

Gaza's Historical and Urban Evolution: From Earliest Times to the Iron Age

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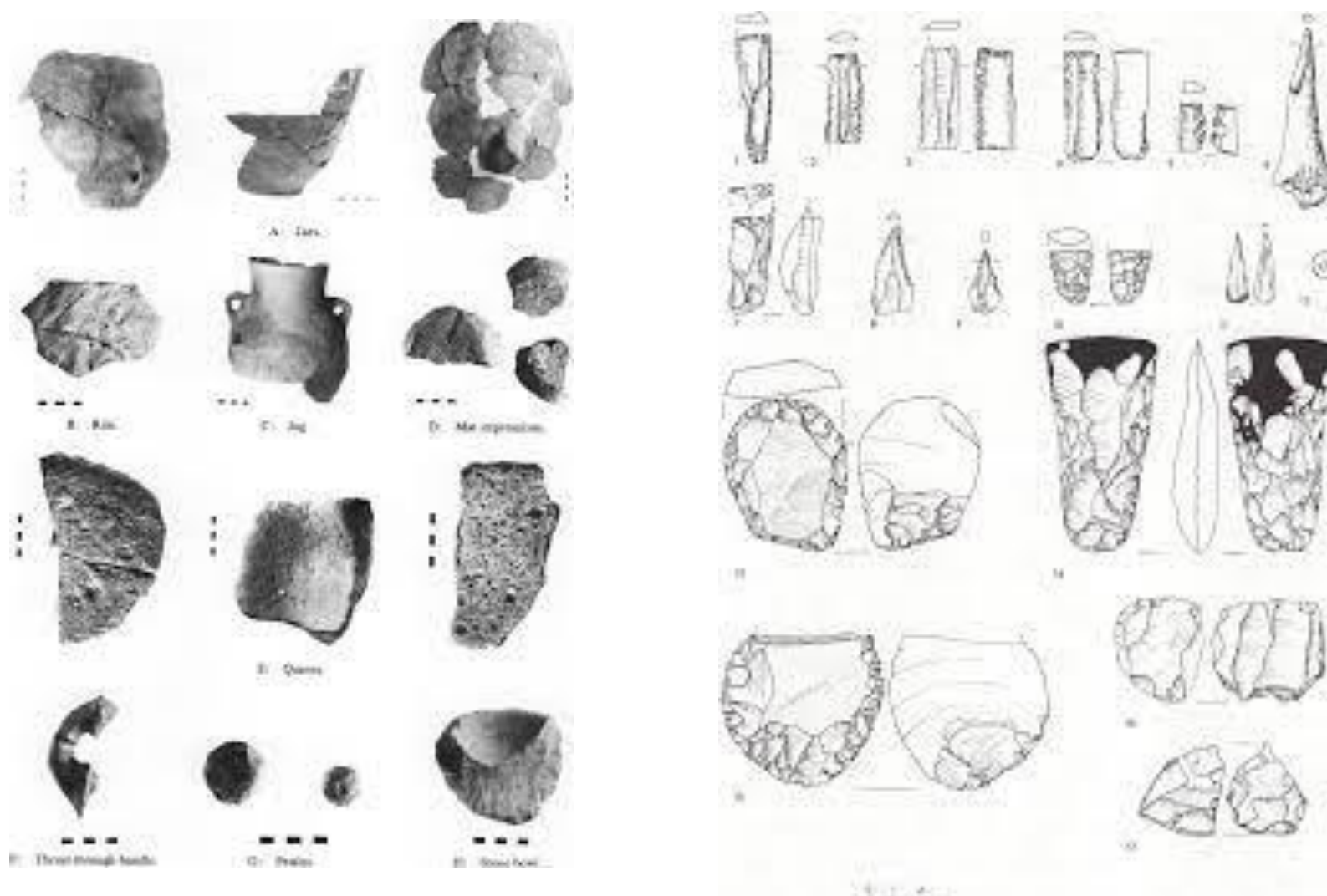
Gaza's geostrategic location along the land and sea routes (The Way of Horus and later the Ways of the Lands of the Philistines) between Egypt (Africa) and Canaan (Asia), combined with its fertile valley, has attracted peoples to settle there since the Paleolithic period. This rich history has resulted in a series of archaeological sites that span various historical periods

This poster briefly illustrates the content of a forthcoming book that provides a chronological overview of Gaza's history based on archaeological excavations conducted from the Ottoman period to the present.

