carried out by various archaeologists and archaeological missions to discover new avenues in the archaeological context. Similar has been applied two subtehsils—Shahrak and Sami. An archaeological survey was conducted; surface material was collected which are mostly of chalcolithic Era (Zangian Period) were surveyed. Moreover, this study has also attempted to design a better chrono-cultural sequence to the region, Kech-Makran, by keeping in view different periods of occupation unearthed in important archaeological sites i.e. Miri Qalat and Shahi Tump.

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Chapter 1

1 Introduction

1.1 Introduction

In different eras of human social developments and evolution of civilizations, man has passed through several advancements—from hunters and gatherers to empire builders (Flannery, 1972). Similarly, Kech-Makran has seen several historical developments from ancient—proto-historic, times of nomadic life to the historical eras of urban life. The area also witnessed different wars and expeditions. Alexander with his army, in 327 BC, is a case in point (District Gazetteer Kech, 2004).

Human being evolved from different cultures from primitive stage of civilization to the contemporary stage of human being, different techniques were used for the survival of humankind (Childe 1936; Kroeber 1994). In this respect of cultural development in South Asia, Balochistan—being the cradle of cultures and civilizations, has witnessed imperative parts. It had gone through several ages of variations as that of the Jurassic Period and hunting gatherers who lived in the caves and then evolution of socio-cultural phenomenon took place which also laid the foundation of sedentary life. The evidences of cultural evolution could better be understood with view of the caves in of Zhob and Loralai and then with the settled life of ancient people in Mehrgarh and Kili Gul Muhammad which are as old as of 8th to 7th millennium BCE (Bouquillon, 1995).

The socio-economic needs of civilizations, however, compelled human being to think and produce different new things and they have to depend themselves from foreign invasions. Therefore, they made their houses strategically on very important locations where the availability of resources for survival was essential and progress was promised as well. The entire region of Kech-Makran is of archaeological and historical importance. It remained an ancient route which had trade with that of Gulf of Oman and indirect trade with Mesopotamia. There are a number of rulers who passed through Kech-Makran. In this respect, the ancient settlements throughout the area reveal their existence with view of archaeological explorations. And these ancient scattered sites are valued to be surveyed, excavated and preserved (Dales, 1962).

Kech-Makran, the place of *Mahi-Khoran*, fish-eaters, is located in an exceptionally focal area; it joins Iranian plateau in one hand while Indian plateau on the other (Stein, 1931). It also connects Middle East and Southwest Asia to Central Asia and South. It, then again, formulates the connecting marine standpoint for the land-locked states of Central Asia (2004). In this respect, Kech-Makran is regarded to be geographically important—it remained a vital trade route for ancient travelers. Alexander with his army is a case in point.

The region of Kech-Makran, topographically, is located from 25-24° to 26-39° north latitudes and from 61-49° to 64-31° east longitudes. It is covered on four sides by the prescribed regions: on the north by Panjgur district, on the west by Awaran district, on south by Gwadar District and on the west by Iran. The total area is regarded as to be about 26,600 square miles (2004).

Bearing such a strategic geographical location, the area had remained a place of several expeditions. By this mean, several archaeological surveys and excavations were carried out. The area was explored by a number of archaeologists and researchers. The discoveries were initiated by Major E. Mockler in 1875 (Masih, 1988). He was the first who conducted a general survey and in order to sort the ancient settlements of the region. He carried out an extensive research in the coastal region of Gwadar; he became instrumental to reveal the site of *Sutkagen-Dor*. A site situated in around 40 miles to the north-west of Gwadar. He reported baked bricks, a large earthen pot, fragments of pottery, pieces of pottery, flint knives and the remains of water works were the salient features of the site (Mockler, 1877).

In this pursuit, a distinguished explorer Sir Aurel Stein undertook his archaeological investigation at Kech-Makran in 1927-28. He surveyed the areas that were suggested by Major Mockler to Sir Jhon Marshal and then Sir Jhon Marshal requested Sir Aurel Stein to survey the areas of Kech-Makran. He published the reports of the findings and results in *Memoirs of the Archaeological Survey of India*. He is the first one who became successful for his archaeological expedition to whole region of Kech-Makran (Stein, 1931).

In 1955, Henry Field, under the association of The American Peabody Museum of Harvard University Mission and Department of Archaeology and Museums, Government of Pakistan, came across Balochistan and Bahawalpur. However, when he

moved towards Balochistan, surveyed the areas of Pasni to Kech Valley and then to Central Makran. He inspected the archaeological sites of Sari Damb, Chiri Damb, Kapoto and Kapoto rock shelter, Nodiz, Nasirabad, Nizarabad and notably the sites of Shahi Tump and Miri Fort that the current research is based on. Nonetheless, the main findings of these sites as that of stone buildings: burnt bricks, flat-fish figurine, sea-shell bangles etc. The entire findings illustrate the resemblance and affiliation with other archaeological sites of Balochistan and Iran (Field, 1964).

In 1960, George F. Dales, under the American Archaeological Mission with cooperation of Department of Archaeology and Museums, Government of Pakistan, did explorations in the coastal regions of Kech-Makran; the sole purpose of this archaeological mission, in these regions, was to find relationship between Mesopotamia, Persia and Indus Valley Civilization. They did a number of explorations and found the archaeological site of Sutkagen-Koh (a Harappan site in Pasni). It appears from the characteristics of the site that the site might be an ancient seaport. Henry Field, in 1955, surveyed these regions but could come across the site of Sutkagen-Koh who was just instrumental to find the site of Sutkagen-Dor. Further, the site is about 8 miles away from Pasni. However, it was George F. Dales who not only found this site but also did excavation in the site of Sotkagen-Dor so as to retrace the archaeological evidences of coastal regions and discover probable connections with Indus Valley Civilization and Near East (Dales, 1964).

From 1987 to 1994, the widespread surveys and excavations of Kech-Makran began with the collaboration of R. Besenval, French archaeologist from French National Center for Scientific Research who was part of the Italian Historical, Ecological and Archaeological Mission under the direction of V. Piacentini. (Piacentini, 2011). They carried out surveys of the archaeological sites of Kech-Makran in order to geographically locate the sites found by Stein; to discover new sites and to collect surface material that will provide dating and chrono-cultural sequence for ancient population (Besenval and Sanlaville, 1990; Besenval, 1992). He started an extensive survey of all regions of Makran in 1987-1990. This programme was associated with geomorphological studies in Pasni, in the Dasht Plain, Jiwani, Gwadar, Ormara, Kulwa, Panjgor and Kharan (Besenval and Salanville, 1990).

The district Kech has large number of archaeological sites of pre-historic, proto-historic and historic periods. This framework owes much to the work of foreign mission (Besenval, 2001; Besenval, 2011).

Then, in a second phase of work (1990-1996), excavations were carried out at Miri Qalat, the most important archaeological site of the Kech Valley, still under the supervision of Roland Besenval but in the framework of the French Archaeological Mission in Makran in collaboration with the Department of Archaeology and Museums of Pakistan. Miri Qalat was selected for excavations due to its long chronological sequence (5th Millennium BCE to 19th century AD) defined from the surface material collected during the survey of the site. The objective of Miri Qalat excavations was to establish, for the first time in Kech-Makran, the chrono-cultural periodization of the region.

The third phase began in 1997 with excavations at Shahi-Tump located near the city of Turbat, 10 km south to Miri Qalat on the other side of the Kech River. The objective of excavations at Shahi-Tump was to get more knowledge about chalcolithic culture of the region (Didier, 2007). In parallel to this excavation programme, environmental studies were conducted on the Makran coast by the same team, specifically focused on the study of ancient fishermen settlements and ancient exploitation of marine resources (Desse, 1995). The survey programme in Kech-Makran also continued until 2006. Surveys and excavations by the French Archaeological Mission in Makran were interrupted in 2007 due to some political unrest in the region. Keeping in view the above explorations in mind, the present study focuses on ancient Chalcolithic sites of Ancient Kech-Makran. The study would be of a particular time frame from 5th to 4th millennium BCE. The study aims to conduct an archaeological survey of the Chalcolithic sites in order to add some sort of knowledge to better understand the chrono-cultural sequence of Kech-Makran.

An archaeological field survey would be conducted so as to discover ancient settlements, collect surface material and revisit the surveyed sites in order to observe and reconsider their current state and document the undiscovered sites. This process will be a proposal to carry out more researches and excavations on surveyed selected sites.

1.2 Problem Identification

Kech-Makran was investigated by a few archaeologists and archaeological missions; various academic articles have been created with respect to the social legacy of Kech-Makran. This outlined that the zone has been a support of many societies. The territory has still a lot of anticipated locales which have not been investigated, and recorded. These locales are interested in unlawful diggers and illegal traffickers who cause them human vandalism and unsettling influence. Besides, because of the absence of information about the social legacy and archaic exploration among the nearby individuals, they couldn't care less about them. Also, the normal catastrophes, disintegration and so forth., ought to be kept in thought. Hence, the present review would be an archaeological study which will manage documentation of antiquated settlements of the zone which should be conveyed to light to spread mindfulness and recognize the legacy locales. Notwithstanding, the hotly anticipated issue of safeguarding and protection of the destinations from the concerned experts is an issue of archaeological intrigue that requires an awesome enthusiasm.

After the French Archaeological mission left their archaeological examinations late in 2006, Kech-Makran is in Dull Age—no archaeological unearthings have been directed in the region. The archaeological locales are scattered around, being rotted, aggravated by cataclysmic events, and pitifully being plundered and pillaged by unlawful diggers. Kech-Makran was explored by several archaeologists and archaeological missions; a number of scholarly articles have been produced regarding the cultural heritage of Kech-Makran. This illustrated that this area has been a cradle of many cultures. The area has still plenty of awaited sites which have not been explored, and documented. These sites are open to illegal diggers and illicit traffickers who cause them human vandalism and disturbance. Moreover, due to the lack of knowledge about the cultural heritage and archaeology among the local people, they do not care about them. Moreover, the natural calamities, erosion etc., should be kept in consideration. Therefore, the present study would be an archaeological survey which will deal with documentation of ancient settlements of the area which need to be brought to light so as to spread awareness and acknowledge the heritage sites. However, the long-awaited issue of preservation and conservation of the sites from the concerned authorities is an issue of archaeological interest that requires a great zeal.

After the French Archaeological mission left their archaeological investigations late in 2006, Kech-Makran is in Dark Age—no archaeological excavations have been conducted in the area. The archaeological sites are scattered around, being decayed, disturbed by natural disasters, and miserably being looted and plundered by illegal diggers.

1.3 Scope and of the study

The present study would be an archaeological survey of Kech-Makran which will evaluate and express the archaeological, anthropological and historical worth of the area. It will also attempt to comprehend the various wars, expeditions and historical events with view of archaeological remains and the ancient settlements. It, too, will explore new sites in the survey process and record the newly found sites. In addition, this will render some help to design the chrono-cultural sequence of Kech-Makran which is in a strategic location. It was, undoubtedly, a strategic route to Central-South and East-Asian Migrants. Archaeological materials suggest that it was a center of trade and commerce.

The field survey aims to do surface collection from the ancient settlements. The surface pottery of various types will help understand the cultural history of the area and would help to conduct further researches. It will be appropriate to sort out the various pottery styles as that of Coarse Ware, Red Ware, Emire Grey Ware, Londo Ware are cases in point that will be considered during the field survey in order to better understand the chrono-cultural sequence of the area. The settlements around Kech valley are regarded to be mostly of Chalcolithic Era—Miri Qalat 5th millennium BCE. Similarly, other materials will also be collected so as to trace back the Chalcolithic existence in the area.

Moreover, due to lack of information regarding archaeology, the common people misuse the archaeological materials; this act is regarded to be a harmful thing to the field of archaeology. The cultural heritage, for the archaeologists, is not less than diamond but the irony is that they are sold in nominal amount; it really is a heart-breaking fact. So, the dialogue comes to the point that if the researcher conducts an upright work, the knowledge about archaeology is well flourished and the archaeological sites may not be interrupted. The researcher will try to spread awareness via campaigns, lectures, etc. regarding the importance of tangible cultural heritage.

1.4 **Research Questions**

1. What major research gaps the previous archaeological works left?
2. How accommodating is the two decades of archaeological activities of French Archaeological Mission in Kech-Makran?
3. What has the Department of Archaeology, Government of Balochistan contributed after the devolution to take care of the Archaeological Heritage?
4. Has not the archaeological excavations proved to be destruction rather than construction in the region?
5. How to get rid of illegal archaeological diggings in the region?

1.5 **Hypothesis**

Kech-Makran remained a strategic route of South and Central Asia which and evidenced different historical episodes in the region. Similarly, developed advanced cultures which are unique in the world. In this respect, there is a great need for archaeological surveys and excavations in order to unearth the ancient cultural heritage for understanding the nature of the region in a better way.

1.6 **Literature Review**

The geography of Balochistan most particularly the coastal lines is very much was and strategically important. In this verge of importance, the areas of Kech Makran become related to the same areas because the geographical vintage points make Makran the center of Businesses. Moreover, the land is covered with the international borders which further the pre-eminence of the land of Makran. Historically, the landmass was the cornerstone of the regional development because the bypass of the rest of the land by historical conquerors and the promotion of the land of Makran associates the archaeological discussions. Thus far, the legitimate position of this area transmutes into a cumulative foundation of the archaeologists who have reviewed the regional and historical impasses. In a nutshell, the eminence requires hasty efforts to renovate the unearthed region of Turbat Makran (District Development Profile Kech, 2011).

