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**KILIKIA ARKEOLOJİSİNİ ARAŞTIRMA MERKEZİ**  
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**Amaç**

Olba süreli yayını; Küçükasya, Akdeniz bölgesi ve Ortadoğu'ya ilişkin orijinal sonuçlar içeren Arkeolojik çalışmalarda sadece belli bir alan veya bölge ile sınırlı kalmaksızın 'Eski Çağ Bilimleri'ni birbirinden ayırmadan ve bir bütün olarak benimseyerek bilim dünyasına değerli çalışmaları sunmayı amaçlamaktadır.

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Dipnot (kitaplar ve makaleler için)

Richter 1977, 162, res. 217.

Diğer Kısaltmalar

age.	adı geçen eser
ay.	aynı yazar
vd.	ve devamı
yak.	yaklaşık
v.d.	ve diğerleri
y.dn.	yukarı dipnot
dn.	dipnot
a.dn.	aşağı dipnot
bk.	Bakınız

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**Scope**

Olba is printed once a year in May. Deadline for sending papers is the end of November each year.

The Journal ‘Olba’, being published since 1998 by the ‘Research Center of Cilician Archeology’ of the Mersin University (Turkey), includes original studies done on prehistory, protohistory, classical archaeology, classical philology (and ancient languages and cultures), ancient history, numismatics and early christian archeology of Asia Minor, the Mediterranean region and the Near East.

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Footnotes (for books and articles):

Richter 1977, 162, fig. 217.

Miscellaneous Abbreviations:

op. cit.	in the work already cited
idem	an author that has just been mentioned
ff	following pages
et al.	and others
n.	footnote
see	see
infra	see below
supra	see above

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## İNÖNÜ CAVE: NEW RESULTS OF THE EARLY IRON AGE CULTURE IN THE WESTERN BLACK SEA REGION

Hamza EKMEK – F. GülDen EKMEK – Ali GÜNEY \*

### ÖZ

#### İnönü Mağarası: Batı Karadeniz Bölgesi Erken Demir Çağı Kültürüne İlişkin Yeni Sonuçlar

Bu makale, ana hatlarıyla, Türkiye'nin Batı Karadeniz kıyısında bulunan İnönü Mağarası kazılarının Erken Demir Çağı dönemi sonuçlarını ve C14 yaş analizlerini içermektedir. Mağarada 2017 ve 2018 yılında yapılan kazılar ile ulaşılan veriler, mağaranın II. yapı katının Erken Demir Çağı'nın başlarında kullanıldığını göstermiştir. Anadolu ve Doğu Akdeniz'in Geç Tunç Çağı Sonu-Erken Demir Çağı başı ile ilgili, hala cevaplanmayı bekleyen birçok soru varken, bu dönemin Batı Karadeniz kültürleri hakkında neredeyse hiç bilgi bulunmamaktadır. Burada, İnönü Mağarasının II. yapı katının verilerinin detaylı bir şekilde değerlendirilmesiyle, M.Ö. 2. Binyılın sonunda, Batı Karadeniz Bölgesi'nde yaşayan kültürü ana hatlarıyla tanımlamak ve bu kültürün Balkan kökenli topluluklar ile ilişkisini göstermek amaçlanmaktadır.

**Anahtar Kelimeler:** Batı Karadeniz Bölgesi, Erken Demir Çağı, İnönü Mağarası, Balkan Göçleri, Deniz Kavimleri Göçü, Zonguldak.

### ABSTRACT

This article contains the Early Iron Age period results and C14 age analyses of the excavations in İnönü Cave located on the Western Black Sea coast of Turkey. The data achieved through the excavations carried out in the cave in 2017 and 2018 have demonstrated that the level II of the cave was settled at the beginning of the Early Iron Age. While there are still many unanswered questions regarding the end of the Late Bronze Age-the beginning of the Early Iron Age in Anatolia and the Eastern Mediterranean, there is almost no information about the Western Black Sea cultures

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of this period. The present study aims to outline the culture of the Western Black Sea Region at the end of the 2<sup>nd</sup> millennium BC and to show the relationship of this culture with the communities of the Balkans by the detailed evaluation of the data on the level II of İnönü Cave.

**Keywords:** Western Black Sea Region, Early Iron Age, İnönü Cave, Balkan Migrations, Sea People, Zonguldak.

## Introduction

The end of the Late Bronze Age and the beginning of the Early Iron Age, 1250/1200-1100 BC, are known as the period of chaos due to the collapse of central authorities in Anatolia and the Eastern Mediterranean<sup>1</sup>. During this period, called the *Dark Age*<sup>2</sup>, factors causing chaos still remained unclear, and this turmoil environment was associated with many causes such as internal disturbance<sup>3</sup>, economic collapse<sup>4</sup>, volcanic eruption<sup>5</sup>, earthquake<sup>6</sup>, drought-related famine<sup>7</sup>, climatic changes<sup>8</sup>, and the Sea Peoples Migration<sup>9</sup>. During this period of multiethnic movements, various communities advanced to Egypt, and the subject took its place in written history thanks to written documents, such as the Medinet Habu Temple depictions, the Karnak inscription, the Harris papyrus, and other philological data uncovered outside Egypt.

Studies on the subject include archaeological and philological data and evaluations from different aspects of the Sea Peoples, points of origin, their routes of movement towards Egypt, the problems of origin, and war technologies. When the material culture of the period is examined closer, some characteristics specific to this culture manifest themselves in terms of spools<sup>10</sup>, loom weights<sup>11</sup>, spindle whorls<sup>12</sup>, various architectural traditions<sup>13</sup> and burial methods<sup>14</sup>. However, the pottery culture, known as the Late Helladic IIIC, in Greece, has also been recognized by some scientists as

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1 Rutter 1992, 68-70.

2 Snodgrass 1971; Dickinson 2006, 3-9.

3 Hooker 1976.

4 Kilian 1988, 134.

5 Marinatos 1939.

6 Schaeffer 1948.

7 Klengel 1974.

8 Weiss 1982.

9 Maspero 1881; Deger-Jalkotzy 1977.

10 Rahmstorf 2003, 406.

11 Carrington – Smith 1992, 675.

12 Rahmstorf 2003, 406; Kilian 2007, 43.

13 Dever 1992, 102.

14 Waldbaum 1966, 334.

concrete data of the Sea Peoples<sup>15</sup>. Based on the findspots of this pottery, some routes have been created, and it has been attempted to explain these routes and the distribution of pottery with the migration of the Sea Peoples<sup>16</sup>. However, this theory began to be questioned after the 1990s<sup>17</sup>.

