PART IV

DIALOGUE OF TEXT AND ARTEFACT
CHAPTER SEVEN

JOSHUA 9:1–13:7 AS HISTORIOGRAPHY

7.1 Joshua 9:1–13:7 and History

The textual analysis of Joshua 9:1–13:7 revealed that these chapters can be viewed as a piece of ancient Hebrew historiography that was composed in Judah between the late 10th and the early 8th century BCE with help of Late Bronze memories (Chapter 5). In addition, the artefactual analysis of the archaeological remains of the cities mentioned in this textual unit and of some non-biblical texts showed how the Cisjordanian Southern Levant developed during the Late Bronze and Iron Ages (Chapter 6). Now the time has come to create an interdisciplinary dialogue between the results of these ‘textual’ and ‘artefactual’ monologues. First, Joshua 9:1–13:7 is viewed against the background of history (section 7.1). Thereafter, the main question of this study can be answered in describing the relation between ideology and antiquarian intent in this part of Israel’s historiography of the settlement in Canaan (section 7.2).

From History to Historiography

The dialogue between the results of the monologue of text and the monologue of artefact starts at the side of history as reconstructed with help of artefacts and socio-archaeological theories. Does the social and political transformation of the Southern Levant between the 14th and the 8th century BCE fit the idea of a Late Bronze conquest of the region as reflected in a historiographical composition from the early first millennium? In answering this question, two methodological problems occur. The first has to do with the identification of ancient sites and regions in the landscape with biblical names of cities and areas. This identification is partly based on the assumption that the Book of Joshua contains valuable information with regard to the geographical outlook of the Southern Levant. The geographical excursus in Chapter 3 have confirmed this presupposition. Other texts, including non-biblical, also played an important role in defining the diverse geographical