

The Clouds of Kurdistan Cannot Hide the Sun That is Assyria

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The interposition of the illusive Kurdistan on northern Mesopotamia (northern Iraq, northeast Syria and southeast Turkey) has at times overshadowed, but failed to wipe out, the glorious history of the region that is Assyria – a history that continues to be substantiated by archaeological discoveries. Until around the mid-19th Century, history was written sometimes by people who wrote what they wished or in other times they wrote what they thought was true history when it was not the case. In the mid 19th Century, the science of archeology was born and became the backbone of history.

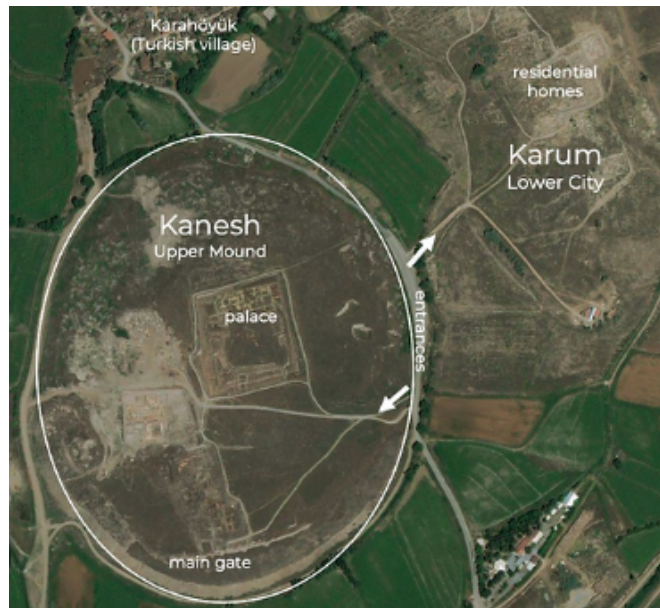
The term Kurdistan (land of Kurds) is illusive, transpicuous and hollow – it has no backbone, nothing archaeological or historical substantiate its existence. The fact is that the name Kurdistan was superimposed on the Middle East maps only to reflect where Kurds were found, regardless to their population. Kurdistan never existed as a bordered or politically recognized state or country at any time in history. On the other hand, the history of Assyria continues to vibrate in the background of what is called Kurdistan regardless to all the Kurdish interposition efforts.

Southeast Turkey

In southeast Turkey, the [Kanesh](#) were city-states ruled by their own line of Assyrian kings. The Assyrians established trade colonies, or *karum*, out of which many Assyrian archaeological levels have been investigated in the region. At the end of the twentieth and beginning of the nineteenth centuries BC, Assyrian merchants originating from Assur (Ashur) [developed a long-distance trade in central Anatolia](#) and [settled there progressively in some forty towns](#). Their commercial activities prospered during slightly more than two centuries, a period traditionally called the *Kārum*period.



The center of the Assyrians' operations was located at Kanesh (modern Kültepe) where, according to written records dated to the first half of the nineteenth century BC, many Assyrians lived more or less permanently.



In his latest book *Assyria: The Rise and Fall of the World's First Empire* (Basic Books. 2023), Assyriologist Prof. Eckart Frahm writes, While in southern Mesopotamia, a number of city-states and territorial states seem to be engaged in almost perpetual warfare with each other, Ashur stays away from the fray. And instead, merchants from the city of Ashur engaged in long-distance trade, mostly trading tin from the East, and textiles from the South, and also made in Ashur itself by women from the city trading this for silver in Anatolia. We have a lot of evidence for that from a place named Kanesh in

Central Anatolia, some 24,000 clay tablets. This is the type of document on which much of the reconstruction of Assyrian history actually rests.

Next, lets also consider the [Assyrian inscriptions in Diyarbakir](#) (in modern Turkey).



Historic caves in [Turkey](#)'s southeastern province of [Diyarbakır](#)'s [Lice](#) are on the way to becoming a tourism attraction hub after living under the shadow of terrorism activities for decades.



