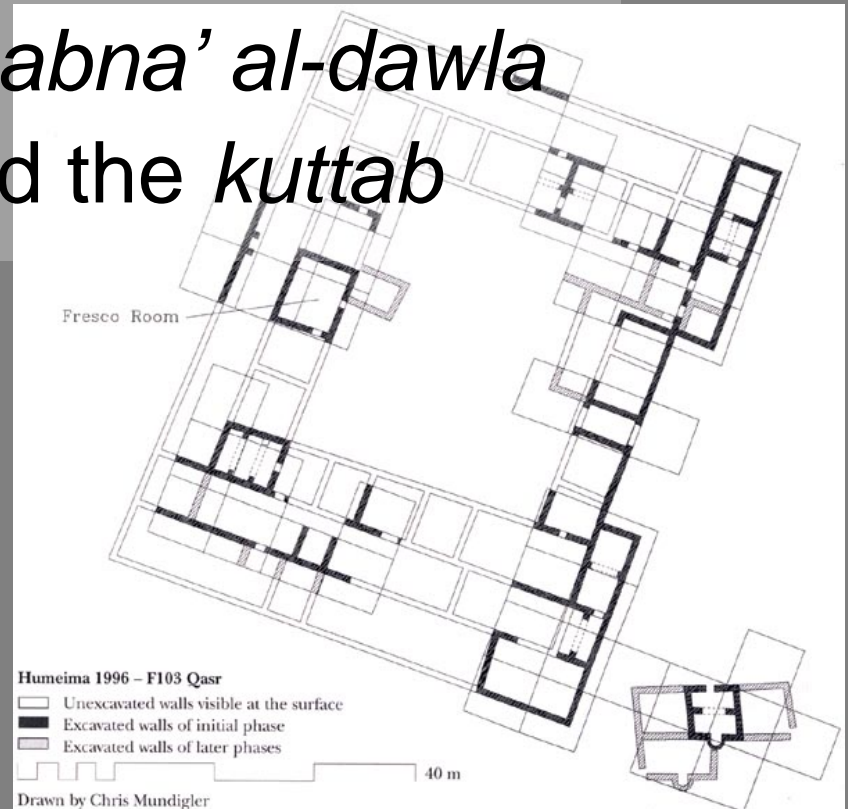


The Rise of the Abbasids

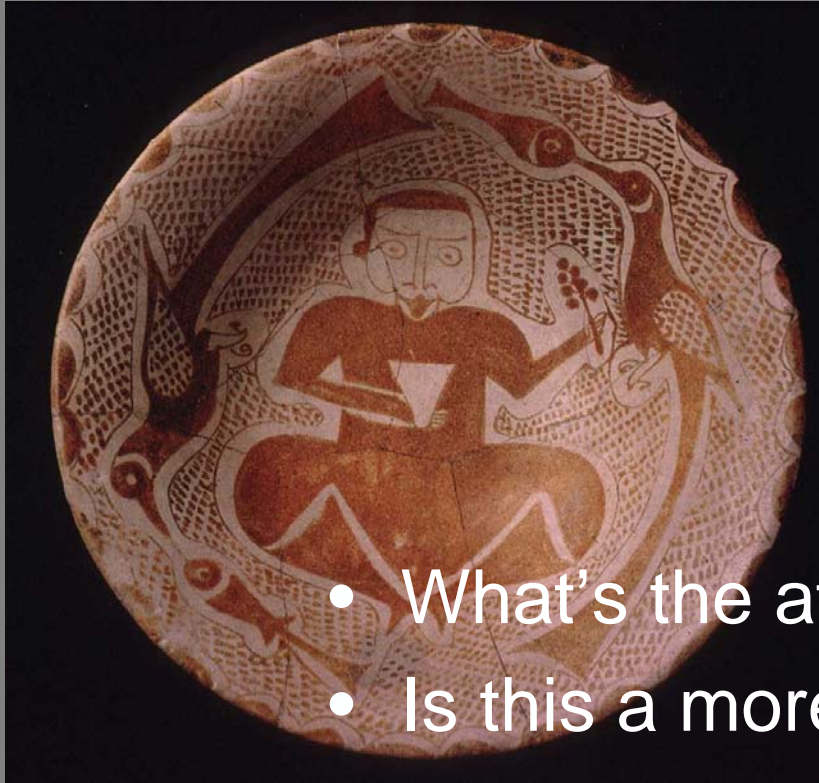
Politics, culture and the future of
Islam

The Players

- Who are the Abbasids anyway?
- The alliance with the “Alids”
- The Khurasanis – *abna’ al-dawla*
- The Barmakids and the *kuttab*

