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**CHAMBER TOMBS IN ANATOLIA BETWEEN THE BEGINNING OF
3000 BC AND THE BEGINNING OF 2000 BC AND THEIR
IMPLICATIONS IN REGIONAL COMMUNICATION**

**MÖ III. Binyıl Başından MÖ II. Binyıl Başına Kadarki Süreçte Anadolu'da
Uygulanan Oda Mezarlar ve Bölgesel İletişimdeki Yansıması**

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Abstract

During the III Millennium BC, people living in Anatolia started to process the raw materials obtained from them by opening mine galleries. In this process, the metals obtained from the mine were processed and transformed into important commercial goods. During this period, when early Bronze Age people began to search for new mineral resources, there was an increase in the number of Mines. Enriched by the trade of Mines obtained from these mines, the elite class took control of both raw material sources and distribution of produced works in Anatolia.

This ruling group, enriched by the commercial network system established with neighbouring centres both in Anatolia and outside Anatolia, wanted to be buried in monumental tombs where they would consolidate their power after death. Conspicuously III Millennium BC. the stone-lined cists stone and chamber type tombs that emerged during the millennium are very magnificent in terms of the places where these people are buried with high levels of prosperity. The chamber tombs that emerged in these 1000 years in almost all of

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Anatolia are the harbinger of innovation. Looking at the distribution of chamber tombs III BC. from the early millennium BC II. in the period up to the beginning of the millennium, it is observed that they were mostly applied within the borders of eastern Anatolia and Kızılırmak. Although they are quite small in number, they have been detected in almost all of Anatolia until Western Anatolia.

In this article, we will examine the spreading area of the chamber tombs, which are applied underground and above the ground, constructed using different building materials. Later, other chamber tombs showing similar characteristics in Anatolia and outside Anatolia were evaluated and tried to revive the propagation scheme of these tombs in the mind of the reader. The chamber tombs were also evaluated with both chronological and intramural and extramural features.

Keywords: Anatolia, Chamber Tomb, Stone-Lined Cist, Elites, Trade.

Öz

MÖ III. binyıl sürecinde Anadolu coğrafyasında yaşayan insanlar, maden galerileri açarak buralardan elde edilen hammaddeleri işlemeye başlamışlardır. Bu süreçte madenden elde edilen metaller işlenerek önemli bir ticari meta haline dönüşmüştür. Ocaklardan elde edilen madenlerin ticaretiyle zenginleşen elitler, Anadolu'da hem hammadde kaynaklarını hem de üretilen eserlerin dağıtım kontrolünü ele geçirmiştir.

Gerek Anadolu'da gerekse Anadolu dışındaki komşu merkezlerle kurulan ticari ağ sistemiyle zenginleşen elitler, öldükten sonra güçlerini pekiştirecekleri anıtsal mezarlara gömülmek istemişlerdir. Özellikle MÖ III. binyıl sürecinde ortaya çıkan taş sanduka ve oda tipi mezarlar, refah düzeyi yüksek bu kişilerin gömüldükleri mekânlar açısından oldukça ihtişamlıdır. Anadolu'nun neredeyse tamamında bu 1000 yıllık süreçte ortaya çıkan oda mezarlar, yeniliğin habercisi durumundadır. Oda mezarların dağılımına baktığımızda MÖ III. binyıl başlarından MÖ II. binyıl başlarına kadarki süreçte en çok Doğu Anadolu ve Kızılırmak sınırları içerisinde uygulandıkları görülmektedir. Sayısal olarak oldukça az olsa da Batı Anadolu'ya kadar Anadolu'nun neredeyse tamamında tespit edilmişlerdir.

Bu makalede yer altına ve yer üstüne uygulanan, farklı yapım malzemeleri kullanılarak inşa edilen oda mezarların yayılım sahasını bu açıdan ele alacağız. Daha sonra Anadolu'da ve Anadolu dışında benzer özellikler gösteren diğer oda mezarlar değerlendirmeye alınarak okuyucunun zihninde söz konusu mezarların yayılım şeması canlandırılmaya çalışılmıştır. Oda mezarlar gerek kronolojik gerekse intramural ve extramural özellikleriyle de değerlendirmeye alınmıştır.

Anahtar Sözcükler: Anadolu, Oda Mezar, Taş Sanduka Mezar, Elitler, Ticaret.

1. Introduction

In the 3000s BC, Anatolia was the geography where mines and mineral resources were actively used. During the transition to the 3000s BC, the sites in Anatolia were not using only bronze as metal. It is understood from the variety, quantity and quality of the obtained artifacts that a major development was experienced in mining during the Early Bronze Age (Yakar, 1985: s. 25; Işıklı, 2011: s. 256-274). Mineral raw materials and luxury goods were transported through trade routes at the request of rich and noble people and groups. Trade, which was carried out both for barter and unilaterally, fostered cultural relationships between regions. Based on the finds uncovered in the tombs, it can be said that production and distribution were mostly monopolized by “royal/elite” people (Sagona, 2006: s. 52-53).