Kech-Valley was explored from 18th century till 2007; therefore, a large number of literature produced and now available. In this way, Major Mockler is the first who carried out a survey in the coastal region and revealed the site of Sutkagen-Dor and published the reports in 1877 (Mockler, 1877).

Moreover, Sir Aurel Stein also does his analysis of ancient Kech-Makran in a passage “Notes on Makran” in his book *Indian Historical Research: an Archaeological Tour to Gedrosia*, volume 72. In this, he discusses all the ancient history of the region from the coastal areas to the inner and the upland (Stein, 1931).

Roland Besenval and P. Marquis in their article “Excavations in Miri Qalat (PakistanMakran): results of the first field-season (1990).” in the *Journal of South Asian Archaeology*, share regarding the results of 1st field-season which was carried out in 1990. This article plays a very vital role in creating awareness regarding the Archaeology of Kech-Makran. The writers R.Allchin and B. Allchin share some of the aspects of explorations of Kech-Makran in the article “The chronology of ancient occupation in Makran: results of the 1994 season at Miri Qalat, Pakistani Makran. They are also mentioned in *South Asian Archaeology* (1991). In addition, the researchers Gail A.J. and G.J.R. Mevisseneds, in the article “Excavations in Miri Qalat (Pakistani Makran) results of the first Field-season (1990)” published in *South Asian Archaeology*; this points out the excavations at Miri Qalat in South Asian publication of 1993. The author Biscione R in his article “Baluchistan’s presence in the ceramic assemblage of late period Shahr-i-Sokhta” gives several ideas of Balochistan Archaeology in the journal of *South Asian Archaeology*. Moreover, the *South Asian Archaeology*’s role, particularly in the publication of 2001 Volume 1, has been appreciable. In this, Roland Besenval expresses clearly the ancient settlement of Shahi Tump and assigns six periods to the settlement named as: period 1, period 2, period 3, period 3a, period 3b, period 3c, and period 4. By the interpretations and analysis, it was assumed that the site is believed to be one of the prehistoric sites. In this process, the field seasons 1992-1993 of Miri Qalat gives more information to assign an authentic chronological sequence to the ancient settlements of Kech-Makran; the report of this has been published in the periodical of *South Asian Archaeology* 1993: 1. In this respect, the publications of *South Asian Archaeology* 1992a, 1992b, 1994, 2001, and lastly 2005 are cases in point on which Roland Besenval has published the reports of conducted excavations at Kech-Makran.

The writer Valeria Fiorani Piacentini states in his article “From “Green Belt” to the Great Harbour-Town in Sindh: The Italian Archaeological Research-Work in Makran and Kharan, Balochistan and Historical Notes 10th – 13th centuries AD” in the *Journal*

of Asian Civilizations (1987-2012) regarding not only the region, demography, and the nature of the land but also the site of Miri Qalat and the site of Shahi Tump. This is the collaboration of the Italian Historical, Archaeological and Anthropological Research-Work in Kech-Makran, Balochistan: 1987-2001.

The archaeologists Valeria Fiorani Piacentini and Roland Besenval in their report “International Indian Ocean Routes and Gwadar Kuh-Batil Settlement in Makran” In *Pakistan Archaeology* (Number 25___1990), give a detailed description regarding Kech-Makran, Balochistan. They discuss international maritime trade, the settlement of archaeological sites such that Miri Qalat and Shahi Tump.

The archaeologists Roland Besenval P. Sanlaville (1990) describe in the “Cartography of ancient settlements in Central southern Pakistani Makran” the *new data of Mesopotamia –Florence*; in this they share the comparison of the archaeological sites of Kech-Makran to the archaeological sites of Mesopotamia”. The contributions of Roland Besenval have been elaborated in the 1992-1993 field-seasons at Miri Qalat: new contributions to the chronology of protohistoric settlement in Pakistani Makran.

Magareta Tengberg discusses, in her article “Crop Husbandry in Miri Qalat, Makran” (published in 1999) in *Vegetation history and Archaeology*, the nature of the site with its basic characteristics focusing on crops that were produced on the site in. According to the writer barley, wheat, pulses and other variety of plants have been witnessed.

In the article “The 1992-1993 Field Seasons at Miri Qalat: New Contributions to the Chronology of Prehistoric Settlement in Pakistani Makran” published in *South Asian Archaeology* in 1993, Roland Besenval has presented the efforts of his team in unearthing a rich cultural heritage from Miri Qalat. In this season, the mission has recovered a variety of cultural material from five periods i.e. pottery, bones, crop traces, figurines, etc. It has been assigned to first half of the fourth millennium BCE which makes it prehistoric and ends in historic time.

Stuart Piggott wrote a book in 1950, namely “Prehistoric India: To 1000 B.C.”; he discusses a number of sites of Kech region particularly focusing Shahi Tump and its artifacts. Having an architecture with stone bases, it is mostly mud-brick made. It yielded several types of pottery shreds and other materials; for instance, human and

animal figurines some were even painted, copper tools, stamp seals, clay models of carts, etc. Apart from this, he has also found it a Kulli culture site. He dates it to 2000 BCE.

Henry Field in his book “An Anthropological Reconnaissance in West Pakistan, 1955” which has been published in 1959, paid visits to several sites in Kech region. He visited mainly Miri Qalat and Shahi Tump with similar observations as did Aurel Stein.

The edited book of Valeria Piacentini Fiorani and Riccardo Ridaelli named *Balochistan: Terra Inconita* published in 2003 includes many scholarly articles. In some archaeological sites are in focus of study. The sites of Makran region such as Miri Qalat and Shahi Tump were considerably studied and discussed in the articles. Now these sites were excavated by the French Archaeological Mission.

Methodology

The present study is focused on the documentation and preservation of the sites of Makran so the primary method in the study is based on the documentation of sites. The primary methodology will be based on the descriptive as it would be basically documentation. Besides this, there will be analysis of the surveyed material as well so it would involve the second method of analytical approach. Here a comprehensive analysis will be made and every artifact will be systematically documented and analyzed. The next approach will be interpretative method and here artifacts and its cultural pattern will be interpreted. Here symbols on the artifacts will be interpreted in way to highlight its cultural relevancy and cultural continuity if any.

1.7 Organization of the Study

The introductory chapter one briefly discusses the background, problem, scope, research questions, hypothesis, and relevant literature review. Chapter two discusses the cultural history and geography of the area under study. The geography includes the geographic features, such as its mountains, rivers, coast, flora, fauna, etc. Chapter three summarizes a chronological history pertaining to the archaeological works carried out in Kech-Makran and Ancient people of Kech-Makran. Chapter four presents the

archaeological sites discovered during this work. The last part of this research work has discussion, Conclusion, recommendations and cited work.

2 Geography and History

2.1 Geographical Background of Kech-Makran

Kech-Makran, one of the six divisions of Balochistan: Quetta, Makran, Sibi, Zhob, Kalat and Naseerabad. It is comprised of three districts: Kech, Gwadar and Panjgor. It is the southwestern maritime division of Balochistan. It is a transmigrational route of South — Central Asia and it has witnessed several historical movements in the region. (District Gazetteer Kech 2004: 1). Similarly, this region developed highly advanced cultures that are unique in the world. Moreover, Makran constitutes the south-eastern end of the Iranian plateau and measure 200 km on 600 km long. Shared on the political plan between Iran and Pakistan, it is occupied by a series of mountains and plateaus of low altitude, delimiting of narrow valleys (Kech, Nihing, Kil, Buleda, Zamuran) and large plains (Kolwa, Dasht, Kulanch, coastal plain) aligned on an east-west axis (Besenval 1997b: 5). The region of Kech-Makran, topographically, is located from 25-24° to 26-39° north latitudes and from 61-49° to 64-31° east longitudes (District Area Profile Kech: 1997). It is covered on four sides by the prescribed regions: on the north by Panjgur district, on the west by Awaran district, on south by Gwadar District and on the west by Iran (District Gazetteer Kech 2004: 1). The total area is regarded as to be about 26,600 square miles (Stein, 1931).

2.1.1 Physical Geography

Most of the ground is desert but greatest part of the area is occupied by the barren mountains extending from North-East toward the west in parallel curves and gradually decreasing height. On the south, is the coastal Makran Range that overlooks the desolate shores of the Arabian Sea (Stein, 1931 pp. 1-12).

¹Moreover, this axis of communication constitutes a track privileged southern between the Bas-Indus and Southeast Iranian, toward the Kerman (Besenval, 2005 pp. 41-60; Didier, 2013 pp. 31-32).

¹ The portion and division of geographical units have been traced out via works of Roland Besenval, 2005 and Aurore Didier, 2013.

Keeping in view the geographical features, they have been divided into four geographical units—Low Valleys, Upper northern Valleys, Open Inland Plains and the Coastal Plain.

Low Valleys

The low-lying valleys, consisting of the alignment is East-west of the valleys of Kech-Nihing, and the Kil. Formed by a succession of small oasis, they extend on more than 200 km long the existing cities of Hoshab to Mand. They are bounded to the north by the chain of mountains of the Central Makran and are open to the plain of Kolwa border area of district Las Bela, which owns the largest dry agriculture in the region. The main valley is that of the Kech which forms the economic backbone of the Makran and houses the two archaeological sites of Miri Qalat and Shahi-Tump (Besenval, 2005 pp. 41-60; Didier, 2013 pp. 31-32).

Upper Northern Valleys

The Upper Northern Valleys are prescribed by valleys of Buleda, Zamuran and Tagran (Besenval 2005). The northern part of Kech-Makran includes the valleys of Buleda, Zamuran, Rakhshan, Gwargo and Raghai, track of depopulation, as well as the small pool of Parom. It is bounded to the north by the mountains of Siahan which separate the region of the Kech-Makran to that of Kharan (Besenval, 2005 pp. 41-60; Didier, 2013 pp. 31-32).

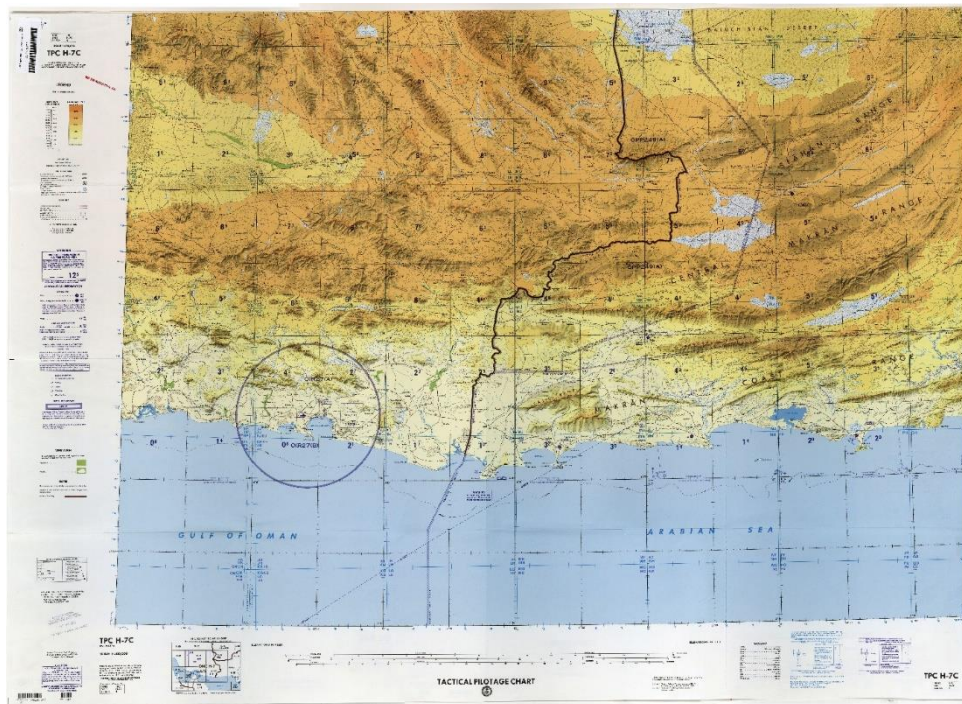
Open Inland Plains

They are characterized by Dasht, Kulanch and Kolwa plains. The south of the Makran, which is mainly occupied by two large interior plains: the plain of Kulanch, isolated by the hills of Sajjadi, and the plain of Dasht (fig. 3). Located in the south-west of the valley of the Kech, this last, which holds an important place in the study that follows, is a large basin sedimentary, arid and much eroded, located at the meeting point of the waters of the Kech and the Nihing, Kaur-e Awaran. Bounded to the north by the hills of Gokprosh, it is characterized by significant open areas dependent on rain fed agriculture. Its geological environment is marked by rocky formations syn-orogenic (flysch) formed of sandstone and shale, which have provided important layers detrital clay in the alluvial plain (Besenval, 2005 pp. 41-60; Didier, 2013 pp. 31-32).

Coastal Plain

The coastal plain is regarded to be a landscape of semi-desert type of those found in the localized regions around the Arabian Sea. It is comprised of Jiwani, Ganz, Pishukan, Gwadar, Pasni, Surr, Kalamat, Gazdan, Nigwar and Ormara. Existing habitats, rare and predominantly destined to the fishing, are concentrated around Basol Kaur, Shadi Kaur and Dasht Kaur (Besenval, 2005 pp. 41-60; Didier, 2013 pp. 31-32).

