

# ANJAR

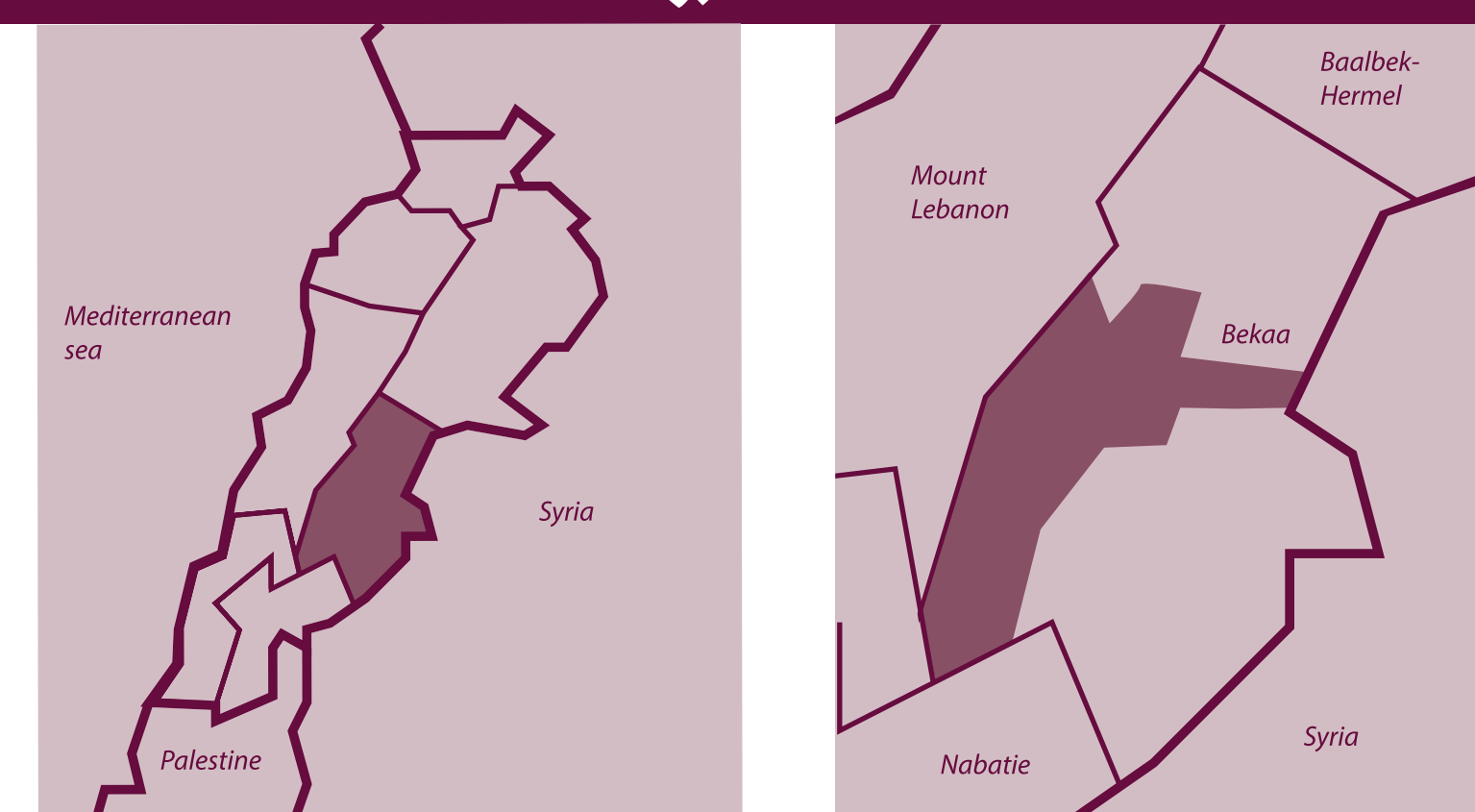
## THE PHOENICIANS' ROUTE

عندحر  
 مسار الفينيقيين

### INTRODUCTION

Located 58 Km east of Beirut, Anjar, a World Heritage Site, is the Umayyad city in Lebanon. It was constructed in the first half of the 8<sup>th</sup> century, along with many palatial cities that the Umayyads constructed in various places in Syria, Jordan, Palestine and Lebanon. The city plan is well preserved, and it attests to the clear Roman and Byzantine influence on Islamic city planning. Located in the imposing plain of the Beqaa, the modern village of Anjar is imbued with simplicity, a certain languor and an authentic rural tranquillity. Anjar was founded by Caliph Walid Ibn 'Abd Al-Malik around 705 A.D., although according to some other sources, the construction of the city is attributed to his son, Ibrahim.