In the geography that hosted the mobility of the Sea Peoples, besides the Late Helladic IIIC pottery, there were two interrelated pottery traditions regarded as a foreign cultural element to the region from the 13<sup>th</sup> century to the end of the 12<sup>th</sup> century BC. The first one of these is the pottery group known as *Dorian/NW Greek/Handmade Burnished/Coarse/Barbarian Ware* (hereafter Coarse Ware). This pottery group is handmade, polished in some places and coarse. It has finger or nail impressed decorations on a relief strip band on the body, and the vessel repertoire is limited to cooking or storage forms<sup>18</sup>. The second tradition is a pottery group with different names in the literature such as *Knobbed ware*, *Buckelkeramik*, *Handmade Lustrous Ware* (hereafter Buckelkeramik), characterized by knobs on it and having incised, impressed or grooved decorations<sup>19</sup>. Rutter associated the tradition of Coarse Ware with the communities of southeastern Romania origin<sup>20</sup>. On the contrary, there are also those who argue that this pottery tradition was produced by the natives of the Mycenaean region<sup>21</sup>. Buckelkeramik was also considered to be of southeastern Romania and Bulgaria origin<sup>22</sup>. Due to the fact that this pottery was found throughout the Eastern Mediterranean during the Late Helladic IIIC early phase, some researchers emphasized its relationship with the communities of Balkan origin within the Sea Peoples<sup>23</sup>.

In this study, Coarse ware and Buckelkeramik samples recovered at the level II of İnönü Cave located on the Western Black Sea coast of Turkey were evaluated extensively by putting the migration theories aside. The data obtained by systematic excavations in the region where we have not known anything about the Early Iron Age cultures to date are presented together with architectural findings and other small finds.

### İnönü Cave and Its Surroundings

The largest cave and numbered 1 of İnönü Caves, which are located in the southwest of Alacabük village, Zonguldak province, Karadeniz Ereğli district (fig. 1) and consist of three separate chambers, is 235 m on average above sea level. The width of the cave with the mouth looking west (fig. 2) reaches approximately 25 m in the inner

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15 Bryce 2005, Cline 2014.

16 Maspero 1881; Cline O'Connor 2003.

17 Vandersleyen 1985; Mountjoy 1988; Drews 1995; Silberman 1998; Killebrew 2013.

18 Hnila Pieniasek-Sikora 2002, 97; Aslan → Hnila 2015, 187-188.

19 Aslan Hnila 2015, 189.

20 French 1969; Rutter 1975.

21 Walberg 1976; Sandars 1978, 191–195; Sherratt 1982, 590.

22 Rutter 1975.

23 Badre 2006; Yasur-Landau 2010.

part, and its height reaches 10 m in some places. The cave consists of three sections, one large and two small ones, named A, B, and C (fig. 5). The Gülüç Stream, which takes its origin from the high mountains in the east and is formed by the merging of large and small streams, flows through the valley where İnönü Cave is located. In this form, the valley constitutes the natural route that provides connection and transportation between the coastal and inner parts in the mountainous geography of the Western Black Sea region<sup>24</sup>. The Kelçe Creek, Kızlar Creek and İn Creek that form the tributaries feeding the Gülüç Stream, located in the immediate surroundings of the cave, have great importance for the agricultural, animal husbandry and fishing activities of the local people nowadays. Furthermore, the forests surrounding the cave have a rich flora and are home to a large number of hunting animals. Due to the location of the cave, even the endpoints remain illuminated from sunrise to sunset. Therefore, both the location and the natural equipment have made İnönü Cave quite suitable for life.

İnönü Cave was discovered for the first time by the research carried out by G. Karauğuz in the Devrek District and its immediate vicinity<sup>25</sup>. In the above-mentioned study, it was determined that the pottery found in the cave belonged to the Chalcolithic and Bronze Ages<sup>26</sup>. Afterward, the cave was visited by the authors of this article, and it was thought to have a significant potential for to shed light on the early period cultures in the Western Black Sea Region. For this reason, the excavations of İnönü Cave started in 2017 under the presidency of the Karadeniz Ereğli Museum and the scientific consultancy of Dr. Hamza Ekmen. The stratigraphy determined as a result of the excavations in 2017 and 2018 is presented in fig. 4.

## **Level II: The Early Iron Age Occupation of the Cave**

### **Architectural Findings**

The architectural findings determined at the level II of İnönü Cave belonging to the Early Iron Age were recovered in a highly damaged condition and in pieces. These consist of a wall extending in the northeast-southwest direction formed by medium-sized stones and preserved in a single row and mudbrick pieces around it. The compressed soil base, which is supposed to have been connected to the wall, was plastered with clay (fig. 3). Although it has been heavily damaged by illegal excavations, the wall and other equipment are important in terms of showing the existence of simple architectural arrangements within the cave.

Another architectural element of this layer is a semi-round pit next to the cave wall (fig. 3). A large number of spindle whorls and its fragments, and loom weights were found in the pit together with the abundant amount of animal bones and pottery pieces. Furthermore, a miniature vessel filled with wheat (fig. 6), a necklace made of bear

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24 Ekinci 2011, 83-91.

25 Karauğuz – Akış – Kunt 2010, 175.

26 Karauğuz – Düring 2009, 154-156.



teeth, and bone tools were found in the pit. Most of the pottery fragments found in this area have incised or relief band with finger impressed decorations. The southern part of the pit, the northern and northeastern parts of which were next to the cave wall, was surrounded by vertically placed stones in such a way to draw a crescent. In Menekşe Çatağı where groups of people of Balkan origin were said to come by sea in the Early Iron Age and settle, pits reminding of the pit in İnönü Cave were found. It was stated that decorated pottery pieces found in the pits called “Votive Pits” were deliberately carried to these pits and the Iron Age communities had the chain of highly complex beliefs with this pottery and its fragments<sup>27</sup>.

Moreover, the pits determined in Istanbul surveys and formed by being carved into the bedrock were also named as “cultic well/votive pit”<sup>28</sup>. A similar practice is also known from the Aşağı Pınar settlement. In Aşağı Pınar, more than one hundred were found in an area regarded as a “sacred place” at the beginning of the Iron Age. These pits called “votive pits” are represented by many examples in Bulgaria at the beginning of the Iron Age<sup>29</sup>.