Additionally, the nature of the area is the contrast of a green oasis and river valleys with the mountainous ridges and hard salty desert. Similarly, the nature of the people is believed to be the same. They are considered to be simple, nomadic and living a village - cultural type of a life (Stein, 1931).



Map No. 1: Kech-Makran. Source http://www.lib.utexas.edu/maps/ams/asia_1m/txu-pclmaps-oclc-6622985-makran-ng-41.jpg Accessed: 12/7/2016).

2.2 Mountainous Ranges

The mountainous ranges give gigantic information to the archaeologists as the ancient traders or nomads have left their remains in shape of petroglyphs, pictographs, zoomorphs, anthropomorphs, etc. However, it might also be observed that the ancient

people left us these remains so that we, the present people, may also know that some cultures existed long ago. Similarly, the mountainous ranges, in the field of archaeology, are incredibly important in tracing back the ancient history, and knowing the climatic condition (District Development Profile Kech 2011: 1-19).

In this respect, the mountainous ranges of Kech-Makran are equally important. If we have a glance on the exact location, the typography and the nature of the mountains, according to the District Gazetteer are considered to be as:

The three mountain masses in Makran are connected on the east with the chain which occupies the center of Balochistan and eventually joins the Safed Koh on the north-east. Unlike the mountains lying immediately to the east of them, however, the general direction of which is north and south, the Makran ranges extend east and west. The mean elevation of the southernmost or Coast Range is somewhat lower than that of the Central Range which, in its turn, gives place in the general elevation to the Siahan Range on the extreme north. These entire ranges exhibit similar characteristics in their greater height at their eastern end, and their gradual decrease in elevation as they trend westward. The great masses of rock and conglomerate which form so conspicuous a feature of the ranges in the Jhalawan region are absent in Makran and are replaced by softer formations of white or grey clay, known as *shur*, and distinguished by the absence of stones. The Makran ranges consist of successions of ridges scoured and cut by torrent beds, known as *shep*, which are always dry except after heavy floods.

Except the Bahrigarr or Coast Range, none of the mountains as a whole have definite local names, but each hill and shoulder possess a separate denomination (Makran District Gazetteer 2004: 6-7).

The region of Kech-Makran is not only a terrain that is hard salty desert land but also is mountainous in its character; the direction of the mountainous range is from north-east to south-west (Kech District Profile 1997: 5). The mountains cover a large area of the entire region. The central mountainous ranges are comprised of mainly three parts: the Makran coast range, it disconnects the region from Gwadar district in the south and the Central Makran range, which separates it from Panjgur district in the north. The altitude of the district ranges between 100 to 1400 meters above the sea level; whereas most part of the district is relatively at a low elevation as compared to the eastern part. In this process, the southern area of this region is regarded as uneven and mountainous. The mountains are not so high but the structure of them is large and long massive, strong folded and west-east oriented. Moreover, they are comprised of either sandstone or shales, straightened and broken. They cleave into minor flags and fragments or of thick mudstones (Kech District Profile 1997: 5).

The mainly concerned ranges are regarded as the two northern ones, the central Makrani Range and the Makran Coastal Range, surrounded by the Kech and Nihing Valleys. The southern Makran Coastal Ranges is lower but it is more complex; they are divided by the river valleys. The specific region is believed to be the region of Shadi Kaur and Dasht regions. Correspondingly, it was to control the main trading roads between the coast and the inland that the Harappans settled down in the two sites of Sotkagen-Koh and Sutkagen-Dor (Besenval and Sanlaville 1990: 83-84).

Rivers of the Valley

Rivers play a valued role in the field of archaeology, as they witness numbers of archaeological remains, artifacts, etc. In order to better survive, the ancient nomads passed through the rivers. The rivers were the source that the ancient people used to live beside for a living. They had lived beside a river and had left their remains in numerous varieties. Keeping in observation the fact of River-Nomadism, the archaeologists and researchers attempted to search for the ancient cultural remains so as to reveal them to the rest of the world. In this regard, the archaeology of Kech-Makran depends on these water sources. Particularly, the rivers of Kech-Makran include: Kech Kaur, Nihing Kaur, Dasht Kaur, Basol Kaur, Shadi Kaur, Kil Kaur, and Gish Kaur (Besenval 2005: 1-9).

As for their location and elevation, they are on south-western Balochistan, Pakistan and probably situated in the Central Kech-Makran. The total area it covers is about 22,539 sq. km. The coordinates of the region are the following: with the longitude of 26°00 N and latitude of 63°00 E. It is bordered on the east with Awaran District, on north, to Panjgor District that disconnects it from the Central Makran mountain range, on south, with the Gwadar District that is separated by the Makran Coast Range and notably it is separated on west by the Iranian Balochistan. The region is saliently featured with plains and mountains with that of the mountainous regions of Central Makran and the Dasht Plain (District Development Profile Kech 2011: 1-19).

The water system of the Central Kech and Sami—located about 150-200 km south of Central Kech—mainly depends on these waterways. The Nihing Kaur is additionally viewed as a life saver of Kech-Makran, taking its shape from the district of Sar Parom. There are two watersheds amongst Parom and Geshtagan, which frame its convoluted

path between the Zamuran and Bampusht ranges, drawing the limit amongst Kalat and Persian Makran.

Apart from the above, according to Roland Besenval, there are two *wadis*: Dokurm Kaur in the east and Sorab Kaur in the west. Both of the valleys depict stepped glacial-terraces converging downstream. In this, the alluvial structures are less numerous with that of the terraces. The line of the deposits begins exactly below the *talweg* (lake) and thus we become informed that the Kech Plain corresponds to a deep filling as mentioned: out of 17 boreholes, 15 were from 70 to 122m deep could not reach bed-rock. The exact date could not be terraced by the archaeologists, but they suggested that, perhaps, they are fairly recent (Besenval and Sanlaville 1990: 84). Moreover, these rivers tend to pass the locality of the Central Kech-Makran and get to one of the major Dams, Mirani Dam, about 40 km far from the center of Turbat (Kech-Makran).

These rivers, namely, Kech Kaur, Nihing Kaur Dokurm and Sorap Kaur not only are foundation of many cultivated lands, projects and source of electricity generation but also, they are subject to many disastrous floods. Historically, calamity occurred in two instances one in 1998 and the second one in 2007. They were not only subject to tragedy that took people and their possessions but also took with it a huge part of Miri Qalat and such other linking archaeological sites in the region.

Agriculture and Climate

The area that is regarded as the area of mostly produced dates all over Balochistan. As Pakistan stands sixth in the date producing countries of the world on which, no doubt, the contribution of Kech-Makran is there with that of the other regions of Pakistan as Sindh. It is, similarly, very hot in the summer season whereas it is very cold in winter season. The heat with scorching weather and the winds locally called *thabd-o-liwaar*. On the other hand, the winter is cold with the northern winds locally called *goorich*. In this respect, the climate, according to the District Profile, is elevated as about 100-1400 meters above the sea level. It is a dry arid hot area and thus termed as ‘hot summer and mild winter’. Moreover, the duration of summer is from March to November whereas the duration of winter is from December till February. June is considered to be the hottest month of the year while January the coldest (District Profile Kech 1997: 5).

The rainfall throughout the summer and winter seasons is computed to be that of 125 to 250 mm which represents a yearly arrangement that is asymmetrical; dry season, likewise, is presumably happen during the years (Besenval, 2005).

Precisely, the duration of summer is longer than that of the winter because summer stays for 9 months whereas winter only for 3 months. The average temperature in summer season remains 33-35⁰ C while 11-12⁰ C in winter season. (District Profile Kech 1997: 5).

2.3 Historical Background

In the primeval era, the region of Kech-Makran had remained the place of nomads, semi-nomads and camel-nomads. With the passage of time, the framework of life style changed. These nomads inhabited in the region and had a living with view of the nature. The domestics of them such as goats, sheep etc., were the sources of survival of the time. These aspects have been brought to the picture of the people by the archaeological researches and the excavations (Shabir, 2013; Baloch, 2009: 41-46). Moreover, the reflection of the past transmissions is observed in the common existing culture. The inhabitants of the earlier period had passed their days being shepherds and still they are found in the desert areas. These people make nets, baskets, mats, shoes etc. with the help of the leaves of *Nannorrhops ritchian*, the scientific name for palm, known *mazari palm* in urdu and *pish* in Balochi local language (Shah 2013). Varieties of things are made from this (the figures below would identify clearly its use and purpose). This is how the primordial people survived and these cultures still exist at present. Kech-Makran has remained the area which witnessed temporary settlements; the cultural remains near the rivers and mountains of Kech-Makran suggest that the nomadic people of the mountains settled near the rivers as they gradually were developing (Stein 1990: 10-11). They started the agricultural activities when inhabited near the rivers and this activity gave rise to a new culture in those particular communities and villages whose life depended on agriculture (Shabir, 2013; Baloch 2012: 1-16).

2.4 The origin of the term ‘Makran’

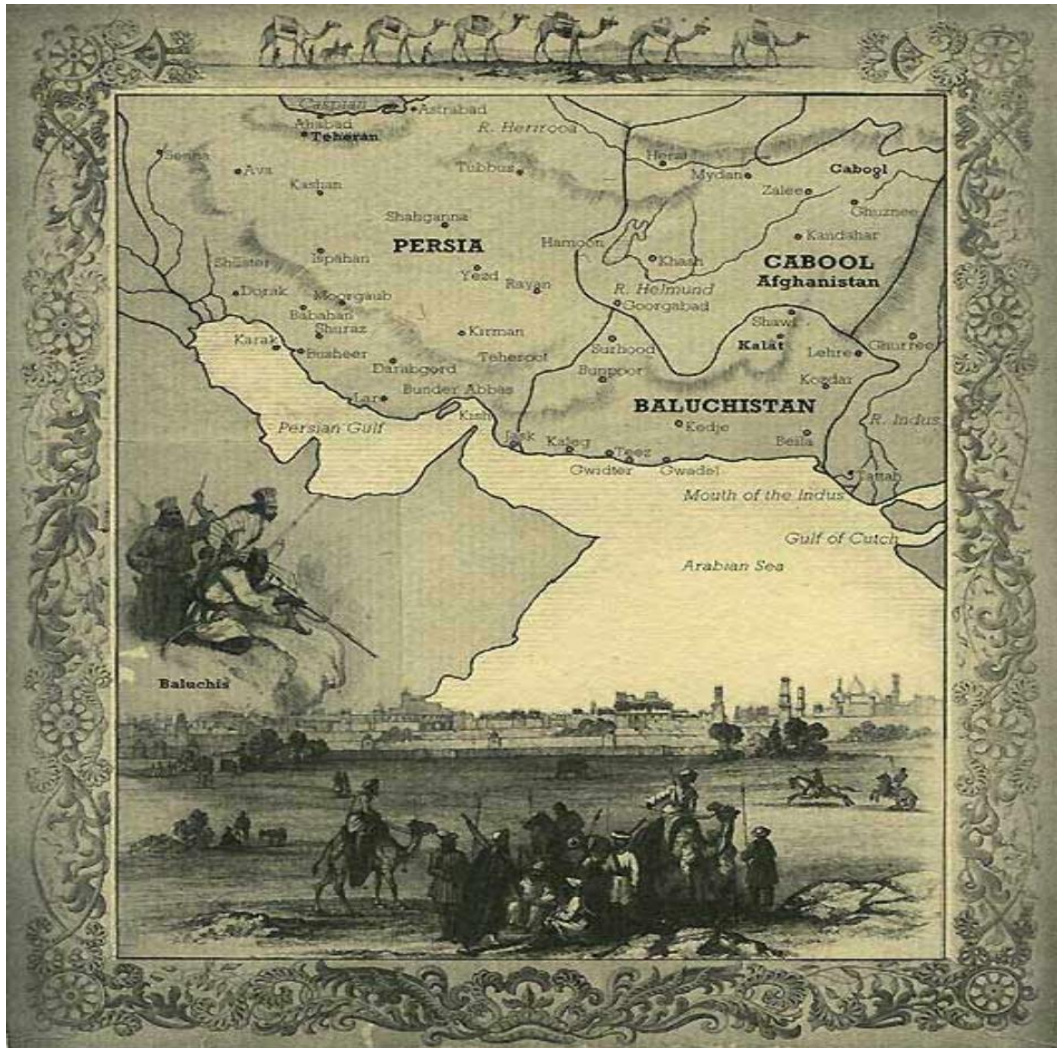
Before the term is clarified, let it be cleared that there are two parts of Makran; one is in present day Iran (Persia) while the other is situated in Balochistan (Pakistan). The term Kech-Makran is used so as to distinguish it with that of the Persian Makran (District Gazetteer Kech 2004: 3).

Historically, many theories have been given with the unknown-suggested origination of the term Makran. Some scholars are of the view that the term Makran may be the consequence of two words *mahi* means fish whereas *Khoran* means eaters (District Gazetteer Kech 2004: 4). Similarly, it would indicate the fish-eaters. It is also evident that when Greeks came with regard to Alexander the Great's march in about 327 B.C.E., called the people of Makran with a Greek name *Ichthyophagoi* means the fish-eaters (Baloch 2009: 13). However, this fact becomes more evident that Makran was derived from the place of fish-eaters because it is also believed to be a coastal area and Alexander's presence is evident in the coastal areas and deposits also suggest the same (Nadeem 2007: 1-20).

