Owen P. Doonan



SINOP LANDSCAPES

Exploring Connection in a Black Sea Hinterland

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Exploring Connection in a Black Sea Hinterland

Owen P. Doonan



UNIVERSITY OF PENNSYLVANIA MUSEUM
of Archaeology and Anthropology

Philadelphia

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3260 South Street
Philadelphia, PA 19104

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First Edition

ISBN 1-931707-65-0

Library of Congress Cataloging-in-Publication Data

Doonan, Owen P.
Sinop landscapes : exploring connection in a Black Sea hinterland / Owen P. Doonan.-- 1st ed.
p. cm.
Includes bibliographical references and index.
ISBN 1-931707-65-0 (alk. paper)
1. Sinop (Turkey)--Antiquities 2. Sinop (Turkey)--History. I. Title.
DS156.S6D66 2004
939'.31--dc22

2004001994

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Printed in the United States of America on acid-free paper

For Nursel, the spin on my world

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Foreword

Prehistoric remains on hilltops, early churches draped with thick vegetation, walls of ancient towns submerged along the coast, intact ships found in the deep anoxic seawaters—all of these features are tantalizing evidence of a rich culture history along the Turkish Black Sea coast.

This volume offers the first overview of one of the most important coastal regions of the Black Sea: the isolated peninsula of Sinop, Turkey. The port of Sinop is the northernmost point of Anatolia, located on a forested plain jutting into the Black Sea, practically an island along the coast. The peninsula is surrounded on three sides by the sea and cut off from Anatolia's inland cultures by the steep and forbidding Pontic Mountains.

The Sinop peninsula was populated and prosperous for the last 10 millennia. Sinop's cultural connections and history of occupation are closely linked to the maritime orientation of the coastal Black Sea world. Part of a system of ports and hinterlands whose primary markets were with other coastal centers, Sinop thus serves as a pulse point for the waxing and waning of maritime economies around the Black Sea.

This peninsula was chosen in 1994 as the launching point for an integrated land and sea program designed to investigate the archaeological landscape along the coast, in shallow water and in deep water. The Black Sea Trade Project created a coordinated map of archaeological remains, including the hinterland and port, the traces of the boats that plied these waters, and the cargoes of the vessels. Research design for both land and under water needed to be modified to produce comparable data. On land, the program used a systematic sampling strategy that mimicked the back-and-forth mapping of underwater sonar and made an effort to map various environments that could be carried into the sea in a "mountaintop to ocean bottom" transect. Underwater surveys were carried out during the same period.

Doonan's volume presents the results of the land survey on the Sinop peninsula—a study of a coastal world that developed and evolved

in relationship to the sea, focusing on the hinterland behind the port of Sinop. The lands that provided its subsistence are surprisingly diverse in their topography and resources. The survey mapped lithics and ceramic scatters and architectural features which allows for a reconstruction of changing land use over time and documents the emergence of an economy oriented to the sea. The study of the settlement of the peninsula provides both a cultural baseline for the history of the port itself and a baseline for the broader integration of archaeological remains along the coast on land and under water.

Fredrik T. Hiebert, Director
Black Sea Trade Project
National Geographic Society

Preface

This volume presents a perspective on the results we have obtained through the Sinop Regional Archaeological Project to date, synthesizing that work through the filter of other research that has been carried out in the region. This is not meant to be a final or even an interim report but an exploration of where an ongoing project stands. I invoke the metaphors of walking and exploring because perspectives emerge as part of active and ongoing process; they don't spring fully formed from hard drives and data bases.

The Sinop promontory is rich in diverse places, each a confluence of geography, culture, and history that has distinctive qualities. In a region like this it is easy to think of the places as special and worthy of note. Writing a totalizing history of Sinop promontory seems impossible unless we choose to prioritize the importance of a single perspective, most likely leaving the hinterland as a darkened backdrop to the history of a vibrant port. Places are confluences rather than points and so do not have sharp edges, but build up over time and gain significance through relationships emerging in time and space. Movement, connection, dynamic interaction between inhabitants and inhabited all create the places that are the subject of this volume.