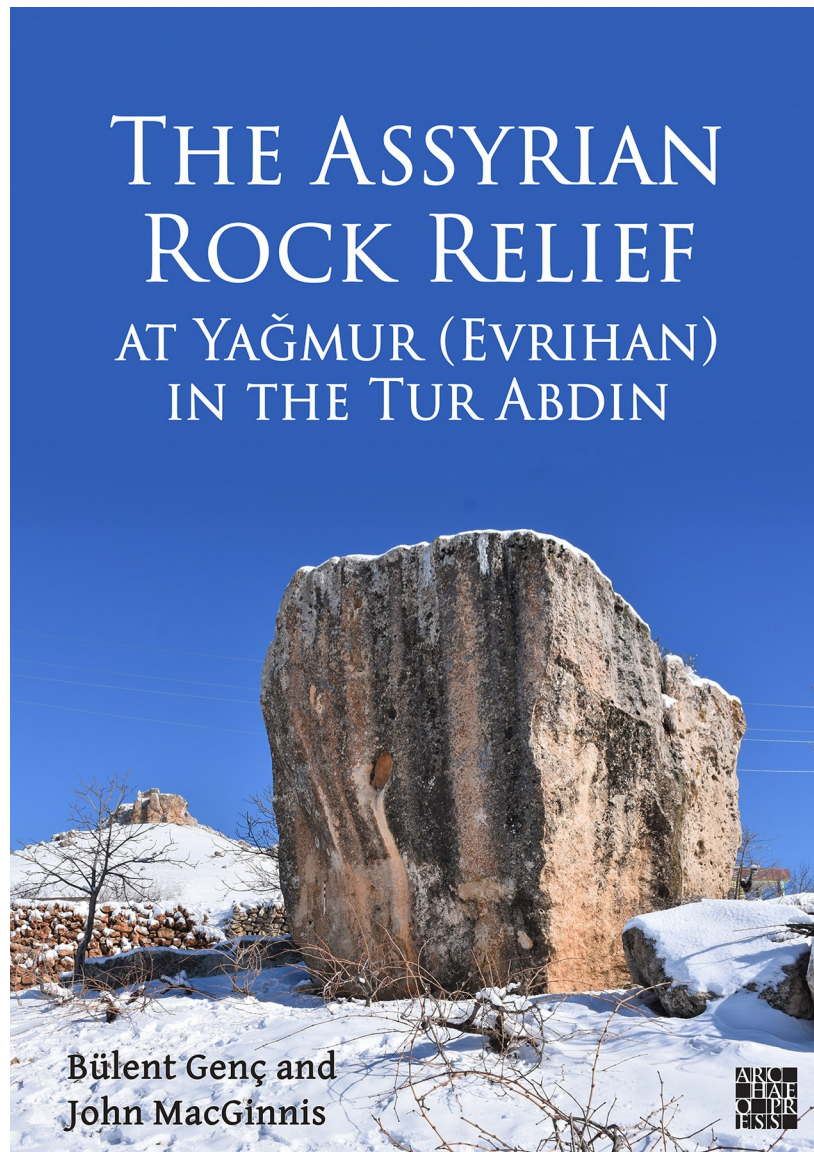


Also, in Syriac, Islamic, and early Christian traditions, Mount Judi is identified as a peak near the town of Shah, Jazirat ibn 'Umar (modern Cizre in southeast Turkey), at the headwaters of the Tigris River, near the modern border with Syria, and that of Iraq. A relief carving of Assyrian King Sennacherib has been discovered with Assyrian Cuneiform inscriptions at the foot of the mountain.



The Assyrian Rock Relief at Yağmur in the Tur Abdin publishes a newly discovered rock relief in the Mazıdağı Plain, at the western end of the Tur Abdin in southeastern Turkey. The preserved remains include an image of an Assyrian king, divine symbols and traces of three panels of cuneiform

inscription. Both the image and the panel preserving the most coherent section of legible text can be dated to the time of Tiglath-pileser I. The sequences which can be deciphered relate to the king's penetration into the northwest undertaken in the course of his third campaign against the Nairi lands.



All these excavated Assyrian archaeological sites in modern southeast Turkey are a solid proof that Assyrians existed in the region for thousands of years and they continue to live there. It was no wonder then that when Nineveh fell in 612 BC, the Assyrian king relocated the capital to Harran in southeast Turkey, because it was part of Assyria and Assyrians existed there.

On the other hand, there is nothing Kurdish excavated in southeast Turkey. Thus the Kurds are relatively newcomers.

Northeast Syria

The Assyrian historic domination in the region of the modern northeast [Syria](#) (northern Mesopotamia) are well known via many [Assyrian archaeological sites](#). Consider the sites of [Hadattu](#) (modern Arslan Tash), [Shekhna](#) (modern Tell Leilan), [Guzana](#) (modern Tell Halaf), [Nilibshi](#) (modern Tell Brak) and the excavations continue.