In addition, it is also stated that Hamzah attributes as the amalgamation of two terms *Mah Keran* means the towns located in the shores of the sea; no doubt, the area is also a coastal area (District Gazetteer Kech 2004: 3). On the other hand, some Arab scholars are of the view that the word has taken its formation from the so-called founder *Mokran*, son of *Farek*, son of *Sam*, son of *Noah*. However, scholars like Sir Thomas Holdich, Dr. Bellew and Sir Oliver St. John suggest that it is a corruption of the Persian *Mahi Khoran*: fish-eaters. They put their suggestions forward that Greeks, at the time of Alexander (327 B.C.E.), also called the people *Ichthyophagoi* which, too, points out the fish-eaters (Shabir, 2013).

In this regard, the word Makran has been much discussed among the scholars so as to draw better conclusions for the origin of the name. It is not only discussed because the origin of the term Makran is better derived but because the unrevealed history of Baloch would also have some nearer conclusions. However, so far the theory has been proved in the above mentioned perspectives; undoubtedly, there is a dire need of further researches and archaeological excavations in order to draw close conclusions for the derivation of the term Makran.

2.5 The Legendary Lore



Warfare in the region (Courtesy: <http://balochistanarchives.gov.pk>

28/11/2016).

It would be no wonder if we say that Kech-Makran has witnessed several legendary lores. One of the mostly attributed ones is that of the Prophet Dawood. At this point, the people entombed themselves in small cairns as locally known as *dambi*. This practice was done by the common folk of the time so as to get rid of scarcity of food (District Gazetteer Kech 2004: 33).

Moreover, the struggle of Cyrus and Semiramis are also the versions to be taken in consideration that came across the region. Alexander the Great, afterwards, attempted so as to emulate the Cyrus and Semiramis. However, the statement quoted by the Arrian from Nearchos about the very severe loss that according to local tradition had attended

the attempts of Semiramis and Cyrus to cross Gedrosia with an army. With this account, it is evident that whatever the facts underlying the popular tradition perhaps have been, that the region was regarded then already, just as it is now, absolutely was inappropriate for the movement of large bodies of troops (Stein 1990: 11).

Above and beyond, Alexander had a famous expedition in the region which is a great component of the Kech-Makran's history (District Gazetteer Kech 2004: 33). As mentioned by Sir Aurel Stein in his book *An Archaeological Tour to Gedrosia*:

The utter inadequacy of local supplies, the want of sufficient grazing and in many places even of water must all though historical times have rendered the passage of Makran by considerable force a very hazardous undertaking. Alexander's success in overcoming such formidable obstacles, even though at the cost of heavy sacrifices, was in truth but the exception that proves the rule, while at the same time a proof of his incomparable genius as leader. Hence it is easy to understand the dread of barren Makran expressed in the reports of those Arab commanders who under the early Caliphs orders endeavored to use Makran as base for the invasion of India (Aurel Stein 1990: 11).

It is also regarded that Abdul Qasim Firdausi sings about the region in his *Shahnama*; which is considered to be the most primitive Arabic and Persian basis of finding earliest sources of 'Baloch History' and regards the region as the 'battle-field' between Irani and Turanian kings (Aurel Stein 1990: 11). M. Longworth Dames mentions in his book regarding the history of the legends that:

The mention of Baloches in history is found in the Arabic Chronicle of tenth century, the fourth of Hijri era. But Dames regards that Firdausi's poem, the *Shahnama*, was finished in A.H. 400 which refers to an earlier period than that of these (Dames 1904: 21).

On the contrary to the above, Jamil Baloch quotes in his article '*Field of Archaeology in Balochistan and its Importance in the Baloch History*' that Abdul Qasim Firdousi composed *Shahnama* in 1010 A.D. which is regarded as to be of 500 to 600 verses of epic poetry that declare the Iranian role in Balochistan. Moreover, it also pointed out in *Shahnama* the role of Iranian King Darius (522-485 B.C.E.) who had subjugated Balochistan in more or less 450 B.C.E., and affirm it as a province of Iranian kingdom (Hussain 2010: 30) whereas Hameed Baloch in his book *Ahd Qadeem se Ahd Jadeed tak* discusses regarding *Shahnama* that Baloch migrated to Makran from *Kho-i- Alburz* (Ibid.).

Dames not only suggests the date for the particular era but also analyses to adjoin the history of legends that passed through Balochistan, Javid Haider adds some more points as that of the rulers and kings, regarding the quantity of epic poetry and a date whereas Hameed Baloch discusses the migration, are all the cases in point that are to be taken in consideration while tracing back the history of Kech-Makran.

Besides, it is stated in the District Gazetteer regarding the history of Makran becoming parts of Iran:

Makran, we are told, formed the part of the possessions of Iran during the reign of King Kaus, who is spoken of as touring in all his dominions including Makran, whence he took boat to others parts from his territories (District Gazetteer Kech 2004: 33-34).

The process gradually continued and the area came under temporary reign as that of Turanians they were driven-out by Kai Khusrau. Kai Khusrau reoccupied the region after fighting five battles. At this time, the area developed highly advanced, developments were brought in the agricultural setup with view of bringing skilled cultivators throughout the world. In order to enrich the country, the King ordered to layout fruit gardens and attend to the pasture grounds for the sake of their horses and hunting grounds as a tradition of the rulers of the time (Ibid.).

By the time the Kai Khusrau was departing, he designated one Ashkash as governor; a fact may also be evident that the two *karez* in Turbat are known as Kausi and Khusrawi, these names were termed by the faithful supporters of the kings when the kings had left the area and gone for other expeditions. The process of succession continued as that of another hero of *Shahnama*, Bahman, who is considered to be the son of Asfandiar. There is a *karez* with the name *BahmaniKarez* and Bahmani Damb (mound) situated in Turbat. This is what has been derived from the history.

In this process, Kech-Makran also paid allegiances to Kai Kaus, Kai Khusrau, Lehrasp, Gushtasp, Bahman, Human and Durab. But still important is the fact of Alexander the Great on his way from India to Macedonia (District Profile Kech 1997: 1). Alexander's presence, in the region, is regarded as of 327 B.C.E. which is an indicator to draw the attention of the rest of the world towards the district (District Gazetteer Kech 2004: 34-35). The Greek historian Arrian has remarked regarding the area that the climate seems to be very hot, the soil sandy and inept for human settlement. Thus, many of the rulers

faced many problems while crossing the region. In this respect, Sir Thomas Hungerford Holdich (1843-1929), who was the president of Royal Geographical Society, traced the route of Alexander as to be the coastal regions as north of the Hingol River, Ormara, he turned northward and passed through the mountains at the back of Taloi Ridge, in the Kech-Makrani coastal ranges. He, then, turned towards the shore between Kalamat and Pasni along which he continued to Gwadar and from this point to northwards to Bampur (District Gazetteer Kech 2004: 40).

Nonetheless, after Alexander the Great, the region was ruled by one of his generals: Seluekos Nikator. After Seluekos, it was ruled by Chandragupta (303 B.C.E). After them, the history is lost in darkness for centuries. It may be evident due to the fact that only the Greek historians documented their history whereas the others did not care to record the history of theirs. However, in the fifth century A.D., the evidences, records and documents inform us regarding the region being handed-over to Bahram-i-Gor as a component of dower of Shermah's daughter. A determined version of the region is distinguished in 643 A.D; this is the epoch when Islamic Army under the supervision of Abdullah subjugated Makran and informed caliph Umar regarding the aridity of the land. When the region was under Arab control, they ruled it one after the other. However, it was the tradition of the time (District Area Profile Kech: 1997: 1).

Some of the Arab geographers of the time as that of Ibn Haukal, Ibn Khurdadba, Al Istakhri and Al Idrisi have regarded the region as 'for the most part desert'. Moreover, in the 10th century A.D., as the point is put promoted by Ibn Haukal. In his view point, the ruler was an Arab, Ibn Madan. He had instituted his residence in the city of Kech-Makran that is considered the half size of Multan of the time. Afterwards, Muhammad Bin Qasim (712 A.D.) passed through the area of Kech-Makran; he was on his way to Sindh. Besides, many invaders conquered the area as that of Deilamis, the Seljuks, The Ghaznavids, the Ghorids and the Mangols etc. The local rulers also enjoyed power and authority in the region as that of Hoths, Maliks, Rinds, Buledais and Gichkis. Since the conquerors had no good objectives whereas the local rulers had it; they, thus, exercised authority in the region of Kech-Makran (Ibid.).

Overall, archaeological researches and excavations may be of worth if carried out in the region of Kech-Makran to trace back the forgotten ancient history of the region in this regard.

Chapter 3

3 Ancient population of Kech-Makran: Synthesis of previous

Archaeological Fieldwork

3.1 Makran in the Past

Ancient Makran was unknown before 1980s Greek texts that refer to Ancient ‘Gedrosia’ and its crossing by Alexander the Great are the primary references to trace back Ancient Makran. Between the rich plain of Sindh—Indus Valley, and extreme South-Eastern oasis of Iran, early Islamic Literature emphasized that Makran has to be crossed without delay (Besenval, 2011). There was no specific description of the area between 325 BC—the crossing by Alexander and Nearchos, and 1844 AD—the first record by an Afghan spy sent by the British (Nabee, 1938). Kech-Makran² referred to from the Greek texts as the region of Gedrosia and the land of ichthyophagous³ ('fish-eaters'), the area that was crossed by Alexander the Great in 325 BCE, when he came back from the Indus Valley (Didier, 2015). Makran is likewise revealed in the Peutinger table—the guide of Roman traditions in a copy dated from 1264 (Besenval, 2005). Kech-Makran had for some time been viewed as ‘no man’s land’ on the archaeological map of the Indo-Iranian borderlands even after Sir Aurel Stein had carried out archaeological studies for one month in 1928 (Stein, 1931).

² The term is specified as ‘Kech-Makran’ to distinguish it with that of Iranian part of ‘Makran’. ‘Kech-Makran’ is located in the Pakistani parts.

³ This also maintains the fact that people of Makran are *Mahi-Khor*—local word for fish-eaters. Cited also by Stein, 1931; Besenval, 2005; Didier, 2015.

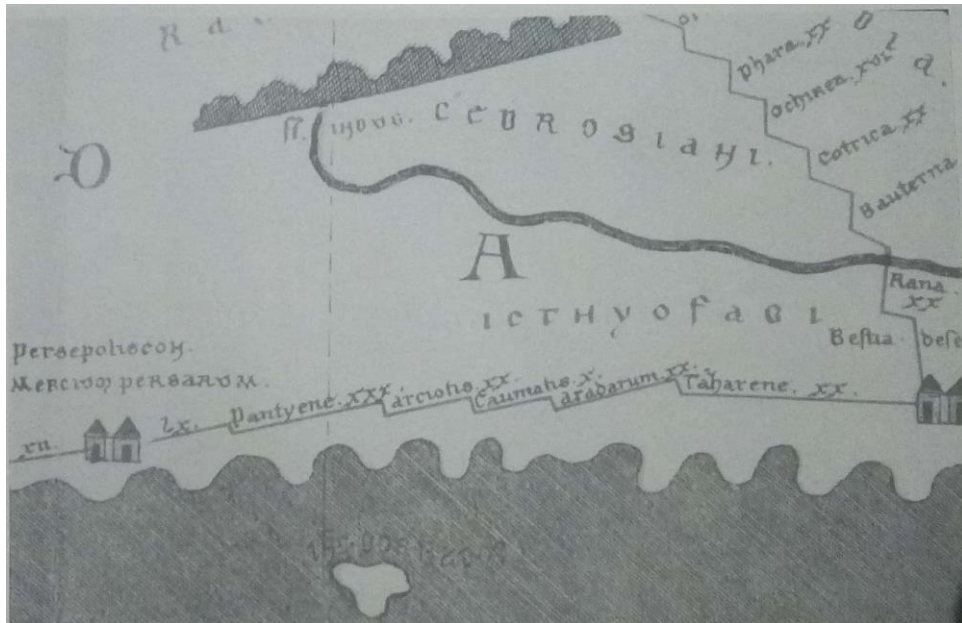


Figure 1 Peutingertable mentioning *Gedrosia* and *Ichthyofagi* (Courtesy: Besenval, 2011).

To trace back history of the region, it would be worthwhile to mention the previous researches and excavations. The previous works help us understand not only the archaeological importance, as it is an archaeological journey, but also the comparative views regarding the particular area. Moreover, the history of researches at, Kech-Makran, have been and still are of true-value; they have been the source of many new discoveries. Therefore, the previous researches and excavations are worth-mentioning.

3.2 Archaeological explorations in Kech-Makran

Although Kech-Makran was considered ‘no man’s land’ in the archaeological map but he strategic location, the migrations, expeditions and various geographical aspects helped researchers to record more episodes of Kech-Makran; Alexander with his army is a salient feature of such historical events. In this respect, the archaeological and historical importance of Kech-Makran laid the foundation of many archaeological surveys and excavations.