Another feature of the graves of the noble people in question is that they have multiple burials, which are indicators of the concept of family. The multiple burial tradition has been subjected to archaeological analyses and the answers have been found by means of evaluating the data coming from the previous days by accumulation in order to explain the reason for this tradition. The multiple burial tradition is said to have been made due to the identities (influence/ascendancy) of the people, adhering to social reasons (Parlıtı, 2019: s. 50). It is understood that the number of stone-lined cists, in which multiple burials were applied, which were transferred as one of the innovations of the 3rd millennium BC and the number of mudbrick cists that were taken over from the 4th millennium BC continued to be applied by becoming widespread in the course of time (Şener, 2014: s. 53). However, it is seen that stone-lined cist in Türbe Höyük (Kodaş, Sağlamtimur and Erdal, 2018: s. 13-21) in the Neolithic Age; in Kargamış (Ergeç, 2008: s. 439), in Alacahöyük (Özterzi, 2011: s. 95) in the Late Chalcolithic Age; mudbrick in Salat Tepe (Ökse, Görmüş, Koizumi and Şimşek, 2014: s. 22); mudbrick and wooden cist tombs in Alişar (During, 2011: s. 240) were used. The most common among the cists are undoubtedly those of the stone type. Another application is those bonded with mudbrick. These types of graves have seen less use than soil and terra-cotta graves. It is understood that more dead gifts were left in these graves compared to soil and terra-cotta graves (Ökse, 2011/1: s. 22). It might be sought that under the foundation of this situation is to reflect the resource exploitation of the graves in some way. With the wealth from exploitation, it is predicted that stone-lined cist tombs might have been used in Southeastern Anatolia and North Syria, apart from Eastern Anatolia, since the beginning of the 3rd millennium BC. It is seen that the stone-lined cist tomb tradition seen in the Anatolia of the 3rd millennium BC extends to Central Anatolia, Western Anatolia and its contemporary Cyclades, apart from Eastern and Southeastern Anatolia (Parlıtı, 2019: s. 14).

The fact that the stone-lined cist tombs belonging to the elite members of the society were built on mounds that were abandoned or settled temporarily reflect the

social transformation process. This transformation is reflected in these monumental tombs reflecting the cult of ancestors in settlements. These new grave structures and rituals seen in the communities of Upper and Middle Euphrates show the traces of social and political life in new layers, which are the reflection of the new centre focus. These new floors on the mounds show competition, acceptance and approval by leaving behind certain features of the new power. In terms of the burial tradition, it is also stated that these new types of graves might have reflected the new power ideology taken from the world of Kura-Araxes and the North Caucasus. According to this view:

“The power effect of Caucasian culture surrounded the region, and on the other hand, it was confirmed by archaeological evidence that the change in social and political organization affected the Syrian-Anatolian communities. New family traditions and environmental social relationships show that these graves feature the family-group bond. These groups reinforced their power positions with new regional strategies and new burial ideologies. After controlling the land distribution of the groups depending on the power, raw material flow was carried out between these regions and maybe this power has a great role in the exchange and circulation of prestigious goods” (Palumbi, 2007: s. 38-39).

Another type of grave where multiple burials, which were started to be used in the 3rd millennium BC, were applied, are chamber tombs that are elaborate and more troublesome. Chamber tombs have a more improved form than stone-lined cist tombs and they are claimed to have been inspired by cist tombs mainly made of stone. However, cist tombs were generally used for individual burials, while chamber tombs were used for mass burials (Yılmaz, 2006: s. 58). While single burials were applied not only to the stone-lined cist but also to simple soil, pithos/jar and pottery type tombs, multiple burials were applied to the chamber tombs, which are the 4th main type. This type of graves reflecting the cult of the ancestors were applied underground or above ground. Some of these types consist of stone structures built on the ground. These chamber tombs were mostly built with large stone blocks and covered with large slabs. Another type of chamber tombs are those applied underground. The form of chamber type tomb applied underground was applied more frequently. While the stones, mudbricks, soil and trees were used in the construction of the graves, the chamber tombs made by carving the rocks are plainer (Ökse, 2011/1: s. 23). Considering its construction technique and features, this grave type required much more workforce than other grave types. These graves are also distinguished from other types with their rich finds found in them. With their monumental dimensions, these graves should have been used for individuals and families belonging to the rich social class. Because it is understood that a large number of artifacts accompanying the dead in chamber tombs were left for an average of 1-3 people. Moreover, the lower number of this grave type among the contemporary grave types indicates the rich social class. For this reason, many individuals were buried in this type of

grave (Ökse, 2011/1: s. 23). They are extremely important in terms of reflecting the socio-cultural and socio-economic change experienced in the 3rd millennium BC. Apart from the collective burials of individuals, chamber tombs are identified as monumental tombs in which offerings are placed as well. In order to leave offerings, it is mentioned that places consisting of grave complexes defined as “Kırın Dead Offering House” have been built on or near the graves. It can be thought that these discovered monumental grave complexes were intended to put offerings for the lemurs (Ökse, 2005: s. 5). It is the type of “Kurgan” graves that are distinguished by the application of another grave type in which grave rooms are included. We can call kurgan type graves the practice of the burial of people in rooms built under the piled up stones and soil. This grave type seen in Eastern Anatolia as of the end of the 3rd millennium BC can be considered among the new grave types for Anatolia as well. It is stated that this type of elite graves seen in Eastern Anatolia after the mid-3rd millennium BC started to be applied by being influenced by the kurgan type grave culture of the Caucasus (Sagona and Zimansky, 2009: s. 190). Within this historical possibility, it is noted that the construction of elite graves and the fact that these graves are located above the settlement might have been based on multifaceted actions. Such a grave practice can be seen as a kind of regional sign, symbol of claiming the ground and determination of the pastureland. It is also stated that the inhabitants might have built to leave a symbolic mark on the place of their ancestors and can be interpreted as a continuation of the expression of their strong position in the society to which they belong or to confirm their physical connection with the past. There are similarities in structural principles between these complex symbolic elite grave ruins and tumulus graves. It is pointed out that these characteristics might have influenced those of the next monumental tombs in Jerablus Tahtani and Tell Banat (Palumbi, 2007: s. 37).

