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BMAC, AHAR CULTURAL COMPLEX AND THE PROBLEM OF ARYANS

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The Bactria-Margiana Archaeological Complex (BMAC) is characterized by remarkable forts, religious structures, unique ceramic assemblage, copper objects, seals and stamps. The discovery of BMAC type material from quite a few Harappan sites indicates some kind of interaction between the two. The Ahar culture, which flourished between mid fourth millennium to mid second millennium BC in the Southern Rajasthan (Western India), is characterized by typical Black-and-Red Ware, mud, mud brick and stone structures and copper bronze artifacts. Over hundred sites of this cultural complex are known, out of which only four namely Ahar, Balathal, Gilund and Ojiana have been excavated. It appears that the Harappans had trade or cultural contacts with Ahar complex as the evidence of Harappan type pottery at Ahar culture sites and Ahar type pottery at some Harappan sites in Gujarat would indicate. Recent studies at Ahar culture sites e.g., Gilund, Balathal have yielded quite interesting evidence of seals similar to BMAC type. Therefore there is strong possibility of interaction between BMAC and Ahar cultural complex through the mighty Harappans. This paper therefore examines the archaeological data and problems of Aryans.