

Summary

The Development from a Dynastic Settlement to an Autonomous City - Acculturation in Lycia in the Classical Period

The exploration of the area of the antique city of Kyaneai, situated near Kaş, conducted in detail by the University of Tübingen since 1989, yields abundant information on the subject of acculturation. This important Lycian settlement, dating from the Archaic and Classical periods, was discovered on Avşar Tepesi (Avşar Hill) in 1992. It reveals a distinctly Anatolian character and was not influenced by Greek culture. It shows the early stages in the development of Lycian homes and tombs. The acropolis has, next to the residential areas partly surrounded by city walls, a cemetery, a temple, and square with a tribune for spectators which must have functioned like a Greek agora. It has yet to be determined if political meetings were held in this square.

The control of the Kyaneai region by the dynastic settlement at Avşar Hill can be seen by the city's size, the area having the densest distribution of settlement is around Avşar Hill, and its defense system. However, the political geography of the region underwent a radical change during the first half of the 4th century B.C. It seems that Pericles, King of Limyra, by ending the Avşar Hill's domination, aided the dynastic settlement of Trysa in gaining importance at the expense of Avşar Hill. The Trysa settlement shows the influence of Greek culture far more than that of Avşar Hill. Later, possibly under the rule of Mausolos, the Greek polis system was imported into regional administration and Kyaneai Polis was selected as a center, and this formerly dynastic settlement was then rearranged in accordance with the usual Greek city structure. Furthermore, the economic and social structure of the region was adapted to the new political system's requirements.