

Cambridge University Press

978-0-521-10509-5 - Ranking, Resource and Exchange: Aspects of the Archaeology of Early European Society

Edited by Colin Renfrew and Stephen Shennan

Frontmatter

[More information](#)

NEW DIRECTIONS IN ARCHAEOLOGY

Editors

Richard Bradley

Lecturer in Archaeology, University of Reading

Timothy Earle

Associate Professor, Department of Anthropology, University of California, Los Angeles

Ian Hodder

Lecturer in Archaeology, University of Cambridge

Glyn Isaac

Professor of Anthropology, University of California, Berkeley

Colin Renfrew

Disney Professor of Archaeology, University of Cambridge

Jeremy Sabloff

Professor of Anthropology, University of New Mexico

Andrew Sherratt

Assistant Keeper, Department of Antiquities, Ashmolean Museum, Oxford

Martin Wobst

Associate Professor, Department of Anthropology, University of Massachusetts, Amherst

RANKING, RESOURCE
AND EXCHANGE

Cambridge University Press

978-0-521-10509-5 - Ranking, Resource and Exchange: Aspects of the Archaeology of Early European Society

Edited by Colin Renfrew and Stephen Shennan

Frontmatter

[More information](#)

**RANKING, RESOURCE
AND EXCHANGE**

ASPECTS OF THE ARCHAEOLOGY OF
EARLY EUROPEAN SOCIETY

EDITED BY COLIN RENFREW
AND
STEPHEN SHENNAN

CAMBRIDGE UNIVERSITY PRESS
CAMBRIDGE
LONDON NEW YORK NEW ROCHELLE
MELBOURNE SYDNEY

Cambridge University Press

978-0-521-10509-5 - Ranking, Resource and Exchange: Aspects of the Archaeology of Early European Society

Edited by Colin Renfrew and Stephen Shennan

Frontmatter

[More information](#)

CAMBRIDGE UNIVERSITY PRESS

Cambridge, New York, Melbourne, Madrid, Cape Town, Singapore, São Paulo, Delhi

Cambridge University Press

The Edinburgh Building, Cambridge CB2 8RU, UK

Published in the United States of America by Cambridge University Press, New York

www.cambridge.org

Information on this title: www.cambridge.org/9780521105095

© Cambridge University Press 1982

This publication is in copyright. Subject to statutory exception and to the provisions of relevant collective licensing agreements, no reproduction of any part may take place without the written permission of Cambridge University Press.

First published 1982

This digitally printed version 2009

A catalogue record for this publication is available from the British Library

Library of Congress Catalogue Card Number: 81-21611

ISBN 978-0-521-24282-0 hardback

ISBN 978-0-521-10509-5 paperback

Cambridge University Press

978-0-521-10509-5 - Ranking, Resource and Exchange: Aspects of the Archaeology of Early European Society

Edited by Colin Renfrew and Stephen Shennan

Frontmatter

[More information](#)

CONTENTS

*To the memory of
David L. Clarke*

- List of contributors vi Preface vii*
- 1 Socio-economic change in ranked societies
Colin Renfrew 1
- I The emergence of hierarchical structure 9**
- 2 Mobile resources: settlement and exchange in early agricultural Europe
Andrew Sherratt 13
- 3 From minimal to moderate ranking
Susan Shennan 27
- 4 Exchange and ranking: the role of amber in the earlier bronze age of Europe
Stephen Shennan 33
- 5 Autonomy, ranking and resources in Iberian prehistory
Robert Chapman 46
- 6 Social boundaries and land boundaries
Andrew Fleming 52
- II The development of salient ranking 57**
- 7 Fortification, ranking and subsistence
Timothy Champion 61
- 8 Exchange and ranking: the case of coral
Sara Champion 67
- 9 Gradual growth and sudden change – urbanisation in temperate Europe
John Collis 73

- 10 Wealth, prestige and power: the dynamics of late iron age political centralisation in south-east England
Colin Haselgrove 79

III The resource base of early state societies: the Aegean 89

- 11 A friend in need is a friend indeed: social storage and the origins of social ranking
Paul Halstead and John O'Shea 92
- 12 Leadership and 'surplus' production
Clive Gamble 100
- 13 Settlement patterns, land tenure and social structure: a diachronic model
John Bintliff 106

IV Post-collapse resurgence: culture process in the Dark Ages 113

- 14 The evolution of gateway communities: their socio-economic implications
Richard Hodges 117
- 15 Stress as a stimulus for socio-economic change: Anglo-Saxon England in the seventh century
C.J. Arnold 124
- 16 Rank, rights and resources: an archaeological perspective from Denmark
Klavs Randsborg 132