When the qualities of the finds discovered in the pit in İnönü Cave and decorated pottery fragments are taken into consideration, it can be said that the representatives of a similar tradition lived in this cave in the Early Iron Age.

### Small Findings

Among the small findings discovered during the first season excavations, there are a terracotta spool (fig. 7), sewing needle, necklace beads made of terracotta and bear teeth (fig. 10a-c), spindle whorls (fig. 8-9) and loom weights (fig. 11).

The high number of spindle whorls, loom weights and spools found reveal the weaving activities of the communities that settled in the cave during this period. The clay used in the manufacturing of spools, spindle whorls and loom weights has similar properties to the clay used in the pottery of the same level.

Incised and impressed decoration elements are observed on some of the spindle whorls. Flattened spherical, cylindrical, symmetrical or asymmetrical, biconical forms are common among spindle whorl forms. Especially biconical forms and a groove in the middle constitute the typical forms of the period (fig. 9).

Similar spindle whorls to the mentioned ones are known from the level of Troy VIIb<sup>30</sup>. Loom weights have a round, pyramidal and flat body with rounded corners (fig. 11). Similar forms were found in the levels of Troy VIIa<sup>31</sup> and VIIb<sup>32</sup>.

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27 Erim-Özdoğan 2003, 222-223.

28 Aydıngün – Aydıngün 2013, 73-74.

29 Özdoğan 2000, 72-73.

30 Blegen et al. 1958a, 257, 37.676, 37.683, 37.280, 37.305, 37.60.

31 Blegen et al. 1958a, 221, 37.289.

32 Blegen et al. 1958a, 256, 37.153, 37.287.

It was stated that Coarse ware users living in the region after the collapse of the Mycenaean palaces were advanced in textile production. Small findings related to weaving activities in İnönü Cave are proof that cave dwellers were developed in the textile production.

## Pottery

It is possible to evaluate the pottery of the level II that was all handmade according to the paste and type characteristics.

Four groups were determined according to the paste characteristics. The first group has a dark brown paste and is fine tempered. It contains minerals, especially mica. No slip and polish were applied in this group. In the second group, reddish-pinkish gray and reddish brown tones are dominant. Pottery included in this group, both mineral and plant tempered, was generally poorly fired. Sand, grit, and mica are used as a mineral additive, and slip and polish are also not encountered in this group. The pottery in the third group is in brown tones and is stone and plant tempered. This group exhibits the most coarse paste properties. Cooking and storage vessels constitute the pottery forms included in this usually poorly fired group. In groups numbered 1, 2 and 3 and called Coarse Ware, finger or nail impressed decorations on horizontal or vertical strip bands constitute the most common decoration elements. The fourth paste group of the level II pottery in İnönü Cave is of gray, dark gray and brownish gray colors and is usually mineral tempered and fine tempered. While slip application is not encountered in the pottery of this group, the surface of some samples was slightly polished. Incised/grooved decorations, among Buckelkeramik samples in Troy, are found only in this group. Similar incised decoration elements are encountered among the “buckelkeramik” samples of Gordion Troy VIIb2 level, Menekşe Çatağı.

It is observed that vessel forms are generally composed of storage and cooking vessels. The number of service vessels is less. Types with a simple/direct rim and oval body constitute one of the most common forms (fig. 12). In some samples, there is a vertical handle extending from the rim towards the center of the body (fig. 12.3). The decoration elements of the vessel pieces in this group are nail impressed decoration (fig. 12.1-3), relief band with finger impressed decoration (fig. 12.5-6) or notches (fig. 12.4). The pottery with a similar form is known from Troy level VIIb and Gordion Early Iron Age levels<sup>33</sup>. The tradition of nail impressed decoration on the rim of the pottery (fig. 12.1) or similar ones of notch decorations (fig. 12.4) are again common elements in Troy level VIIb<sup>34</sup>. The first and second groups of the aforementioned prosperous groups used in the production of vessels included in this type were used predominantly. Although another form of pottery in the repertoire is similar to the first group in terms of body characteristics, it is distinguished from the first group by the everted rim (fig. 13). Some samples have handles in the form of a “horseshoe” in the shoulder part (fig. 13.1- 3). Nail, finger, and notch decorations are observed

33 Sams 1994, Fig. 27/581; Koppenhöfer 2002, 680; Hnila 2012, Pl. 171/1456, 172/1472, 183/1616.

34 Hnila 2012, Pl. 209/890, 209/1131, 210/1270.

on this form (fig. 13.5-6). Samples of a similar form appear in Troy level VIIb<sup>235</sup>. The handled samples of this type were recovered in the Early Iron Age level of the Çadır Höyük and Boğazköy-Büyükkaya settlements<sup>36</sup>. Although a horseshoe-shaped handle was used on some vessels (fig. 13.1-3) in a long period of time extending to the Chalcolithic Period, it is also present in the Early Iron Age levels of Troy and Boğazköy<sup>37</sup>. The horn-shaped horizontal handle are also the distinctive features of the period and are represented by many examples. Another horn-shaped handle which is found in the Cide-Derebağ Köy Cave, is similar to the samples of Inonu Cave. This type of handle was reported to be widespread during the Early Iron Age in Greece and the Balkans<sup>38</sup>. Similar practices are found among the examples of “Knobbed Ware” in level VIIb2 of the Troy settlement<sup>39</sup>, whereas the double-protruding horn-shaped practice (fig. 13.2) is presently a unique feature for İnönü Cave.

The third group among the vessel forms has a slightly inverted rim and an extending or thick, vertical body. There are finger or nail impressed decorations around the rim (fig. 14).

The pottery of a similar form was recovered in the Early Iron Age levels of the Troy VIIb<sup>40</sup> and Gordion<sup>41</sup> settlements. The second paste group was usually preferred in the production of the vessels included in this type.

The pottery with a spherical body, simple or everted rim constitutes another form group (fig. 15.1-2). Vessels are decorated with finger impressed decorations on horizontal or vertical relief bands. The handled examples of this form are observed in level VIIb in Troy<sup>42</sup> and Gordion<sup>43</sup>. The round impressed decoration on the vertical relief band is also similar to that on the pottery in Troy level VIIb<sup>44</sup>. The pottery with an everted rim and strap handle (fig. 15.3-4), is another form of the Early Iron Age pottery repertoire of İnönü Cave. Similar examples were recovered in Troy level VIIb<sup>45</sup>. The pottery has a low base (fig. 16.3-4) or flat-convex base (fig. 16.5-6). The pottery found in Troy levels VIIb1 and VIIb2 exhibits parallel features to the samples found in İnönü Cave in terms of the bottom form<sup>46</sup>. Deep pots/bowls with a vertical, horn shaped handle are unique to İnönü Cave (fig. 16.1). There may be finger impressed decorations on horizontal or vertical relief bands. Similar examples of everted rim

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35 Hnila 2012, Pl. 188/1671, 206/1014, 208/739.

