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# The provincial archaeology of the Assyrian empire

Edited by John MacGinnis, Dirk Wicke and Tina Greenfield

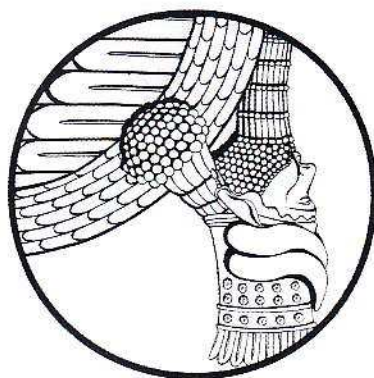




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and Tina Greenfield

Assisted by Adam Stone



ZIVARET TEPE ARCHAEOLOGICAL TRUST

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Cover image: *The pebble mosaic pavement from Tille in southeastern Turkey*  
(photograph by Tuğrul Çakar, courtesy British Institute at Ankara).

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## Chapter 12

# The Tell Baqrta Project in the Kurdistan Region of Iraq

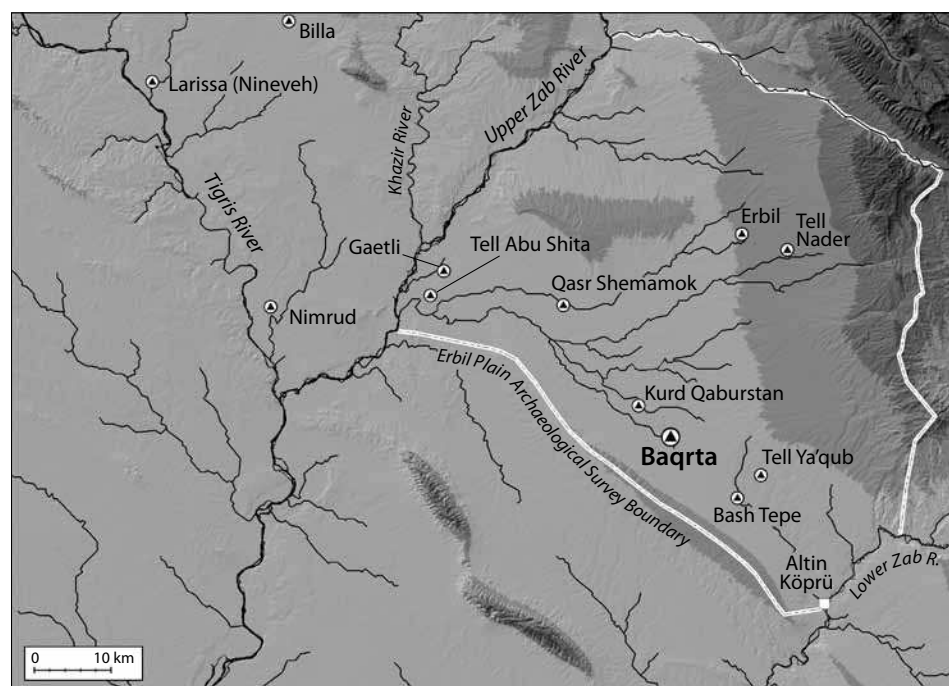
Konstantinos Kopanias, Claudia Beuger, John MacGinnis,  
Jason Ur

### Introduction (K. Kopanias)

In 2010 the University of Athens obtained permission from the Ministry of Municipalities and Tourism of the Kurdistan Region Government and also from the State Board of Antiquities and Heritage to conduct excavation at two archaeological sites: first at Tell Nader, which lies on the outskirts of the city of Erbil and then at Tell Baqrta, approximately 28 km to the south of Erbil (Fig. 12.1). The results of the first two excavation seasons in 2011 and 2012 in Tell Nader are very promising and the excavation is planned to be continued also in 2013 and 2014 (Kopanias, forthcoming; Kopanias *et al.* 2013; Kopanias *et al.* 2014). The main stratigraphic horizon is dated to the Late Ubaid period, in particular to the late fifth millennium BC.

We have to date excavated a number of ovens and kilns used for the production of pottery. Wasters also suggest the production of copper on site. One of the most interesting finds is the grave of a female, buried in a prone position and subjected to head-shaping during her infancy (Kopanias and Fox, forthcoming). The surface finds suggest that this site could produce a complete stratigraphy not only for the Late Neolithic/Chalcolithic, but also for later periods from the third to the late second and maybe the first millennium BC. The latest finds so far are dated to the Middle Assyrian period.

The second of these sites, Tell Baqrta, was brought to our attention by Dr. Narmen Ali Muhamad Amen, Professor of Archaeology at the Salahaddin University-Hawler (Fig. 12.2). The mound alone



**Figure 12.1.** The Nineveh and Erbil plains, showing the locations of sites mentioned in the text.