

# Ancient Cities of the Middle East

## SETTLEMENTS AND CITIES UNTIL ALEXANDER THE GREAT

**City:** Greek *polis* was a community of citizens, sharing common political, religious, social traditions

Roman *urbs* its physical amenities were most important  
e.g. forum/ars and its connections to the street system, water supply, fine buildings (theater etc.)

**Settlement:** permanently inhabited, regionally limited farming culture develops; intense use of certain vegetations and landscapes develops the fusion of proximate groups to associations which is conducive to population growth  
reasons of settlement

**Trade:**



- water (sea, river)
- close to trading route
- connection point to routes
- often no natural resources - service provider
- military power to control a region

**Advanced Civilizations:** human society in large, compact associations attributes include economic, cultural and political centralization of cities, wide-spread irrigation system in agriculture, central administration, magistrates, priests (with the first numbering and writing systems), and also planned urban design

**Intra Muros City:** latin term for 'city within the walls', used for cities founded (and developed within a wall).

**Agriculture:**

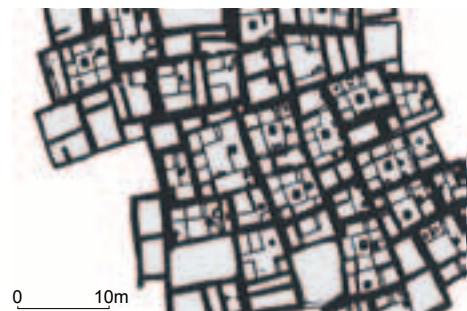


reasons of settlement

- water (Oasis)
- naturally protected
- no extreme climate
- animal husbandry
- developed tools
- natural resources



**Çatalhöyük**



0 10m

**Ur**

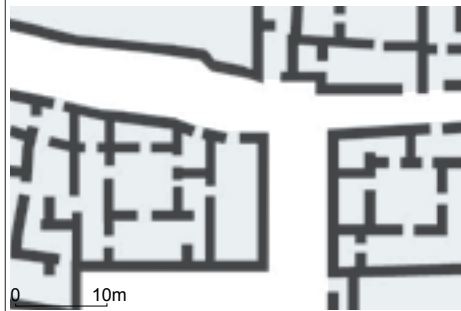
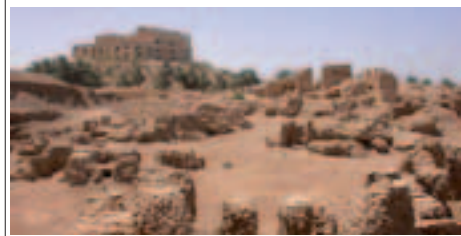


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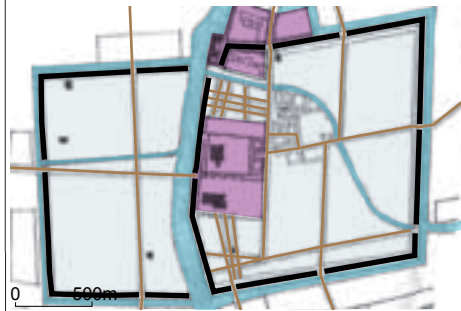


0 500m

**Babylon**

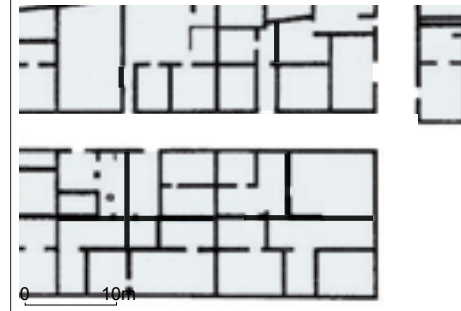
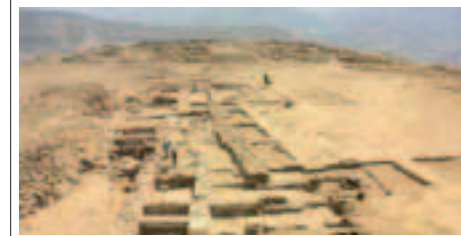


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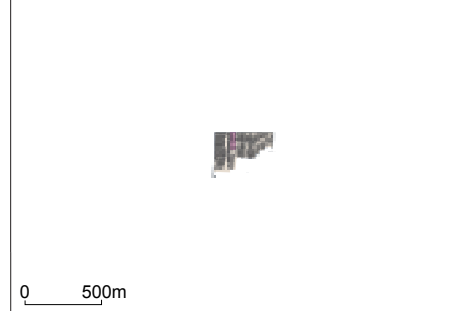