In 1939, the village was inhabited by the Armenian families of Moussa Dagh, who fled the atrocities of the Turkish occupation and gave their neighbourhoods the names of their villages of origin. Beyond this remarkable Armenian presence in the region. Listed by UNESCO as World Heritage of Humanity, this city is a unique testimony to the urbanism of the Umayyad civilization and is the only remnant of this era in Lebanon.



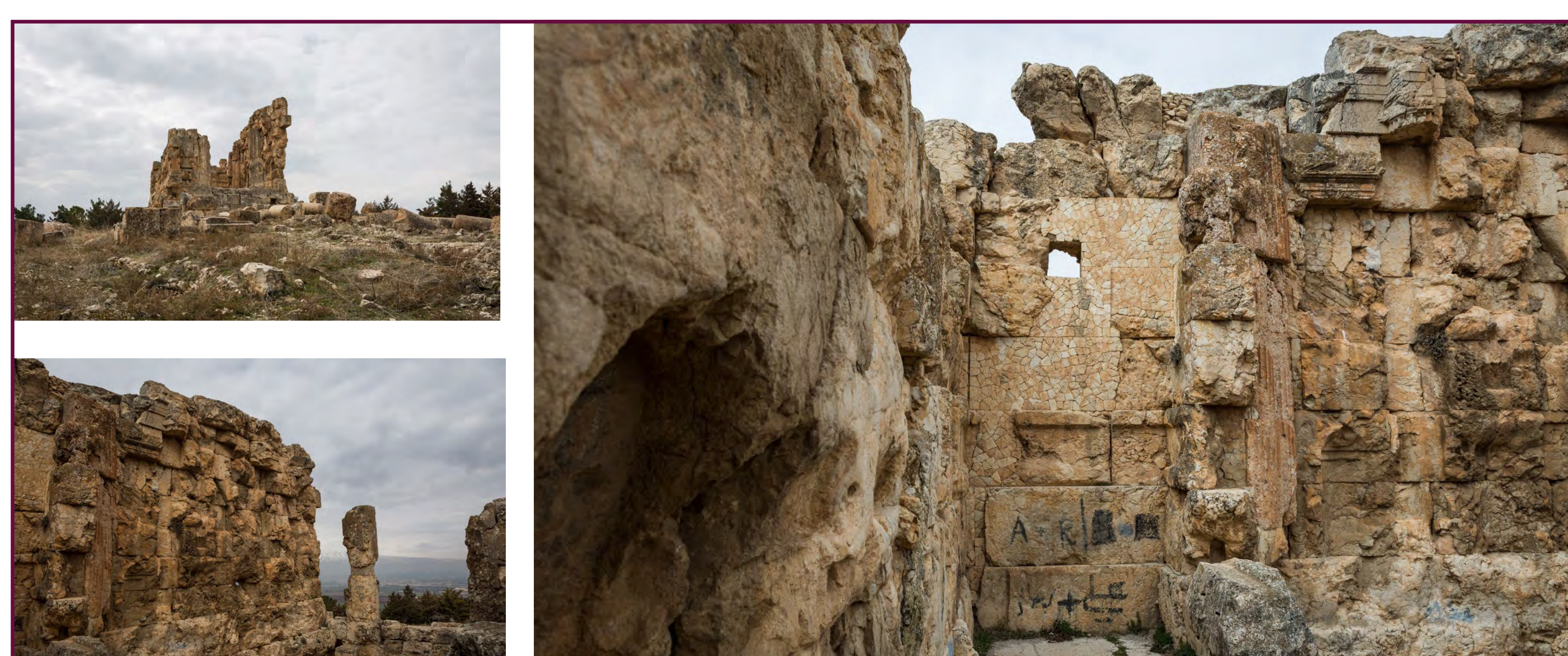
### HISTORICAL MAPPING



Scale 1/10000

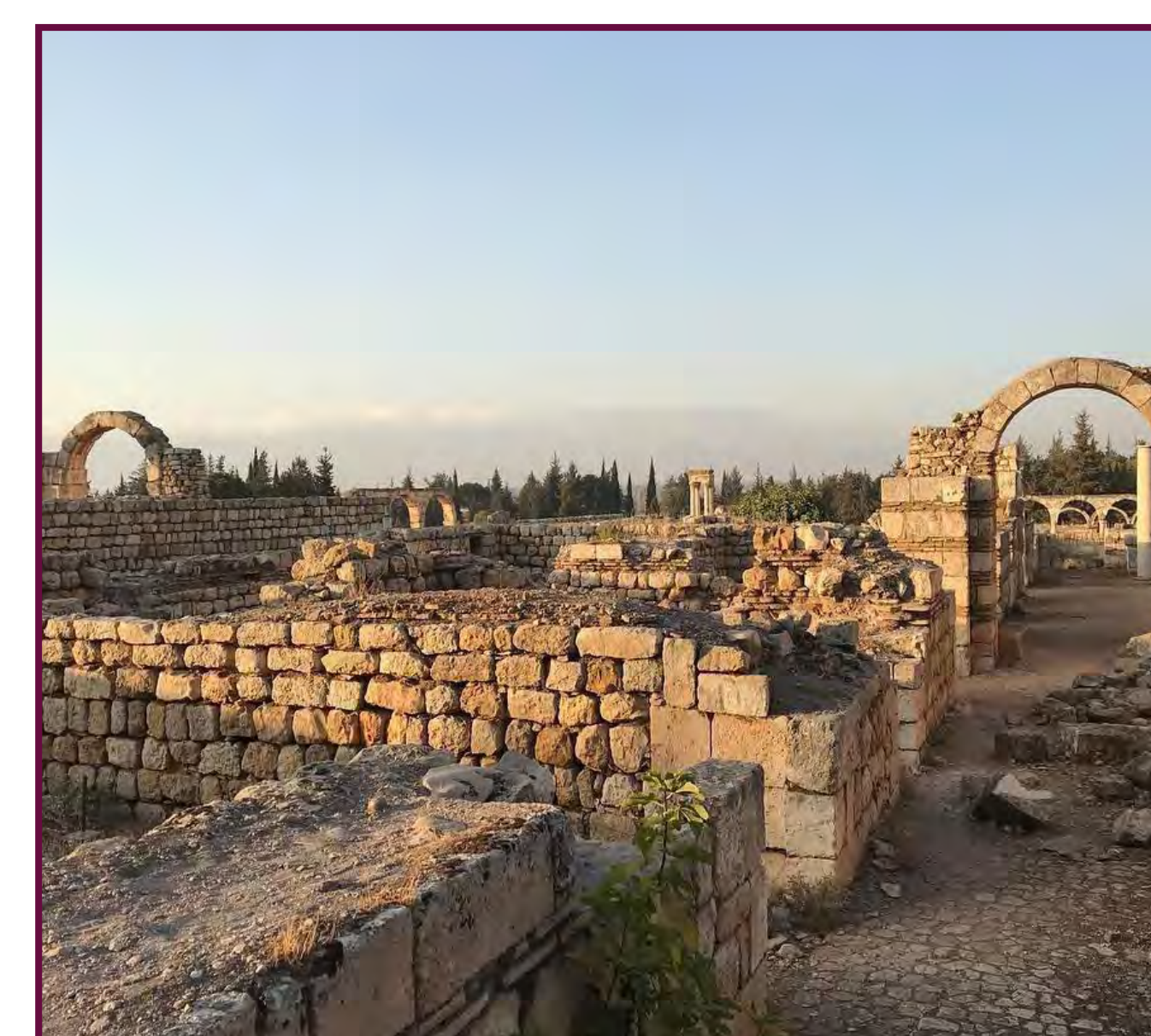
#### Legend

Phoenician - Greek - Roman - Byzantine - Umayyad Period 333 B.C. - 700 A.D.