36 Genz 2000, Abb. 4/3; Genz 2001, 160, fig. 1/10-11.

37 Blegen et al. 1958a, 286/16; Genz 2000, Abb. 11; Hnila 2012, Pl. 208/471, 209/660.

38 Şerifoğlu 2015, 223, fig.8.2-3.

39 Pintér 2005, 199/DIA13.

40 Koppenhöfer 2002, 680.

41 Sams 1994, Fig. 3.11.

42 Blegen et al. 1958a, 218/c85.

43 Gunter 1991, Fig. 25/544.

44 Hnila 2012, Pl. 211/1042.

45 Blegen et al. 1958a, 274/9, 274/10.

46 Blegen et al. 1958a, 288/32.16; Hnila 2012, Pl. 206/1106, 211/1042.

bowls (fig. 16.2) are found in the Gordion<sup>47</sup>, Boğazköy<sup>48</sup>, and Troy settlements<sup>49</sup>. The examples found in İnönü Cave are different with their decoration.

The miniature vessels, shaped quite verdantly, constitute another form group of the period (fig. 17.1-4, 6). The horseshoe-shaped handle on a sample (fig. 17.6) shows similarity to vessels of the normal size of the period. The lids that we can associate with cooking vessels have a conic handle, and there are two opposing holes on them (fig. 17.5). A similar sample is known from Troy level VIIIb<sup>50</sup>.

In the group called “Coarse Ware,” there are finger or nail impressed decoration elements on the body parts. In the rim parts, they are observed to be applied sometimes directly on the vessel surface (fig. 12.2), and in some examples, they are applied on the relief bands placed in such a way to form horizontal, vertical or wavy lines on the vessel surface (fig. 12.5- 6).

In some examples, decorations made directly on the paste and with the impressed technique on a relief strip band are observed together (fig. 13.5). Nail or finger impressed decorations made directly on the vessel are observed to be usually applied on the neck and/or rim (fig. 13.5; 14.7). Therefore, it can be said that the body parts usually consist of samples with finger or nail impressed decorations on a relief band (fig. 18.1-8). Although this ornamentation tradition was used in a wide geography over a long period of time, the closest examples to it were recovered in surveys in Troy VIIb1<sup>51</sup>, Maydos-Kilisetepe<sup>52</sup>, Gordion<sup>53</sup>, Boğazköy<sup>54</sup> and in the vicinity of Istanbul<sup>55</sup>. In addition, during the construction of the Istanbul Archaeological Museums in 1968, a handmade rim fragment with finger impressed decoration was found<sup>56</sup>. Ş. Dönmez states that this type of pottery were seen in the transition period from the Late Bronze Age to the Early Iron Age in the southeast of the Balkan Peninsula<sup>57</sup>.

Another decoration element observed on the Early Iron Age pottery in İnönü Cave is incised decorations consisting of zigzags or bands around the vessel (fig. 19). This type of decorations appears in Troy level VIIb2 and is called “Knobbed Ware”<sup>58</sup>. The

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47 Gunter 1991, Fig. 27/589.

48 Genz 2000, Abb. 3/3.

49 Hnila 2012, 187/1646.

50 Blegen et al. 1958a, 266/37.918.

51 Blegen et al. 1958a, 281.

52 Sazcı 2012, Fig. 4.

53 Gunter 1991, Pl. 32/B.

54 Genz 2000, Abb. 11.

55 Aydıngün – Aydıngün 2013, Fig. 1, 3.

56 Dönmez 2006, fig. 1b.

57 Dönmez 2017, fig. 22.

58 Blegen et al. 1958b, 143.

closest samples in terms of decoration were recovered in the Troy<sup>59</sup> and Gordion<sup>60</sup> settlements. It is noteworthy that almost all the pottery with this group decoration belongs to the fourth paste group. The samples with the profile of the pottery in this group with a thinner wall and better paste compared to the Coarse ware group pottery demonstrate that this group was preferred more in the production of pots and/or deep pots. A completely similar sample to a piece of pottery belonging to this group found in İnönü Cave (fig. 19.5) was recovered in Troy level VIIb2<sup>61</sup>.

### **The Relationship Between Buckelkeramik, Coarse Ware, and Balkan Cultures**

As it is known, the chaos that started in the Aegean, Anatolia and Eastern Mediterranean regions in 1200s BC caused the collapse of central authorities such as the Mycenaeans and Hittites.

During this period, the Mycenaean palaces were destroyed or abandoned, the Hittite capital Boğazköy/Hattuşa was evacuated, and many Anatolian and Eastern Mediterranean cities were destroyed. The collapse of the Late Bronze Age was characterized by the disappearance of city centers, trade, and political authority and was often called the “Dark Age”<sup>62</sup>.

The movements of the peoples called the “Sea Peoples” and described as “*those who come from the middle of the sea, those who live in the middle of the sea, the people coming from the north, those who live on ships*” in the Egyptian sources have been shown to be responsible for this chain of disasters<sup>63</sup>. Numerous views have been suggested on the causes of the process, which caused the population groups of the period to move. Although its relationship with destructions could not be fully explained, it was emphasized that communities of Balkan origin came to Anatolia over the Thrace region during this period and pottery types such as “Coarse Ware” and “Buckelkeramik” were associated with these “newcomers”<sup>64</sup>.

The number of settlements of the inhabitants of Anatolia or where their traces could be followed in the relevant period, i.e. the end of the Late Bronze Age-the beginning of the Early Iron Age, is limited. Troy is one of the settlements where the period in question can be observed in the best way in Anatolia. The end of Troy level VIIa is simultaneous with the destruction of the Mycenaean centers, the collapse of the Hittite Empire and the destruction levels of Cyprus and Levant cities. These events determine the end of the Late Bronze Age in Troy, and the Early Iron Age starts with continuous level VIIb<sup>65</sup>. The end of Troy level VIIa is dated to approximately

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59 Blegen et al. 1958a, 280–283.