Neolithic – Tel el-Qatifa



Gilead, Isaac. (1993). "Qatif", *New EAEHL*, Jérusalem



Tell al-Qatif embodies a Canaanite cultural entity referred to as the "Qatifian," which spread at the end of the sixth millennium and the beginning of the fifth millennium BC. This period marks a transition from the Neolithic to the Chalcolithic era

The Early Bronze Age, Tell es-Sakan

Tell es-Sakan was administrative center safeguarding Egyptian commercial interests in southwestern Canaan

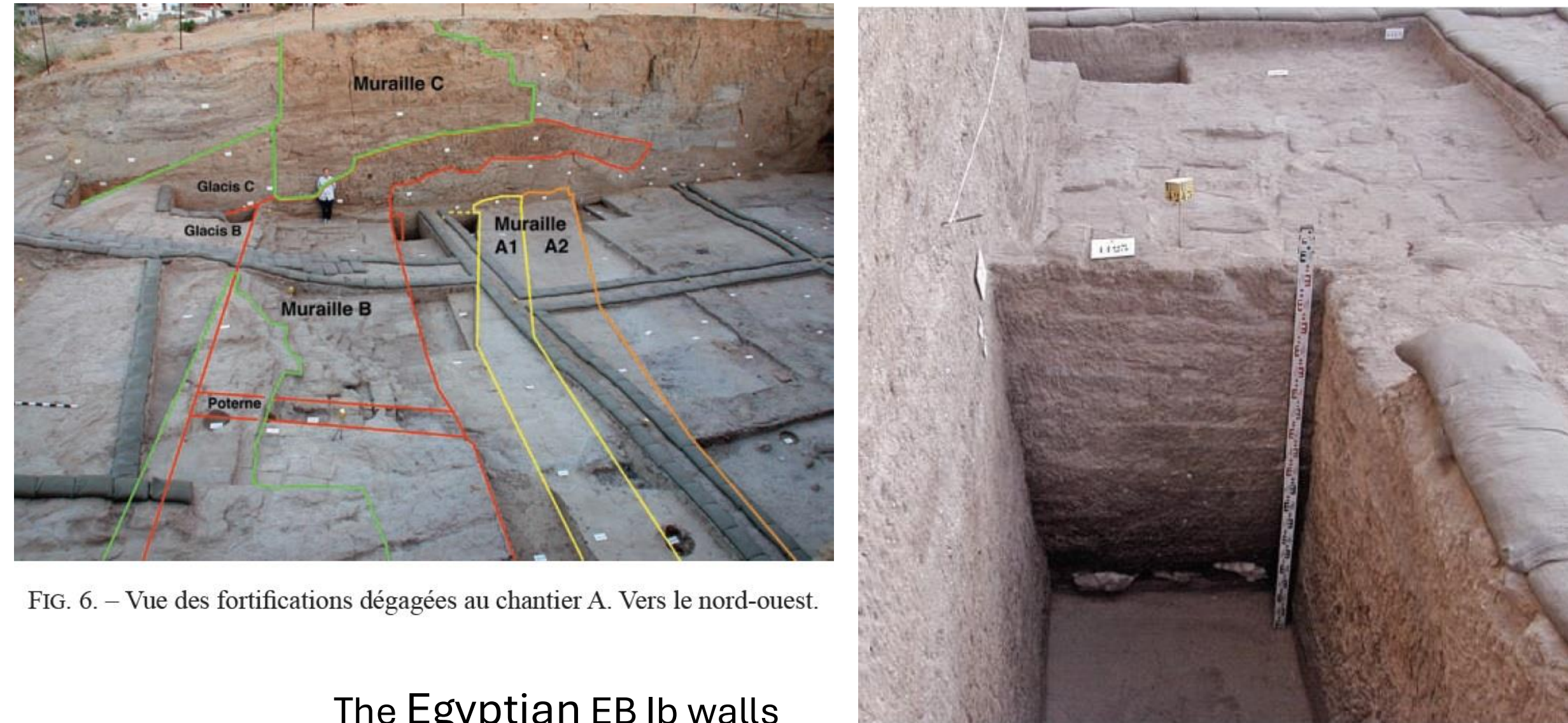


FIG. 6. – Vue des fortifications dégagées au chantier A. Vers le nord-ouest.

