

Iż-Żminijiet Mudlma mill-perspettiva tal-qalba urbana

L-iskavar tal-Imdina stabbilixxa xi fatti importanti dwar il-Medju Evu Bikri ta' Malta.

Il-konstruzzjoni ta' fortifikazzjonijiet massivi fis-seklu 9 tindika l-qawmien ta' klassi militari b'saħħitha fl-Imdina, li kellha b' mod ċar setgħa u riżorsi konsiderevoli.

Id-difiżi l-godda kienu jkunu meħtieġa fuq gżira tal-fruntiera bħal Malta fis-seklu 9. Madankollu, il-hitan tal-belt kienu wkoll espressjoni tas-setgħa l-gdida misjuba mit-tmexxija militari Biżantina.

Minn fejn kienu ɡejjin dawn ir-riżorsi l-godda?

Parti mit-tweġiba tinsab fil-kuntatti kummerċjali tal-Imdina, kif tixhed il-firxa ta' ċeramika importata li nstabet fuq is-sit. Oġġetti gglejżjati ta' status għoli, oġġetti tat-tisjir u domestiċi, u mijiet ta' amfori kienu importati lejn Malta u trasportati lejn l-Imdina għall-konsum mill-eliti residenti.

L-importazzjonijiet rikorrenti minn Sqallija, in-Nofsinhar tal-Italja u l-Eġew jikkonfermaw l-importanza tar-rabtiet kummerċjali Joniċi għal Malta sal-aħħar tas-seklu 9, u probabbilment aktar tard.

Huwa possibbli wkoll li t-teħid ta' Malta mill-Aghlabidi fit-870 seta' effettivament heġġeġ intensifikazzjoni tar-rabtiet ekonomiċi li kienu jeżistu qabel mal-Jonju, flimkien mal-ftuħ ta' kuntatti ta' kummerċ godda mat-territorji iżlamiċi fit-Tuneżija u Sqallija tal-punent.

Kuntatti kummerċjali bejn Malta u l-Mediterran lejn l-aħħar tas-seklu 9 - ibbażati fuq is-sejbiet fl-Imdina

The Dark Ages viewed from the urban core

The Mдина excavation established some important facts about Malta's Early Middle Ages.

The construction of massive fortifications in the 9th century points to the rise of a strong military elite at Mдина, which clearly commanded considerable power and resources.

The new defences would have been necessary on a frontier island such as Malta was in the 9th century. However the town walls were also an expression of new-found power by the Byzantine military leadership.

Where did these new resources come from?

Part of the answer lies in the trading contacts of Mдина as witnessed by the range of imported ceramics found on site. High status glazed wares, cooking and domestic goods, and hundreds of amphorae were imported to Malta and transported to Mдина for consumption by the residing elites.

The recurring imports from Sicily, Southern Italy and the Aegean confirm the importance of the Ionian trading links for Malta until the end of the 9th century, and probably later.

It is even possible that the Aghlabid takeover of Malta in 870 may have actually encouraged an intensification of the pre-existing economic links with the Ionian, together with the opening of new trading contacts with Islamic territories in Tunisia and western Sicily.

Malta and the Mediterranean trading network of the late 9th century - based on the findings from Mдина

