

Abstract

The aim of this thesis is to analyse the urban development of the Egyptian cities of Alexandria and Thonis-Heracleion during the Hellenistic and Roman periods. The main hypothesis of the thesis is that the differences in the urban development of these two ports were influenced by their geographical conditions, cultural influences and political changes. The main part of the thesis focuses on a detailed analysis of the architectural and infrastructural elements of the two cities, with a closer focus on the port infrastructure and cultural aspects of the two sites. In the case of Alexandria, the text focuses on the urban plans and important architectural monuments such as the harbours and their components, the Museion or the Serapeum. For the Thonis-Heracleion site, the work focuses on the central part of the city, which is the precinct that includes the Temple of Amon-Gereba. The importance of the city as a major entry point into Egypt is further explored. In this connection, attention is paid to the port organization. In the analysis of urban development, the mixing of cultural aspects plays a crucial role. This thesis therefore focuses on the question of how the processes of Hellenization and Romanization can be understood as having played a role in the shaping the urban development of both sites. The thesis combines archaeological and historical sources with underwater research methods, allowing for a more detailed analysis of the development of these sites. The data obtained comes from existing geophysical and archaeological field and underwater excavations. The hypothesis was tested using a comparative approach that included a comparison of the urban plans, selected architectural features and cultural contexts of the two sites. The results of the analyses show that geographic conditions and cultural influences had a major impact on the formation of the sites. While Alexandria developed into an important commercial and cultural centre, the city of Thonis-Heracleion began to decline in importance during the Hellenistic period and eventually disappeared completely due to environmental influences. The contribution of this thesis lies in a deeper understanding of the processes of Hellenization and Romanization in the context of selected cities in Egypt and their impact on urban infrastructure. This text offers a new perspective on the development of port cities in the Hellenistic and Roman periods and documents their interconnection with polycultural aspects that had a major impact on their architectural and infrastructural development.

Keywords:

Ports, Hellenistic, Roman, Egypt, urbanism, Alexandria, Thonis-Heracleion, Hellenization, Romanization