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Small, medium, and large: Globalization perspectives on the Afro-Eurasian Bronze Age

By Helle Vandkilde

Abstract

The Bronze Age has over the last decades often been analysed as a world-systemic order of cores, peripheries or margins. By contrast, it is discussed to what extent the Bronze Age may have a match in the globalized disorder of our own time, often understood as uniquely tied to modern and contemporary history. Stepwise, the Bronze Age is confronted with the main sociological properties of globalization: a number of such traits are easily pinpointed in the setting of the Bronze Age albeit some globalization characteristics are more distinct than others. The scale of properties is widely different from today and the Bronze Age never had a global reach. Thence, the inquiry builds on the concept of bronzization – previously brought forward by the prize winner – to explain why and how a hyper region in Afro-Eurasia became tightly knit by one crucial resource and was subject to entangled historical change during at least 800 years. The Bronze Age can be described as a unique case of pre-modern interconnectivity, or globalization, which arose prior to c. 2000 BCE and began to close down c. 1200 BCE with aftermaths until c. 750 BCE in some regions

Key words: Bronze Age, transculture, interconnectivity, globalization traits