V Discussion: contrasting paradigms 141

- 17 Materialism and socio-economic process in multilinear evolution
John Gledhill and M.J. Rowlands 144
- 18 The identification and interpretation of ranking in prehistory: a contextual perspective
Ian Hodder 150
- 19 Comments on 'Explanation'
Robert Whallon 155

VI Epilogue 159

- 20 Meaning, inference and the material record
Lewis R. Binford 160
- Index* 164

CONTRIBUTORS

- C.J. Arnold, Department of Archaeology, University of Leeds.
Lewis R. Binford, Department of Anthropology, University of New Mexico, Albuquerque, New Mexico, USA.
John Bintliff, Undergraduate School of Archaeological Sciences, University of Bradford.
Sara Champion, Department of Archaeology, University of Southampton.
Timothy Champion, Department of Archaeology, University of Southampton.
Robert Chapman, Department of Archaeology, University of Reading.
John Collis, Department of Prehistory and Archaeology, University of Sheffield.
Andrew Fleming, Department of Prehistory and Archaeology, University of Sheffield.
Clive Gamble, Department of Archaeology, University of Southampton.
J. Gledhill, Department of Anthropology, University College, London.
Paul Halstead, Department of Archaeology, University of Cambridge.
Colin Haselgrove, Department of Archaeology, University of Durham.
Ian Hodder, Department of Archaeology, University of Cambridge.
Richard Hodges, Department of Prehistory and Archaeology, University of Sheffield.
John O'Shea, Department of Anthropology, University of Iowa, Iowa City, Iowa, USA.
Klavs Randsborg, Forshistorisk-Arkaeologisk Institut, University of Copenhagen, Denmark.
Colin Renfrew, Department of Archaeology, University of Cambridge.
M.J. Rowlands, Department of Anthropology, University College, London.
Stephen Shennan, Department of Archaeology, University of Southampton.

Cambridge University Press

978-0-521-10509-5 - Ranking, Resource and Exchange: Aspects of the Archaeology of Early European Society

Edited by Colin Renfrew and Stephen Shennan

Frontmatter

[More information](#)

vii

Susan Shennan, Department of Archaeology, University of Southampton.

Andrew Sherratt, Department of Antiquities, Ashmolean Museum, Oxford.

Robert Whallon, Department of Anthropology, University of Michigan, Ann Arbor, Michigan, USA.

PREFACE

Over the past fifteen years several processual studies in the field of European archaeology have appeared. It is noteworthy however that this is the first substantial volume taking such an approach which has set out to make Europe the primary focus of all its contributions, and to embrace the long time range from the period of the first farmers up to the Middle Ages. There is a tendency, both in the United States and in Europe, to regard processual archaeology as a purely American invention – a view which offers a source of chauvinistic self-congratulation to some, and a reason for ignoring it to others. In fact Europe has enjoyed a long tradition of ecologically based studies which has been especially strong in Scandinavia, the Netherlands and Britain. Many of the elements of contemporary processual archaeology can be recognised already in the writings of O.G.S. Crawford and Gordon Childe in the 1920s, and in the subsequent development of the ecological approach. A distinctive European tradition of ‘new archaeology’ has run parallel with that in the United States from the start, most strongly in those same three regions.

The rich archaeological data from early Europe indeed offer potential insights into the workings of culture process whose interest and relevance extend far beyond Europe. It was in this belief that a symposium, focussing on the European material and entitled ‘Socio-economic change in ranked societies’, was offered to the Society for American

Cambridge University Press

978-0-521-10509-5 - Ranking, Resource and Exchange: Aspects of the Archaeology of Early European Society

Edited by Colin Renfrew and Stephen Shennan

Frontmatter

[More information](#)

Preface

viii

Archaeology, for its 45th Annual Meeting at Philadelphia. Some twenty participants crossed the Atlantic to take part in the all-day symposium, held on 1 May 1980.

The occasion proved a fruitful one, both in exposing the participants to Americanist archaeology, and in reminding the Americanists that the practice of processual archaeology is not restricted to those residing in the New World. It was decided to put together a volume, based on the theme of the symposium, with papers revised in the light of the discussions which took place both then and subsequently on much less formal occasions. All the speakers at the symposium, with the exception of Graeme Barker and Richard Bradley (whose papers were already committed for publication elsewhere) have contributed.

Robert K. Evans and Patricia Phillips respectively acted with Colin Renfrew as Chairman for the morning and afternoon sessions. Ian Hodder and Robert Whallon were discussants for the morning session and Ruth Tringham and Lewis Binford in the afternoon.

We hope that the studies presented in this volume will demonstrate to the American audience that there is indeed a distinctive European processual approach, perhaps rather more catholic in its outlook than the transatlantic version; and to the serried ranks of European traditionalists that processual archaeology can no longer be ignored.