Iż-Żminijiet Mudlama mill-periferija rurali

The Dark Ages from the rural periphery

Meta mqabbla mal-Imdina, Ħal Safi huwa kkaratterizzat minn faqar ġenerali ta' forom taċ-ċeramika kemm f'termini ta' kwalità kif ukoll ta' varjetà.

Prattikament f'Ħal Safi nstabu amfori biss. M'hemm l-ebda traċċa ta' oġġetti gglejżjati, jew ta' varjetajiet importati ta' kazzoli tat-tisjir, lampi taż-żejt jew reċipjenti domestiċi oħra kif instabu fl-Imdina.

Dan jidher li jiddefinixxi dan is-sit bħala insedjament bi status baxx, iddedikat esklussivament għall-produzzjoni agrikola u l-ħażna ta' prodotti agrikoli żejda. Il-prodotti kienu probabbilment jinħażnu f'amfori u mbagħad jinġabru b'mod ċentrali fl-insedjamenti tal-eliti, bħal fl-Imdina.

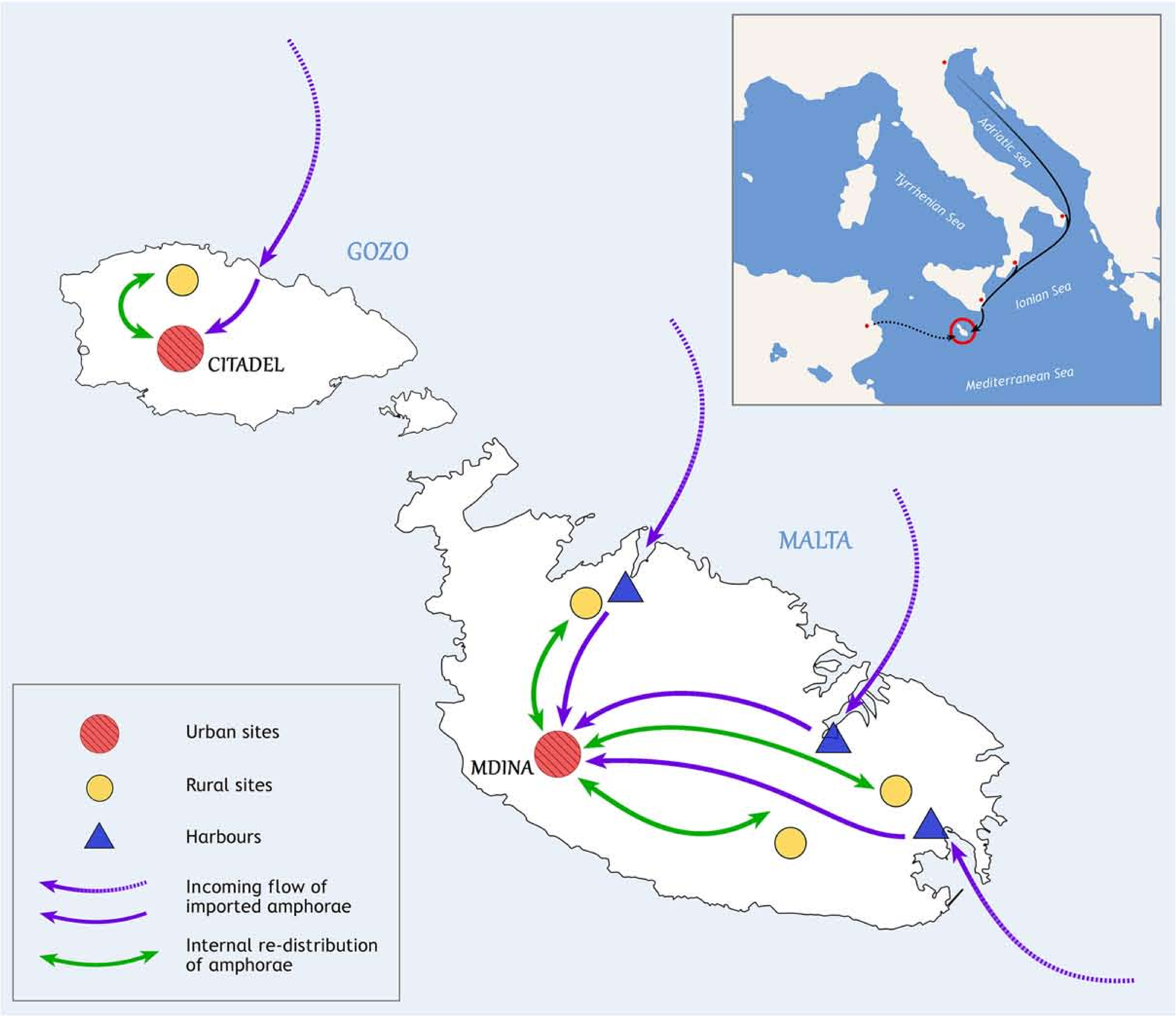
It-tendenza mill-aristokrazija fis-sekli 9 u 10 li jżidu l-pressjoni fuq il-popolazzjoni rurali biex tipproduċi iżjed prodotti agrikoli hija ddokumentata sew. Kien dan il-proċess ta' espansjoni tal-bażi agrikola li ta spinta lit-tkabbir tal-popolazzjoni u lill-ekonomija tas-sekli 10 u 11, kemm fl-imperu Frank kif ukoll fil-Mediterran.

Compared to Mdina, Safi is marked by a general poverty of ceramic forms both in terms of quality and variety.

Practically only amphorae were found at Safi. There are no trace of glazed wares, or of imported varieties of cooking pots, oil lamps and other domestic vessels as found in Mdina.

This seems to define this site as a low status settlement dedicated exclusively to agricultural production and to the storing of surplus agricultural produce. Surplus was probably stock-piled in amphorae and then centrally collected at the elite settlements, as in Mdina.

The tendency by the aristocracy in the 9th and 10th centuries to increase pressure on the rural population to produce greater agricultural surpluses is well documented. It was this process of expansion of the agricultural base which fuelled the population and economic boom of the 10th and 11th centuries, both in the Frankish empire and in the Mediterranean.

Pjanta ġenerali: il-mudell propost għaċ-ċirkolazzjoni u distribuzzjoni ta' amfori tal-medjuevu bikri bejn belt u kampanja.
Dettall: Kuntatti kummerċjali bejn Malta u l-Mediterran lejn nofs is-seklu 10 - ibbażati fuq is-sejbiet f'Ħal Safi.

Main plan - Proposed model for the circulation and redistribution of early medieval amphorae between urban and rural settlements.
Inset - Malta and the Mediterranean trading networks of the mid-10th century - based on the findings from Ħal Safi.