60 Gunter 1991, Pl. 32/C-D.

61 Hnila 2012, cat. no. 452.

62 Kealhofer et al. 2009, 275.

63 Maspero 1881, 118; Gür 2012, 44-45.

64 Blegen et al. 1958, 144; Aydıngün – Aydıngün 2013, 65.

65 Becks 2003, 50.

1190-1180s BC. The short-lived level VIIb1 is followed by level VIIb2<sup>66</sup>. Along with level VIIb1, in addition to wheel made pottery, the handmade “Coarse ware” tradition of coarse quality emerges<sup>67</sup>. While this pottery tradition is observed in the Early Iron Age in Anatolia, it emerges earlier in the Balkans, Northwest Black Sea and Mycenaean regions<sup>68</sup>. When looking at Troy again, another handmade pottery tradition “Buckelkeramik” is observed in VIIb2. Incised, impressed or grooved decorations are frequently encountered on among this pottery<sup>69</sup>. This pottery group is known from the Balkan region and the western part of the Russian steppes during the Bronze Age<sup>70</sup>.

The tradition of Coarse Ware and Buckelkeramik that emerged in Troy levels VIIb1 and VIIb2 is accepted as the evidence of the presence of new peoples of Balkan origin in Troy<sup>71</sup>. The co-existence of these samples with local wheel made pottery of Troy called “Gray Ware” and “Tan Ware” and used since the Bronze Age indicates the existence of a peaceful environment and the synthesis of cultures<sup>72</sup>.

Other from Troy, the Maydos-Kilisetepe findings provide evidence for this situation. According to the findings obtained from this settlement, it was stated that the local people and the population group of Balkan origin lived together for at least a certain period of time<sup>73</sup>.

Coarse ware was also found in the surveys conducted in the vicinity of Istanbul, and the migration routes of the communities of Balkan origin were formed by considering the coarse ware centers determined by Ş. Aydıngün<sup>74</sup>.

Gordion is a center with certain stratigraphy where coarse ware and buckelkeramik samples are found together. Moreover, it is important in terms of demonstrating that the distribution area of these pottery traditions extends to Central Anatolia. A group of pottery called the “Early Phrygian Handmade Ware” emerges together with the Late Bronze Age pottery in EPB1, which is the earliest stage of the building named the Early Phrygian Building (EPB) in Gordion. While “Early Phrygian Handmade Ware” continues to be used in stage EPBII, gray wheel made pottery starts to be observed in the Early Phrygian period. However, “Early Phrygian Handmade Ware” is not observed in the later stages. It was indicated that this pottery stated to be imported had common features with “Coarse Ware” and “Buckelkeramik” recovered in the Balkans and Troy levels VIIb, and “Early Phrygian Handmade Ware” was interpreted as an

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66 Koppenhöfer 1997, 295-353.

67 Blegen et al. 1958b, 158; Hnila – Pieniazek-Sikora 2002, 97; Aslan – Hnila 2015, 187-188.

68 Hnila – Pieniazek-Sikora 2002, 97; Rutter 1975, 25-27.

69 Aslan – Hnila 2015, 189.

70 Rutter 1975, 25-30.

71 Blegen et al. 1958b, 144; Aydıngün – Aydıngün 2013, 65-66.

72 Hnila – Pieniazek-Sikora 2002, 99-100.

73 Sazcı – Başaran-Mutlu 2017, 332-333.

74 Aydıngün – Aydıngün 2013, 65-67.

indication of the presence of the Southeastern European culture in Anatolia after the collapse of the Hittite Empire<sup>75</sup>.

Coarse ware samples were recovered in the levels of the first half of the 12th century BC in Hydos, Bozburun, Kition, Hala Sultan Tekke and Enkomi on the island of Cyprus, and they were associated with newcomers<sup>76</sup>.

The pottery of the Coarse ware tradition was found in Tell Kazel, Tell Arqa, Tell Afis, Rash Ibn Hani, Beyrut and Tell Qasile in the Kenan Region, and the existence of this tradition on the Eastern Mediterranean coasts in the early phase of Lade Helladic IIIC was explained by the presence of a people of Balkan origin<sup>77</sup>. Although Buckelkeramik is a complement to Coarse ware, Buckelkeramik known from a narrower geography, the Northern Aegean region and the Balkans, is concentrated in Anatolia, the Thrace and Marmara regions (fig. 22). It is known to be found in Menekşe Çatağı<sup>78</sup>, Gordion<sup>79</sup>, and level VIIb2 following level VIIb1 in Troy<sup>80</sup>. It was also reported to be moved by groups of people who settled/lived along the Northwestern Marmara coast to the island of Avşa<sup>81</sup>. This type of pottery is found in caves and cemeteries, in the Late Bronze and Early Iron Age settlements in Southeastern Europe<sup>82</sup>. Similar examples of incised decoration found in İnönü Cave are also found in the settlements mentioned above together with “buckelkeramik”. İnönü Cave is the first cave settlement where these samples were recovered in the Western Black Sea region.

### İnönü Cave C14 Dating

In order to clarify the chronology of the level II of İnönü Cave dated to the Early Iron Age, the C14 method was used.

The results of the C14 analysis performed on the samples obtained from the level II indicate the dates between 1221-1016 BC and 1131-979 BC (fig. 20, fig. 21) and are thus highly compatible with the analogical evaluation of the material.

### Conclusions

Coarse ware, commonly observed in the Balkans, Italy, Southeast Romania or the Middle Danube region, or even further in the north in Central Europe before the Iron Age, also appears in South Greece, Crete, Cyprus, Troy, Central Anatolia and the Western Black Sea region in the period which can be defined as the crisis years, i.e.

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75 Sams 1994, 327-328.

76 Karageorghis 2002, 75.

77 Badre 2006, 87; Yasur – Landau 2010, 168.

78 Erim-Özdoğan et al. 2004, Table 1.

79 Sams 1994, pls. 3-227, pls. 7-191, 230.

80 Blegen et al. 1958b, 142-143, 154, 158; Hnila 2012, nr. 395, 398, 424, 425, 452, 727, 1077, 1202, 1204.

81 Erim-Özdoğan 2003, 222.

82 Hüryılmaz 1990, 312.

in the Early Iron Age (fig. 22).