Ancient occupations of Makran were firstly by British political Agent Major E. Mockler in 1870-75 he found Sutkagen-Dor (Mockler, 1877). Be that as it may, Sir Aurel Stein is thought to be the first archaeological investigator who who Makran in 1927-28 (Stein, 1931). In 1960s, George F. Dales with his team were keen on Makran, not for a local ancient culture but rather for a sphere of expansion for Indus Civilization site in

Makran—unearthed trenches in Sutkagen Dor and found second Indus site Sotkah Koh (Dales, 1962) Roland Besenval and his team initiated archaeological surveys and excavations in 1980s and the program lasted until 2007. Roland Besenval continued surveys and excavations for almost 2 decades. He is thought to be instrumental for Kech-Makran archaeology; he carried out several seasons in the important sites of Miri Qalat the most ancient occupation of Makran (5th millennium BCE site) and Shahi-Tump (1st half of 4th millennium BCE site). (Besenval, 1989; Besenval, 1990; Besenval/Sanlaville, 1990; Besenval, 1992a; Besenval, 1992b; Besenval 1994; Besenval 1995; Besenval 1997; Besenval, 2000; Besenval, 2005; Didier, 2015).

3.3 History of Researches and Excavations: Detailed account

The history of researches and excavations, however, initiated with a British: Major E. Mockler in 1875 (Mockler, 1877) He was the one who carried out an extensive research in the coastal region of Gwadar; he became instrumental to reveal the site of *Sutkagendor* (Dales and Lipo 1992: 2). A site situated in around 40 miles to the north-west of Gwadar. Baked bricks, a large earthen pot, fragments of pottery, pieces of pottery, flint knives and the remains of temples or water works were the salient features of the site (District Gazetteer Kech 2004: 57).

The British representatives Captain R.B Lockwood and C.M MacGregor, in 1880s, attempted to survey the area of Seistan and Makran, probably the historic Makran. They point out the archaeological sites which came under their path: from Gwadar to Jiwani and then to Dasht. They also mention in their report the archaeological site of *Sutkagendor* which is appeared to on the rout they followed (Dales and Lipo 1992: 2).

In this pursuit, a distinguished explorer Sir Aurel Stein undertook his archaeological investigation at Kech-Makran in 1927-28 (Stein, 1931). He surveyed the areas that were suggested by Major Mockler to Sir Jhon Marshal and then Sir Jhon Marshal requested Sir Aurel Stein to survey the areas of Kech-Makran. He published the reports of the findings and results in *Memoirs of the Archaeological Survey of India*. He is the first one who became successful for his archaeological expedition to whole region of Kech-Makran (Stein 1931).

However, he had circulated his findings regarding Balochistan in two reports: *An Archaeological Tour in Waziristan and Northern Balochistan* and *An Archaeological Tour to Gedrosia* (Stein 1931: 1-2).

In 1955, Henry Field, under the association of The American Peabody Museum of Harvard University Mission and Department of Archaeology and Museums, Government of Pakistan, came across Balochistan and Bahawalpur. However, when he moved towards Balochistan, surveyed the areas of Pasni to Kech Valley and then to Central Makran. He inspected the archaeological sites of Sari Damb, Chiri Damb, Kapoto and Kapoto rock shelter, Nodiz, Nasirabad, Nizarabad and notably the sites of Shahi Tump and Miri Fort that the current research is based on. Nonetheless, the main findings of these sites as that of stone buildings: burnt bricks, flat-fish figurine, sea-shell bangles etc. The entire findings illustrate the resemblance and affiliation with other archaeological sites of Balochistan and Iran (Field 1964: 34).

In 1960, George F. Dales, under the American Archaeological Mission with cooperation of Department of Archaeology and Museums, Government of Pakistan, did explorations in the coastal regions of Kech-Makran; the sole purpose of this archaeological mission, in these regions, was to find relationship between Mesopotamia, Persia and Indus Valley Civilization (Dales 1964: 36). They did a number of explorations and found the archaeological site of Sutkagen-Koh (a Harappan site in Pasni). It appears from the characteristics of the site that the site might be an ancient seaport. Henry Field, in 1955, surveyed these regions but could come across the site of Sutkagen-Koh who was just instrumental to find the site of Sutkagen-Dor. The site is about 8 miles away from Pasni. However, it was George F. Dales who not only found this site but also did excavation in the site of Sotkagen-Dor so as to retrace the archaeological evidences of coastal regions and discover probable connections with Indus Valley Civilization and Near East.

From 1987 to 1994, the widespread excavations and examination of Kech-Makran began with the collaboration of The Italian Università Cattolica del Sacro di Milano, and the French Archaeological Mission in Central Asia. The mission was directed by Jean-Claude Gardin and the field director Roland Besenval. They carried out surveys of the archaeological sites of Kech-Makran to geographically locate the sites; secondly, they extensively excavated the archaeological sites of Kech-Makran (Piacentini 2011:71-72). The excavations were carried out in the areas of Central Makran as that of Miri Fort and Shahi Tump. On the other hand, they were carried out in Pasni, in the planes of Dasht and Jiwani, Gwadar, Ormara, Kulwa, Panjgor and Kharan (Baloch 2009: 51-69).

In this connection, the French Archaeological Mission, under the supervision of Roland Besenval, performed extensive excavations particularly in the site of Miri Fort and Shahi Tump. The excavations were done in various seasons; the results of which have been published in the periodicals of South Asian Archaeology. A huge number of archaeological data were unearthed from the excavations that suggest the site is of 6th millennium B.C.E. (Besenval 1993: 81). During a mission in 1990, two soundings were opened: the eastern part which was conducted by P. Marquis and the western part also by P. Marquis. In this respect, the soundings recommended three periods of ancient occupation in Kech-Makran: Pre-Harappan, Harappan and Early Harappan (Besenval and Marquis 1991: 33).

All the below data is traced out of the publications by French Archaeological Mission –via their two decades of archaeological explorations in Kech-Makran (from 1987 to 2007).

3.4 Cartographic Sketch of Ancient Settlements in Kech-Makran

Many archaeological sites scattered around Kech-Makran are have been documented and reported by several archaeological missions. In this respect, the efforts done by Roland Besenval and Paul Sanlaville—*Cartography of Ancient Settlements in Central Southern Pakistani Makran*, are important to be cited. They have reported details of ancient settlements in a scientific process. Firstly, surveying the sites, recording the coordinates, drawing map references and map sketches and assigning a cultural date to the site by keeping in view the diverse material from the surface collection (Sanlaville 1990). Secondly, excavating some important selected archaeological sites; the archaeological sites of Miri Qalat and Shahi Tump are cases in point. The principle concentrate, in any case, would be on the archaeological sites of Miri Qalat and Shahi Tump yet there would be a general exchange on the major overviewed archaeological destinations that was completed under the system of Italian Chronicled, Natural and Archeological Mission with the coordinated effort of French Archaeological Mission and the backing of Department of Archaeology and Museums Government of Pakistan (Besenval and Sanlaville 1990: 79). In this regard, the administration of Balochistan and the local people had influenced and contributed; they additionally added to encourage the outside archeological missions to Kech-Makran (Shabir 2014).

Moreover, a portion of the fundamental archaeological locales would be taken in consideration in this section of general interpretation; they are the ancient settlements that require further archaeological investigation and excavation as well as saved from plundering and looting. The archeological destinations that are specified underneath would be sought after with the accompanying plan: firstly, the beach front locales and the connecting districts would be talked about; the zone is thought to be limited toward the north by the southern Kech-Makran Seaside Range; while it is separated from east to west into the accompanying sub-divisions or regions: Ormara, Basol Kaur, Khor, Kalamat, Pasni, Shadi Kaur, Kulanch Plain, Gwadar, Jiwani and lower Dasht Valley. Besides, the focal valley and fields which are arranged in the middle of the southern Kech-Makran and Central Makran Ranges, they are parallel for the most part to the Dasht Stream depleting framework, involved Dasht River, Nihing valley, Kech and Keel valleys, additionally disengaged to subareas like Pidark desert garden (abutting with the Shadi Kaur system). Thirdly, the Central Kech-Makran Range that is accepted to be the secluded valleys arranged toward the north of the Kech Band, is, approximately, at a height above 500 meters: Buleda valley, especially, to the upper-course of Gish Kaur and Zamuran Range, Nivano and Tagran Kaur regions (Besenval 1991: 90).

The plan discussed about above is the full structure of the studied zones yet some major decided archaeological sites would be examined because the primary center of the study would not be on the archaeological destinations of endorsed areas but on Miri Qalat and Shahi-Tump; in any case, the flow destinations will not just spread mindfulness regarding the archaeology and palaeontology of Balochistan by and large and Kech-Makran in particular. The current study might, additionally, be a sort of source to encourage further researches and will also help design framework for excavations.

3.5 The Protohistoric Occupation of Kech-Makran

The main ancient occupations of Kech-Makran—so far excavated and considered, are that of Miri Qalat and Shahi-Tump. The former later of 5th millennium BC while the latter is of 4th millennium BC.

Miri Qalat (Miri Fort)



Figure 2 Signifies Miri Fort (Courtesy: <https://www.flickr.com/photos/15/6/2016>).

Geographical Location: it is located on the right bank of the Kech River, about 6 km. northwest from the center of Turbat that is located on the left bank of Kech River (Besenval and Sanlaville 1990: 114).

Coordinates: latitude $26^{\circ} 2'$ north; longitude $63^{\circ} 0' 45''$ east (Besenval and Sanlaville 1990: 114).

General Description:

The Balochi term Qalat is regarded to be Fort in the English-speaking world. Miri Qalat, among the common people, is famous for the story of Sassi of Sindh and Punno of Kech-Makran; the irony is that the archaeological aspect of Miri Qalat, among common people, is unknown. This is due to the lack of archaeological knowledge. Nevertheless, the current study would focus on the archaeological aspect (through archaeological remains that are analyzed by Roland Besenval and the team) of the Miri Qalat.

The more researches and excavations are conducted in the region the more knowledge the people of the area may have. Besides, the statement that the academic knowledge

is more likely to be accepted than that of the oral diffusion, is also a debatable concern that would be further considered as a cultural reflection by observing the data and analysing the archaeological data found at Miri Qalat by Roland Besenval.

Deriving its fame from its generic name, Miri, the place of the ruler (Mir is a Baloch ruler, so the name derives from Mir) is the most famous archeological site of Makran. What makes it interesting is that other all sites and their excavations have some relation with the discoveries made at Miri showing that once it was the headquarter or the main center of social or may be strategic activities. The living ancestors tell the glorious outlook of its gigantic walls which today stays in ruins, but around hundred years before it was not so. Hundred years before or so, Miri was much better in its physical structure and much of the real image of it was reflected in it, but the absolute negligence led it to turn in ruins so quickly (Stein 1931).

The current background of Miri is serene occupied in all its corners with gardens and farming. The local farmers use the water of Kech River in times of rains for irrigation or they get the help of a newly made Karez which flows to the foot of the fort.

Structure

Early construction and then signs of reconstruction show that the fort was constructed more than once and by different rulers in different times. The most recent rulers worked on the elevation of the fort keeping the security concerns in perspective. The latest rulers worked seriously for the defense the top of the walls and the heights of the castle all around reveal this factor. The maximum heights reaching up to 125 feet just indicate the above-mentioned concern.

For the last couple of centuries before the creation of Princely State of Makran, rulers called Mir ruled this castle and the latest signs indicate that then the castle fell to the officials of Khan of Kalat which he turned into a garrison from where the defence of the whole of Makran was carried out. The Western portion was used as a garrison and the rest of the Eastern part was under the control of the Gichki rulers seemingly a sort of alliance. The Khanate has a reasonable share of the revenue of the valley of Kech ensuring the alliance to strengthen. The alliance came to scene when the Gichki rulers submitted to and paid allegiance to the Brahvi rule. In other words, the last rulers of the Miri had it in control till the late 19th century, but still the ruling had not damaged the

castle as much as did the deserting of it. There is a total of 300-yard length between the southern and northern flanks (H. Baloch 2011).

The foot of the castle which lies in ruins is almost above 30 feet higher than the ground level. The castle does not start from the surface of the earth but from a mound which means that it was constructed on a height. The towers of the castle with maximum elevation of 130 feet were designed for the archers and intelligence gathering for the movements around.

Currently, the archaeological site of Miri is thought to be symbolized by an Islamic Qalat (Fort). It is measured as to be 300 meters from east to west and 150 meters from north to south (Besenval and Marquis 1993: 3). The site, according to the observation of R. Besenval and P. Marquis, completely covers the pre-Islamic site used as a promontory for the Islamic inner fortress. In this process, Besenval and Marquis remark that only the erosion of the Kech River on the southern edge has enabled to observe the *in situ* pre-Islamic occupation (Besenval and Sanlaville 1990: 114).

Shahi Tump Damb (Mound)



Figure 3 Shahi-Tump Damb (Courtesy:<http://www.google.com.pk/images> 16/6/2016).

Geographical Location:

The archaeological site of Shahi-Tump as known as Shahi-Tump Damb or Mound is located on the left bank of Kech River and it lies about 5 km west of Turbat (Buquet 2003). The site lies near the southern limits of the oasis; it is small in size: 90 m. x 90 m (Besenval and Sanlaville 1990:113) See map no 4 for location of Shahi-Tump.

Coordinates:

The site is: latitude 26⁰ 0' 30" north; longitude 63⁰ 0' 15" east. (Besenval and Sanlaville 1990:113).

