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# From Stone to Metal: Dynamics of Technological Change in the Southern Levant (5th-1st millennia BCE)

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## Résumé

The shift from stone to metal has always been seen as one of the main technological transitions in the history of mankind, especially in the Near East where technological progress has been seen as an indicator of the rise of civilization. In this scenario, the development of metallurgy was more attractive than lithic technology, which for a long time was neglected. However, although the first metal objects appear during the Chalcolithic, flint tools continued to be produced and used through the Bronze Age and the beginning of the Iron Age. The coexistence of these two large scale technologies for more than three millennia represents a complex phenomenon, which can be analysed from different perspectives recognizing the various factors in the history of technology, and the trajectories and the rhythms of technological change: 1. the specific evolutionary path of the objects, technologies and techniques and 2. the socio-historical contingencies which explain the success or failure of a technique. Using a technological approach, the comparison between the chipped-stone productions of the metal ages and their contemporaneous metal tools allows us to observe which dynamics, mechanisms and modalities explain the disappearance of flint industries in terms of their relationship with the development of the metallurgy.

**Mots-Clés:** Lithic technology, Metals, Southern Levant, Chalcolithic, Bronze Age, Technological Evolution

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