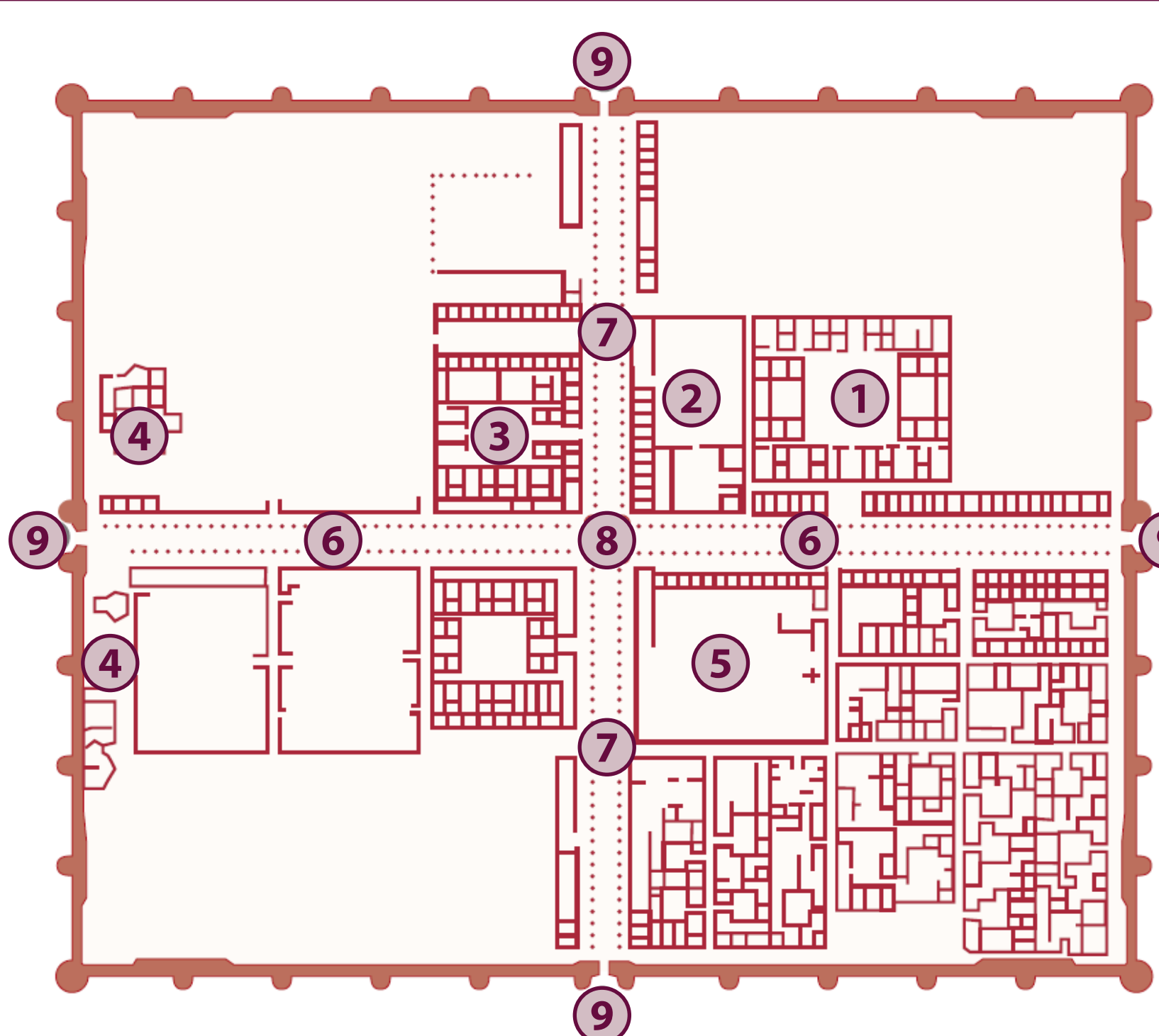
On the top of the hill, in the village Majdal Aanjar, lay the remains of a Roman Period temple including the altar walls and the surrounding site, the remains of columns and their scattered capitals. In the 7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> centuries, the site was transformed into a castle.