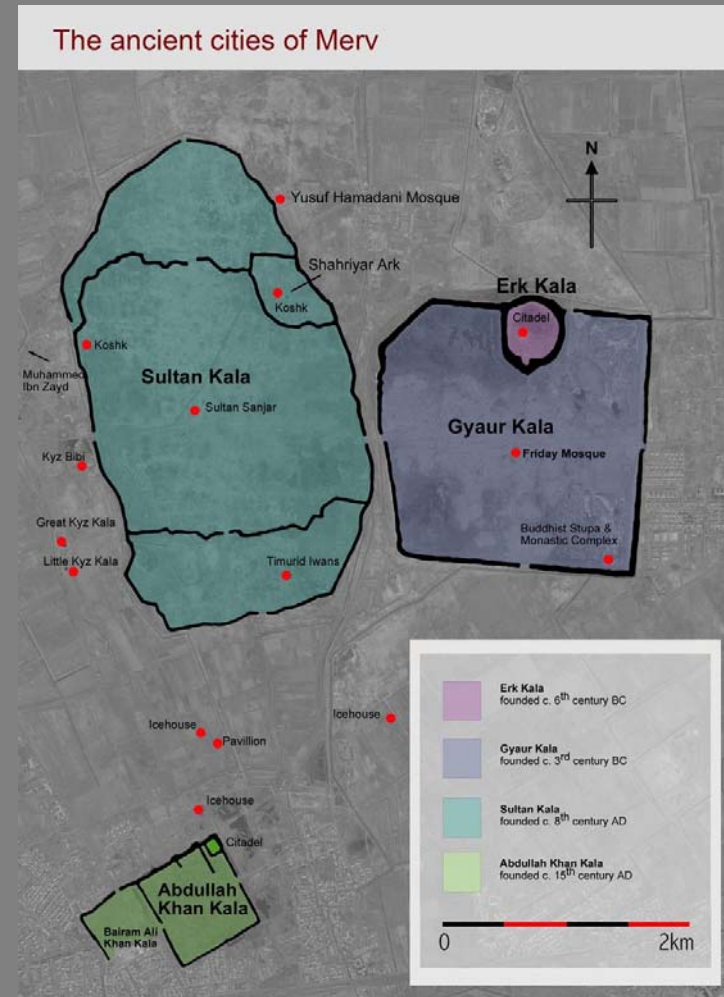


Some Questions

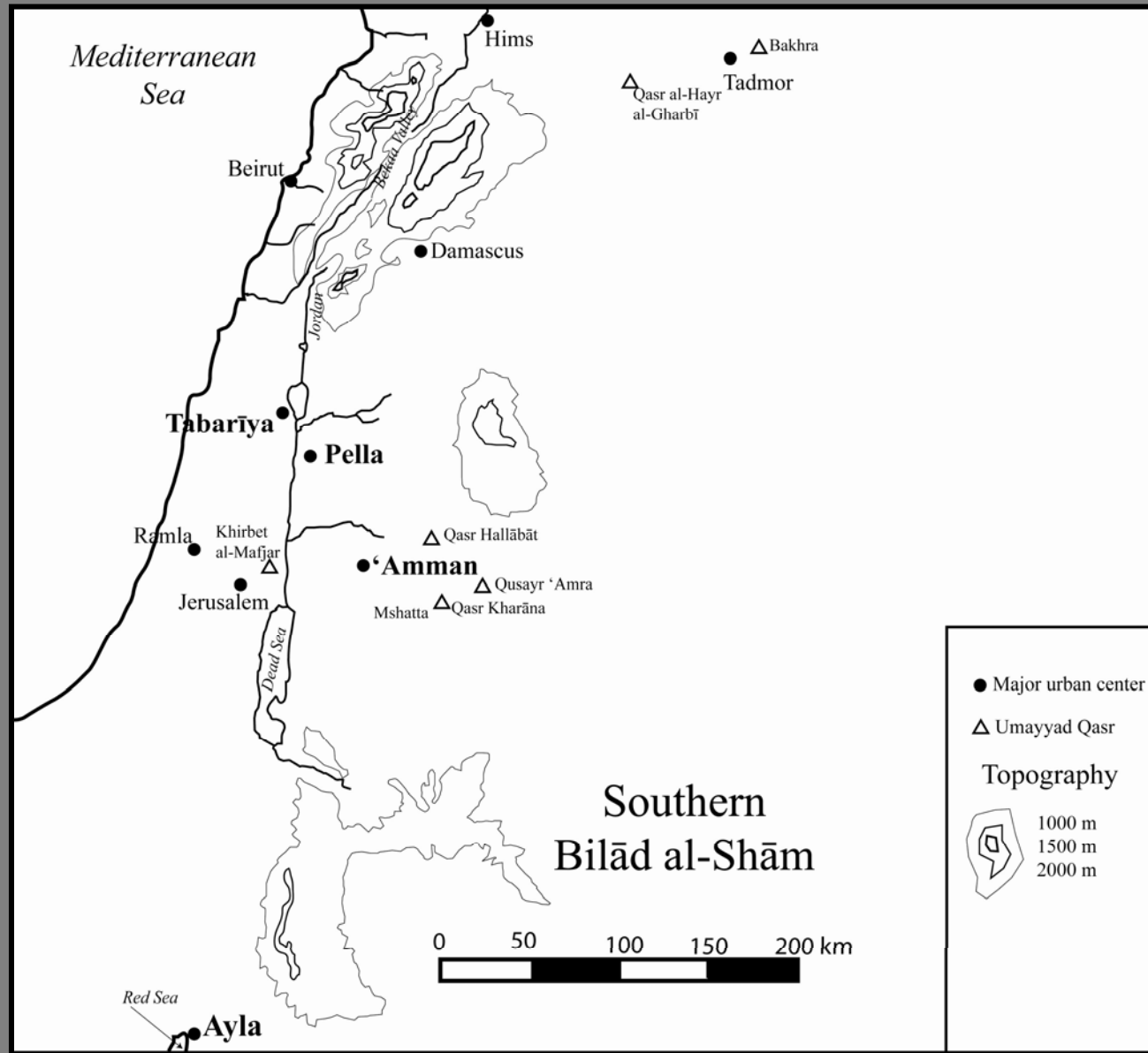


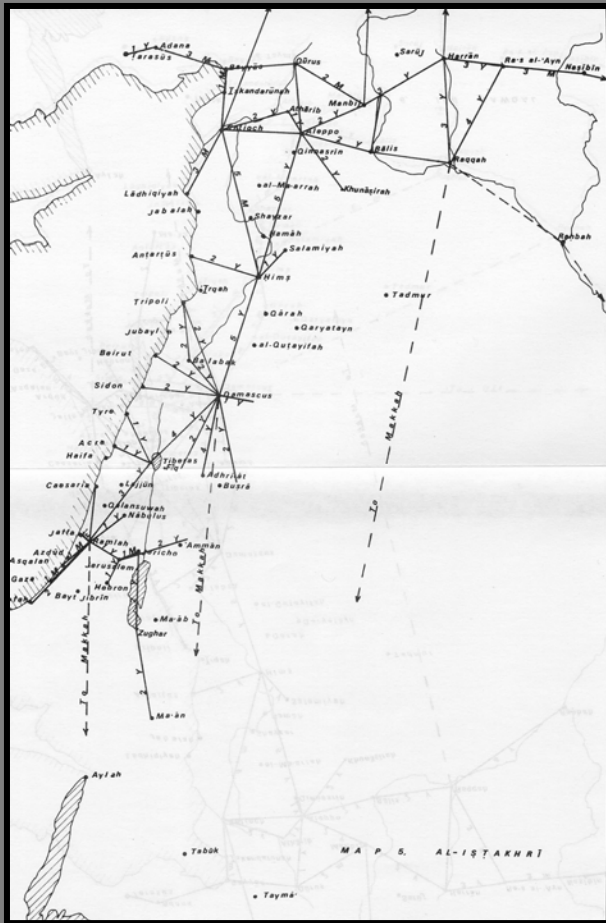
- What's the attraction of Iraq?
- Is this a more mature empire?
- Is this the end of Arab domination?
- What happens to the Umayyads? Syria?