What happened after the Late Bronze Age still contains many questions. The most common question is whether the vessels in the Coarse ware tradition are an indication of migration between Anatolia, the Aegean region and the Balkans or whether they have a cultural relationship. It is reasonable to explain the pottery belonging to a foreign tradition in a region by the presence of a group of immigrants. However, certain judgments on this subject should be avoided because it is extremely difficult to monitor rapid population movements with archaeological remains. Furthermore, the existence of a foreign pottery tradition alone is not sufficient to prove the movement of many people. To distinguish whether it is an invasion or migration is also a difficult theoretical part of the subject. While the invasion creates a war atmosphere in mind, the word migration means a more peaceful environment. Thus, the Coarse ware tradition that emerged with the collapse of the Mycenaean palaces in Greece was explained by an invasion<sup>83</sup>. However, evaluating the findings of the level II of İnönü Cave from the same perspective may not give accurate results because another distinguished pottery tradition has not been determined yet together with the Coarse ware and Buckelkeramik findings or prior to them. Moreover, İnönü Cave is located on the Black Sea coast, which is not far from the Balkan geography indicated as the origin for Coarse ware. In other words, this tradition may have been used in the cave before the destruction of the Mycenaean palaces.

If it is necessary to become abstracted from space and time briefly, certain parameters, such as burial customs, architecture, style of small objects, and especially the pottery tradition, are needed to define human communities living in an archaeological area. From this point of view, our knowledge about the community inhabiting the level II of İnönü Cave is very limited. At the present time, we know that they used only the pottery in the Coarse ware and buckelkeramik tradition and produced textile. We are witnessing the existence of a complex belief system because of a pit that was probably the votive pit.

The fact that the question whether it was a migration or cultural interaction has been unanswered by Hnila yet has been attributed to the lack of information about rural settlements in the northern regions of the Hittite Empire during the Late Bronze Age and Early Iron Age. Furthermore, the Thrace region in Turkey is also an important region for clarifying this issue because the shortest way of transportation or communication between Anatolia and the Balkans is the Western Black Sea coast of Turkey. Moreover, it would be wrong to think that Romania and Bulgaria were not connected to the cultures on the Black Sea coast of Turkey. Therefore, the findings of the level II of İnönü Cave provide important data for both the Western Black Sea archaeology, about which nothing is known, and for understanding the population mobility in Anatolia at the beginning of the Early Iron Age in relation to the entry of new groups of people of Balkan origin to Anatolia and thus the chaos experienced in a wide geography. Thanks to this information, it would be right to say that while the Sea

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83 Bouzek 1969; Drews 1995.



Peoples chaos was experienced, some groups which used pottery in the tradition of the Balkan culture and produced textile lived for a while/continuously in İnönü Cave in the Western Black Sea region. There is no need to associate these findings with migration or invasion because the region is already considered within the Anatolian-Balkan cultural formation region earlier than the Iron Age<sup>84</sup>. To sum up, Coarse ware, which was carried to Greece, Italy, the Eastern Mediterranean coast and Cyprus due to invasion or migration, may not have come to the Western Black Sea region in this way. The inhabitants of İnönü Cave may be the representatives of this tradition due to their proximity to the Balkan cultures<sup>85</sup>.

On the other hand, if we look at the subject from the point of the phenomenon of migration, it is possible to think that the groups of people coming to the Western Black Sea coasts by sea advanced to the inner parts along the Güllüç Valley if there was a wave of migration from Balkans to Anatolia through the Thrace region. Upon examining the surroundings of the cave, it is observed that İnönü Cave was not a single settlement inhabited by Coarse ware users (fig. 22). During the surveys, the pottery of Coarse Ware type was also found in Dörtinler and Sarmaşıkini caves detected by our team. Furthermore, some pottery found during the Sinop Fortress salvage excavations was associated with Coarse Ware<sup>86</sup>. In addition, the spools, loom weights and spindle whorls found in the cave show the skills of the newcomers in textile production and overlap with the ideas that the Balkan immigrants carried out weaving activities<sup>87</sup>.

The first season findings on İnönü Cave, which sheds light on a little known period and on a little known region, will provide new insights into the inhabitants of Anatolia and what was experienced in Anatolia in the Early Iron Age and before it with ongoing excavation studies.

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84 Özdoğan 1993, 173.

85 In recent years, excavations at Gordion, Boğazköy, Çadır Höyük, Kaman-Kalehöyük (Matsumura 2008, 43-44), Oymağaç (Yılmaz 2012, 69) and Oluz Höyük have provided important data on the understanding beginnings of the Anatolian Iron Age (1190-900 BC). However, we do not have sufficient information about the Central Black Sea Region and the Western Black Sea Region at the Beginnings of the Early Iron Age. The data related to the Early Iron Age of Oymağaç Höyük are not sufficient to comment. In Early Iron Age Levels, painted pottery found in Oluz Höyük (Dönmez – Yurtsever-Beyazıt 2016, 281) is unique to Central Anatolia and is not found in the İnönü Cave. For this reason, it is quite difficult to establish any relationship between the Central Anatolia or Central Black Sea Region and Western Black Sea Region in the Early Iron Age.

86 Doonan 2004, 57, fig. 3-5.

87 Sandars 1978, 192.

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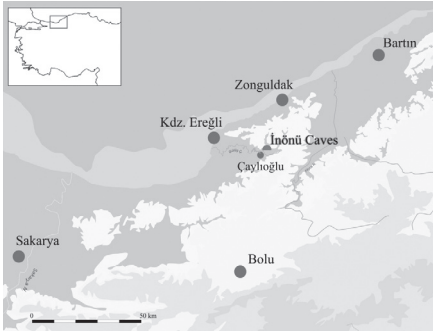


Fig. 1 Map showing İnönü Cave.



Fig. 2 View of the cave from the west.

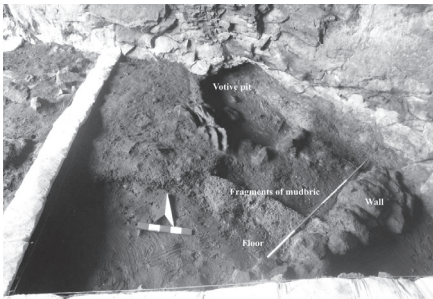


Fig. 3 Architectural findings of Level II.

Level	Period
I	Medieval Age
II	Early Iron Age
III	Late Bronze Age
IV	Early Bronze Age
V	Chalcolithic Age

Fig. 4 The stratigraphy of the İnönü Cave.

