Urban Features of Canaanite Gaza: The Relationship between Canaanite Gaza and the cities of Greek Civilization (Cities of Aegean Sea Civilization)

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Abstract:

Gaza is the most deep–rooted Arab city in the history. Like many other Palestinian cities, Gaza had mutual influence with other civilizations. Similarly, Gaza architecture has been affected by different ancient periods. Urban and architectural elements of Canaanite Gaza have been very similar to that ones found in Greek civilization "cities of Aegean Sea civilization". In each period, Gaza urban structure has reflected the political social, cultural and historical changing features of the built environment starting from the Canaanite age through Pharaohs, Assyrian Babylonians, Persians and the Hellenic Civilization, then the Roman and Bezant civilization and at last the period of Islam. After that, Gaza came under the British mandate until 1948 when the division of Palestine into two states has been announced (1947-1948). Gaza Strip has been governed by Egypt until 1967. After that Gaza Strip has been occupied by Israel until the establishment of the Palestinian National Authority in 1994, as a result of Oslo Agreement (Oslo, the city where the agreement has been signed). This research aims at studying Gaza City from the urban and architectural point of view in order to highlight the historic value of the city and how the different civilizations influenced the structure of the City, taking into consideration the geographic location of Palestine (as a bridge between Asia & Africa continents) and as being the cradle of the three religions1 and the ancient civilizations. This can be achieved by applying the following outline

1The three religions are: Christianity, Judaism and Islam.