Qalaat El-Hosn



Ruins of the Umayyad City of Anjar

### ARCHAEOLOGICAL FINDINGS OF THE UMAYYAD CITY



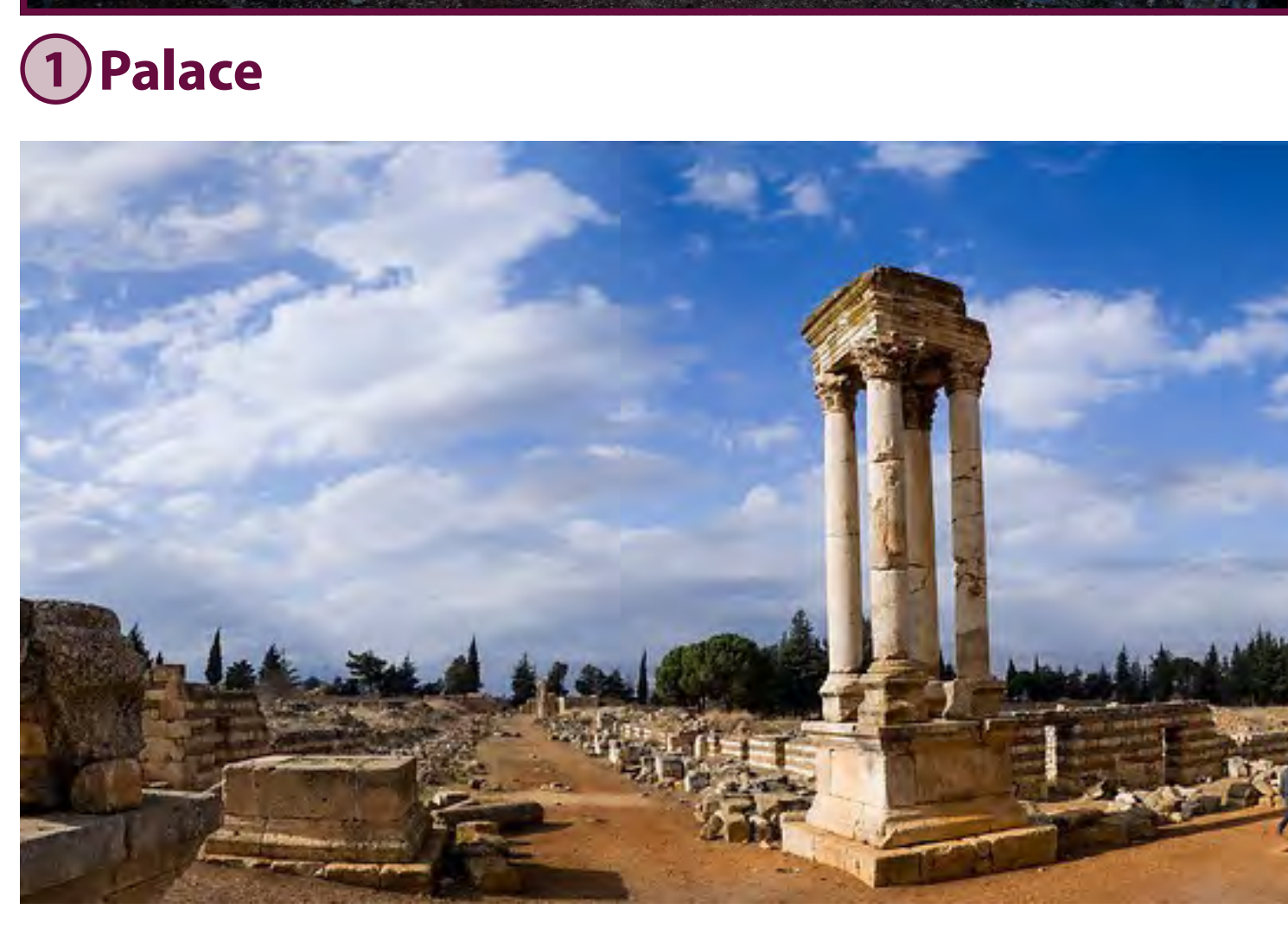
Anjar Site Plan

- 1 Palace
- 2 Mosque
- 3 Second Palace
- 4 Public Baths and Mosque
- 5 Residential Area
- 6 Kardus Maximus
- 7 Decumanus Maximus
- 8 Tetrastyle
- 9 Fortifications