Center and periphery

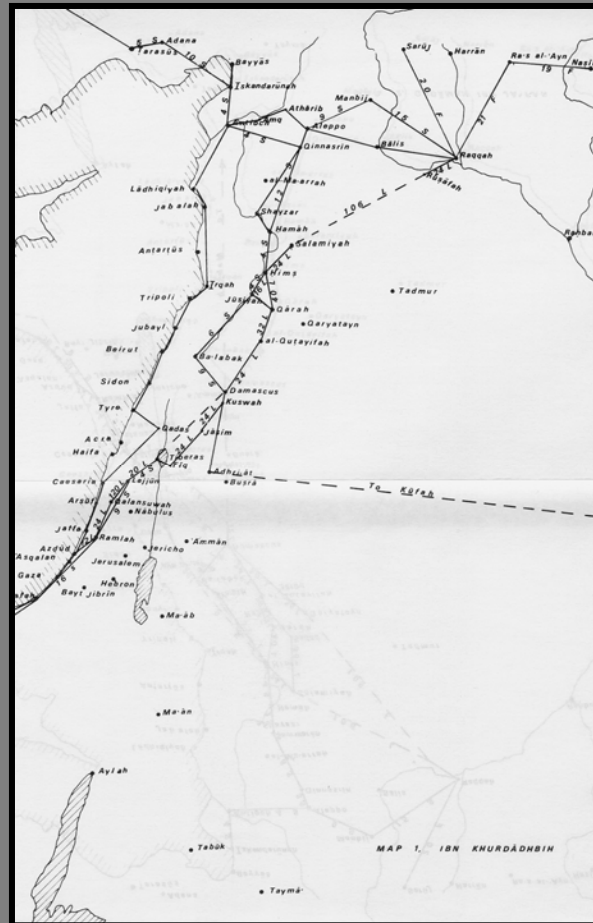


The Impact on Syria

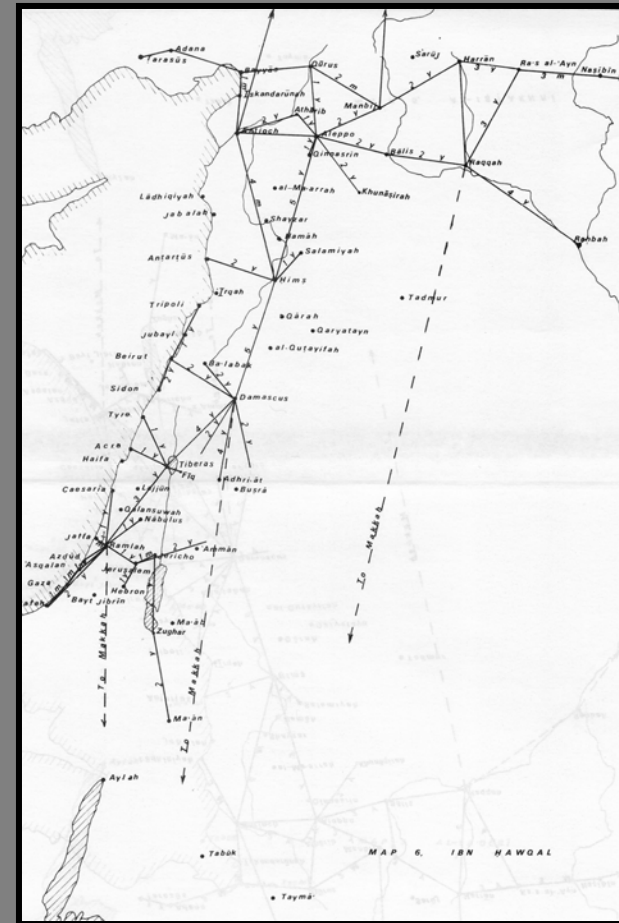




al-Istakhri



Ibn Khurdadhbih



Ibn Hawkal

Source: Yusuf (1985)

Route Maps of 10th century Geographers
(note the connections of Syrian cities with the frontier and beyond)

