

THE LANDSCAPE AS A FRAME - HOUSE AND GRAVE AS MANIFEST. Bohuslän between 1 000 BC to 1500 AD.

ABSTRACT

This thesis has two main subjects. The first is to discuss the existence of centre, semiperiphery and periphery areas in two areas within Bohuslän, in Västra Götalands Län. The second subject is to discuss why there was a need to create manifest in the landscape.

Therefore in the first two chapters I started with a minor discussion about the definition of landscape and a general description of the landscape in Bohuslän as a whole and within my two areas of study (Kville/Tanum and Stenungsund).

In the following three chapters I discussed what centre and periphery are and also introduced the term semiperiphery, which means "areas that are potential centre areas", in contrast to periphery that stands for areas that never will become a centre. As the title indicates I believe that the landscape can be a small or large obstacle in the process of creating a human society. The natural settings will always be a barrier or advantage in subsistence strategy and in communication. In order to get people to work towards the same goal and make the subsistence strategy to function, there is always a need of a common history. History is the cement that will hold a society together. I have placed all kind of social and physical structure within that group of tools that I call *exosomatiska redskap* (*external tools*). This can be divided in *mental external tools*, which for an example contains different structures as religion and ritual. It also contains *physical external tools* as for an example a spade, a motorway and a spear. I discuss further what society and different regions are, down to the smallest part which is the household.

In chapter 6 to 10 I present my material (graves, settlements and stray finds) and its background and in chapter 11 I discuss the medieval material (churches, stray finds and names) that are in hand for this study. After this presentation the two following chapters give both local and regional interpretations of the total material that has been used. The last chapter is a conclusion of the discussion that has been presented in this book.

The result of this study is that in the two main areas that I have been studying there is only one area that matches my criteria's of a centre area and that is the area of Tanum. The area of Kville seems to have been close to become a centre for a larger area, but something seems to have been an obstacle. Lastly the Stenungsund area has nothing that looks like a centre area in the same way as Tanum. The big differences are that Tanum has a larger area of larger plains around its centre area, and it has and old communication route through its centre area. These two factors are missing in the other areas. Bohuslän was a divided area during the period that this study embraced. This is because the county of Bohuslän is divided into something between 11 and 16 different districts.

Keywords: Centre, semiperiphery, periphery, exosomatic tools, late bronze age, Iron age, medieval, society, "folkland", district, settlement, grave, house, household, history, reused.