It is understood that the people who are enriched by means of inter-regional commercial networks want to be buried in stone-lined cist or room-type grand tombs that will show their wealth after death. New tomb types emerged in line with this desire. One of these types was Stone-Lined Cist Tombs and the other was Chamber Tombs. Chamber-type tombs, the topic of this present study, have been found in all the parts of Anatolia. The study will address the wide range of distribution of such tombs in the period between the beginning of the 3000s BC and the beginning of the 2000s BC from the Eastern Anatolia and the Kızılırmak Curve, where they are seen the most, to the Western Anatolia, where they are seen the least.

2. Chamber tombs in Anatolia and Their Characteristics

The undoubtedly most important chamber tombs in the Eastern Anatolia Region have been reached in Korucutepe, located near the village of Aşağı İçme, in Altınova, which is about 30 km to Elazığ city center. At the top level of a house in a filling, which had been repeatedly repaired, a chamber tomb has been found with a

burnt mud brick structure and a rectangular plan in which two individuals and one baby (terracotta) are buried, and next to it a second chamber tomb with mud brick structure has been uncovered (Figure 1), (Van Loon, 1978: s. 10-11, 61, Plate. 79/B). The year 3000 BC, to which the tombs are dated by their excavator, can be considered within Phase C (3160-2900 BC and 2680-2610 BC) at Korucutepe (Mellink, 1992: s. 177, Table 4). Together with the man, one of the burials here, a bun-shaped iron core, one silver bracelet and a copper dagger have been uncovered. One gravure silver hard stamp seal engraved in the shape of capra aegagrus has been identified near the shoulder of the woman beside the man (Van Loon, 1978: s. 61-62, Plate. 109). A range of pits used as tombs and interesting round structures with ground made of clay and mud have been found at the site of Arslantepe (Period VIC- 2612-2416 BC[†]), located in Ordüzü in the northeast of Malatya Province. A large carob, considered to have been left in the tomb with the intention of being presented to the dead, has also been found (Palmieri, 1985: s. 73). While the tombs of Korucutepe are rich in terms of finds, only terracotta vessels have been recovered in the tombs of Arslantepe. This situation gives the impression that the nobles who were buried in the tombs of Korucutepe had settled life, while the ones in Arslantepe had the nomadic or semi-nomadic lifestyle.

Chamber tombs carved in soft rocks are mentioned in the studies on the Yuvadamlı/Ersonk Sütey Plateau cemetery, located 7 km north of Ahlat Town Center, in the further east on the east foothills of Mount Süphan (Özfirat, 1994: s. 360-362). It is reported that there are many chamber tombs cobbled with stones and covered with large capstones at the Gönlüaçık Fortress, located on the east of the plain in the district of Patnos of Ağrı Province (Özfirat, 2009: s. 459-460, Figure. 18). It seems very difficult to associate these tombs only to the 2000s BC, since particularly ceramics belonging to the Early Bronze Age (the 3000s BC) have been reached. Similar to the abovementioned tombs in Arslantepe, these tombs must belong to nomadic or semi-nomadic communities.

Two chambers dated to the end of the 3000s BC have been identified in Horoztepe, located in Dere Neighborhood in the South East of Yeni Erbaa District, which is to the north of the borders of Tokat Province, in the northeastern part of Anatolia. In addition to the terracotta vessels, many finds made of precious metals such as bronze, gold, silver and electron have been reached in these tombs. Considering the high quality of the artifacts left beside the dead as gifts as well as their content of precious metals, it is understood that these tombs belong to the noble class similar to the one in Alacahöyük (Özgüç, 1958: s. 53). Thirteen royal tombs dated to the 3000s BC have been uncovered in Alacahöyük, located in Höyük Village of Alaca District, which is located 50 km southwest of Çorum Province. The base parts of the tombs were prepared in three ways as clay, gravel-soil mixture and flat stones.

[†] Results are taken from 7 calibrated samples, See. Nocera, 2000: s. 75, Fig. 4.

It has been determined that the top of the tombs was closed with wooden beams, compressed with clay soil and turned into flat roofs. Hundreds of precious works of art left to the tombs to accompany the dead show that these people held not only political power but also religious authority (Özgüç, 1948: s. 42).

Chamber tombs have also been found in the excavations in Lidar Höyük, located on an important old trade route on the opposite bank of the Euphrates in Bozova District of Şanlıurfa Province in the Southeastern Anatolia Region. It is reported that the front chamber of the two chamber tombs cobbled with big stones was closed with large stones in the form of plates placed between the front and the inner chamber. In the burial chambers, about 200 artifacts made of various metals and raw materials have been obtained (Hauptmann, 1983: s. 96-97). Titriş Höyük, another center where chamber tombs have been found, is located 45 km north of Şanlıurfa Province. One of the burial chambers dating to the end of the 3000s BC is connected to the settlements through an inner door passage. Apart from the terracotta artifacts, bronze and silver hair pins, earrings, daggers and large spears have been obtained. At the same time, the beads belonging to the semi-precious stone necklace pointing to individual use have also been identified (Algaze *et al.* 2000: s. 147, Fig. 4).