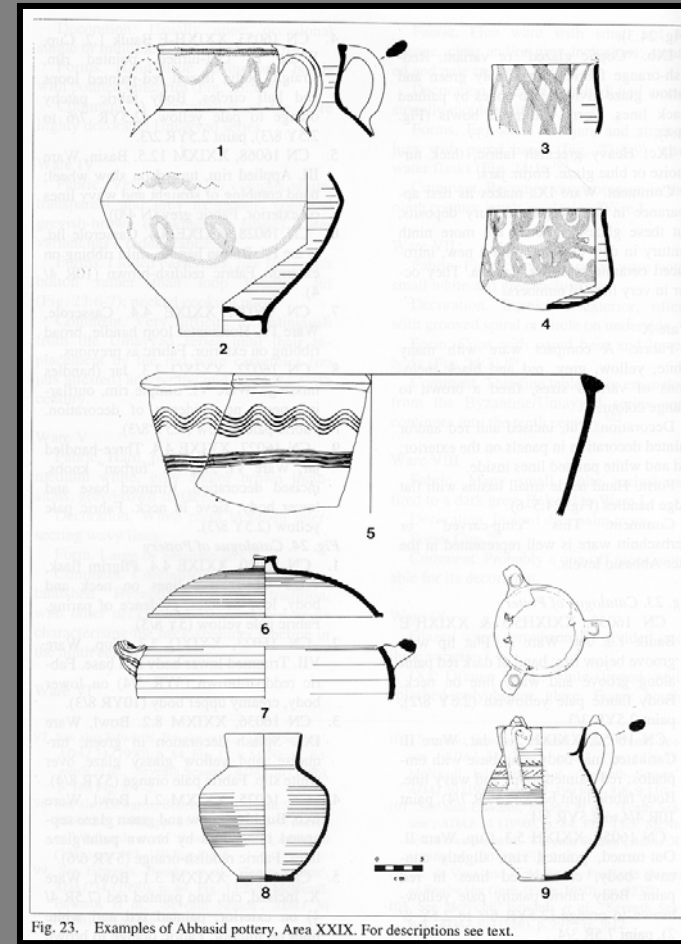
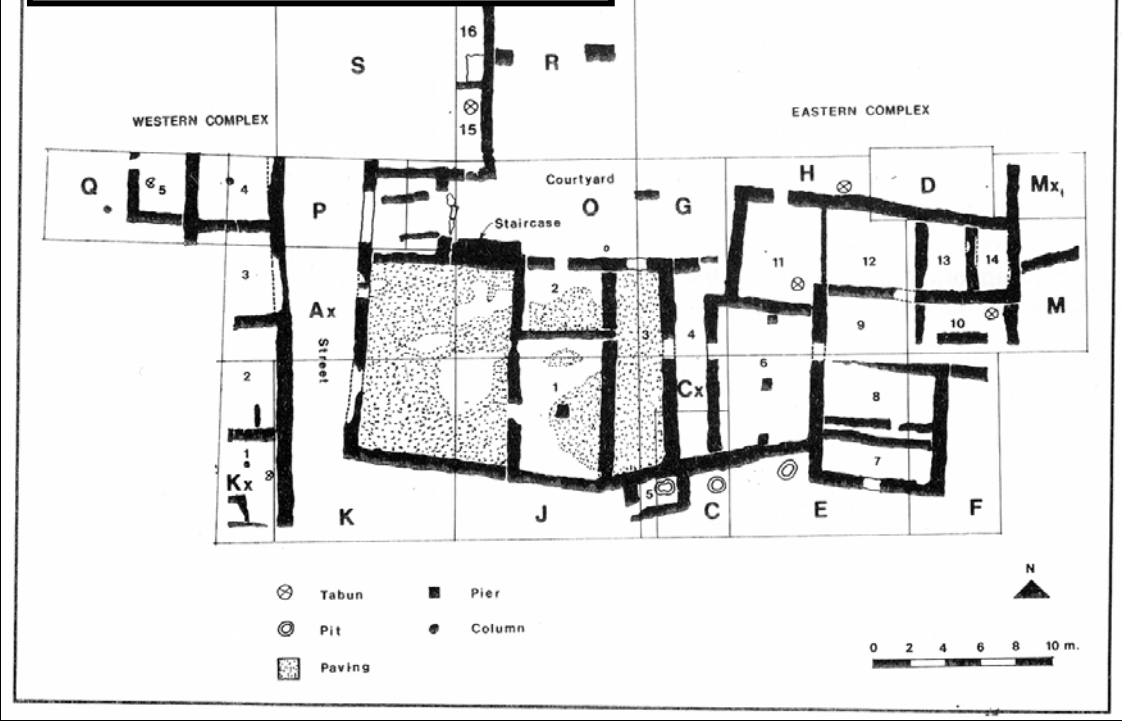
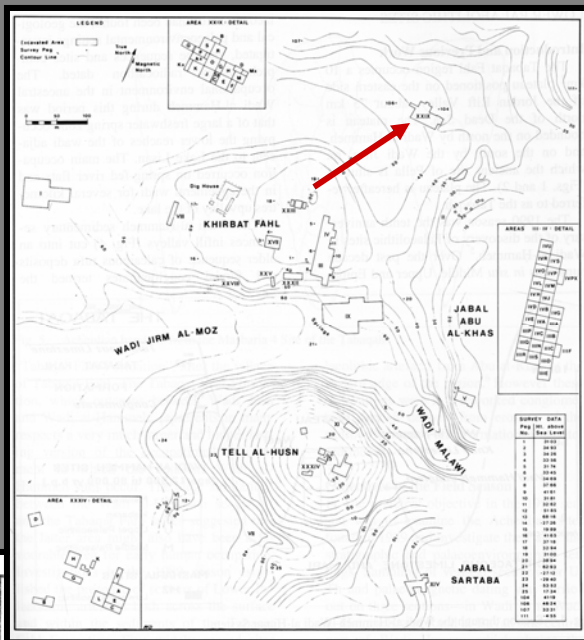
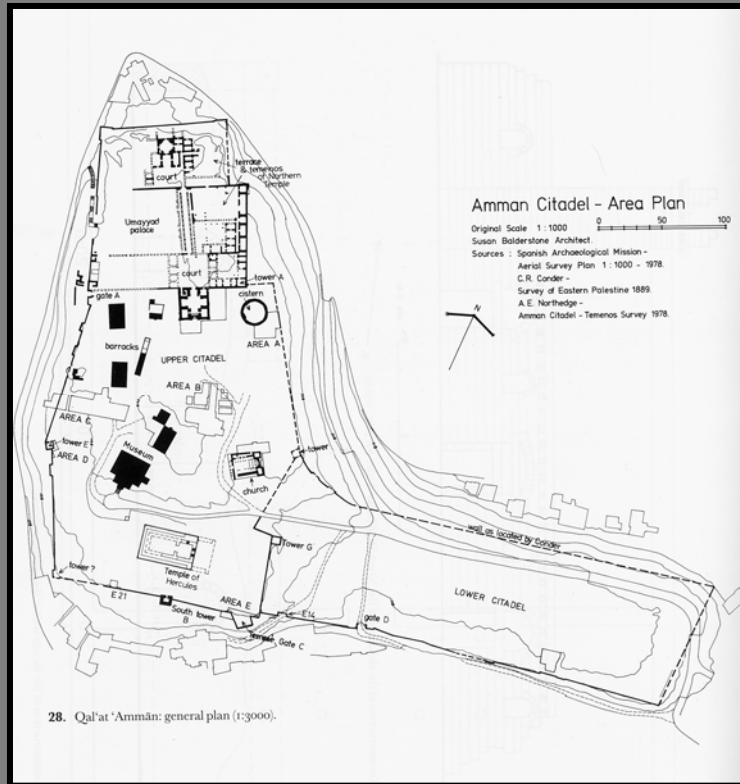


Fig. 23. Examples of Abbasid pottery, Area XXIX. For descriptions see text.

Pella (Fihl) Area XXIX

The 'Abbasid Complex

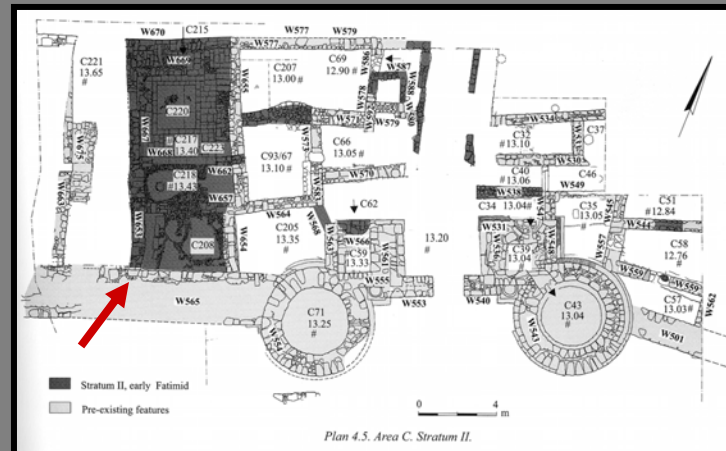
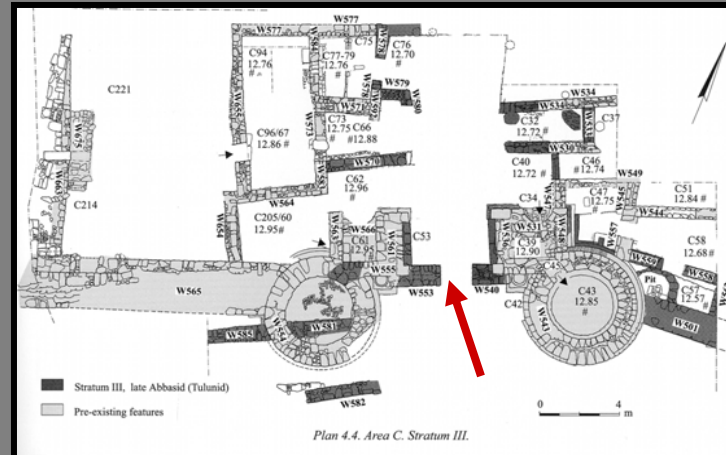


Source: Northedge 1992

'Abbasid Reconstruction of the Amman Citadel after the 749 CE earthquake

This topographic map of Jerusalem illustrates the city's layout and archaeological sites. The Sea of Galilee is on the right, with a north arrow pointing upwards. The city is divided by the Byzantine City Wall, shown as a thick black line. Key locations include the Basilica, Market Place, Baths, and Synagogue. Archaeological areas are labeled: Area A, Area B, Area C, Area D, and Area D1. Two red arrows point to specific locations: one near the Market Place and Baths, and another near Area B and Area C. A scale bar at the bottom left indicates 0 to 200 meters.

