

THE ARCHAEOLOGY OF THE NORTH AMERICAN GREAT PLAINS

In this volume, Douglas B. Bamforth offers an archaeological overview of the Great Plains, the vast, open grassland bordered by forests and mountain ranges situated in the heart of North America. Synthesizing a century of scholarship and new archaeological evidence, he focuses on changes in resource use, continental trade connections, social formations, and warfare over a period of 15,000 years. Bamforth investigates how foragers harvested the grasslands more intensively over time, ultimately turning to maize farming, and examines the persistence of industrial mobile bison hunters in much of the region as farmers lived in communities ranging from hamlets to towns with thousands of occupants. He also explores how social groups formed and changed, migrations of peoples in and out of the Plains, and the conflicts that occurred over time and space. Significantly, Bamforth's volume demonstrates how archaeology can be used as the basis for telling long-term, problem-oriented human history.

Douglas B. Bamforth has worked on the Great Plains for forty years, challenging stereotypes about Paleoindians and exploring neglected aspects of recent maize farmers. Previous books include *The Allen Site: A Paleoindian Camp in Southwestern Nebraska* (2007) and *Archaeological Perspectives on Warfare on the Great Plains* (2018).

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THE ARCHAEOLOGY OF THE
NORTH AMERICAN GREAT
PLAINS

DOUGLAS B. BAMFORTH

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In memory of Stan Ahler (1943–2007) and Donna Roper (1947–2015),
who left us too soon.

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