Three underground chamber tombs, dated to EBA III, and one above-ground chamber tomb dated to EBA IV have been uncovered in Gre Virike, located within Akarçay Village, 15 km south of the district of Birecik of Şanlıurfa Province. Based on the vessels on the platform built to the east of Limestone Chamber Tomb, it is understood that the earliest usage of the tombs can be extended up to EBA II. Apart from the seven spherical-bodied vessels, copper/bronze spearheads and flint stone arrowheads have been obtained as guns; and needle, onyx bead and silver hair tie have been found as ornaments (Ökse, 2002: s. 153, Figure. 7-9). In Tilbeş Höyük, located in Keskince Village, which is about 22 km northwest of Birecik District, a tomb reminiscent of a chamber carved into rock has been uncovered. Yet no detailed information about it has been provided (Yılmaz, 2006: s. 61). Chamber tombs have also been found in Hayaz Höyük located in Hayaz Village, 17 km west of Samsat District of Adıyaman Province. In the chamber tombs of Hayaz Höyük; eight bronze needles with spherical heads; one sewing needle; five bronze bracelets; stone, sea shell and faience beads as well as numerous terracotta vessels have been obtained (Yılmaz, 2006: s. 59-63).

In the South Eastern Mediterranean Region, in the west of Gaziantep Province, chamber tombs, three of which are dated to the early phase, and two of which are dated to the late phase have been found in Gedikli Karahöyük located in the village of Gedikli, which is 20-23 km north of İslahiye Plain by air distance (Duru,

2006: Plaque. 46)[‡]. Since the chamber tombs of Gedikli were robbed, a limited number of bronze needles, bone needles and stone axes have been obtained apart from terracotta vessels (Alkim, 1967: s. 82, Figure. 6-8; Yılmaz, 2006: s. 63). A chamber tomb has been identified in the Level III of Tilmen Höyük (Early Bronze Age), located between Amanos/Nur Mountains and Kurt Mountains, 10 km to the east of İslahiye District. The tomb coded as M3 is rectangular, and its side walls are cobbled with dry medium-sized stones (Alkim, 1964: s. 174). Together with two individuals; beads, two bronze pins, one bronze bracelet and numerous terracotta vessels have been obtained in the burial chamber (Alkim, 1962: s. 7, Figure. 13).

Tilbeshar Höyük, the other center with chamber tombs, is located 50 km west of Kargamış in Gaziantep Province. The monumental vaulted burial chambers, which reflect special cases, are formed by overlapping of large stone blocks (Figure 2). It has been determined that they were in use in the mound from the time period representing IIIB until mid-way through IIIC period (2700-2300 BC). More than one thousand full and fragmentary terracotta vessels, bronze axes and needles have been obtained in the chamber tombs (Kepinski, 2013: s. 23-24, Fig. 5, 7). Two chamber tombs have been identified in Oylum Höyük located in Oykum Village, which is about 7 km southeast of Kilis Province. More than 60 artifacts have been obtained in the first tomb that was destroyed and robbed, and in the second, terracotta vessels, beads, bracelet pieces, ring pieces, earrings, needles of various sizes with semi-sphere heads and holes, bronze ceremonial axe, bronze axe with a handle and a neck collar have been uncovered (Özgen *et al.* 2002: s. 219; Yılmaz, 2006: s. 63). Unusual tombs have been reached in Kestel within the borders of Celaller Village in Niğde Province. It has been determined that the chambers in the mine galleries were used as tombs from the beginning till the end of the 3000s. The dead were buried with objects such as terracotta ceramics, food waste, clothing, weapons, personal objects, amulets and seals (Yener, 1997: s. 283- 284).

A very special tomb structure (Figure 3) has been uncovered in Karataş/Semayük, located in the western part of Semayük/Bozüyük Village, which is 8-10 km east of Elmalı District to the west of Antalya Province in southwestern Anatolia. The burial chamber has a rectangular shape and is a type of chamber tomb built on a kind of soil. Due to the burial chamber and the finds in the tomb, it is stated that this tomb would belong to the elite. It is also mentioned that the *pithos* tombs in the same cemetery would belong to ordinary people. Fragmentary silver protectors, rivets, one razor, one golden button and one gray metal pitcher/jug have been found as artifacts in the tomb (Mellink, 1969: s. 145, Fig. 5-6). The closest similar of this tomb has been identified in Harmanören (Grave No. Ü4) located in the same area. Both tombs are the only examples in the Aegean world with their height in the form of a hill of a few meters thick and the burial chamber underneath (tumulus/kurgan)

[‡] Based on the stratigraphic data and the obtained finds, its earliest usage is dated to the first quarter of the 3000s BC (Phase IIIe). See Alkim, 1967: s. 81.

(Massa and Şahoğlu, 2011: s. 168). In particular, the contents of the tomb finds of Karataş remind the finds of the chamber tombs in the eastern half of Anatolia and even of the tombs in the Caucasus. Nine chamber-type tombs carved into rock have been identified in Sakarya Neighborhood of Çeşme District of İzmir Province in western Anatolia. It is understood that there was the practice of multiple burials in the tombs. Beak-edged and decorated jugs, a bowl with a horizontal handle, a loom weight with incised decoration, spiral earrings, a perforator obsidian and a ram figurine made of lead have been obtained in the tombs (Şahoğlu *et al.* 2009: s. 237-241, Illustration. 2, Figure. 4-5; Figure. 7-9).