Like places, no project ever stands by itself alone. The production and publication of information that can be used and evaluated by others is critical to any investigation. As we continue to conduct research in and about Sinop we will be bringing out results in a variety of media that can connect our colleagues to our data. The data created by research must be reliable and sufficient to support interpretation. At times in the book I advocate a more integrated approach to "heads up" (extensive/experiential) and "heads down" (systematic/analytical) survey. This is by no means a call to distract investigators from doing reliable systematic survey that gets results that can be compared to those obtained elsewhere. In fact, I hope this volume offers a strong case for more analytical approaches in certain regions where exceptional coverage in non-sys-

tematic methods have created outstanding opportunities for focused systematic work.

When considering the debts to family, friends, and colleagues I have incurred in producing this volume I feel more like I have presided over a potlach than withdrawn into the solitary solipsism of academic writing. First, I would like to thank my collaborators at the Sinop Regional Archaeological Project (SRAP) whose efforts as much as mine have produced the results discussed in this book. Fred Hiebert, Director of the Black Sea Trade Project (BSTP), has encouraged me with tireless support and innumerable ideas that are difficult to separate from my own. SRAP is the terrestrial component of BSTP, a multidisciplinary research program that investigates contact and culture formation around the Black Sea in terrestrial and maritime environments (Hiebert et al. 1997). Alex Gantos, Assistant Director of the survey, contributed greatly to my thinking about the landscapes of Sinop and has made particularly important contributions to fieldwork design, mapping and landscape interpretation, the heart of a survey project. Most of the maps of places in the Sinop promontory in this volume have been based on his original drawings.

David Smart initially got our group together—his initiative and persistence were instrumental in luring me away from the west Mediterranean to work in the Black Sea. Randy Olson generously allowed me to reproduce several of his photographs from his Black Sea expedition in 2000. The many students and other team members of BSTP have contributed so much to the work that is discussed here, I thank them for their patience and hard work.

Professor Jeremy A. Sabloff, the Williams Director of the University of Pennsylvania Museum, has been a valuable and unstinting supporter of the project and this publication from the start. Among the many faculty and students at Penn who have made suggestions or contributed ideas I would like to single out Clark Erickson for his valuable discussions of landscape archaeology, David Romano for stimulating discussions on classical and post-classical landscapes, and Keith DeVries, whose experience in Turkey and insights into Anatolian culture have been so helpful.

Richard Saller, Provost of the University of Chicago, and John Ramsey, Chair of the Department of Classics at University of Illinois-Chicago, both supported the project during my years in Chicago during which the fieldwork presented here was accomplished. Jim Smith, Head of the Division of Social Sciences, Penn State, Abington supported the

final stages of writing and provided computer equipment without which much of the image processing and analysis would have been impossible.

My colleagues in the Black Sea, both in Turkey and around the shores, have given new meaning to the term "Hospitable Sea." Gocha Tsetskhladze has provided extensive advice on many issues and helped me to obtain difficult-to-access materials. Sergey Solovyov, Marina Vakhtina, and Denis Zhuravlev were helpful and informative hosts during visits to the State Hermitage Museum and the State Historical Museum. Otar Lordkipanidze and the staff of the Institute of Archaeology, Georgian Academy of Sciences, have shown extraordinary hospitality on several research visits. His recent death was a great blow to Black Sea archaeology. Guram Kvirkveliya introduced me to many of the exciting ongoing archaeological investigations in Georgia.

The Directors of the Sinop Museum—Ismail Tatlican (up to 2000) and Musa Özcan (2001 and ongoing)—Researchers Fuat Dereli and Hale Özan, and the museum staff have facilitated our work in far too many ways to recount here. Many friends in and around Sinop have helped in many ways, but particular thanks are due to Atilla Ayyildiz for technical and logistical support.

The General Directorate for Monuments and Museums, Ministry of Culture, Turkey, granted permission to carry out the 1996–1999 field seasons. Thanks go to General Directors M. A. Isik, Professor Dr. Ender Varinlioglu, Kenan Yurttagul, and Dr. Alpay Pasinli for their permission and support. Our representatives from the Turkish Ministry of Culture have been exemplary in their patience, helpfulness, and professionalism: Cevdet Sevinç, Elmas Kaya, Sena Mutlu, and Nurhan Turan.