The Egyptian EB Ib walls



EB III Canaanite structures



EB III Canaanite wares

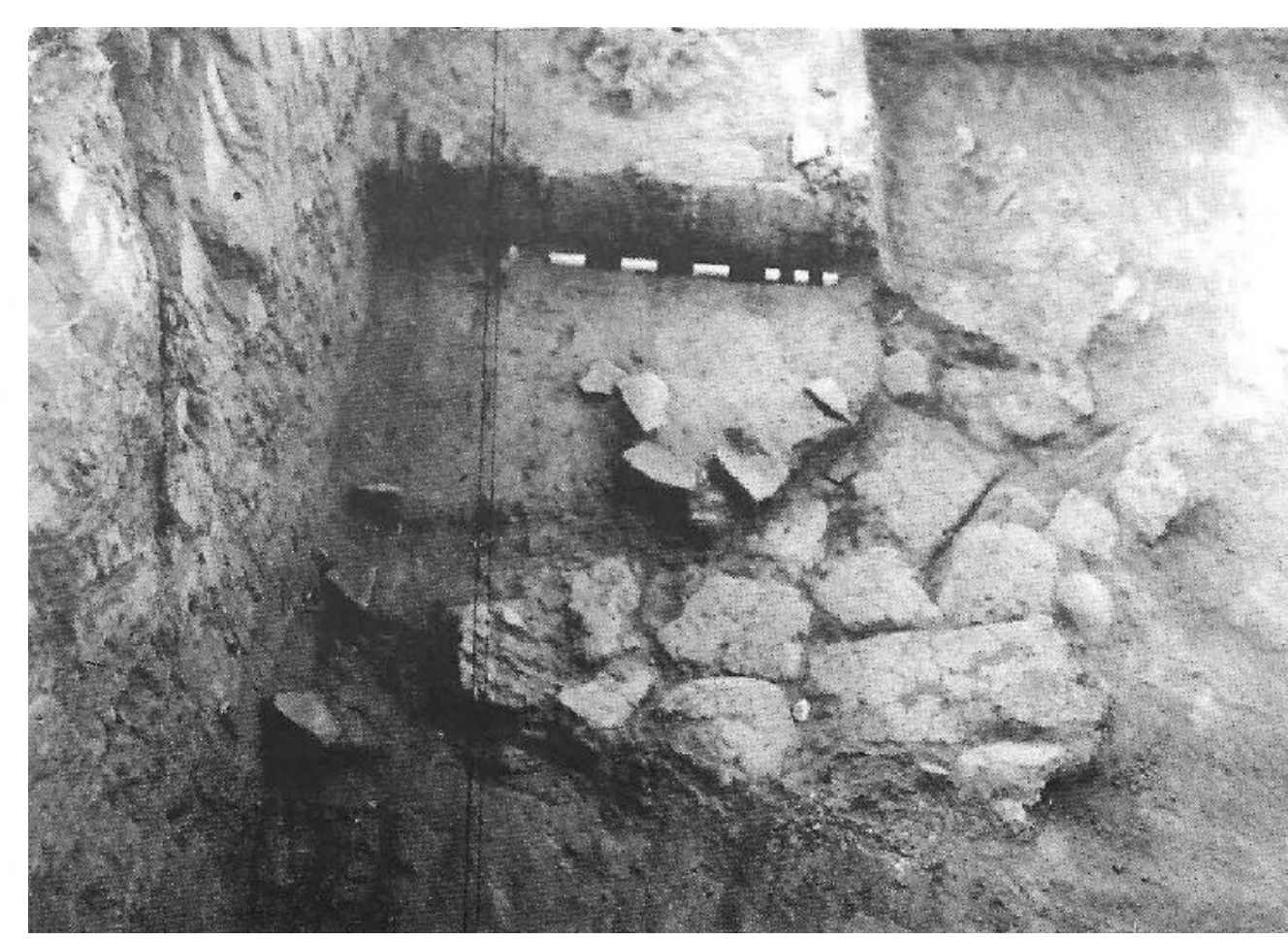
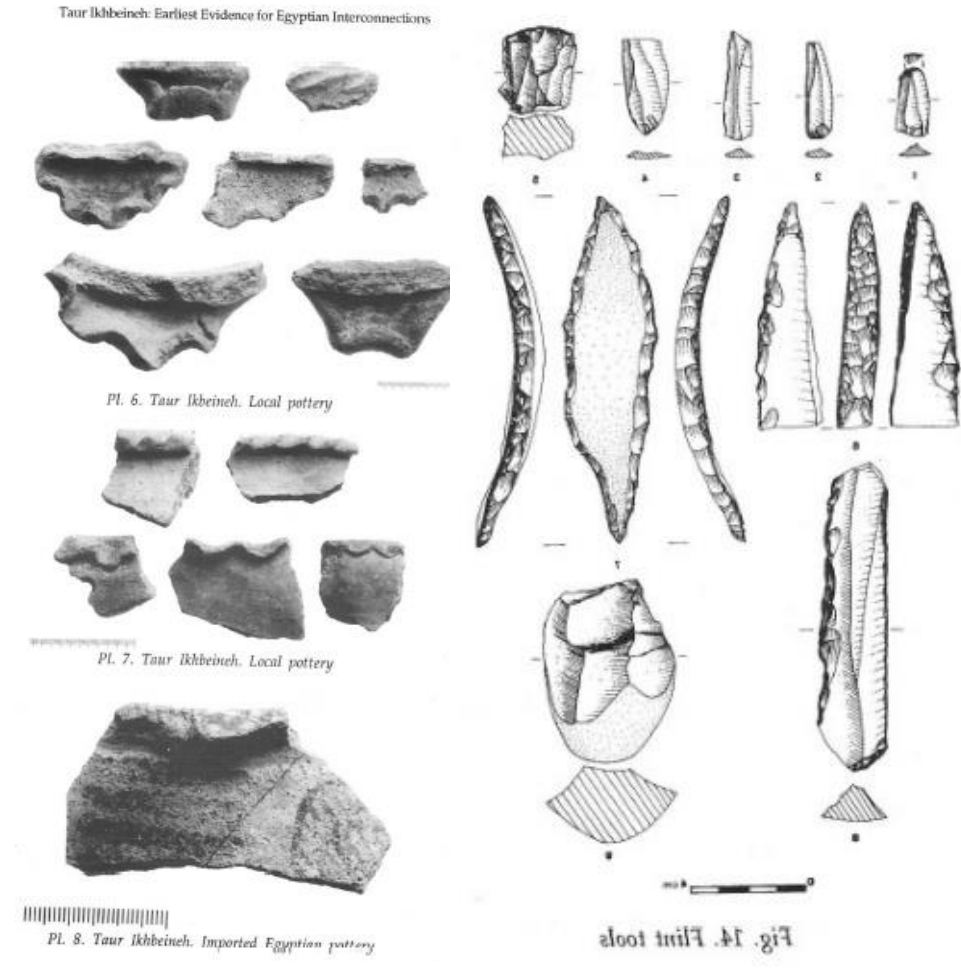
EB Ib Egyptian wares

