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## قواعد النشر وشروطه

آداب مجلة علمية محكمة تصدر في يونيو وديسمبر من كل عام عن كلية الآداب جامعة الخرطوم وتقيل البحوث في مجالات الآداب والفنون والعلوم الإنسانية مع مراعاة الآتي:

١. لا يكون البحث المقدم للمجلة قد نشر أو قدم للنشر في مكان آخر.
٢. تخضع البحوث المنشورة في هذه المجلة للتحكيم العلمي الذي يتولاه أساتذة متخصصون وفق ضوابط موضوعية.
٣. تسلم نسختان مطبوعتان من البحث على معالج نصوص (حاسوب) مع أسطوانة مدمجة تحتوي على البحث. أو ترسل على البريد الإلكتروني [adabsudan@gmail.com](mailto:adabsudan@gmail.com)
٤. يراعي في البحث أن يتراوح حجمه بين ٣٠٠-٥٠٠ كلمة ، ويرفق الباحث مستخلصاً باللغتين العربية والإنجليزية ليحثه بما لا يتجاوز صفحة واحدة (٢٠٠) كلمة ، وينذيل هذا المستخلص بما لا يزيد على خمس كلمات مفتاحية تبرز أهم المواضيع التي يتطرق إليها البحث. ويراعي أن تحتوي الصفحة الأولى من البحث على عنوان البحث واسم الباحث ، والجامعة أو المؤسسة الأكاديمية وعنوان البريد والبريد الإلكتروني.
٥. تنشر المجلة مراجعات الكتب بحدود (٢٠٠) كلمة كحد أقصى ، على لا يكون قد مضى على صدور الكتاب أكثر من عامين ، ويدون في أعلى الصفحة عنوان الكتاب واسم المؤلف ومكان النشر وتاريخه وعدد الصفحات. وتتألف المراجعة من عرض وتحليل ونقد، وأن تتضمن المراجعة خلاصة مركزة لمحتويات الكتاب. مع مراعاة الاهتمام بمناقشة مصداقية مصادر المؤلف وصحة استنتاجاته.
٦. أن يوثق البحث علمياً بذكر المصادر والمراجع التي اعتمدها الباحث في نهاية البحث. وترتسب المراجع في نهاية البحث هجائياً على لا تحتوي قائمة المراجع إلا على تلك التي تمت الإشارة إليها في متن البحث. يشار إلى جميع المصادر في متن البحث المكتوب بلغة أجنبية كالطريقة التالية (اسم العائلة. سنة النشر. الصفحة أو الصفحات) مثال: (Adams. 2000. 14.).
٧. تعبر البحوث التي تنشرها المجلة عن آراء كاتبها ، ولا تعبر بالضرورة عن وجهة نظر المجلة أو أية جهة أخرى يرتبط بها صاحب البحث.
٨. لميئنة التحرير الحق في إدخال التحرير والتعديل اللازمين على الأبحاث. وتعد هيئة التحرير رأي محكم المقال نافذاً بالنسبة لنشر البحث أو عدمه أو إدخال التعديلات التي يوصي بها المحكم.

# **The Role of Wad Nimeiri Castle in the Economy during the Medieval Period, Sudan**

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## **Abstract:**

*This castle of Wad Nimeiri is situated on the left bank of the Nile, about 25 km south of modern Dongola and about 100 km north of Old Dongola. It is one of the most important medieval castles along the Nile. The study seeks to shed light on the economic importance of the castle especially the trade along the Nile. The strategic position of the castle close to the capital of Makuria Kingdom is one of the reasons that made it a focal point on the medieval trade routes.*

*In other words, the castle was acted as a trade station linked the medieval kingdoms (Makuria and Nubatia) with those on the west of Sudan and Egypt far north. The study will follow different approaches, such as description, survey analysis of the site elements, as well as comparative one which will focus on the previous studies in the field of archeology, ethnography, and the historical sources.*