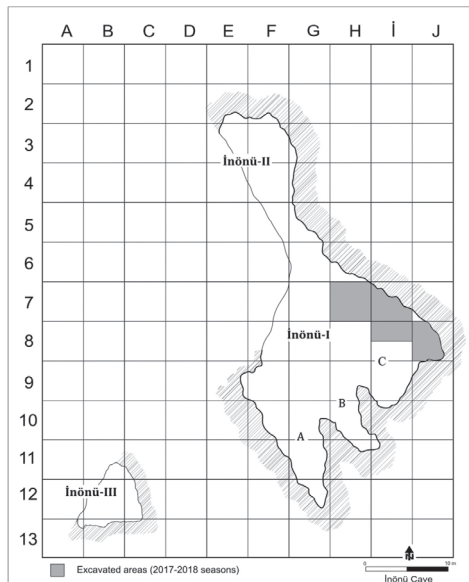


Fig. 5 Plan of the İnönü Cave.

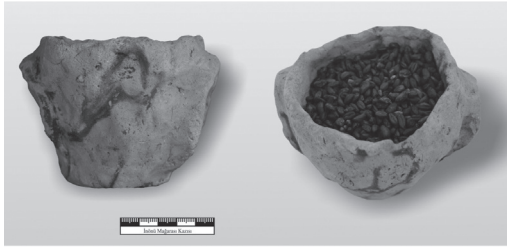


Fig. 6 Miniature vessel filled with wheat from Level II

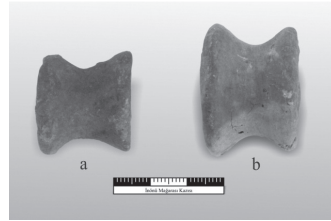


Fig. 7 Spools from Level II.

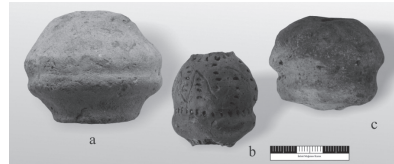


Fig. 9 Grooved biconical spindle whorls from Level II.



Fig. 8 Spindle whorls from Level II.

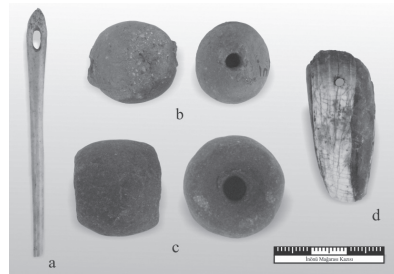


Fig. 10 Miscellaneous objects from Level II.



Fig. 11 Loom weights from Level II.



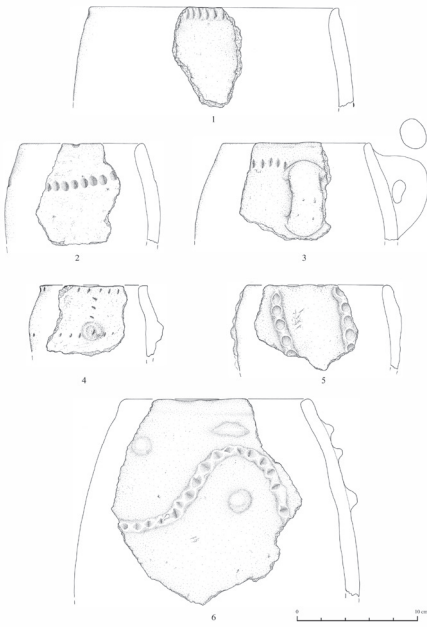


Fig. 12 Pottery from Level II.

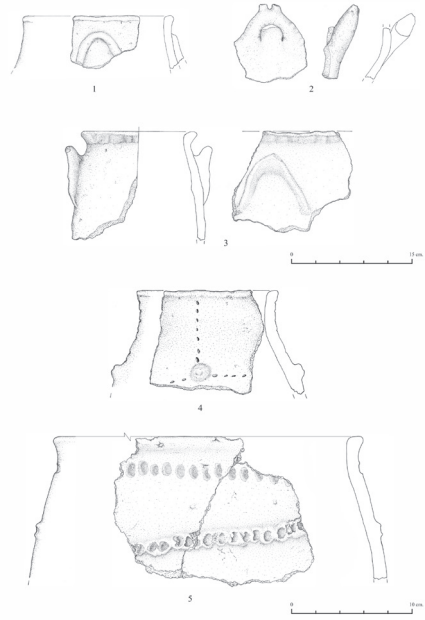


Fig. 13 Pottery from Level II.

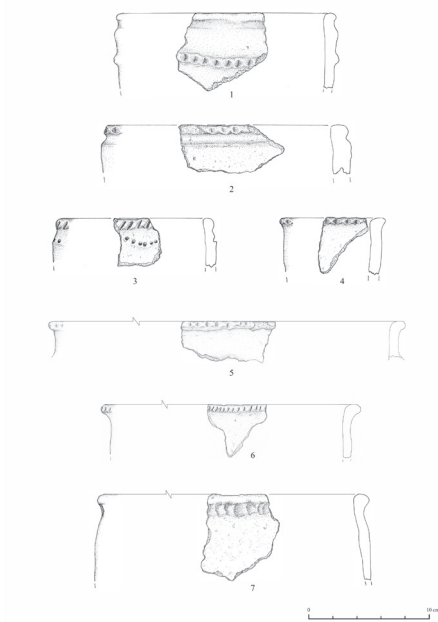


Fig. 14 Pottery from Level II.

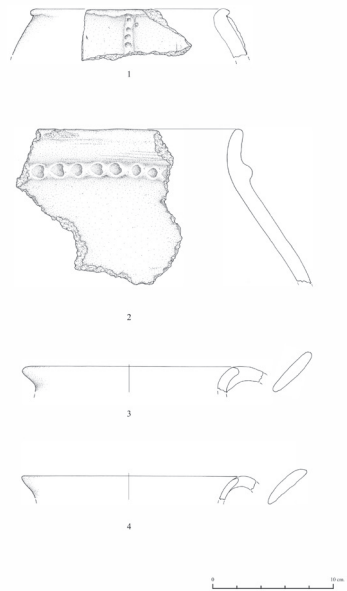


Fig. 15 Pottery from Level II.