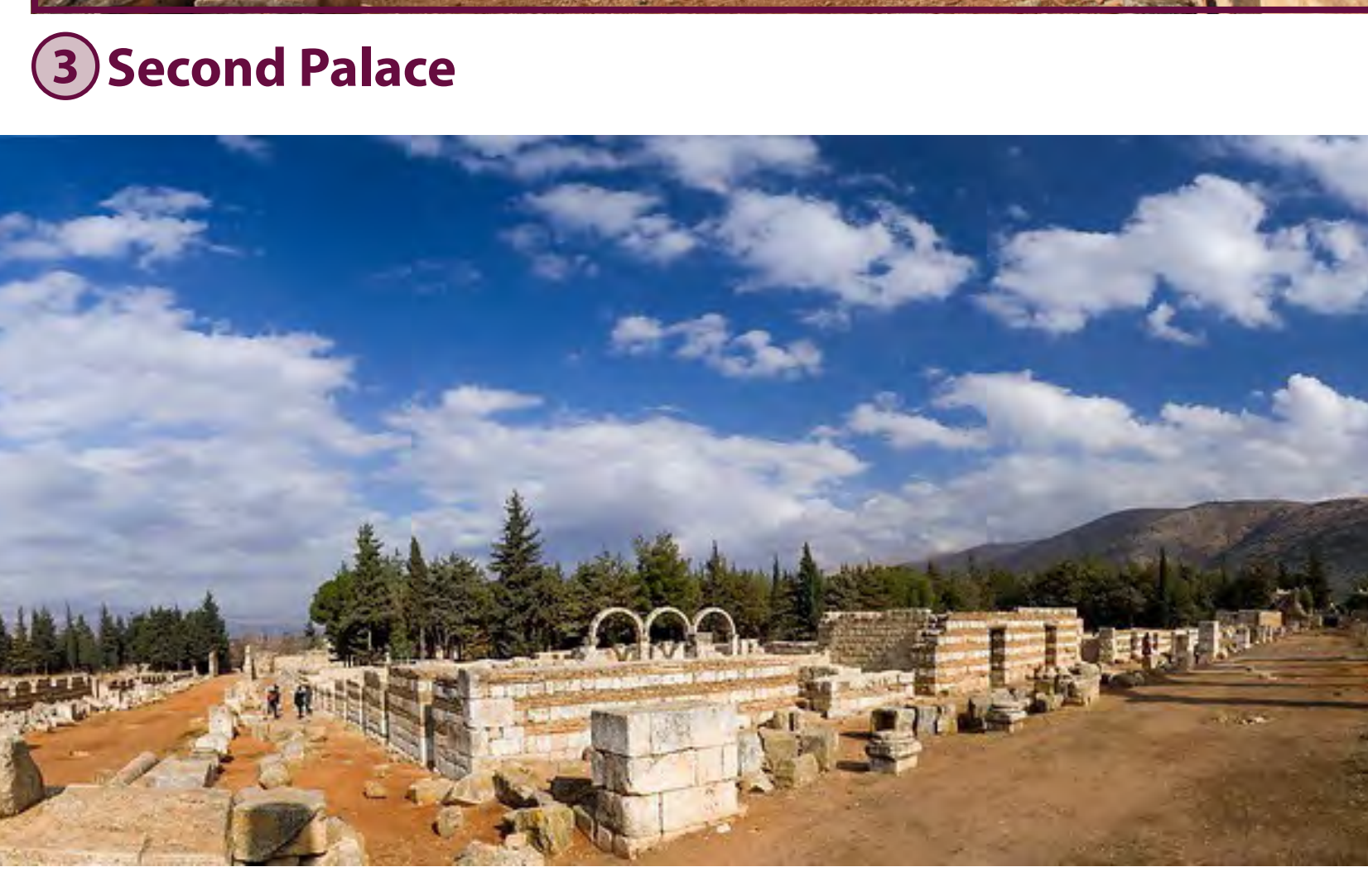
Excavations revealed a fortified city (385 x 350 m) surrounded by walls and flanked by forty towers. Dominated by gates flanked by porticos, an important north-south axis and a lesser east-west axis, superposed above the main collectors for sewers, divide the city into four equal quadrants. Public and private buildings are laid out according to a strict plan: the great palace of the Caliph and the mosque in the south-east quarter occupies the highest part of the site, while the small palaces and the baths are located in the north-east quarter to facilitate the functioning and evacuation of waste waters.

Secondary functions and living quarters are distributed in the north-west and south-west quarters.

The ruins are dominated by spectacular vestiges of a monumental Tetrastyle, as well as by the walls and colonnades of the Umayyad palace, three levels of which have been preserved. These structures incorporate decorative or architectural elements of the Roman era.