### **1. Introduction:**

The area of Dongola reach in the medieval was part of Makouria Kingdom with Old Dongola being its capital. It was a region of political and economical presence. Trade routes, through the river Nile and by land, were well established between the kingdoms of Makouria and Nubatia, particularly when these two kingdoms united. The region also connected the kingdom of Makouria with the kingdom of Alwa, and it was an essential trade route connecting the African Lake region in the south to the region of the Mediterranean Sea and the Arabian Peninsula in the north through the kingdom of Nubatia. This region was therefore a centre for commerce and moving trade between all these areas, whether through the Nile or by land.

### **2. Sources of information:**

There are important sources of information on trade in the medieval Nubia in general

1. The direct evidence of the written records
2. Indirect evidence which obtained from the archaeology, where the materials from specific sites mentioned to the movement of such goods from their original place.

The trade in the Medieval Nubia in general, as documented it was through various literature and archaeological sources it completely linked to the trade with Egypt in most of the periods.

### **3. The Literature:**

The reference of the trade between Nubia and the outside world mainly comes intensively from Egyptian sources both Byzantine and Islamic. The archaeology is an important source; artifacts made of pottery and are in many ways it is the most important because of survival and to maintain, as well known in the medieval pottery was common materials that could chronicles the sites beside other material of course.

Animal products are documented in the Classical period many animals brought from Central and West Africa through the land roads to Wad Nimeiri across Wadi Hawar being across the region of west Sudan to South Wad Nimeiri is still using until today to reach the west Sudan where cattle abound of all kinds.

There is a natural products include the wood which referred to by Ibn Salim Al Aswani (during the flood ) like Ebony – logwood, wood gum, large blocs were used to make the helm of boats. Ibn Salim said that the pantry of Alwa people are brought to the Soba from distances of the old Dongola was being met from the areas around them with high fertility (Soghayroun: 2010:91-95).

#### **4. Wad Nemeiri location and components:**

Qasr Wad Nimeiri is located about 96 kilometers south of Dongola. The Khannaq name has disappeared from today's maps (Crawford 1951: 39). It is located directly facing the River Nile, bordered by Soortud village in the north and south by Sahaba village, while in the east it is bordered by the River Nile. The site is huge and consists of various palace extensions from the north and south (Figure 1) in addition to a large number of diverse cemeteries. There are Christian, Islamic and unknown burials from different historical periods at the site, which was one of the administrative centres of the Funj State.

The strategic location on the Nile with port beside his presence on the junction to the western Sudan across the road, and the components of the site is the presence of a huge fortress and complex consists of different buildings in shape and size, have used a variety of material of stone, mud-brick as well as palm trees in the roofs. It has several different stages in terms of the type of the construction, which spread on site.

The site replete with large quantities of Christian pottery multi-species and forms and ornaments handmade and wheel made, predominantly red colors, brown, orange, and black, the site Wad Nemeiri has a strategic location where exceeded the cultivation areas between New Dongola and areas west of the old Dongola and eastern Nile, with a fertile agricultural area). In addition to graves back to the

Christian Period which reveals to us the richness of where the relevant materials of that period, several pieces of pottery and sparse mode which indicate the Settlement in these area in the Medieval period.

Also the presence of the castle of Khandaq near Wad Nimeiri which play an important role in the control on the movement of trade on the Nile in the medieval period and post medieval.