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**Al-Lahun (Kahun)**

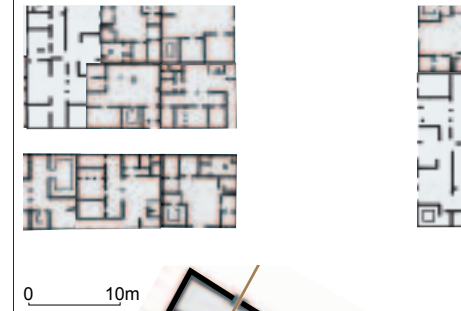


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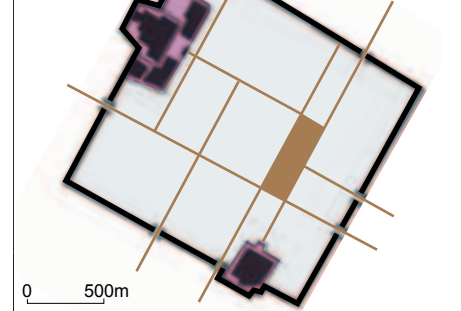


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**Dur-Sharrukin**

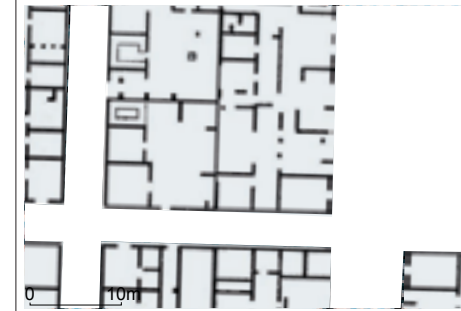


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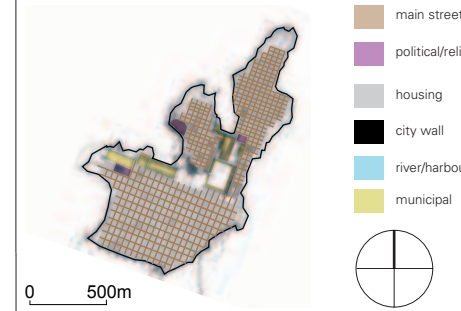


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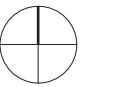
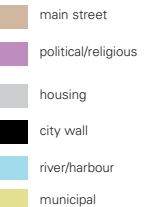
**Milet**



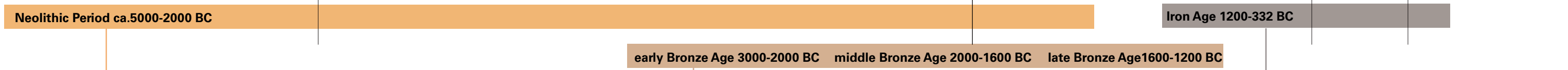
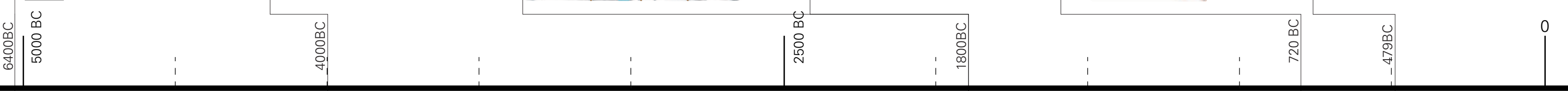
0 10m



0 500m



0 500km



Humans stop being hunters and gatherers and start being settled. The first long-range settlements develop. The domestication, agriculture and animal husbandry are the start for the foundations of settlements and cities.

Humans start to produce metal alloy (mostly bronze). Social changes: access to resources gives power and wealth and separates the society into classes. Fortress and swords become more common. It is the start of a "global" trading network because of different resources.

Slow development from bronze to iron age. „Dorian migration“ 1100BC Warriors from north beat south warriors with bronze armours. The development of cities changes towards west (Greece and Roman Empire)



# Intra muros Cities of the Middle East

## Damascus



STRUCTURE TYPE: **A**  
 EARLIEST SETTLEMENT DATE: **3000BC**  
 FORMATION OF INTRA MUROS CITY: **~320BC**  
 INTRA MUROS POPULATION (TODAY): **N.A.**  
 CITY ORIGINS: **oasis condition**  
 INTRA MUROS CITY CHARACTERISTICS:  
 a Roman grid that developed to an 'Arabic'  
 street system, Roman *decumanus* and *cardo*  
 still exists

