

Abstract

This thesis aims to describe and map the development of late Roman and Roman-Byzantine fortification elements in northwest Jordan from the 2nd to the 5th century AD. Simultaneously, the changes of the city fortifications in the area of Decapolis and the development of the system of roads in defined spaces and period are observed. The first part is dedicated to the topography and natural conditions in the region, population and history of the defined area, starting with the first historical mention of the Nabataeans linked to 312 BC until onset of the Abbas family in 750 AD, which is associated with the overall abandonment described area. Subsequently, some other aspects related to this are mentioned. The second section deals with the system of roads and their overall development in the area of Decapolis and in the Arabian limit. The third chapter is devoted to fortification elements. This section focuses on the description of military and civilian buildings, inscriptions and ceramics in predetermined locations. The fourth part deals with the development of urban fortifications within the cities of Decapolis. The following chapter contains a synthesis of fortification elements and city fortifications made on the basis of ascertained findings. Both synthesis points are associated with the development of the system of roads, taking into account the individual areas. These two outcomes are compared in the final summary and within them are characterized concrete changes, which brought the incorporation of this space into the Roman Empire and its subsequent development in the defined period of time.

Keywords:

Roman army, fortification elements, urban fortification, road system, Decapolis, Arabia, late Roman, Roman-Byzantine