

Monuments of the Early Iron Age of the Aral-Caspian Region as a Historical Source

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ABSTRACT Studying antiquities of the Aral-Caspian region early Iron Age is the urgent task of modern archeology in the course of solving the ethnic and cultural problems. At the same time special attention should be funerary monuments and places of worship, carrying a large amount of defining ethnic and ethno differentiating information. These monuments due to the wide use of stone, apparently extracted from a deep canyon, are well preserved. From the standpoint of historical geography and archeology, the area is very valuable, as it is situated at the crossroads of ancient cultures and civilizations. It is a transboundary area that formerly served as the staging point on migration routes, ancient and medieval times. It was an important link in the cultural diffusion processes on the territory of Kazakhstan, between the Central and West Asia and the Caucasus and Eastern Europe. The authors made a comparative analysis of a chronologically and culturally related neighboring monuments and remote regions of Eurasia. The authors identified common trends in the establishment, development and transformation of the early Iron Age cultures.