Miroschedji, P., Sadeq, M., Faltings, D., Boulez, V., Naggiarmoliner, L., Sykes, N., & Tengberg, M. (2001). Les fouilles de tell Es-Sakan (Gaza): Nouvelles données sur les contacts égypto-canaanéens aux IVE-IIIe millénaires. *Paléorient*, 27(2), 75–104



Steel, L, Manley, W. Clarke, J. and Sadeq, M. (2004). Egyptian funerary cones from el-Moghraqa, Gaza. *Antiquities Journal*, 84

The Chalcolithic, Taur Ikhbeineh



Oren, E. and Yekutieli, Y. (1992). Taur Ikhbeineh: Earliest Evidence for Egyptian Interconnections. In E. C. M. van den Brink (Ed.), *The Nile Delta in Transition-4th-3rd Millennium BC.: Proceedings of the Seminar Held in Cairo, Oct. 1990, at the Netherlands Institute of Archaeology and Arabic Studies*. Israel Exploration Society



A large number of clay anthropoid coffins, dating from the era of Ramesses II (1279–1213) represent the largest group discovered in Palestine to date.



Anthropoid Clay coffins from Deir el-Balah: Israel Museum <https://www.imj.org.il/en/collections/198016-0>



Philistine jug with swan painting from Tel Rafah. Gaza Department of Antiquities, unpublished report

The population shifted during the 12th and 11th centuries BC, marking the beginning of the end of Egyptian control in the area, succeeded by the Philistines, a Sea Peoples, as indicated by the pottery.

The MB and LB site of Tel el-'Ajjul

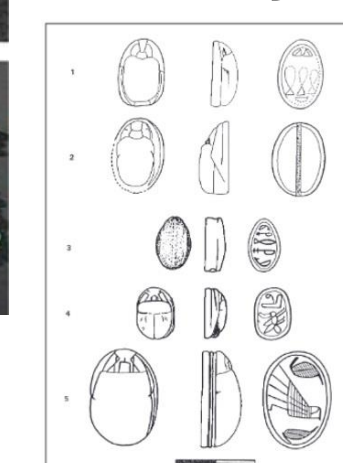
A large city core formed on the southern side of Tell el-'Ajjul, during the period of the Twelfth Egyptian Dynasty (1991–1802 BC). This city quickly expanded to nearly double the area of Megiddo, reaching approximately 60 hectares at its peak during the Middle Bronze Age.