Archaeological plan of the area around Strata VII-IV, showing various structures, walls, and rooms with labels like W577, C98, C97, C83, C86, C84E, C99/72, C87/12, C89/4, C84U, C46, C47, C48, C37, C49, W534, W531, W530, W529, W527, W526, W525, W524, W523, W522, W521, W520, W519, W518, W517, W516, W515, W514, W513, W512, W511, W510, W509, W508, W507, W506, W505, W504, W503, W502, W501, W500, W499, W498, W497, W496, W495, W494, W493, W492, W491, W490, W489, W488, W487, W486, W485, W484, W483, W482, W481, W480, W479, W478, W477, W476, W475, W474, W473, W472, W471, W470, W469, W468, W467, W466, W465, W464, W463, W462, W461, W460, W459, W458, W457, W456, W455, W454, W453, W452, W451, W450, W449, W448, W447, W446, W445, W444, W443, W442, W441, W440, W439, W438, W437, W436, W435, W434, W433, W432, W431, W430, W429, W428, W427, W426, W425, W424, W423, W422, W421, W420, W419, W418, W417, W416, W415, W414, W413, W412, W411, W410, W409, W408, W407, W406, W405, W404, W403, W402, W401, W400, W399, W398, W397, W396, W395, W394, W393, W392, W391, W390, W389, W388, W387, W386, W385, W384, W383, W382, W381, W380, W379, W378, W377, W376, W375, W374, W373, W372, W371, W370, W369, W368, W367, W366, W365, W364, W363, W362, W361, W360, W359, W358, W357, W356, W355, W354, W353, W352, W351, W350, W349, W348, W347, W346, W345, W344, W343, W342, W341, W340, W339, W338, W337, W336, W335, W334, W333, W332, W331, W330, W329, W328, W327, W326, W325, W324, W323, W322, W321, W320, W319, W318, W317, W316, W315, W314, W313, W312, W311, W310, W309, W308, W307, W306, W305, W304, W303, W302, W301, W300, W299, W298, W297, W296, W295, W294, W293, W292, W291, W290, W289, W288, W287, W286, W285, W284, W283, W282, W281, W280, W279, W278, W277, W276, W275, W274, W273, W272, W271, W270, W269, W268, W267, W266, W265, W264, W263, W262,



Glazed 'Abbasid Period Ceramics - Tiberias



Imported lustre wares

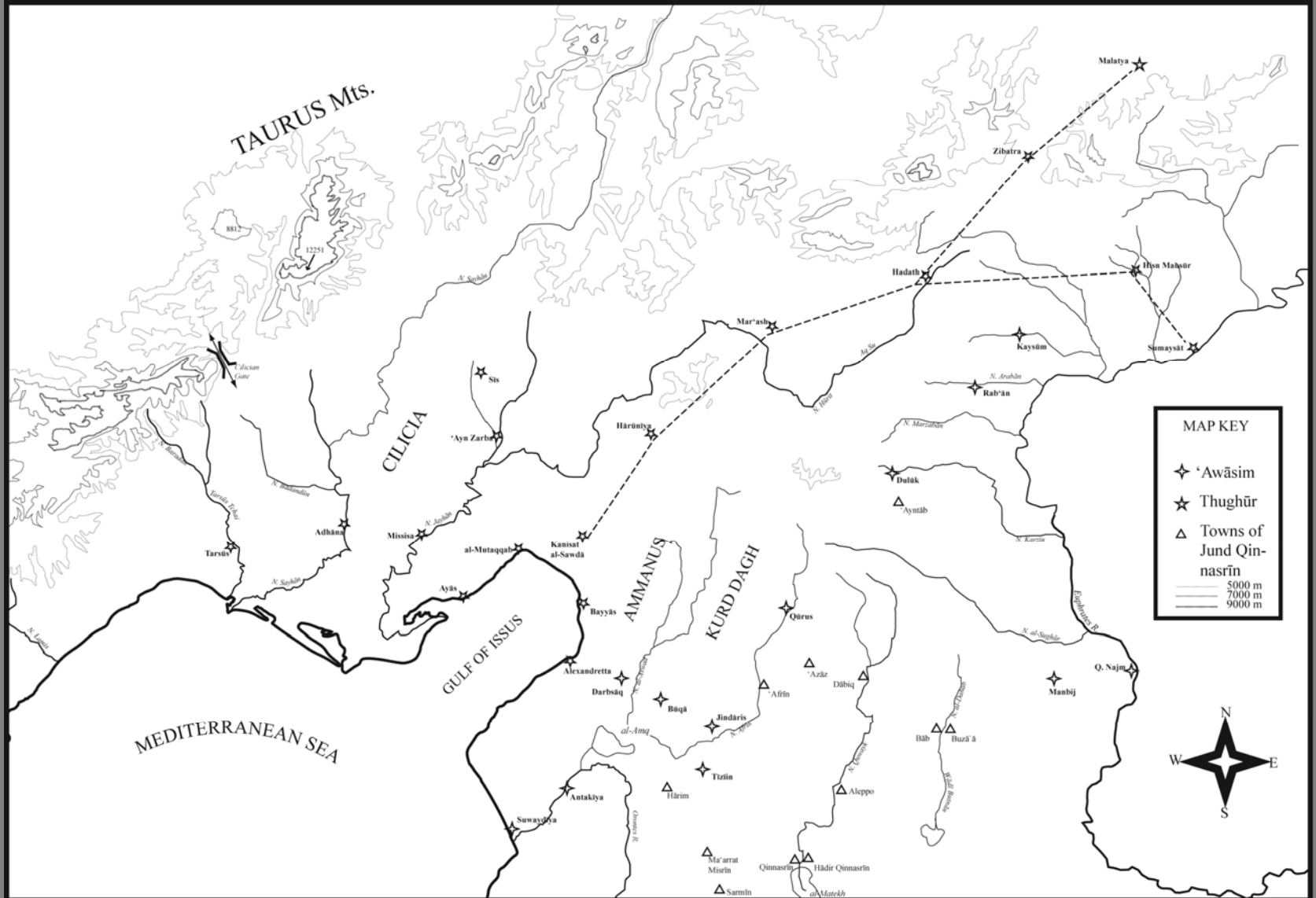


Source: Stacey (2004)