The palace stands on a hill in the north-eastern end of the site and extends to about a quarter of a mile to the south, and consists of walls built of stone and bricks and burned-turned-gray color, probably due to erosion. Inside the palace, we find a number of rooms have been limited to twenty-seven of them some of them incomplete where some features changed due to erosion and sand, which covered parts of them, some of them built within the stone walls. There are other around windows built from burnt bricks laid out in orderly lines and still places wooden thresholds exist yet. It is noted that these buildings may be modified occurred while re-use the bricks again. In the south-western side of the palace there is a conical tower like dome of mud-brick and mud next to the installer to the north. There is another tower of stone as well as northern and eastern two towers built of stone .Inside the palace there are some rooms constructed of red brick Galus, milk, based on the solid stone and covered with stone has been one of them notes the existence of stone breaks in these rooms in the form of 1x1 m private boxes at the corners may have been the treasury of some important property. To the north of the presidential palace there are the remains of large and small rooms built from Galus but it is completely destroyed, where it reaches a maximum height of about 20 cm, In the south there are other rooms but they are better off than North has also built of brick and Galus and it shows modern additions on site. In the middle of the south side there is a rectangular building in the form of bench 4 length m and a width 4m, height 3m, according to its composition and location of perhaps the bench and there are some domes inside the southern extension of the palace built from Galus and mud brick covered with one of them red brick in the upper part of them, As for the south graves them, we find two domes of the polygonal and three other domes destroyed and another polygonal all built from mud brick and

is of small sizes dimensions  $3 \times 2,5$  m and there is next to the tombs of rectangular covered with stones with gravel dimensions  $3 \times 2,5$  m also next to some structures (buildings) built brick and Galus (Adam:2010:81).

The north Cemetery, which was probably the oldest of all cemeteries, it is surrounded by stones in a circular shape and sometimes quasi-rectangular except modern cemeteries are of gravel. There are two domes of the of the bricks seem to be very old, and the palace on the west about 500 meters there are similarities domes completely attributed to the Mamluks of which there like in Wahaba in the sensor area and spread inside the main building of the site at the palace a large group of Christian pottery in various forms of Islamic pottery, sizes and glazed and there is a wide range of crusher red-brick and animal dung and shells, snails and others.

What is noticed is the lack of Christian burial was observed at this location, which means that there is another place used for burial and perhaps on the East Bank where there are many Christian cemeteries in various forms of the Nile, perhaps the reason is probably due to the nature of the low-region in the West Bank compared to the West and other high and covered by sand dunes. However, we find the multiplicity of Islamic tombs dating back to different periods of the early Islamic, Fung, Mamlukes, Turks and other sites and which undoubtedly have a close link to minors thing that confirms the continuity of this important site.

##### **5. Previews study of the site:**

Many scholars and archaeologists have referred to the fort as a castle such as Crawford (1951, 32), and Intisar Soghayroun (2010: 91 -95), and the researcher in 2010, which contains a rectangular shape structure with six towers on the north and on the western wall, with high building complex and remains of many rooms.

The southern part seems to have been occupied by many people; remains of mud and mud-bricks walls are still visible.

The fort is relatively well-preserved compared to that in part of the western bank of the Nile due to the absence of an inhabited settlement next to it. Like Khandaq and other forts, it is a prominent landmark as one approach from the north or south.

South-west of the fort are several stone buildings. These consist of the remains of two or three large rectangular buildings, and some structures are used by Muslim as a *khalwas* by Hajj Sheriff and his family established in that area. According to local tradition, the huge number of graves and *qubbas* is due to the many sheikhs who buried here and created a cultural and scientific centre in the area.

#### **6. Dating:**

The history of the site dating back to the Post Meroitic period through cemeteries either Christian Period the fortress pottery back to the period of the Classic Christian and another for the early Islamic period.

#### **7. Wad Nemeiri and the adjacent sites in the western bank of the Nile: Khandaq- Kankalab castles:**

There are three features can be applied to these areas, a physical planning where there are internal divisions of the houses that consist of the castle and then the huge cemetery that contains a number of diverse Christian and Muslim cemeteries and other non-specific, then the main castle or the governor's residence, the ruler of the region.