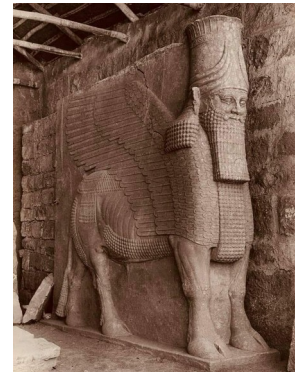
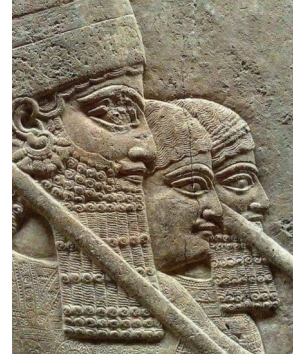
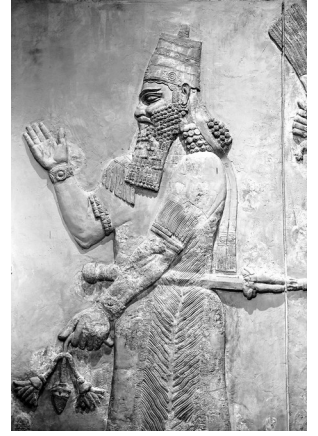
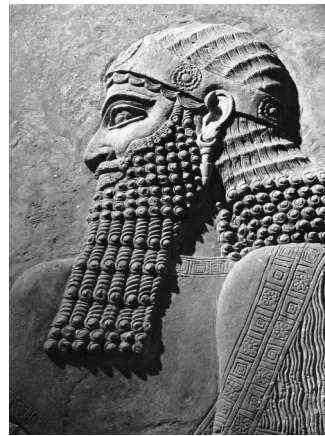
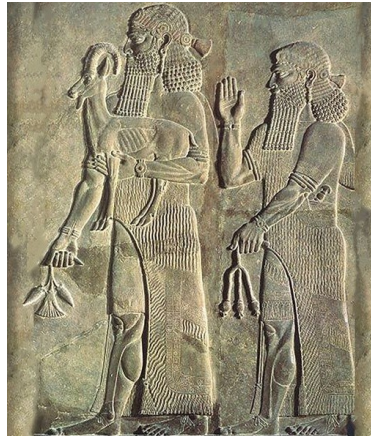
Assyrian artifacts from the palace of Assyrian King Tiglath Pileser III from Hadattu in Istanbul Museum.

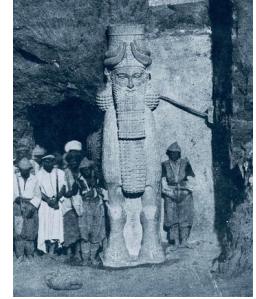
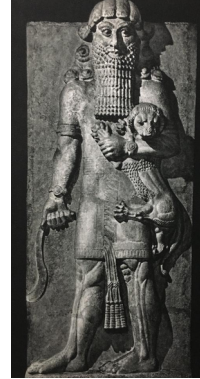
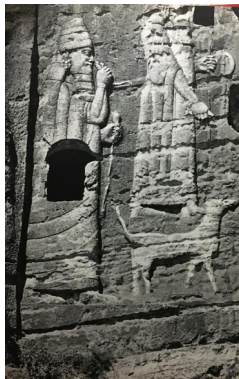
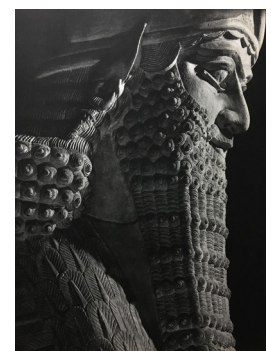
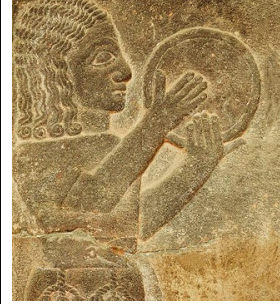
However, there is nothing Kurdish that is excavated in northeast Syria. Thus the Kurds are newcomers.

Northern Iraq

As far as northern Iraq, then that is the heart of the glorious Assyria with its four capitals of Ashur or Assur (Qalaat Shirqat), Kalhu (Nimrod), Dur Sharukin (Khorsabad), and Nineveh. The tons of archaeological excavations and reliable history books are evidence of the [Assyrian](#) nature of the region. One visit to the Iraqi, British, Louvre, Berlin, and New York museums tells the story. The [Assyrian discoveries](#) and excavations in northern Iraq [have continued since the 19th Century](#) and [continue even today](#) proving that Assyria is the heart and soul of northern Iraq.

The samples below for images of Assyrian artifacts uncovered in various regions in northern Iraq make a fraction of 1% of what has been uncovered and is out there to see. A ton of artifacts is yet to be unearthed.





Meanwhile, there is nothing Kurdish excavated in northern Iraq. Thus the Kurds are newcomers.

We know that Assyrians lived and ruled in the regions addressed above since ancient times. We know also that [Assyrians lived continuously](#) in or around these historic sites. Therefore, [Assyrians must be protected](#) and classified as the indigenous people of these regions with rights in accordance to the [United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples](#).