Category of the site:

The archaeological site is a small tell site in western side of Turbat City, with a small inhumation cemetery, probably of the 3rd millennium BC (Besenval 2003). The pottery and other artifacts indicate some sort of connections both with Iranian sites and the Kulli culture of southern Balochistan. On the other hand, the grave goods include some

fine gray ware bowls with swastika motifs in soft black paint; rich copper work, a shaft-hole ax, and five compartmented stamp seals. Three phases of use were recognized: two phases of occupation, followed by a phase of use as a cemetery. (<http://www.archaeologywordsmith.com/lookup.php?category=&where=headword&terms=Shahi+Tump>. dated: 17/6/2016).

General description:

The term Shahi means royal whereas Tump mean mound similarly Shahi Tump means the royal mound (Stein 1931: 88). As the mound is located near the Kech River, therefore, it may be assumed that the ancient nomads passed through the rivers or they lived near the rivers; such is a case with the archaeological site of Shahi-Tump which is located on the left bank of Kech River. The mound of Shahi-Tump is regarded to be the main settlement area or it was the center of the area. A short distance further down lies Kosh Kalat, one of the larger among these villages, whereas beyond a stretch of bare clay, a couple of yards to the south of the mound, now an abandoned Karez runs along the foot of the gently ascending glacis of the Gokprosh hills (Stein 1931: 88).

If we observe the name of the place Shahi-Tump and connect with past, it, historically, had some sort of respect as that of a royal man had probably had lived or was settled in this ancient settlement (Stein 1931: 89; Besenval 2003). Similarly, Sir Aurel Stein mentions in *An Archaeological Tour to Gedrosia* some sort of his story during excavation and the story of royal man:

that a holy man claiming to have come from Herat who a few years before had settled down in the southern foot of the mound his local disciples had built a small dwelling for him by the side some trees and a well. At the adjoining slope of the mound an enclosure had been laid out to serve as a mosque and a *taikhana* dug above it into the mound to provide a cool retreat for the teacher and his acolytes during the heat of the summer. The fact of trees of some age growing on that side of the mound also indicates that the spot also enjoyed some local veneration before the arrival of this holy person. Fortunately, by time of my return he had started for a pious peregrination, and thus no trouble arose the distributing effect necessarily accompanying the excavations which we carried on here from the 12th to the 23rd of February. Fortunately, too, the

employment of a large number of laborers, up to 190 at one time, was facilitated by the close vicinity of several villages (Stein 1931: 89).

3.6 Major Findings and remains

It is no secret that the archaeological remains and object would certainly be connecting the nature of the area in one way or the other because the ancient settled people, whether the local inhabitants or the foreign invaders as that of the nomads, had settled for a short or long periods of time (Shabir 2014). Such is a case with the archaeological of Shahi-Tump Damb (Mound); the pottery collected is mostly from the so-called Shahi-Tump cemetery that somehow follows the abandonment of the ancient settlement of Shahi-Tump Damb (Besenval and Sanlaville 1990: 113). On the other hand, the cultures of Togau C ware and Dasht assemblage sherds have also been found. However, the archaeological study of the Kech-Valley should shed light on the uncertain dating of this period (Besenval and Sanlaville 1990: 113). With view of the most ancient occupation of the archaeological site of Shahi-Tump, it may be kept in mind that the lowest culture was not reached by Sir Aurel Stein's excavations: in his excavations, there is no mention of virgin soil in his report. However, it is not evident that how deep the archaeological levels go under the present level of the oasis, and had contributed to the burying of the most ancient levels of the site (Besenval and Sanlaville 1990: 113). This could be proved with the pedological study and probably with the study of archaeological soundings.

3.7 Chronological Frame of Kech-Makran

Miri Qalat indicates ancient occupation beginning during the 5th millennium BC and running until the start of the 2nd millennium BC. After a hiatus during the 2nd millennium BC—which is still unexplained, the occupation appears to restart toward the end of the 2nd millennium or amid the start of the 1st millennium BC and to last until the present (Besenval 2011).

The chronological frame has been designed by the French Archaeological Mission keeping in view the previous archaeological explorations. And foremost by their two decades of archaeological activities they could assign Kech-Makran to 12 different periods.

Protohistory

Period I	Sar-I Damb Culture (5 th millennium BC).
Period II	Miri Culture (1 st half of 4 th millennium BC).
Period IIIa	Shahi-Tump Culture (3 rd tiers of the 4 th millennium beginning of the 3 rd millennium BC).
Period IIIb	Dasht Culture 1 (2800-2600 BC).
Period IIIc	Dasht Culture 2 (2600-2500 BC).
Hiatus	

Ancient History and Islam

Period V	Iron or pre-Alexander: 1 st half of the 1 st millennium BCE.
Period VI	Hellenistic-Parthian Period (Post Alexander).
Period VII	Indo-Sasanian Period 3 rd -7 th century AD.
Period VIIIa	Early Islamic Period (pre-Mongol).
Period VIIIb	Timurid Period
Period VIIIc	Late Islamic Period

Chapter 4

4 Survey of Archaeological Sites in Eastern Kech Valley

4.1 New surveys in Shahrak and Sami, Kech Valley

4.1.1 New surveys on the eastern sites of Kech Valley

In different eras of human social developments and evolution of civilizations, man has passed through several advancements—from hunters and gatherers to empire builders(Flannery 1972). Observing the reported remains the social organization—as that of living pattern, ritual practices, ceremonies etc., of a area could be known. Likewise, rivers play a vital role in sorting out archaeological sites; they help not only revealing archaeological artefacts but also aid understanding ancient life style and several practices.

Similar could also be observed around Kech Valley in Kech-Makran which is located on the trans-migrational route of South to Central Asia and disclosed different historical episodes. Similarly, this region developed highly advanced cultures, which are unique in the world. In this respect, a great need is felt to conduct archaeological explorations and excavations in order to unearth the cultural heritage of Kech-Makran. Therefore, an archaeological survey around eastern side of Kech Valley was conducted.

4.1.1.1 Documentation of Surveyed Archaeological Sites



Google Earth 1: Sites around Eastern Kech-Valley (Photo Courtesy Google Earth)

Shahrak Main areas

Shahrak is a group of 3 to 4 villages and oases; it is located about 33-37 km east of Turbat from the road to Sami and on the right bank of Kech Kaur (River). The Map reference could be traced from 31 N/8 and the coordinates are: latitude $26^{\circ} 2'$ North; longitude $63^{\circ} 20'$ East (R. B. Sanlaville 1990).

Shahrak Grinding Stone (Jinter)

Location of Site

The site is located at the middle of Shahrak main village near the primary school which is 1 km east of the Pugunsh.



Google Earth 2: Shahrak Grinding Stone (Courtesy Google earth)



Figure 2 : General View of the Site (Shahrak Grinding Stone)

Coordinates: latitude 26⁰ 3' North; longitude 63⁰ 33' East.

Bibliographic References: Hughes-Buller 1906 pp.58-59; Besenval and Sanlaville pp.115-116.

Description

The site is near to the main graveyard and at the backside of primary school are 25 meters from north to south in length and about 15 meters from east to west. The site is comprised of a circular stone broken into two pieces; it is regarded to be a grinding stone which has square hole on each part and these grinding stones are surrounded by pebble stones. The weight of the grinding stone is approximately 5 tons. On the western side of the site there is a ritual place occupied by small pebble stones and it belongs to Zikri Community, where *zikris* performed occasionally. A local myth is very famous about *Shahrak Jintir* (Grinding Stone) or *Kotikgeeris* that at ancient times the hole of milestone used to catch the person who was considered to be an illegal son/daughter of their parents.



Figure 3: Pieces of Grinding Stone front view



Fig 4: Back view of Grinding Stone broken into two halves, Shahrak-Jinter



Fig 5: A circular Grinding Stone encircled by large pebbles



Fig 6: Place for Ritual Practice

Surface Findings

This site is not rich in terms of archaeological finding. There were few potsherds on its surface and some rough potsherds have been collected for analysis and no other material was found from the site. The pottery collected from the site is handmade.



Fig 7: Potsherds from the surface of site.

Present Condition

The site is disturbed and going to destroy due to natural environment and some vegetation has been reported at site. Both pieces of grinding stones are colored by the local people in order the process of crumble should be gradual. There is a need of systematic excavation to know about site and some efforts are required to protect site from further decaying.

Nokabad Cairn (1)

Location of Site

It is situated 1 km north-east of main Shahrak village near the oldest *Zikri* graveyard. The site is on top of natural hill and chain of natural hills to its north. There is no road and one can reach to the site by walking.



Google Earth 3: Noakabad Cairn

Coordinates: latitude 26⁰ 33' North; longitude 63⁰ 33' East.

Bibliographic Reference: Besenval and Sanlaville (Previously reported by them)

Description

Many stone structure remains are scattered around an area of approximately 150 to 100 meters. There is a graveyard near these stone structure remains and these stone architectures are thought to be cairn remains. Such cairns have also been reported by Sir Aurel Stein in Zangian Damb (A. Stein 1931, 86-88). They appear as the walls of roughly heaped up stones which form irregular oblongs with an approximate east to west bearing and enclose earth-filled spaces from 5 to 8 feet in length and 2 to 3 feet wide. It is believed that these stones were gathered to honour the dead.



Fig 8: Stone Structure Remain thought to be Cairn (Facing South)



Fig 9: Stone Structure Remain thought to be Cairn (Facing North).

Surface Findings

The presence of a pottery at site is very poor and some rough potsherds with reddish colour and coarse fabric have been found from the site. The logic behind rare example of potsherds is that people occasionally came to see or did the ritual activity and they did not leave a large amount of material. Based on potsherds, style colour, pottery has been handmade and wheel made.



Fig 10: Potsherds from the site

Present Condition

The site is not protected and it opens to the treasure hunter. They destroyed the structure and took the stones for building foundation as it is common practice in the village.

Nokabad Cairn (2)

Location

This site is located on the top of hill near to the north-east of graveyard. It is not far from the site of Shahrak Dam.



Google Earth 4: Shezada Bilal Graveyard

Coordinates: latitude 26⁰ 34' North; longitude 63⁰ 34' East.

Bibliographic Reference: Besenval and Sanlerville

Description

The site is a big cemetery of cairns, alignments of stone walls on the surface of ground and scores of cairns are spread to a large area about 200 meters. The cairns are scattered and there are twenty cairns together. The chronology is assigned to the site on the basis of previous research in the area. The suggested date for the site by Besenval and Sanlerville are that of proto-historic period (Dasht, Shahi-Tump and Kulli (?) assemblages) (R. B. Sanlerville 1990).



Fig 11: Stone Structures (Facing North)



Fig 12: Stone Structure with pottery remains (Facing North)



Fig 13: Shahrak Dam and the Cairn Site

Surface Findings

A very good number of potsherds have been collected from the site. The potsherds are different from each other while the pottery from the site is plain. There are exterior and interior engravings on these potsherds. It might define their social, religious and economics aspects of life. Majority of the pottery is wheel made but there are some specimens of handmade.



Fig 14: Various potsherds from the site

Present Condition

This site seems to be richer than that of others; it is thus plundered. There are traces of illegal digging on the eastern side of the 200-meter site.



Fig 15: Traces of illegal digging

Guwaniki Cairn Site

Location

Guwaniki is located about 3 km east of Shahrak (Eastern end of Shahrak Village), on the way to Sami.



Google Earth 5: Guwaniki Cairn

Coordinates: latitude 26⁰ 32' North; longitude 63⁰ 35' East.

Bibliographic Reference: Besenval and Sanlaville

Description

The site covers in area of 300 meters which is entirely occupied by cairns. There is a *Karez* system passing on the southern side of the site which goes to fill up the fields on south. The *Karez* beside the cairns is thought to be of Zoroastrians. One of the locals of Shahrak has shown the French Archaeological Team some rim fragments of a copper bowl and a gold ring coming from one of these cairns. The site has been destroyed (R. B. Sanlaville 1990).



Fig 16: A view of site



Google Earth 6: Kech Valley Via Guwaniki (Eastern Side of Kech-valley, Makran)



Google Earth 7: landscape fields in Guwaniki, Kech-Makran

Surface Findings

Potsherds have been collected from the surface; no other archaeological remain could be seen. The pottery consists of some rough rims and body sherds in red colour. The colour of these potsherds has been wiped out due to weather.



Fig 17: Potsherd from the site

Present Condition

The site has been bulldozed; it is disturbed and illegal digging has been carried out.

The natives of the area do not know about the importance of cultural heritage.

Protection and surveillance are required.

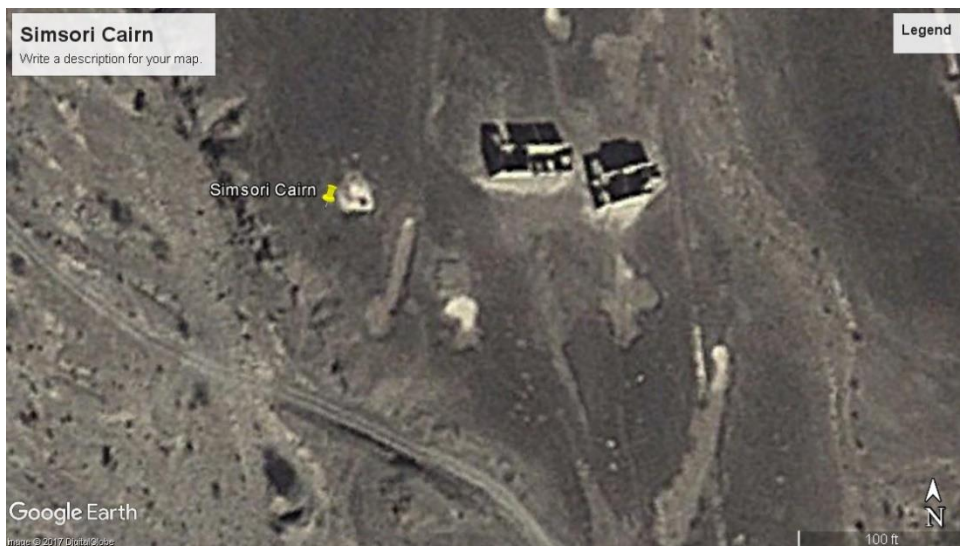


Fig 18: Present Condition of Site (Facing North)

Simsori Cairns

Location

Simsori is located about 7 km south of main Shahrak village; the archaeological site is in the hills. The area is a full mountainous; only some nomadic people with settlement huts live there.