On the other hand, the study of these sites was based on topographic study and find out the relationship with the sites around them. Trade networks play an important role in this respect because they attract trade from different regions, despite an association with environmental and social considerations, where we find that some sites created due to technical or religious considerations, and represent some point before the big cities. civil and commercial importance of these two regions by estimations made by the population of the community on food consumption, which is evident from the heavy presence of tools for milling and Pots and pottery and evidence of ash and other leftovers like the bones of fish and animals,

as well as the use of landfills to estimate the population despite this evidence explains the random representation of the population as a whole. Most cemeteries may be used for a long time and represent accumulated population more than a representation of the number of residents who have lived in a particular time but we find a striking similarity in form and contents of the tombs and the direction of the burial, and so on, and these features match with these sites especially Khandaq site (Adam: 2010: 85). (Figure 5)

It appears that Wad Nemeiri had passed different periods. The castle was built in the pre-Christian period which is shown in the form, nature of the stone building and the widespread of archaeological materials such as bricks and burned pieces of pottery, beads private glazed pottery pieces which was famous in the Fatimid dynasty, which have a special relationship Nubia land since the agreement of (Bakhit). Large numbers of soldiers Nubians in Egypt they are still present since their arrival in accordance with the terms of the agreement (Bakhit). On the other hand in the overall shape of the strategic location overlooking the Nile confirms the administrative and commercial importance of the castle besides the internal components and Planning which includes a number of small housing units constructed in several stages in a coherent and accurate divisions between the residential units which confirms the managerial role and commercial large castle in this region that looks completely free of great Christian sites that stretch to the entrance of the third cataract area at the Akad site. (Figure 6)

As well as we find a widespread of Christian and Muslim cemeteries of all known types and unique landfills. Wd Nimeiri turned to an administrative Islamic centre in the reign of Fung when the castle was used as an administrative centre. The most important characteristic that conical domes exist in large numbers, which resemble the domes of the southern province of Fung. The presence of the Mamluks in the region who used the castle for a long time, it is the most important tombs of their presence at the top of the cemetery signs. It is a tombstone like what is in Kadmus and Wahaba Mountain in Mahas region (Adam: 2010:83).

Therefore, it is possible to say that Wad Nimeiri Castle represents an important centre on the west bank of the river Nile to the study of cultural continuity in Sudan.

Khandaq Castles shares some similarities with Wad Nimeiri neighboring one in terms of overall shape and perhaps the functional role and chronology which included internal divisions of this castle on the small rooms and residential units with a good immunization and advanced engineering design. The main castle and look through the general shape as defensive in nature where the court is located directly facing the Nile. It's also a dual nature of the ruling for the protection of the castle. As well as the case of trade protection in the area where the only center to receive and send the slave that bring across Darfur and Kordofan regions and sent to the other place in the Wd Nimeiri before they reach Egypt through various business control centres in the third waterfall area look set. (Figure 7)

It is also similar to some castles third Cataract area in Shufain and Marakol and that the use of stone in the style and method of construction allowing great opportunity to control the various aspects of the castle. They are almost built in one era and who may be in the era of unification of the two kingdoms in an era of prosperity. Whereas the location of these castles on the West Bank give an important indication of the Valleys in the West, the trade in the period Napata and Merowe relied on east of the River Nile. There appeared the importance of the West with the simultaneous locations with population movements witnessed by Nubia as well as various environmental determinants in the region (Ibid: 84).

The most likely that Khandaq has been playing this role of trade and private slave trade until the late periods of the mid-nineteenth century. It has been an important sea port in the period of the Turkish rule. There was a large group of those slaves so far who have been brought to Khandaq where there was a large market (El Fashir) for the sale of slaves and some other goods. Also, most slave traders in that period were from Dongles group who we do not ignore the presence of their historic links with this popular trade that require considerable knowledge and methods.

Also we find many of the additions of mud building that covered the north and south of the castle, which were the high walls of houses. Through the preliminary study of some of them it turned out to be traced back to the early Islamic periods where some historical sources and oral narratives have mentioned that in the region it was the seat of king Bashir one of Khandaq kings. Perhaps due to the reign of Fung or just before, the site was a private administrative centre of the kingdom in the northern extension has contained some outstanding residential components such as Danga<sup>1</sup>.