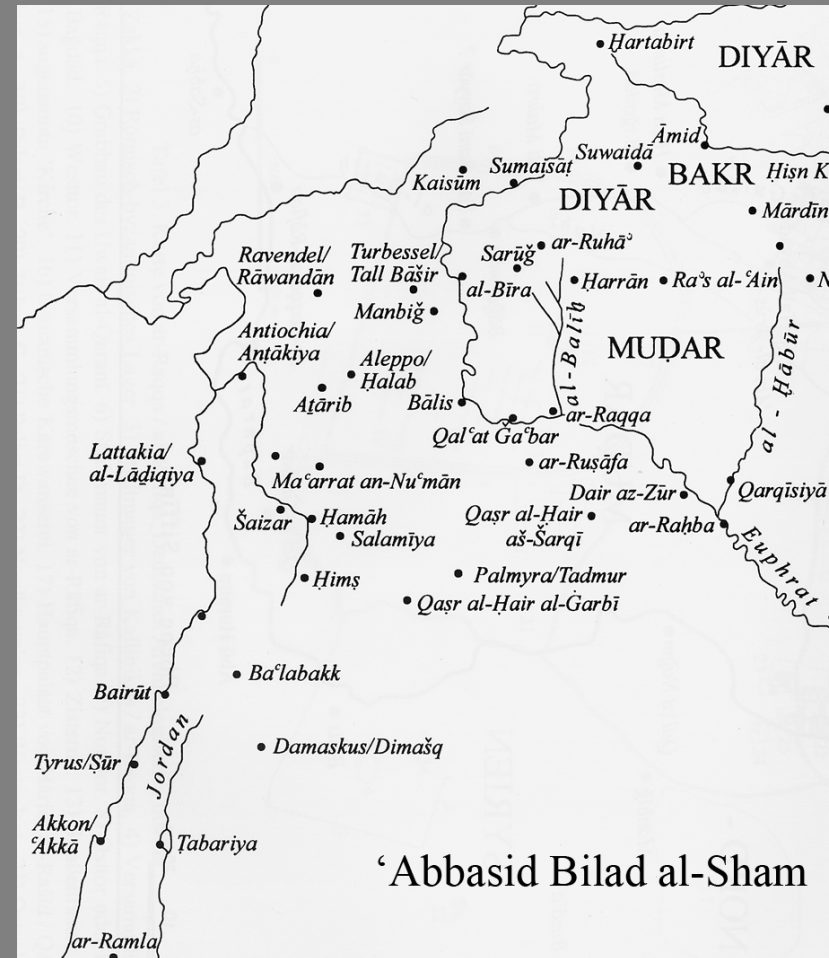
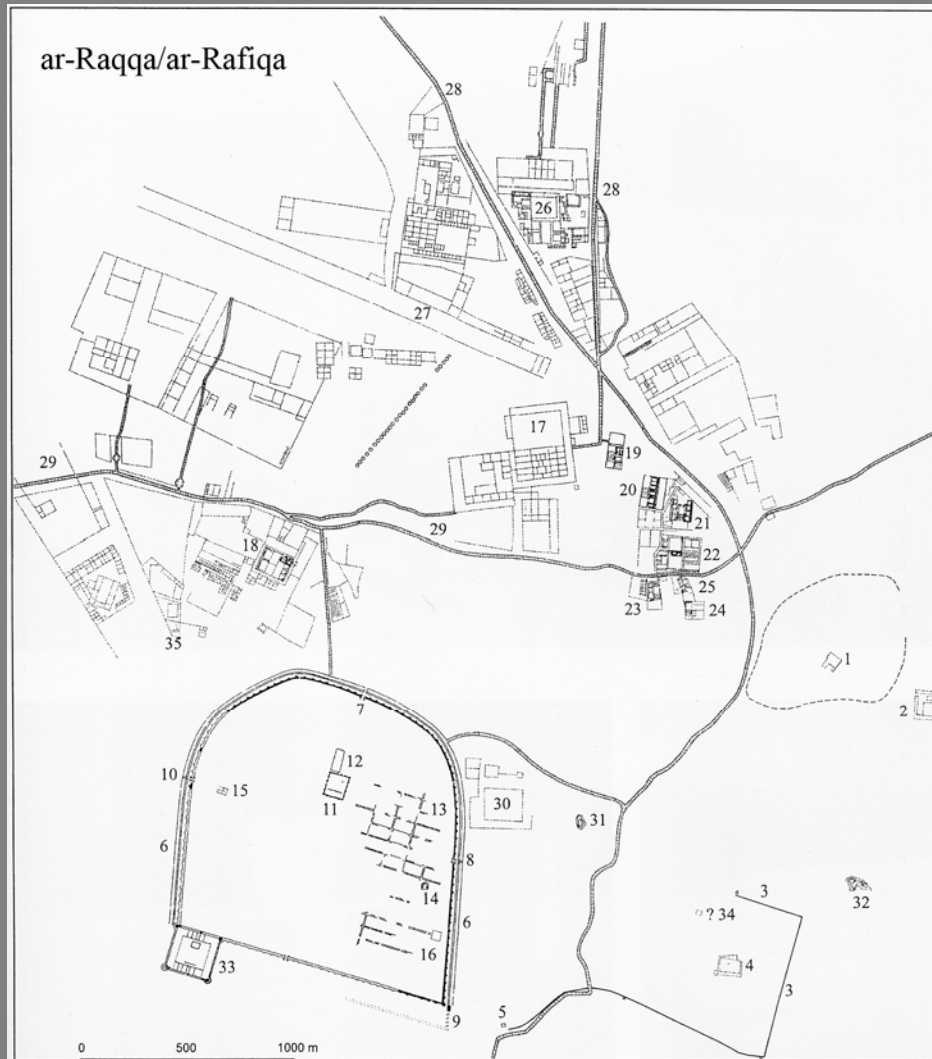
An Assessment of Abbasid Syria

- Syria was not marginalized and managed to maintain sustained economic vitality
- The state did take an interest in the region's economic situation
- Relationship to the Abbasid center, however, was not that of an exploited periphery
- Economically, the region did not generally operate as a province within a larger imperial whole. Local concerns were primary.
- Territorial logics of empire did not dominate economic and social life of Bilad al-Sham