3. Regional Analysis of Chamber Tombs of the 3000s BC

Compared to the other types of coeval tombs, intense labor and economic burden spent on the construction of chamber tombs of Anatolia as well as the amount and the material values of the artifacts left to accompany the dead indicate that they were built for noble people. These people who held economic power were choosing sarcophagus for single burials and those who wanted to be buried with their family and relatives were preferring chamber-type tombs. For the chamber-type tombs of Korucutepe in Eastern Anatolia, Palumbi states that these tombs reflect both the Syrian-Mesopotamian influence and the extension of the cairn tradition built underneath with the wooden roof (Caucasus). This center, which incorporates the features of both cairns and Mesopotamian tombs, is important in terms of showing that the region where it existed had taken the role of crossroads in the north-south communication during the transition to 3000s BC (Palumbi, 2011: s. 213). The architectural structures of the cairn-type chamber tombs in the Sütey Plateau in the further east are compared with those of the tombs in Trialeti in Georgia, Berkinağzı in the Kazakh region of Azerbaijan, Zurnabad in the Hanlar region and Ezneburd in Nakhichevan (Özfirat, 1994: s. 360-361).

The tomb finds and tomb features of Horoztepe, located in the northeast of Anatolia, have been particularly associated with the tombs of Alacahöyük (Özgüç, 1958: s. 53). The sistrum, the solar course and the other artifacts uncovered in the tomb, which was not robbed, remind first of all those in the royal tombs of Alacahöyük. The statuette of female carrying a jug in the tombs of Alacahöyük is similar in style to the statuette of a breastfeeding woman and Hasanoğlan statuette found among Horoztepe artifacts. The artifacts discovered in the tombs of Horoztepe and Alacahöyük are likened to some of the artifacts uncovered in the tombs of the Caucasus. It is possible to consider the metals of Alacahöyük and the gold, silver, electrum and other metal artifacts found in the royal tombs of Ur in terms of both craftsmanship (technical) skills and raw materials. Some of the artifacts uncovered in the elite tombs are likened to the artifacts found in Troia. In this case, the kinship relations established between the elites and the Mesopotamian-Syrian, Caucasus or Aegean geography seem to be far-fetched (Weber and Zettler, 1998: s. 125, Fig.

105). The other royal/prince tombs placed on the same chronological platform as Alacahöyük and taken into mutual consideration are the "Dorak Tombs" (Akarsu, 2017: s. 133). In this case, we can say that the culture which is the owner of the chamber-type tombs in the Early Bronze Age spreads from the Euphrates in Southeast Anatolia towards the Kızılırmak Curve in Central Anatolia.

It is stated that the intramural chamber tombs of Titriş mound located in the Southeastern Anatolia Region reflect a situation related to ancestral cult symbolizing family ties. Considering the chamber tombs and rich finds of Titriş, it is stated that there was a great change in the late Bronze Age and an understanding of chamber-type tomb in the intramural burial tradition emerged (Algaze, 1997: s. 126). The likes of the chamber tombs carved into rock in Tilbeş Höyük, another site offering the feature of family cemetery, have been reached in El Qitar, Tawi, Tell Banat, Şem-seddin, Tell al-Abd, Djerniye and Tell es Sweyhat in northern Syria (Yılmaz, 2006: s. 62). The likes of the monumental chamber tombs of Gre Virike have been found in Tilmen, Lidar, Oylum, Gedikli, Titriş, Hayaz (Ökse, 2011/2: s. 273), Tell Ahmar, Jarablus Tahtani, Umm el-Marra, Tell Banat, Tell Chuera and Ur (Yılmaz, 2006: s. 59, Figure 1).

It is stated that stone-lined cist burial or chamber-type tombs have been reached in Tünp, Göbek, Kazıklı, Til Habeş, Ayyıldız, Birecik, Hacı Nebi, Horum and Tilbeş Höyük, apart from Kırıskal Höyük, which is 5 km northeast of Gedikli, the door to the Mediterranean in the southeast of Anatolia. Similar tombs have been opened in El Hammam, Karkamış-Kara Hassan, Tel Ahmar and Til Barsip (Duru, 2006: s. 63, Lev. 114/1-4; 115/1). Among the terracotta vessels uncovered in the chamber tombs of Tilmen Höyük, two orange-reddish paste fruit bowls, two dishes, pedestal bottom plates and alabastron (Syrian Bottle) reveal the southern-oriented regional communication network (Yılmaz, 2006: s. 63).

Çesme Boyalık hosts other chamber tombs that illuminate the trade network in Anatolia. From the group of fine-grained red linear band wares found in the cemetery, the pyxises (EBA II) reflect the western-oriented communication network (Şahoğlu et al. 2009: s. 239-241, Illustration. 2). The chamber-type tombs found in Karataş Semayük and Harmanören in the southwest of Anatolia show the possibility of the existence of communication with the Caucasian world apart from the Aegean world in the 3000s BC. In addition, there is somehow an attempt to establish a connection with local catacombs/underground chamber tombs in North and Northwest Caucasus (Hansen, 2010: s. 297-301).

Considering the chamber tombs found in Anatolia and neighboring regions, they have mostly intramural tradition and are dated to the end of the Early Bronze Age. They are more advanced than the stone-lined cist burial that constitute the most important burial type of the extramural burial tradition of the beginning and the mid-

dle of the Early Bronze Age. These tombs show that there was a great change towards the end of the Early Bronze Age and a concept of chamber-type tombs emerged as a result of the return to the intramural burial tradition (Algaze, 1997: s. 126). It is possible to seek the source of this new practice in the desire to protect the ancestor in the tomb and to prevent the rich artifacts inside from being robbed.