There are also many Christian cemeteries have been marked by the direction of the burial, which locally known as (Toaskiat- group burial), which spread widely in the region, and off course, the widespread confirms its dense presence of population in the region which has been an administrative and commercial center since the Christian period and until the late Islamic periods. It also continued as a center of the slave trade during the period of the late Turkish invasion. Perhaps the rationale in this continuity is the strategic location of the region, which represents the river port of good help in controlling the movement of River Nile and land movement as well as the absence of the River Nile rapids that impede the flow of traffic coming in and out of the region. As well as we find a wide spread of Islamic burials for a number of sheikhs who pointed to the arrival of novelties areas of Old Dongola, Sennar and Obied and other unknown landfills but some of these show that they are due to the early Islamic periods, also found some evidence of early Islamic represented in a mosque inside the tomb the mosque has a niche and a dividing line in the back its function is not well known. It might have been used for prayers for the deceased, as it was the case in the presence of platforms for sermon occasions in the graves in this region and other areas around (Adam:2010:93).

The nominal connotations in Khandaq have confirmed its Nubian roots such as Kaji, Mar and Shabatot and Qeila Qeila which means the Red Castle the misrepresentation of Qeila “qala'a” to be ‘castle’ Perhaps that name matches the shape of the castle during description

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<sup>1</sup> Danga is a huge mud building used for hospitality back to the Funj Kingdom in Sudan (1505 – 1821 AD)

by travelers in the early periods as having the same color as brown or red livery of the stones on the walls. This confirms a dense Nubian existence in those regions and in particular during the population movements' end of Merowe towards the River Nile.

The two castles of Wad Nimeiri and Khandaq represent the most important administrative and commercial centers during the Christian period and subsequent periods, especially the Islamic period Fung and Mamluks. Historical novels have agreed on the continuation of Fung for a longer period in the territory of Dongola who might have benefited from the administrative centre enjoyed especially Dr. Nimeiri which enjoys a strategic fortified location. Its importance stems from the fact of its location west of Old Dongola and thus represented a particular importance to these castles because of the intense mystic presence in this entire region (Ibid:95) (Figure 8).

#### **8. The importance of the region during the period of the medieval period:**

linked the region neighboring the country during this period and following periods across land roads through desert to Darfur, with West Africa and the Mediterranean and the other is the land up to the coasts of the Red Sea and heading across to the Chinese mainland north toward Egypt and the third way is through the river linking the Nubia in Egypt and other areas of Nubia.

The slave trade was very important during the medieval period and Wad Nimeiri overseeing this transit trade of harming the political and economic security, as we know the importance of the trade of the Makouria Kingdom which approved the castles along the route to the northern parts and then to Egypt.

#### **9. Conclusion:**

In the area which has helped further trade activities , particularly the strategic, Wad Nimeiri center which has played a vital role in the Management of this trade . The presence of Wad Nimeiri center with the adjacent centre in Khandaq have played important roles in the

movement of Nile trade which facilitated the ease of movement and communication between these centers, hence the ability to export commercial products outside the kingdom, particularly through the Nile, which helped greatly especially for transporting goods of large size. The geography of the region and the river Nile also provided security. Cultivation along the Nile strip with the presence of security was a base for economic growth, adding to this, the area was characterized by high population density in the eastern and western banks of the Nile and in its many scattered islands.

This high population density helped in supporting different economic activities like trade, agriculture and light industries. All these beneficial factors together have made the centre of Wad Nimeiri in the region a strategic international trade spot.

The very large site at Qasr Wad Nimieri is in need of more detailed study, this survey being the first step. Test pits are a necessity, while further investigation of documents and oral tradition might help to explain some of the features observed.

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