MB Jewelry from and near palace I



MB early White slip II Cypriot ware

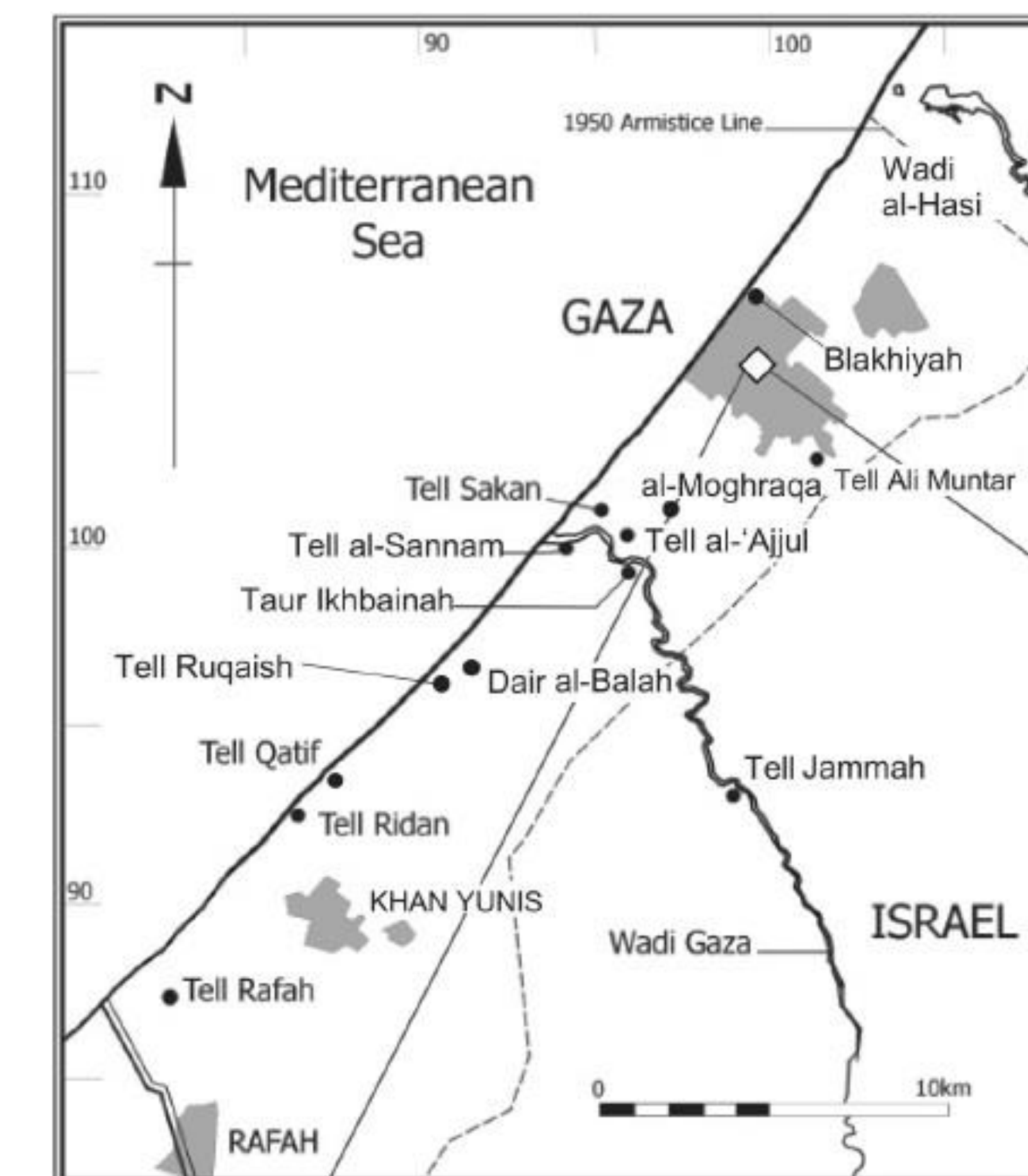


Tel-el-'Ajjul: scarabs

Anthedon was an Assyrian fortified trade center contemporary with Tell al-Ruqaish on the coast of Deir al-Balah, dating back to the reign of the Assyrian king Sargon II (722–705 BC). It is likely that this fortress was also the port of Karun mentioned in Sargon II's inscriptions, which remained in continuous use into the 6th century BC, during the Persian occupation.



The Assyrian rampart at Iblakhiyya (Anthedon)



Map illustrating location of archaeological sites in Gaza