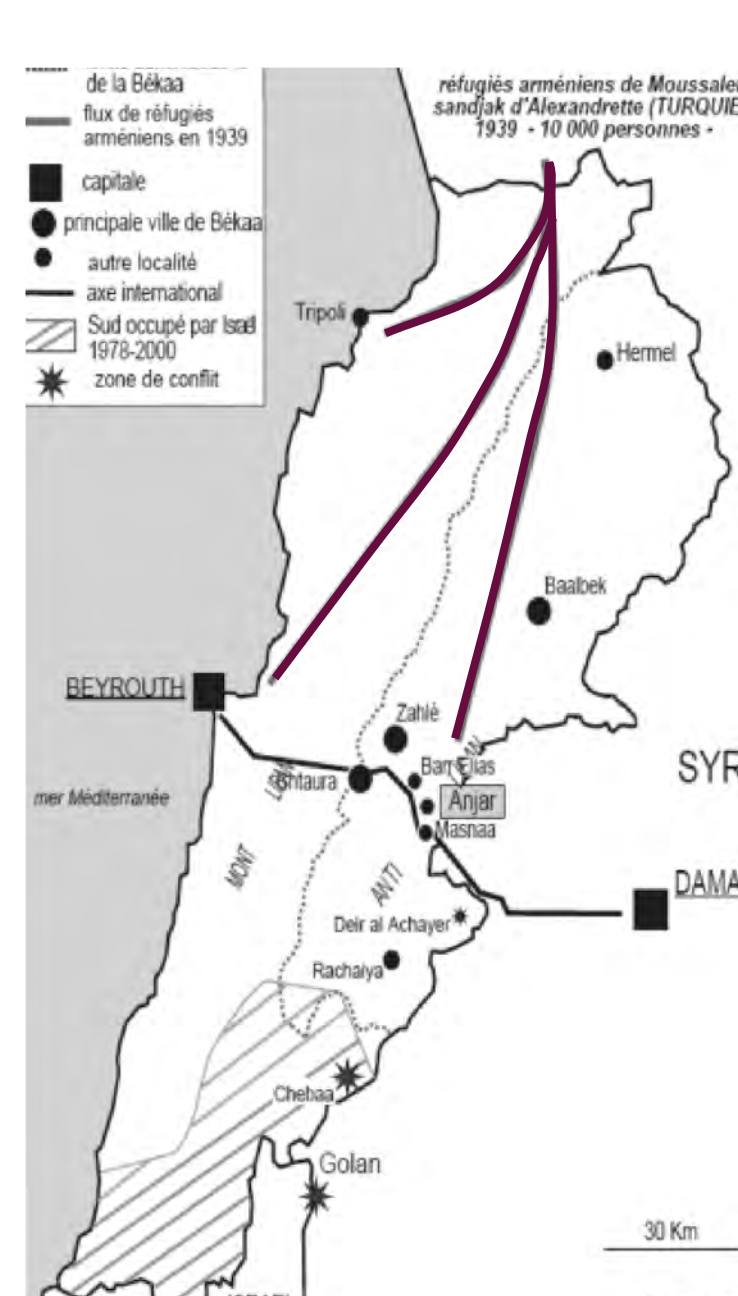
1 Palace



3 Second Palace

6 Kardus Maximus

### CHRONOLOGY OF MAIN EVENTS

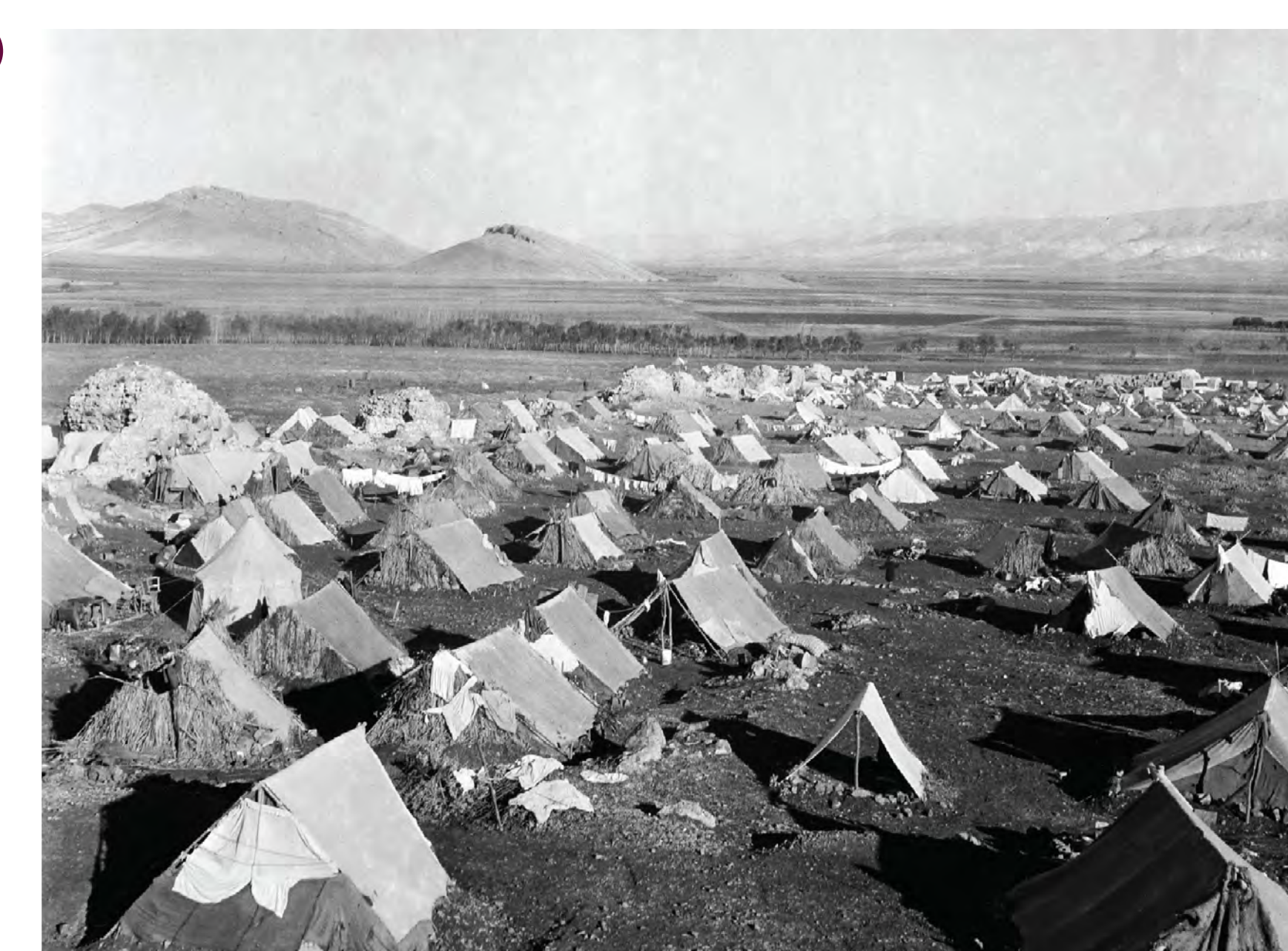


#### 705 A.D. - Founding of Anjar

Anjar was founded during the Umayyad period under Caliph Walid Ibn 'Abd Al-Malik. The site was chosen due to its strategic position between two major routes (from Beirut to Damascus and location as a crossroad through the Beqaa Valley to Homs). It was a major trading city as it was situated between the north-south and east-west trade routes of the Arabian Peninsula.

#### 8<sup>th</sup> Century B.C. - Greco Roman Period

Traces of Roman and Greek presence in and around the area of Anjar such as the Roman ruins of Majdal Anjar.



#### 715 A.D. - Prosperity of Anjar

Caliph Walid Ibn 'Abd Al-Malik dies, the construction process is halted but the city prospers for years under his son Caliph Ibrahim. At its peak, Anjar housed more than market arcades separated by columns in the typical Roman style as well as bath houses, two palaces, and a mosque.

#### 744 A.D. - Abandonment of Anjar

The Abbasid Caliphate defeats Caliph Ibrahim and over-runs the city. After the devastating raid, the city was abandoned and fell into disuse.

#### 1949 A.D. - Discovery of Excavations of Ruins

As the Armenians began constructing their village, ruins were discovered and excavations were initiated.



#### 1939 A.D. - Arrival of Armenian Refugees

Arrival of the Armenian refugees from Musa Dagh, Turkey, with the help of the French. The refugees set up a camp on top of the ruins which was buried beneath a hill. They were the first settlers since the abandonment of the ancient city.

#### 1984 A.D. - Recognition of The Umayyad Ruins of Anjar as a Unesco World Heritage Site

### EVALUATION OF THE ARCHAEOLOGICAL SITES AND HISTORICAL BUILDINGS

Thus far, most of Anjar has been excavated with some restoration initiatives, including one of the Tetrastyles, and the southern half of the great palace. However, continuing excavation is necessary to uncover the vast remains of a substantial residential section to the southwest of the site.

Protection of the archaeological vestiges is ensured through regular maintenance (weeding and consolidation of the structures). A management plan is under preparation. The expropriation of parcels of land adjacent to the archaeological site is ongoing to counter urban development and provide a double band of protection for the site.

