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NORDIC BRONZE AGE ECONOMIES

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Nordic Bronze Age Economies

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Abstract: In this Element, we provide a multiscalar synthesis of Nordic Bronze Age economies (1800/1700–500 BCE) that is organized around six sections: an introduction to the Nordic Bronze Age, macroeconomic perspectives, defining local communities, economic interaction, conflict and alliances, political formations, and encountering Europe. Despite a unifying material culture, the Bronze Age of Scandinavia was complex and multilayered with constantly shifting and changing networks of competitors and partners. The social structure in this highly mobile and dynamic macro-regional setting was affected by subsistence economies based on agropastoralism, maritime sectors, the production of elaborate metal wealth, trade in a wide range of goods, as well as raiding and warfare. For this reason, the focus of this Element is on the integration and interaction of subsistence and political economies in a comparative analysis between different local constellations within the macroeconomic setting of prehistoric Europe. This title is also available as open access on Cambridge Core.

Keywords: Nordic Bronze Age, economy, Southern Scandinavia, local communities, interaction

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