Google Earth 8: Simsori Cairn.

Coordinates: latitude 26⁰ 99' North; longitude 63⁰ 32' East.

Bibliographic Reference: Newly Discovered.

Description

The newly discovered site at Simsori on the hills; there are a group of cairns covering a huge area of about 700 meters. There is a large number of cairns scattered around the site; each cairn 4.9 feet north to south while 4.50 east to west. The site seems to be an ancient inhabited area. From the stone structures and architecture, traces of settlements could be observed.



Fig 19: Simsori Cairns (Facing North)

Surface Findings

Very rough and burnt potsherds were found and collected.



Present Condition

The site is in a good state; not traces of illegal activities could be observed. Protection and Excavation is recommended.

In this section, some unpublished data would also be made use of—the data has been provided by Dr Aurore Didier to bring out a better synthesis of previous fieldwork

concerning Shahrak and Sami, Kech Valley. The data is the result of archaeological explorations in Kech-Makran by the French Archaeological Mission (MAFM).

4.1.2 The Archaeological sites around Sami

Map reference: 31 N/8.

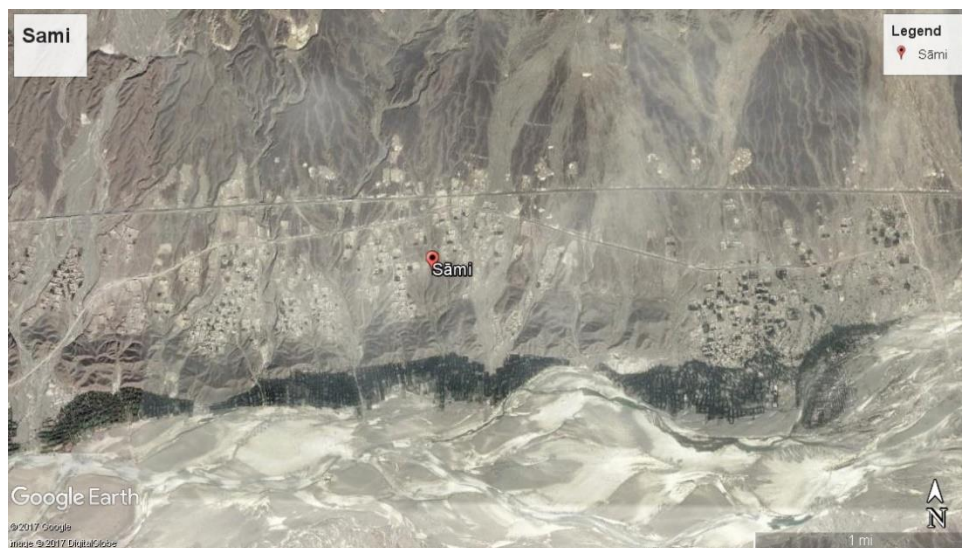
Coordinates: latitude $26^{\circ} 2'$ North; longitude $63^{\circ} 25'$ East.

Sami is situated around 45 kilometres east of Turbat and 11 km east of Shahrak town lies on the right bank of Kech river right after its conversion from Kil and Gish Kaur (Rivers).

Sami Settlement (Site 14 as per the unpublished data of MAFM)

Location

The ancient settlement is located on the western part of present day Sami village. This ancient settlement farther extends to the west—between the foot of the hills, to the north and the upper limit of the oasis, to the south.



Coordinates: latitude $26^{\circ} 2'$ North; longitude $63^{\circ} 25'$ East.

Bibliographic Reference: Besenval and Sanlaville.

Description

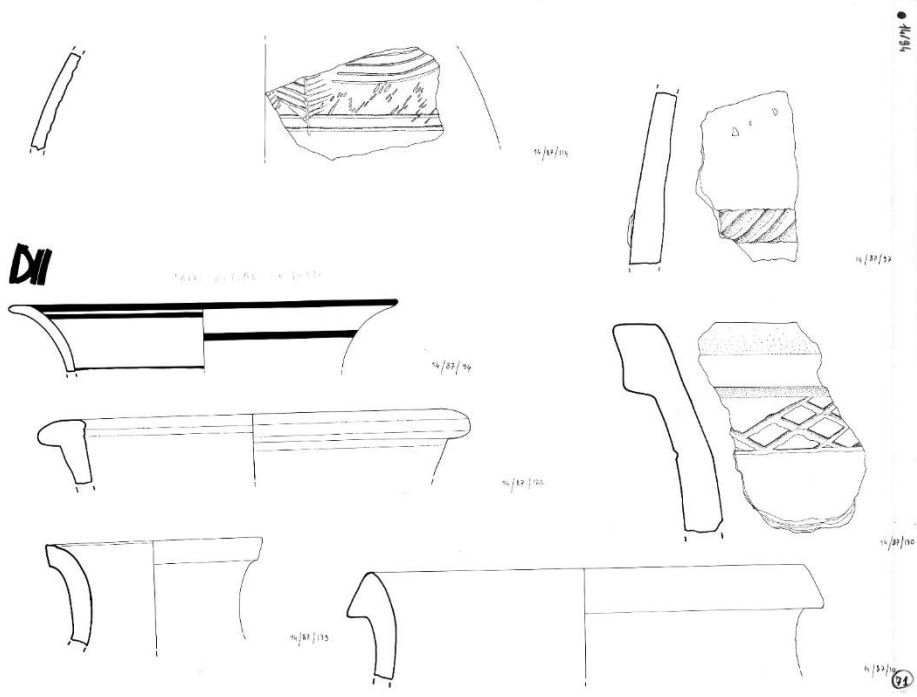
Many foundation buildings can be seen near the village. The eastern part of the sites has been disturbed by diggings of *kaur-jo*, or irrigation canals, for the water-supply of the oasis.

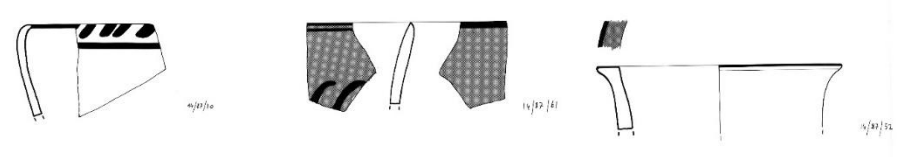
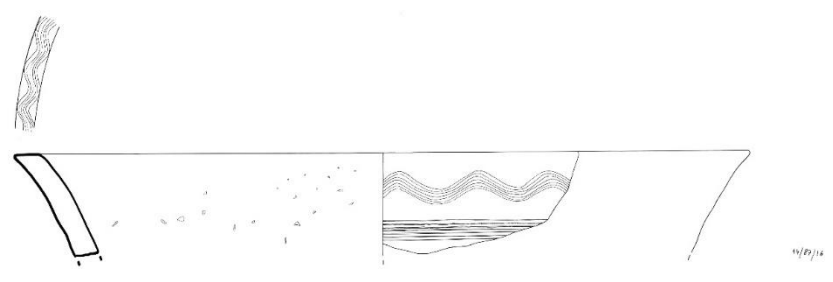
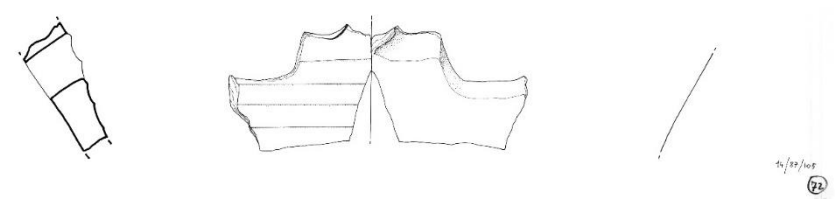
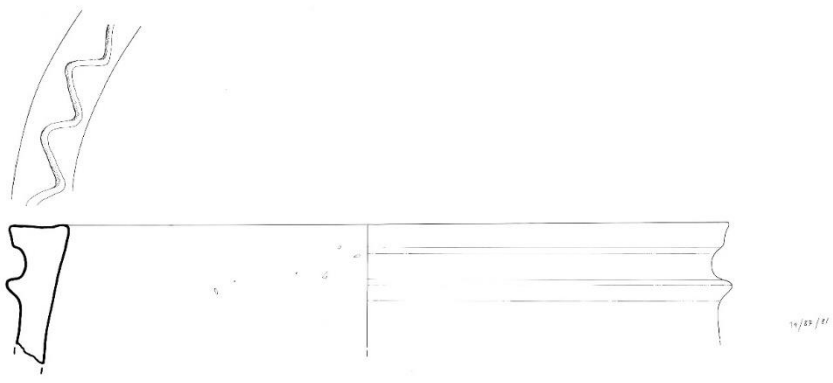


Surface Findings

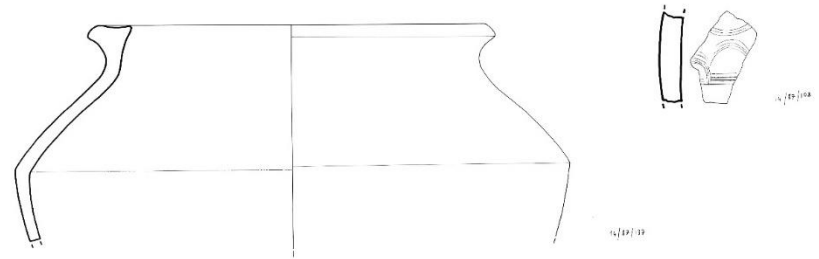
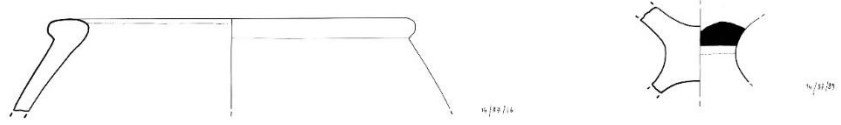
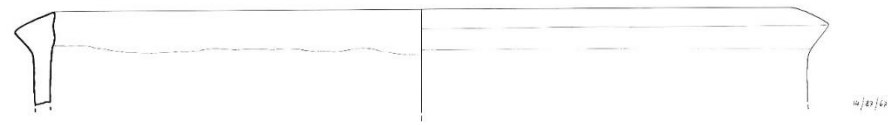
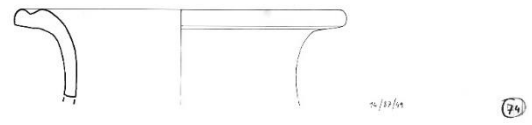
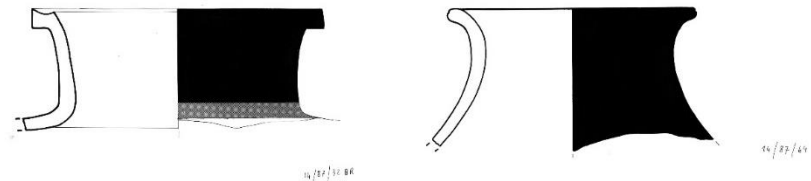
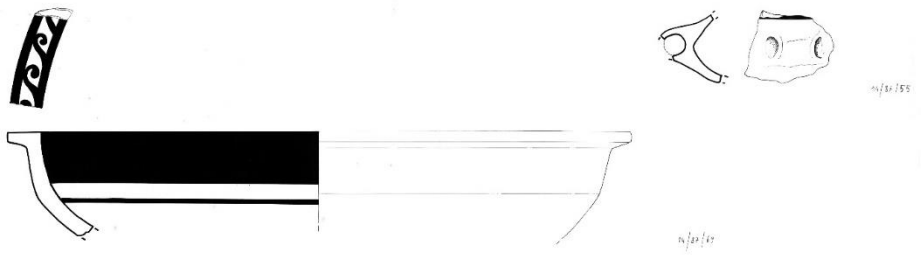
The surface pottery bears witness to the long occupation of the site, during the protohistoric (Dasht, Shahi-Tump, and Harappan/Kulli assemblages), Zangian and Islamic periods.