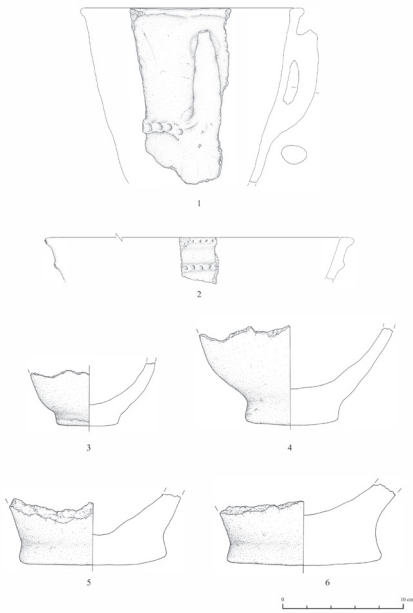


Fig. 16 Pottery from Level II.

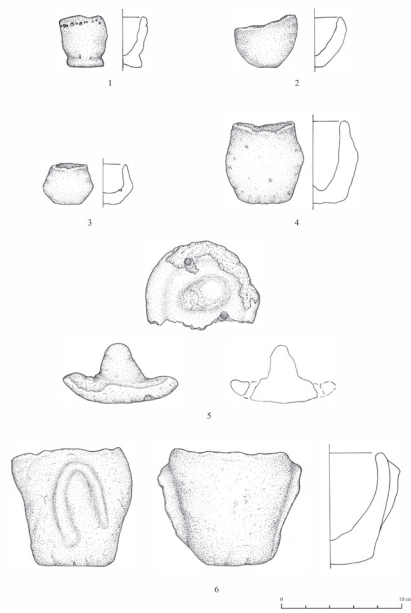


Fig. 17 Pottery from Level II.

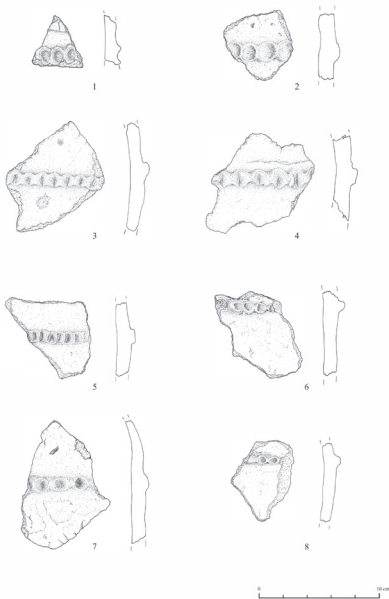


Fig. 18 Pottery from Level II.

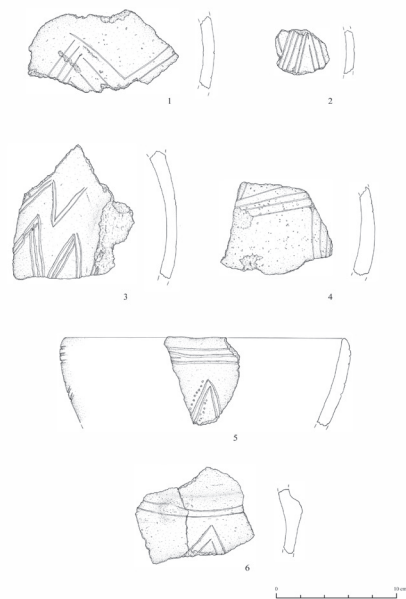


Fig. 19 Pottery from Level II.

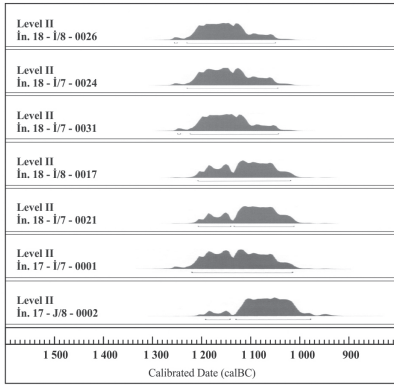


Fig. 20 C14 analysis results of Level II samples.

Trench	Level	Material	C14 Date	Probability	Report Number
J/8	II	An. bone	1131-979 BC	% 87,4	82325108-125.05-28/5957
I/7	II	Carbon	1221-1016 BC	% 95,4	82325108-125.05-28/5957
I/7	II	Carbon	1134-1013 BC	% 73,7	82325108-125.05-28/6874
I/8	II	Carbon	1209-1020 BC	% 95,4	82325108-125.05-28/6874
I/7	II	Carbon	1231-1051 BC	% 94,7	82325108-125.05-28/6874
I/7	II	Carbon	1231-1045 BC	% 95,4	82325108-125.05-28/6874
I/7	II	Carbon	1231-1051 BC	% 94,7	82325108-125.05-28/6874

Fig. 21 C14 analysis results of Level II samples.

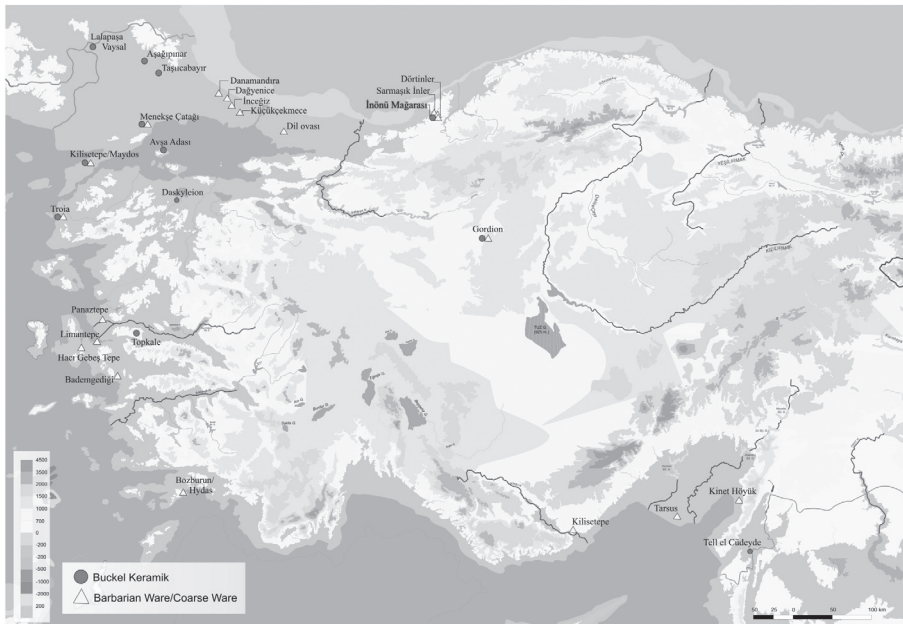


Fig. 22 Map showing Buckelkeramik and Coarse Ware sites.