4. General Evaluation and Conclusion

The data obtained from the elite tomb of Arslantepe, one of the important archaeological settlements of Malatya, showed that the central organization that originated from Mesopotamia broke down at the beginning of the third millennium BC and evolved into an innovative social structure. It was further explained with the Arslantepe royal tomb and its finds that the innovative social structure in question infiltrated some new burial customs from the South Caucasus to East Anatolia (Frangipane, 2001: s. 1-2, 6-8; Poulmarc'h, 2014: s. 362). Both the fact that elaborate graves were built and that human sacrificing ceremony associated with elaborate graves was practiced, and the fact that individuals in the graves were buried with rich gifts in the cemetery of Başur in the Botan Valley, in Siirt, which shares the same chronology with Arslantepe, brought about some questions (Hassett and Sağlamtimur, 2018, s. 640-650; Sağlamtimur and Massimino, 2018: s. 331-332). Contrary to what was previously thought, we can say at least that there is no sharp distinction between the centers in Southeast Anatolia and East Anatolia.

Another cemetery, which confirms the multidirectional communication network, is without doubt Korucutepe. Family graves, which make the ancestor cult deeply felt, are considered to be the extension of the kurgan tradition of the Caucasus as they were built underground and with their wooden roof. The artifacts left inside these graves bears resemblance to the finds of Tepe Gawra (Palumbi, 2011: s. 213) and Tureng Tepe (Shanshashvili, 2010: s.170). Both the architectural structure and the grave gifts (Zallagi and Aghalari, 2007; Sheikhi, Zalaghi and Mashkour, 2011)[§] of the two adobe chamber tombs opened in Köhneh Pasgah Hill together with a glossy colored vessel (Yakar, 1985: s. 269-270) found within the graves are remarkable in terms of their connection with the north of Iran. These features show that East Anatolia had a communication network with both the Caucasus and Iran, and Mesopotamia geographies much earlier than known. The common ground of different cultural structures in these different geographies was the developing socio-economic situation and, accordingly, the increase in the use of the mine. As we look at the finds in the graves, the fact that arsenic copper was the basic material used in the production of ornaments, tools and weapons between 2800-2300 BC confirms this situation.

[§] Personal interview with Bairam Aghalary (responsible person who excavated the graves).

When it is looked at the circulation between the centers, the variety, values and quality of the artifacts by means of examining such artifacts belonging to the 3rd millennium BC, it is seen that the settlements in the plain have a more systematic network in both regional and interregional communication compared to the mountainous sections. As to the end of the 3rd millennium BC, it is reported that tinned bronze started to spread in high regions as well and even became the most used alloy among the settlements in the valleys. Apart from the finds obtained in the settlements, especially the artifacts found in the graves reflect this situation (Massa, 2017: s. 168 Figs. 4a-b, 169 6a-b). Valuable artifacts of this kind found in the royal tombs of Korucutepe, Arslantepe and Başur confirm the existence of powerful, privileged people and families in the eastern half of Anatolia.

There are two types of chamber tombs in Anatolia in the 3000s BC: underground and above-ground. These tombs are made of materials that can easily be found in nature such as stone, mud brick and wood block. Some of them, on the other hand, were turned into the tomb chambers by carving the bedrock. As for construction method, they have basically square, rectangular and round forms. It is possible to connect the application of multiple burials in chamber tombs to rather spiritual feelings. The burial of babies, children, men and women all together in these graves is associated with the family cemetery. Inhumation burial is given to the individuals buried in Hocker position. Although the individuals are mostly laid in east-west direction, the unity of direction cannot be observed.

The chamber-type tombs identified in Anatolia have mostly been reached in the regions close to the Caucasus and Syria-Mesopotamia (Figure 4). At this point, it would not be wrong to say that the effects from the south carried chamber tombs and the effects from the east carried kurgan tombs to Anatolia. On the other hand, in West Anatolia, graves of this type were identified mostly in the centers near the coast. The root cause for all these distributions can assuredly be attributed to strong families/communities based on the economy. The elites, who had become rich, gained privileged social status in the settlements. They must have wanted this privilege to continue after life. Compared to other types of tombs, the number and the higher values of the artifacts found in the chamber tombs can be attributed to this situation, since precious and semi-precious artifacts were left to accompany men, women, children and babies buried in the same tomb. The fact that there corresponds an incremental increase in the number of artifacts parallel to the increase in the number of individuals within the tomb confirms this situation.

It is observed that, compared to the other regions, there are more and richer artifacts that accompany the dead in the chamber tombs of the Kızılırmak Curve in proportion to the number of tombs there. The proportion and richness of the artifacts uncovered within the chamber tombs in the southeast of Anatolia, most of which were robbed, are close to those uncovered in the chamber tombs in the Kızılırmak Curve. Terracotta wares and bronze needles were found in all of the chamber tombs.

Another attention grabbing issue in the graves is that there are quite a lot of bronze artifact groups. Needles, bracelets, rings, earrings, necklaces; daggers, spears, spear-heads, axes, drilling tools are among them. As to the religious symbols, artifacts such as idol, amulet, ceremonial object were found. This richness can lie behind the replacement of Stone-Lined Cist Tombs, the most important burial type of the extramural burial tradition of the middle of the Early Bronze Age, by the intramural chamber tombs at the end of the Early Bronze Age (Figure 5-6).

