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ANCIENT AND PRE-MODERN ECONOMIES OF THE NORTH AMERICAN PACIFIC NORTHWEST

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Ancient and Pre-modern Economies of the North American Pacific Northwest

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Abstract: This Element provides an overview of pre-modern and ancient economies of the Pacific Northwest region of North America. The region is widely known for its densely occupied semisedentary villages, intensive production economies, dramatic ritual life, and complex social relations. Scholars recognize significant diversity in the structure of subsistence and goods production in the service of domestic groups and institutional entities throughout the region. Here, domestic and institutional economies, specialization, distribution, economic development, and future directions are reviewed. The Element closes with thoughts on the processes of socio-economic change on the scales of houses, villages, and regional strategies.

Keywords: Pacific Northwest region, ancient and pre-modern economies, food producers, potlatch, cultural evolution

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Contents

1 Introduction and Historical Background	1
2 Domestic Economy	6
3 Institutional Economy	26
4 Specialization	38
5 Distribution	45
6 Economic Development	55
7 Future Directions	68
References	71