Many colleagues in Turkey and abroad have generously offered assistance and support of various kinds: Berna Alpagut, Önder Bilgi, Joe Carter, Jim Dengate, Ugur Dogan, Sevket Dönmez, Hugh Elton, Stephen Hill, R. Ross Holloway, Yvon Garlan, Charles and Marie-Henriette Gates, Andrew Goldman, Martha Joukowsky, Dominique Kassab-Tezgör, Hans Lohmann, Roger Matthews, Jacques Morin, Mehmet Özdogan, Ilknur Özgen, Eyup Özveren, Nick Rauh, Maya Vassileva, Volkmar von Graeve, LuAnn Wandsnider, Tony Wilkinson, and Rolf Winkes. Toni Cross, former Director of the Ankara branch of the American Research Institute in Turkey, built ARIT Ankara into a vital and productive research center, a critical resource for all of us working in Turkey. She is missed by all of us working in Anatolia.

Several patient colleagues have saved me from many errors of fact and interpretation by critiquing drafts of parts or all of the book: Alex

Bauer, Fred Hiebert, Chris Lightfoot, Eyup Özveren, Nick Rauh, and Tony Wilkinson. The efforts of these colleagues have improved the book greatly. Walda Metcalf and James R. Mathieu at the University of Pennsylvania Museum Publications have shepherded this from manuscript to volume and I sincerely appreciate their efforts. Responsibility for those errors that remain belongs to me.

Funding for the fieldwork was provided by the National Geographic Foundation, the Samuel S. Freeman Charitable Trusts, and private donors. Funding for preparing the manuscript for publication was provided by the Robert S. Dyson, Jr., Fellowship in Near Eastern Archaeology at the University of Pennsylvania Museum (1999–2001), the International Research Exchanges Board (IREg), and an ARIT-NEH Fellowship (1999–2000).

My final and deepest debts are to the family and friends who have provided unstinting support and patience during the writing of this volume. Jay Shaughnessy and Bahar Ceceli provided good cheer and a place to stay during transitional difficulties. I thank my parents Mary and Owen Doonan, my siblings, and other close family for their patience with a missing son, brother and uncle. Annemiz Mükrime Uçkan fed and sheltered us on extended trips to Ankara. And most of all, canim Nurum, sözlerim yeterli degil. It is to you I dedicate this book.

Chronology

Timeline of Major Archaeological Periods, Evidence, and Cultural Trends on the Sinop Promontory.

Period	Dates	Cultural Trends and Major Sites
Neolithic	ca. 8000–4000 BCE	Pre-ceramic settlement at Inceburun, proposed flood (Ryan and Pittman 1997), ceramic Neolithic shows parallels to sites near the sea of Marmara [Mezarlıktepe]
Chalcolithic	ca. 4000–2700 BCE	[Maltepe]
Early Bronze	ca. 2700–2000 BCE	Widespread settlement in Sinop [Kocagöz] and Samsun (e.g., Ikiztepe) regions; limited parallels on Sinop [Gulluavlu] to Karanova (Bulgaria), Troy (NW Anatolia), and Catacomb culture (Ukraine)
Middle-Late Bronze	ca. 2000–1000 BCE	Limited contacts with central Anatolia [Gulluavlu], Kashka tribes from central Black Sea Anatolia mentioned in Hittite sources
Iron	ca. 1000–600 BCE	Establishment of coastal settlements [Köşk höyük-Gerze, Sinop kale NW, Fener-Akliman], clear connections between Sinop port and north Black Sea [Sinop kale NW]
Archaic	7th–early 5th c. BCE	Foundation of Sinope by Miletus and Sinopean colonies in the east Black Sea
Classical	5th–4th c. BCE	Foundation of Athenian cleruchy (colony) at Sinope (430s), Xenophon and the Ten Thousand pass through Sinope/Harmene (400), Datames's seige of Sinope (ca. 368), mass production of Sinope amphoras for distribution around the Black Sea (ca. 360–onward BCE)
Hellenistic	4th–early 1st c. BCE	Capture of Sinope by Pharnaces I, Sinope made capital of the Pontic Kingdom (183), expansion of coastal settlement [Keçioğlu-Demirci], expansion and strengthening of the city walls, wars against Rome (early 1st c. BCE)

[/] Sites from Sinop discussed in the text are bracketed.