

I N D I V I D U A L R E S E A R C H

MICHAEL B. ROWTON is working on a research project entitled "Sociopolitical Power in the History of Western Asia." The focus is primarily on the relation between social structure and power, particularly social structure changing under the impact of political power. As the anthropologist E. R. Leach has said: "I hold that social structure in practical situations (as contrasted with the sociologist's abstract model) consists of a set of ideas about the distribution of power

S C H O L A R S H I P

between persons and groups of persons." Theory will be avoided. The objective throughout will be formulation of a problem—this in the hope of making future research somewhat easier. As more evidence becomes available, it should be easier to make the best use of it if the main problems have been identified. Publication will require two monographs, the first of which is nearing completion: *The Periphery: Tribe and Nomad in the History of Western Asia, ca. 2000 B.C.–1914 A.D.* (roughly 100,000 words); and *Road to Empire: Structure, Transformation, and Evolution in the Socio-Political History of Ancient Western Asia, ca. 2400–745 B.C.*