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978-0-521-86231-8 - Cambridge World Archaeology: The Archaeology of Prehistoric Arabia: Adaptation and Social Formation from the Neolithic to the Iron Age

Peter Magee

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## THE ARCHAEOLOGY OF PREHISTORIC ARABIA

Encompassing a land mass greater than the rest of the Near East and eastern Mediterranean combined, the Arabian Peninsula remains one of the last great unexplored regions of the ancient world. This book provides the first extensive coverage of the archaeology of this region from c. 9000 to 800 BC.

Peter Magee argues that a unique social system, which relied on social cohesion and actively resisted the hierarchical structures of adjacent states, emerged during the Neolithic and continued to contour society for millennia. He also shows how the historical context in which Near Eastern archaeology was codified has led to a skewed understanding of the multiplicity of lifeways pursued by ancient peoples throughout the Middle East.

Peter Magee is Professor of Near Eastern Archaeology at Bryn Mawr College. He has excavated widely in the Middle East and South Asia, most notably in the United Arab Emirates at the sites of Muweilah and Tell Abraq, since 1994. He also co-directed the excavations at Akra in northwestern Pakistan from 1997 to 2001. He has published extensively on the archaeology of Arabia, Iran and South Asia. He is the author of *Excavations at Tepe Yahya, Iran, 1967–1975: The Iron Age Settlement* (2004).

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PETER MAGEE

*Bryn Mawr College*



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Throughout the text, I have used BC to indicate ‘before Christ’ in calendric terms, and all calibrated  $^{14}\text{C}$  dates have been converted to BC using the latest agreed-upon international calibration curve and CALIB 6.1. It is accepted that this calendric system and system of notation may not be the most appropriate for discussing pre-Islamic Arabia, where the threshold of BC to AD (or BCE to CE) has so little relevance, but its use facilitates comparison with similarly dated cultures throughout the Middle East.