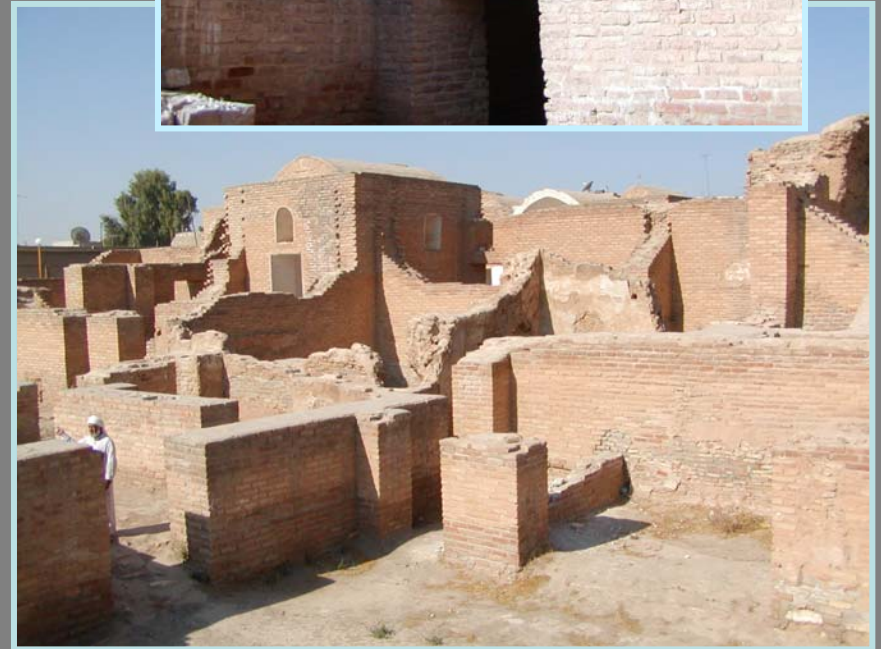
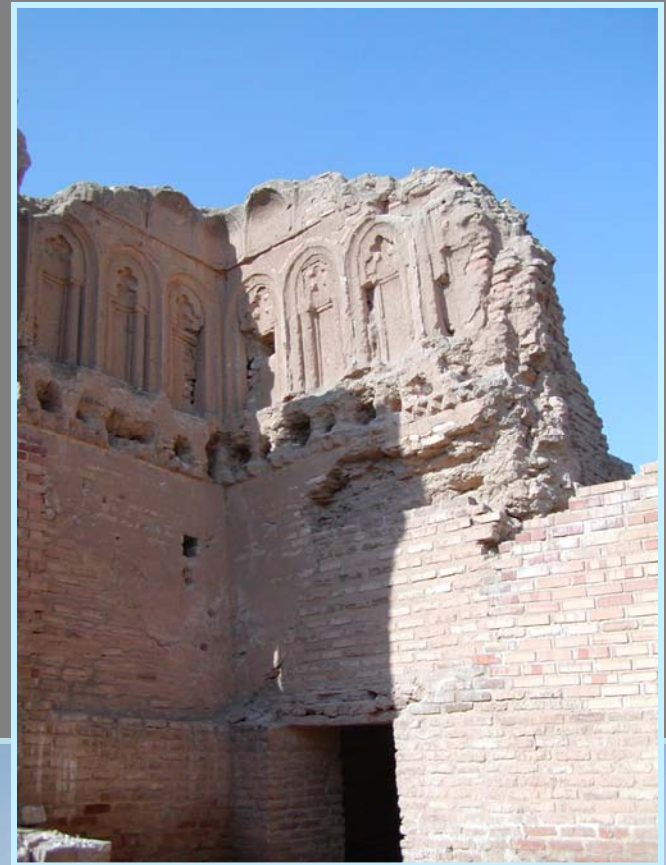
Reorganizing the Frontier



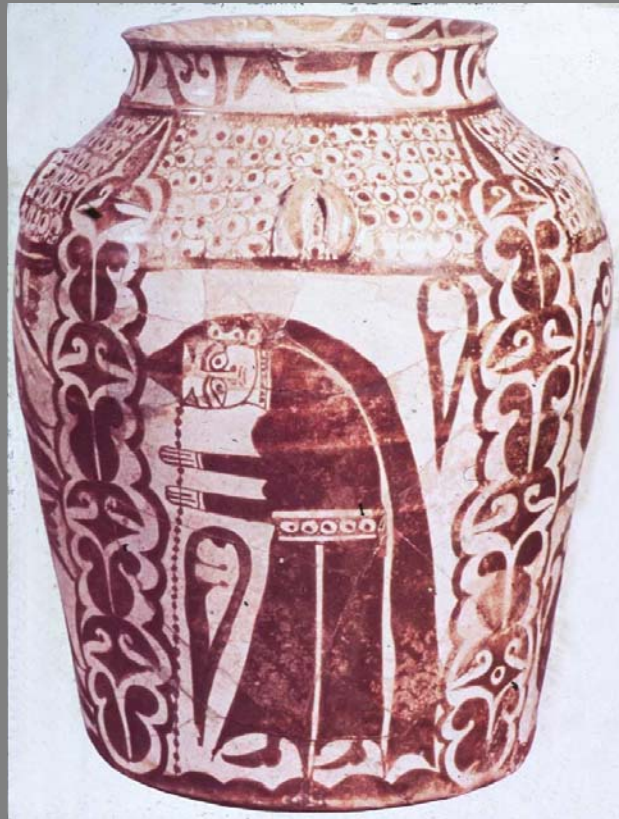
Baghdad was not enough?