## Beirut

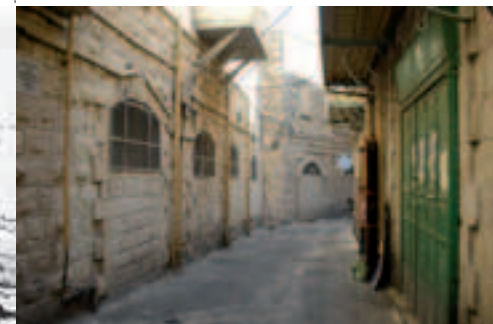
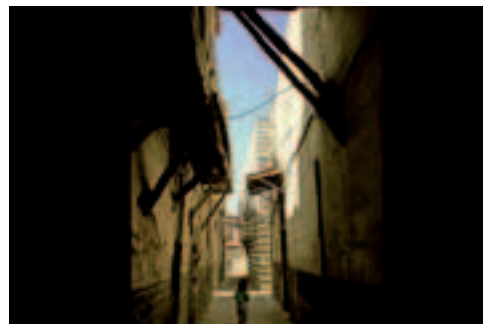
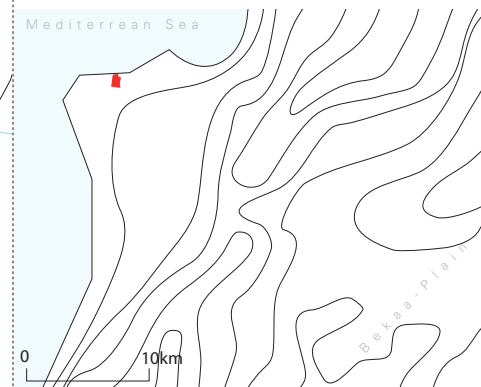
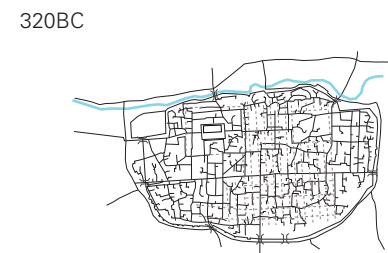
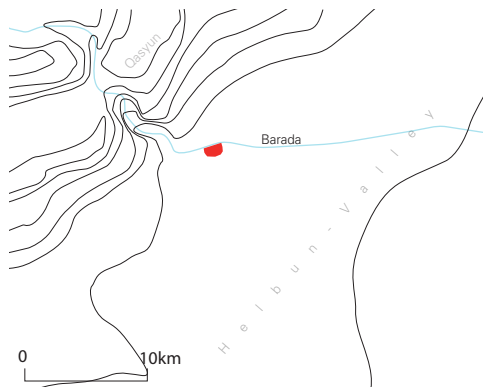
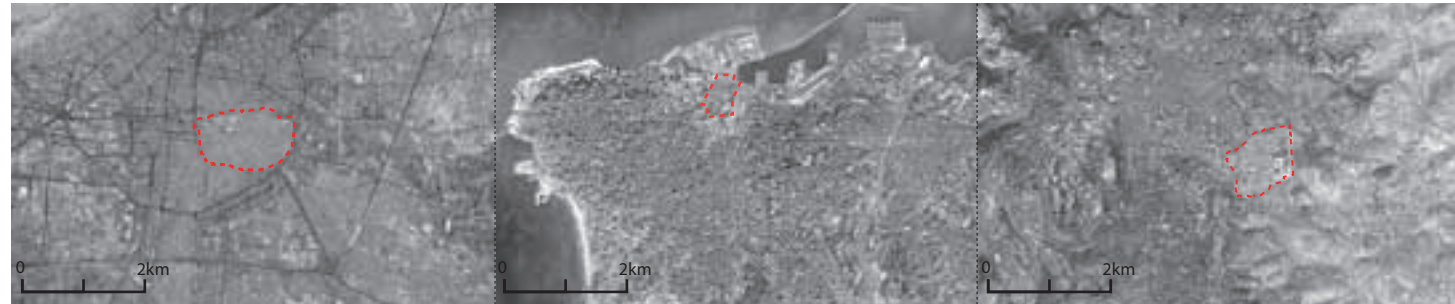


STRUCTURE TYPE: **B**  
 EARLIEST SETTLEMENT DATE: **2000BC**  
 FORMATION OF INTRA MUROS CITY: **1512**  
 INTRA MUROS POPULATION (TODAY): **N.A.**  
 CITY ORIGINS: **trade**  
 INTRA MUROS CITY CHARACTERISTICS: totally redeveloped in 1991, hardly any traces from original pattern left

