

West Asia

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This review focuses on the various research activities on West Asian archaeology conducted by Japanese researchers during FY 2016–2019. Despite the deteriorating situation in the field in west Asia in the latter half of the 2010s, field surveys by Japanese researchers remained active. It is noteworthy that new archaeological surveys have started in the Persian Gulf, Kurdistan, and Southern Caucasus, areas that were not previously surveyed by Japanese researchers. In Japan, many symposiums and workshops related to West Asian archaeology were held and many proceedings on them were published. As concerns journal papers, many of the papers were based on original data from field surveys by Japanese expeditions. As described above, the activities related to archaeology in Western Asia by Japanese researchers during FY 2016–2019 were extremely active and diverse. On the other hand, the political situation in West Asia is still unstable, and there are also concerns about the 2020 Corona virus disaster, which will prompt the resumption of archaeological surveys in West Asia. Despite this uncertainty, many Japanese researchers will continue their efforts to conduct field surveys and research.

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