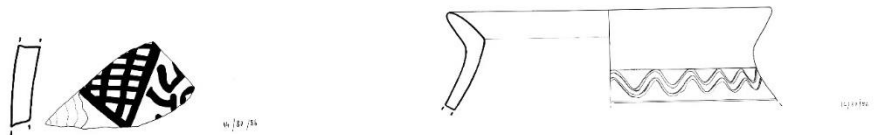
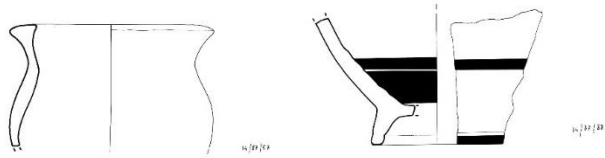
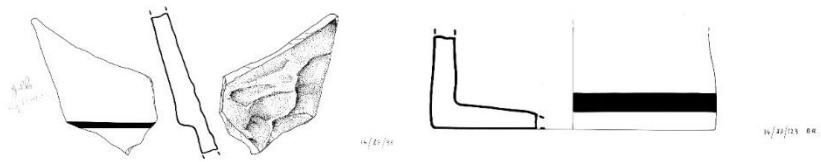
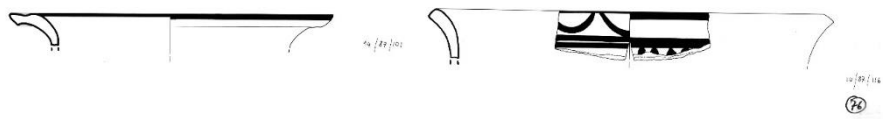
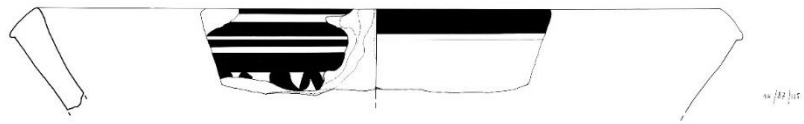
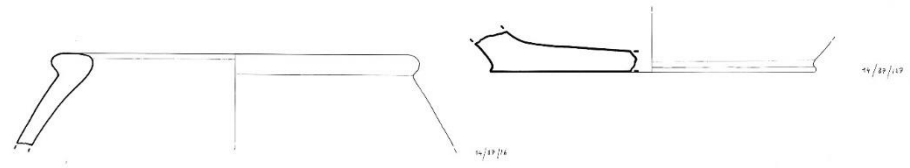
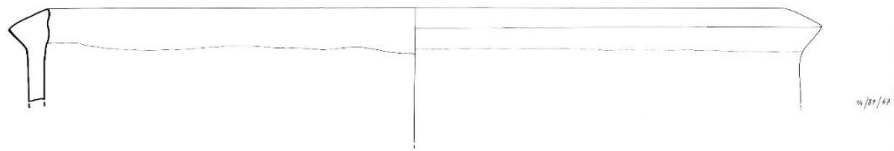


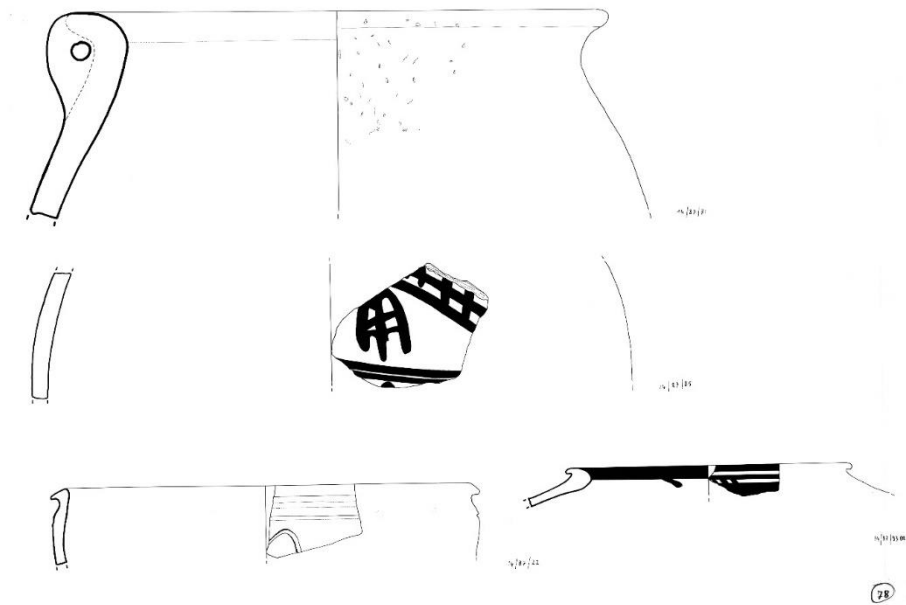




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Present Condition

The site otherwise would have been in a good condition if there were not any diggings of *Kaur-jo*, or irrigation canals for waterways of the oasis. The site has been disturbed on the eastern side. In this way, excavating of the site is recommended to save the site from vegetation and natural decay.

Sami Hill/ Koh-e Qalat (Site 9 as per the unpublished data of MAFM)

Location of Site

The site is located up the hills and it is about 1 km. to the northwest of Sami, on the summit of the nearer and higher hill overlooking the village.



Coordinates: latitude 26⁰ 2' North; longitude 63⁰ 25' East.

Bibliographic Reference: Besenval and Sanlaville.

Description

The site is an excellent observation post for watching over junction of the Kil and Gish valleys and the upper part of the Kech Valley. The site is locally known as Koh-e Qalat which means the fort on the mountains.

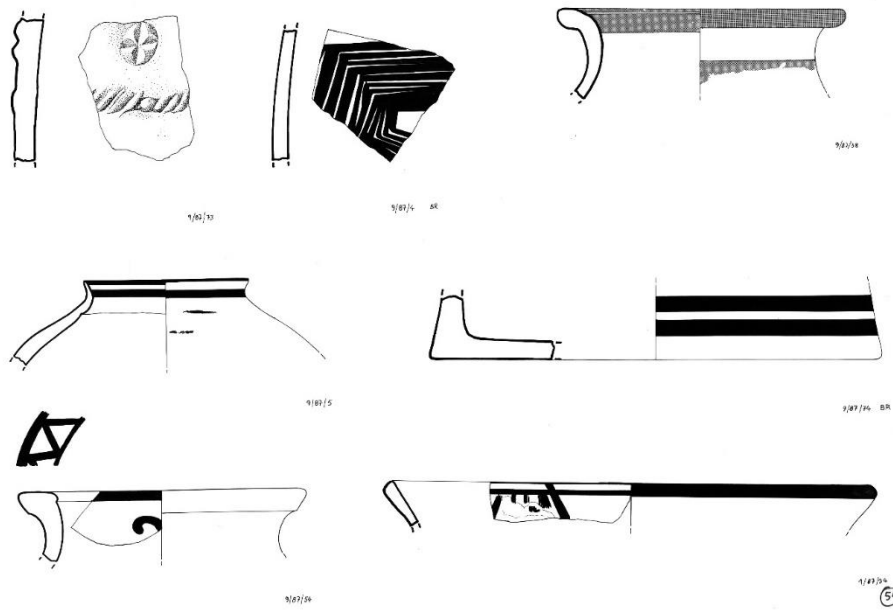


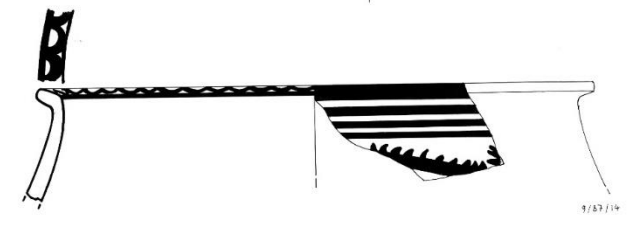
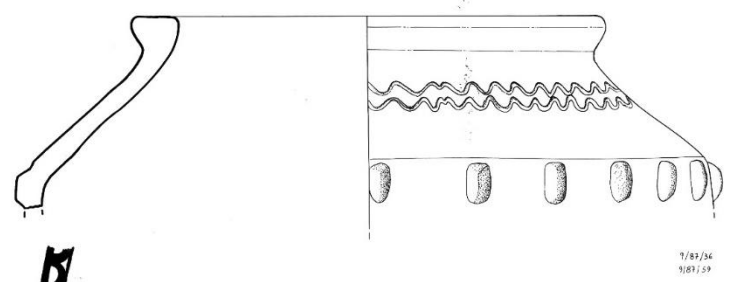
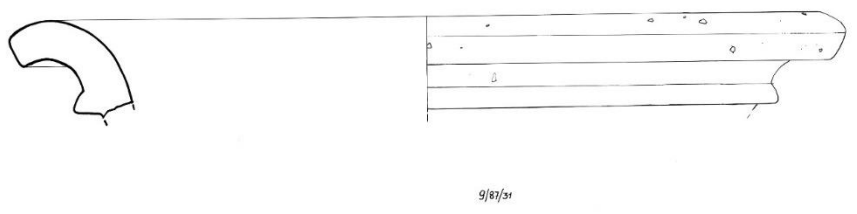
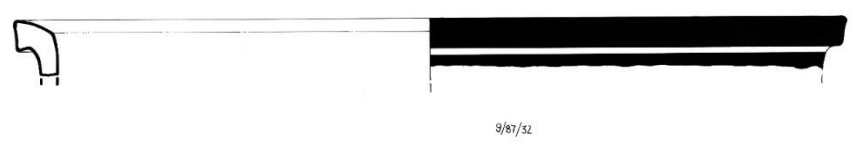
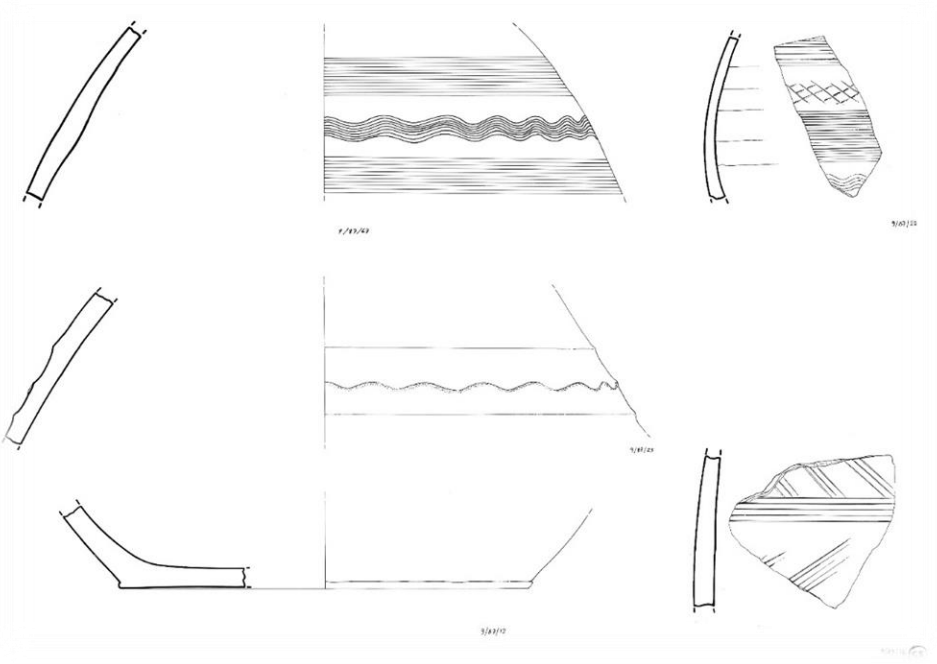


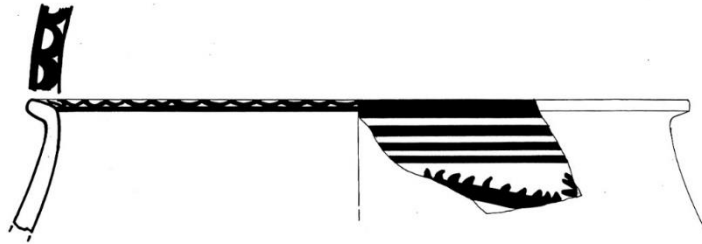
Surface Findings

Remains of wall structures and sherds are closest association for the site of being an ancient occupation. Whereas the pottery found there suggest the same chronology as for the Sami settlement.









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5 Conclusion

With the presented research of survey and discovery of archaeological sites around Kech Valley, the researcher has come to the conclusions that the archaeology of Kech-Makran is very rich. It was occupied by several dynasties at different episodes. The area has witnessed many historical periods—as that of the Alexander with his army. The archaeological settlements allowed the researcher to bring into light new dimensions of Kech-Makran archaeology.

The presented survey was carried out within the framework to bring about the archaeological worth of Kech-Makran to the world; for which French Archaeological Mission to Makran has played a vital role to do archaeological explorations and excavations. Of course, they are very instrumental in not only designing a sort of chrono-cultural sequence of different historical periods witnessed in area but also presented the archaeological attraction of Kech_Makran in several international conferences.

The results of the conducted survey of archaeological sites along Kech Valley disclose that the area has remained a cradle of cultures and civilizations. The collected information of ancient settlements around Kech-Makran reveal some sort of ancient trade with the adjoining countries and it has also witnessed sea trade with Mesopotamia which is now known as Iraq. All conclusions could be drawn due to the archaeological materials which were unearthed during the different field seasonal excavations and researches by National and International Archaeological Teams.

The archaeological sites on the eastern side of are mostly of Chalcolithic (Zangian Period). The sites reported are mainly the cairn sites. Which is also the fact that these areas connect with Iranian border where the ancient Zoroastrians lived.

Keeping in consideration the previous archaeological activities and the present survey of archaeological sites on the eastern side of Kech-Valley, that the ancient occupation in Kech-Makran are of 5th millennium BCE. The ancient settlements continued to exist until the late Islamic period. Such an example is that of Miri Qalat; the present architectural features of it suggest to be of Islamic fortress whereas the different levels

of earth excavated by Roland Besenval assign that the most ancient occupation started in 5th millennium BCE.

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