ar-Raqqa/ar-Rafiqa



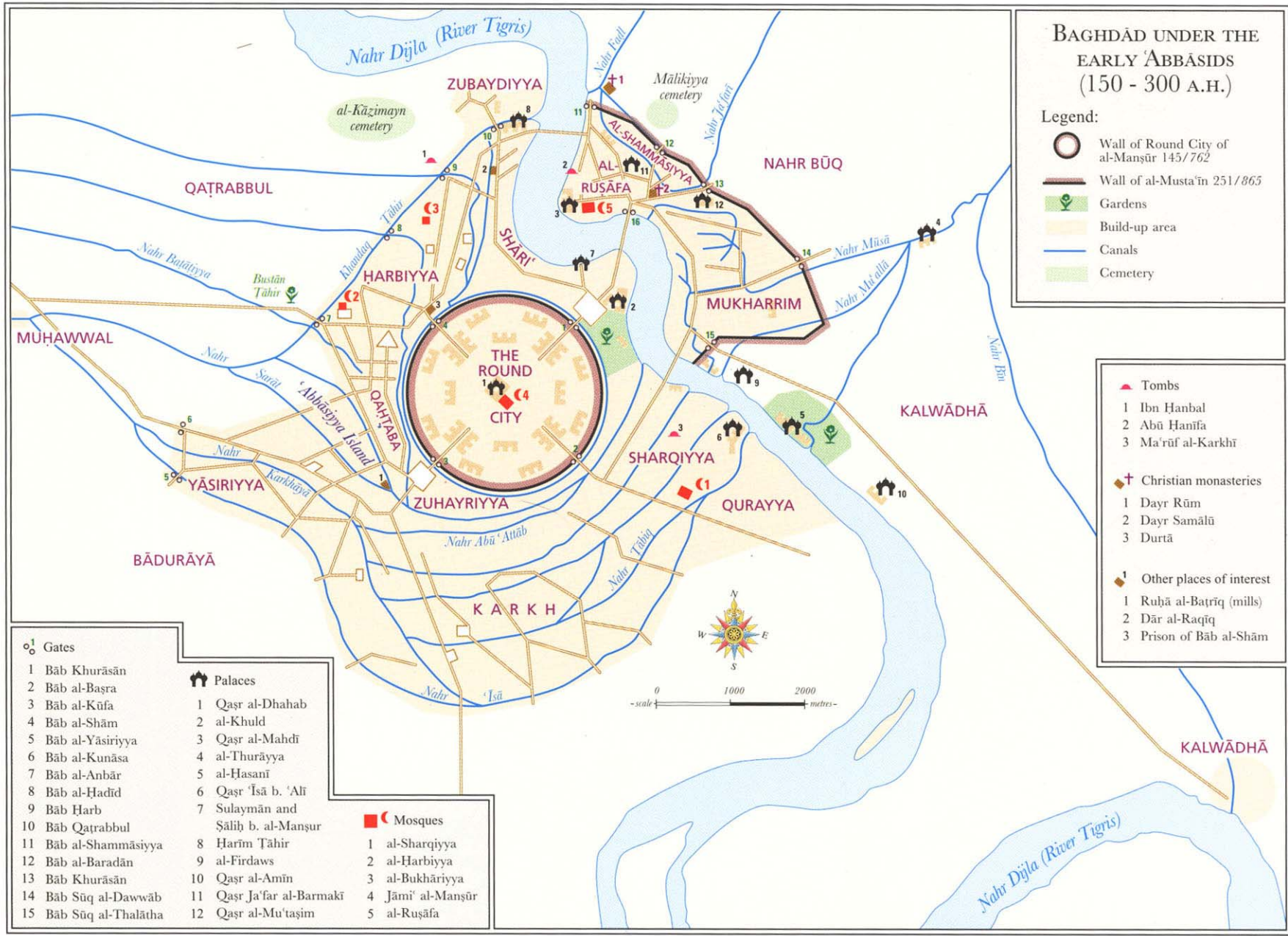
The Economics of Empire



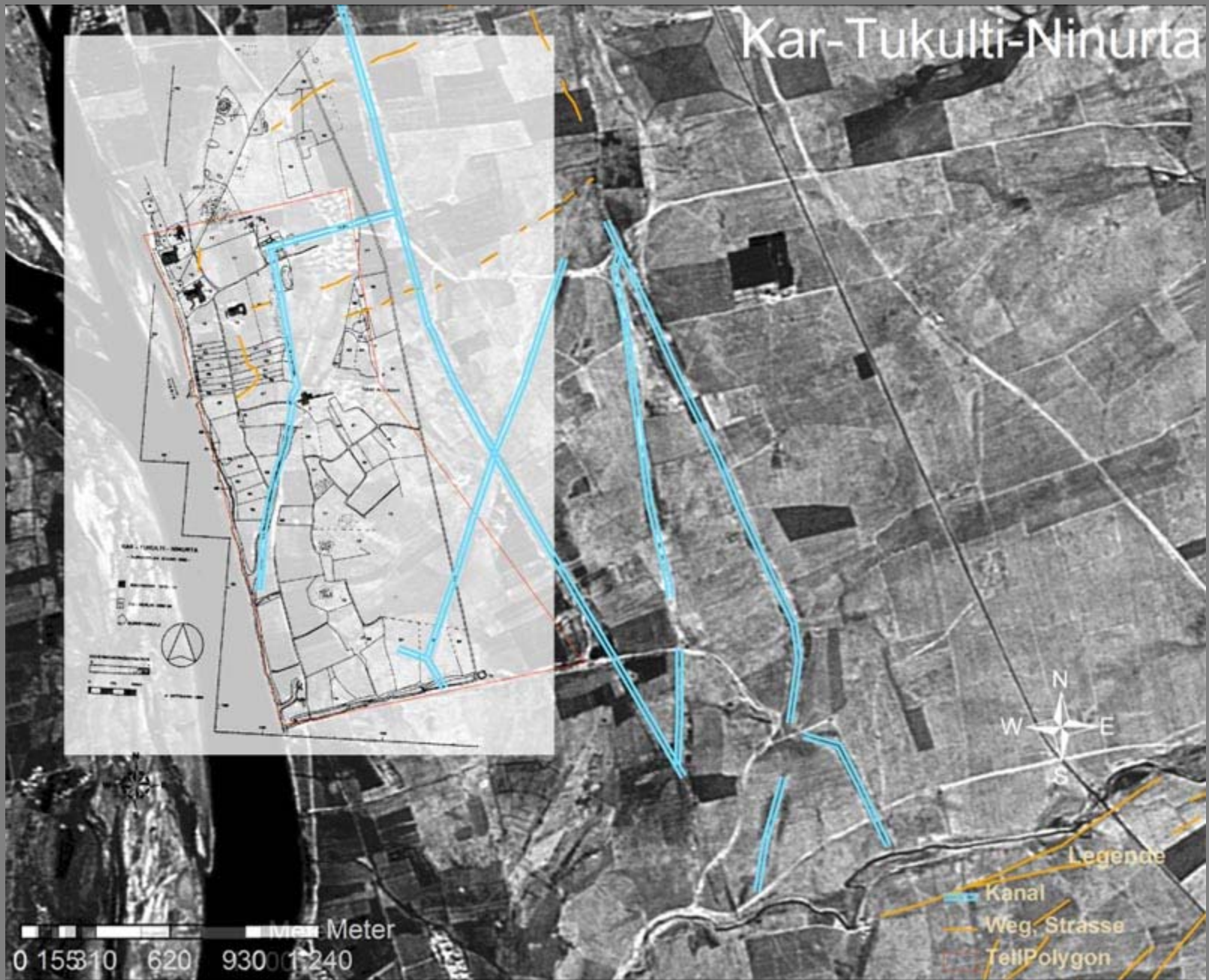
The Canal System



Work at the Nahr Rûd canal in southern Iraq (photo: G. Bell, March 1911
(Copyright Gertrude Bell Photographic Archive, Newcastle University).



Kar-Tukulti-Ninurta



Egypt





Trade Routes in the Indian Ocean, c. 500-1000 CE

Siraf and the Persian Gulf



Abbasid Silver Hoards in Europe

