

THE BLACK SEA AND THE EARLY CIVILIZATIONS OF EUROPE, THE NEAR EAST AND ASIA

The Black Sea lies at the junction of three major cultural areas: Europe, central Asia and the Near East. It plays a crucial role in enduring discussions about the impact of complex Near Eastern societies on European societies, and the repercussions of early urbanisation across Eurasia. This book presents the first comprehensive overview of the Black Sea region in the prehistoric period. It penetrates artificial boundaries imposed by traditions, politics and language to encompass both the European and Asiatic coasts and both Eastern European and Western scholarly literature. With a critical compilation and synthesis of archaeological data, this study situates the prehistoric Black Sea in a global historical context. By adopting the perspective of technology and innovation, it transcends a purely descriptive account of material culture and emphasises society, human interaction and engagement with the material world.

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“Artists – as also artisans – are itinerant wayfarers. They make their way through the taskscape, as do walkers through the landscape, bringing forth their work as they press on with their own lives. It is in this very forward movement that the creativity of the work is to be found,” wrote Tim Ingold in his essay “The Textility of Making”. In my own experience, this view also applies perfectly well to scholarly work. The writing of this book was a journey both figuratively and literally. At the Institute of Prehistoric and Near Eastern Archaeology in Heidelberg I had the unique privilege to follow unrestrained all paths opened by my curiosity. I am indebted to the German Research Council (DFG) for a research fellowship that allowed me to commit to research without the restrictions of administrative and teaching duties and to Professor Joseph Maran for his continuous support and encouragement at all stages of research and writing. In its initial stage, the present study was stimulated by a six-month-long untroubled and inspiring journey in Eastern Europe and in the Middle East enabled by a *Reisestipendium* of the German Archaeological Institute (DAI). The book would never have been completed had it not been for the one-year scholarship with which the DAI supported the writing of the manuscript.

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A Note on Transliteration and Spelling of Cyrillic Names

In the present study personal and geographic names have been transliterated from Cyrillic to Roman alphabet in the following way:

а	а	кс	х	х	kh
б	б	л	л	ц	ts
в	в	м	м	ч	ch
г	г	н	н	ш	sh
д	д	о	о	щ	shch
е	е	п	р	ъ	u
ж	zh	р	г	ь	omitted
з	z	с	с	ы	y
и	и	т	т	э	e
й	j	у	у	ю	ju
к	к	ф	ф	я	ja

Inconsistencies in transliteration were not wholly avoidable. Exceptions were made for well-established and widespread forms, for example Maikop (and not Majkop) or Azerbaijan (and not Azerbajdzhan). Also, the –я ending in some regional names was transcribed with –a (e.g. in Ossetia and not Ossetija).

Two peculiarities of geographic names in the former Soviet Union have to be always kept in mind. During the early decades of the Soviet period, “politically incorrect” names were replaced by new ones, for example stanitsa Tsarskaja (Tsar’s hamlet) was renamed to Novosvobodnaja (“the hamlet of new freedom”). Moreover, after the fall of the Soviet regime, local Ukrainian and Caucasian forms (e.g. Tripylia instead of Tripolie) gradually replaced Russian versions of geographical names. In this study I use the name that appeared in the original publication of the archaeological site.

Table 1. Chronology of the Black Sea littoral, Anatolia and the south Caucasus.

cal. BC	Lower Kuban	North coast	West coast	South coast	North-central Anatolia	Eastern Anatolia	South Caucasus
3000	Novotitorovskaja	Jamnaja	Jamnaja Cernavoda II	İkizitepe cemetery	Alışar 13M	EBl Arslantepe VIB	Late Kura-Arax
	Psekup Chishkho	Mikhajlovka II Zhivotilovka	Cernavoda III Tripolie C2 Usatovo	İkizitepe CC	Alışar 12–19M	LC4 and LC5 Arslantepe VIA	Early Kura-Arax
3500	Sereginskoe Pkhagugape	Mikhajlovka I	Cernavoda I Khadzhider Tripolie B2 and C1	İkizitepe DD/EE		LC2 and LC3 Arslantepe VII	Leilatepe Late Sioni
3750							Sioni
4000	Svobodnoe	Skelja Novodamilovka	Varna Tripolie B1			LC1 Arslantepe VIII	Alikemek Tepesi Kjul Tepe I Tekhut
4500		Mariupol	Tripolie A	İkizitepe BB	Büyük Güllücek	Middle Chalcolithic	
5000	“Neolithic”	“Neolithic”	“Neolithic”	İkizitepe AA	Yarıkkaya	Early Chalcolithic	Shulaveri-Shomutepe

Table 2. Chronology of Mesopotamia, Iran and Central Asia.

cal. BC	Mesopotamia	Northwest Iran	West-central Iran/Qazvin	Southwest Iran	Kerman	Seistan & Baluchistan	Kopet Dag & Northeast Iran
3000	Proto-Dynastic Ninevite V	Godin V	Kura-Arax	Susa III	Yahya IV	Shahr-i Sokhta II	Namazga IV Hissar IIIA
3250	Jemdet Nasr Eanna III-II	Godin VI.1	Ghabristan IV Sialk IV	Susa III Malyan	Iblis IV	Shahr-i Sokhta I Mundigak III	Namazga III Geoksyur Hissar IIB
3500	Late Uruk Eanna IV	Godin VI.2	Ghabristan IV	Susa II (22–17) Giyan VD	Yahya VB-A	Mundigak II Mehrgarh V	
3750	Middle Uruk Eanna IX-V Gawra VIII	Godin VI.2	Ghabristan III Sialk III.6–7		Iblis II-III Yahya VC	Mundigak I Mehrgarh IV	Namazga II Yalangach Hissar IC-IIA
4000	Early Uruk Eanna XII-X Gawra X-IX	Godin VI.3 Geoy M	Ghabristan II Sialk III.4–5	Susa I (27–23) Giyan VC			
4500	Ubaid Eanna XVIII-XIV Gawra XIII-XI	Godin VIII-VII	Ghabristan I Sialk III.1–3	Early-Middle Bakun Middle Susiana Giyan VA-B	Iblis II Yahya VI	Mehrgarh III	Namazga I Hissar IA-B
5000	Halaf	Godin X-IX Dalma Pisdeli	Sialk II.1–3 Sialk I.2–5	Archaic and Early Susiana	Iblis I Yahya VII		Anau IA
		Godin XI Hajji Firuz Hasanlu X	Sialk I.1 Zagheh Chesmeh Ali		Yahya VII	Mehrgarh II	Djeitun