When the traditions of chamber tomb and stone-lined cist of Anatolia of the 3rd millennium BC are examined, another of the most striking issues that we encounter is the rituals of sacrifice and dead food. The tradition of sacrificing humans and animals for elite people, who were the owners of the tombs, became widespread in the 3rd millennium BC. While the bodies of the sacrificed people were found just outside the tomb chambers, the pieces left from the animals of dead food were found both inside and outside the tombs.

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Visuals

Figure 1. Korucutepe, Burial chamber has a rectangular shape (Van Loon, 1978: s. Plate. 79/B).



Figure 2. Tilbeshar, Aria D, Monumental Burial Chambers (Kepinski, 2013: s. 23, Fig. 5).



Figure 3. Karataş/Semayük, Before it Opened the Burial Chambers (Mellink, 1969: s. 148, Fig. 5).

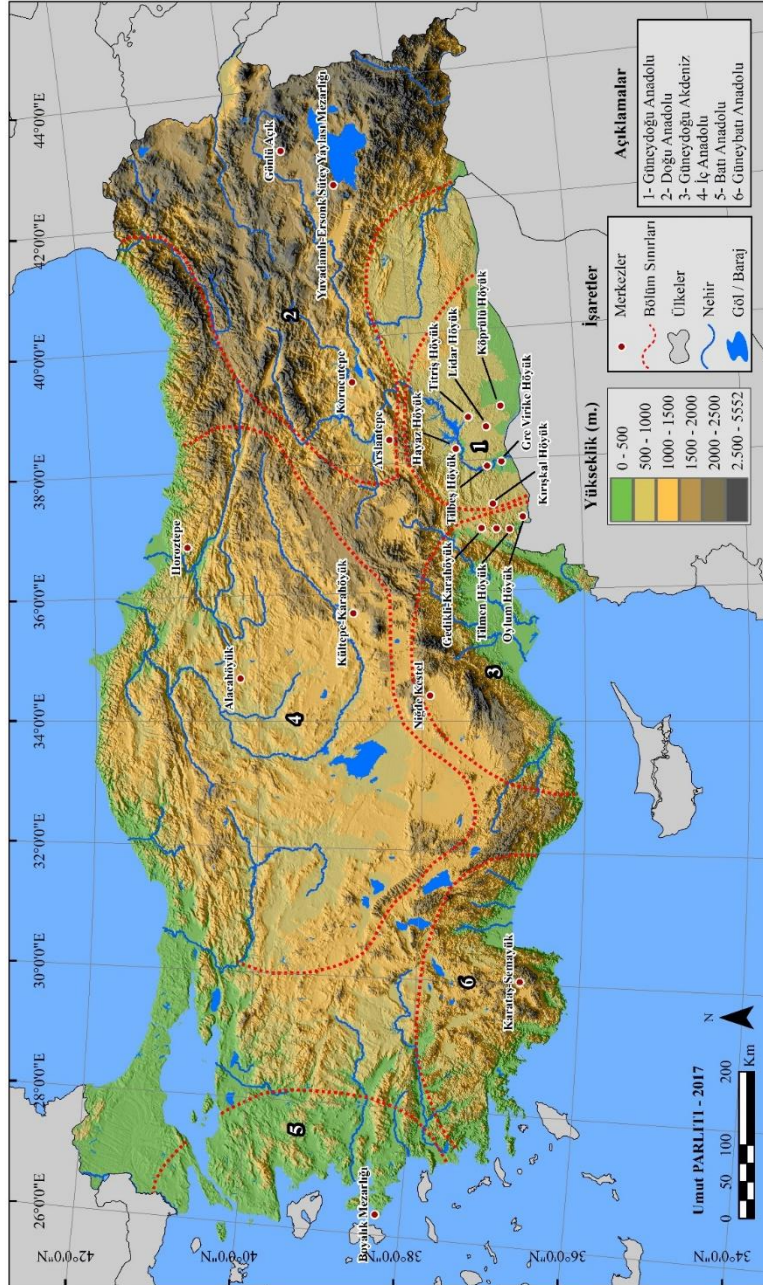


Figure 4. Regional distribution of Early Bronze Age chamber tombs in Anatolia.