## Jerusalem



STRUCTURE TYPE: **A**  
 EARLIEST SETTLEMENT DATE: **1800BC**  
 FORMATION OF INTRA MUROS CITY: **16th cent.**  
 INTRA MUROS POPULATION (TODAY): **27'000**  
 CITY ORIGINS: **fortification**  
 INTRA MUROS CITY CHARACTERISTICS: until 1860 only the intra muros city existed, divided in 4 ethnic quarter consisting of Christian, Jewis, Armenian, Muslim



**Type A - Medina**  
 arabian suq with roman grid as a basic

**mosque**

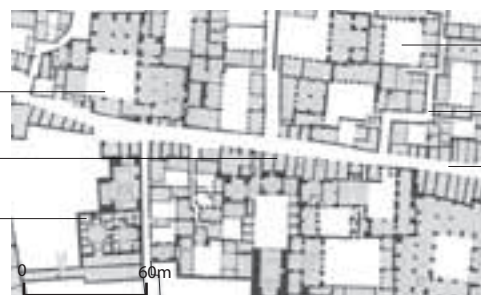
small mosque in the neighbourhood

**suq**

market - orientation towards the street

**hamam**

bath house - public space and meeting point



**bait**

courtyard-house - private exterior

**harah**

semi-privat neighbourhood

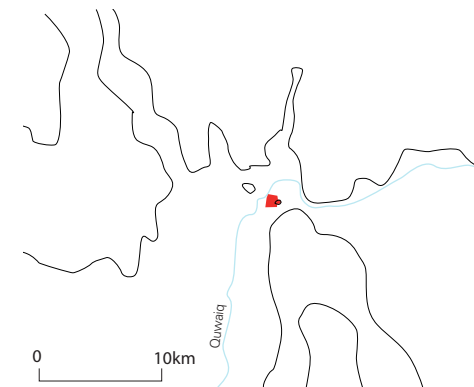
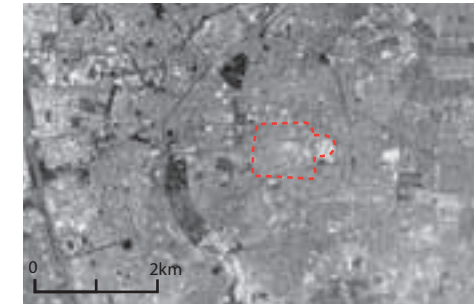
**through road**

from the roman decumanus-cardo system

## Aleppo



STRUCTURE TYPE: **A**  
 EARLIEST SETTLEMENT DATE: **1800BC**  
 FORMATION OF INTRA MUROS CITY: **12th cent.**  
 INTRA MUROS POPULATION (TODAY): **118'000**  
 CITY ORIGINS: **trade between India and Damascus**  
 INTRA MUROS CITY CHARACTERISTICS: 1952 redeveloped with boulevards, parks and parking spaces by Andre Gutton



**Type B - Arabic City Centre**

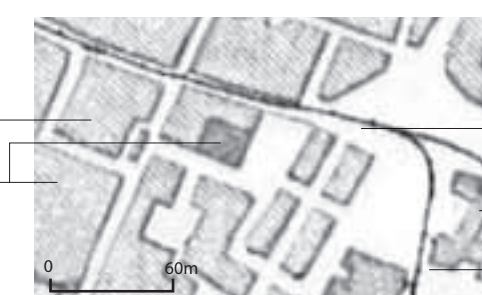
arabian city with roman grid as basic and modern western influences (e.g.traffic)

**perimeter block**

all entrances towards a public street

**mosque/synagoge/church**

big mosques in the centre for community praying often converted to other religions by colonies



**city cemetry**

originally just outside the wall today integrated in the city

**through road**

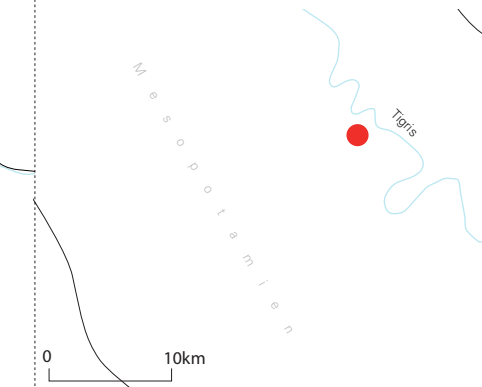
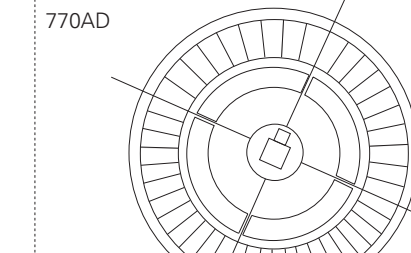
from the roman decumanus-cardo system now used for quick public transportation access

**tower/fortress**

remains from the primal city wall

**market place**

still used as a public space for the habitants



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