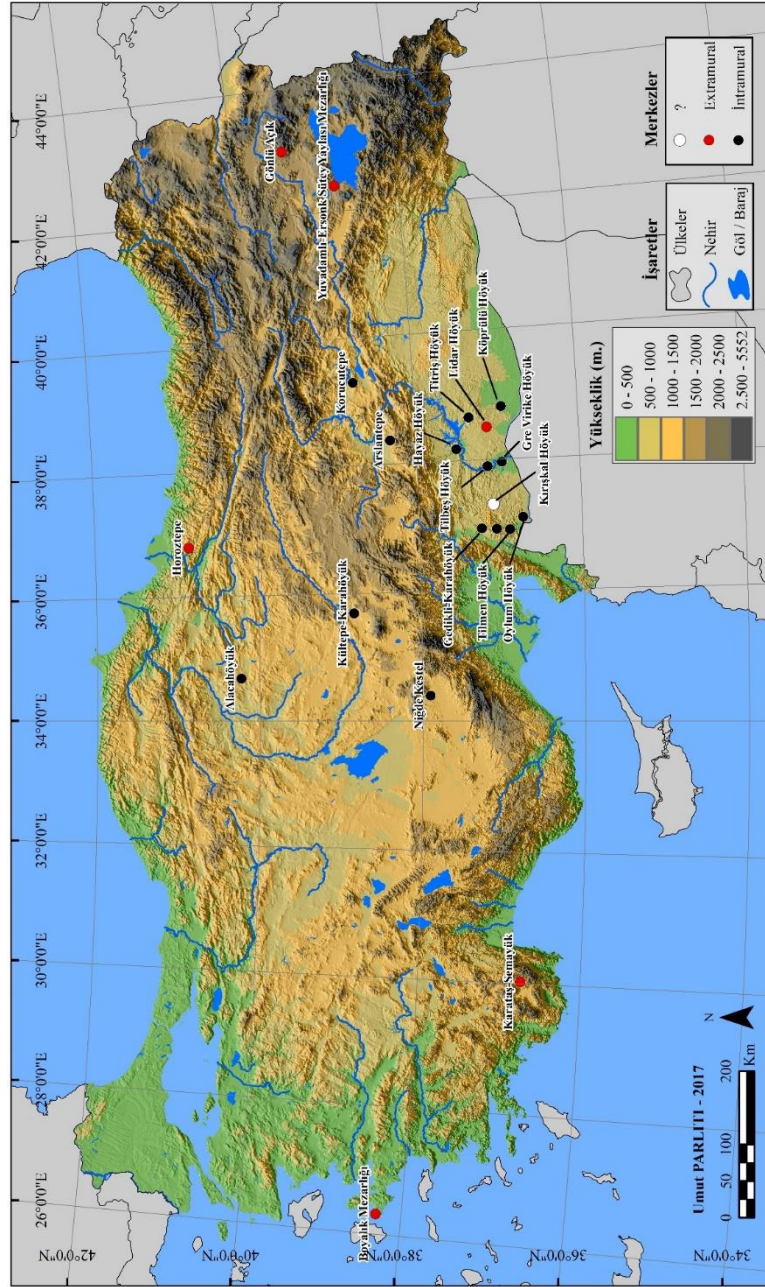


Figure 5. The types of burials of chamber tombs.

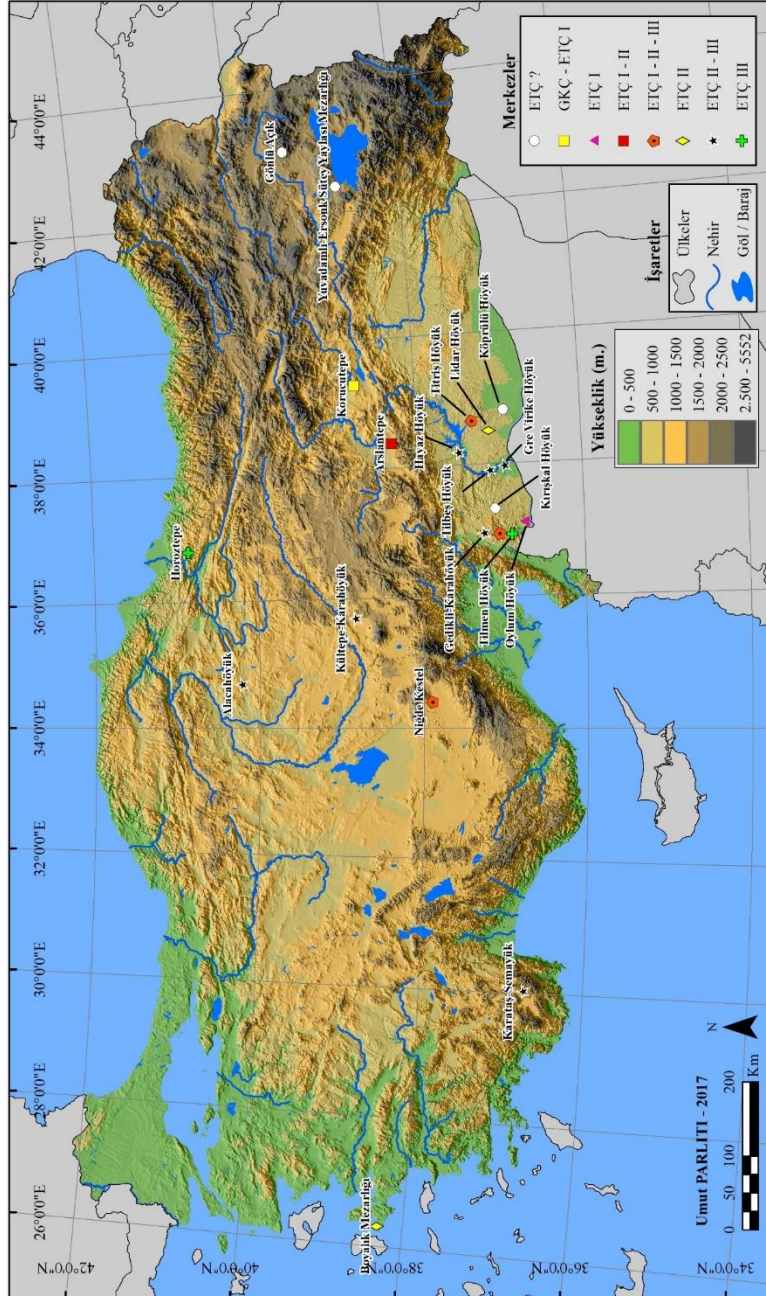


Figure 6. The chronologies of the use of chamber tombs according to archaeological studies.