

WARFARE IN BRONZE AGE SOCIETY

Warfare in Bronze Age Society takes a fresh look at warfare and its role in reshaping Bronze Age society. The Bronze Age represents the global emergence of a militarized society with a martial culture, materialized in a package of new, efficient weapons that remained in use for millennia to come. Warfare became institutionalized and professionalized during the Bronze Age, and a new class of warriors made their appearance. Evidence for this development is reflected in the ostentatious display of weapons in burials and hoards and in iconography from rock art to palace frescoes. These new manifestations of martial culture constructed the warrior as a ‘Hero’ and warfare as ‘Heroic’. The case studies, written by an international team of scholars, discuss these and other new aspects of Bronze Age warfare. Moreover, the essays show that warriors also facilitated mobility and innovation as new weapons quickly spread from the Mediterranean to northern Europe.

Christian Horn is a researcher and executive board member of the graduate school of Human Development in Landscapes at the Christian-Albrechts-University in Kiel. His scholarship focuses on Bronze Age weapons, their use and social implications. During his PhD, he carried out a European-wide study of halberds, published in a book titled *Studien zu den europäischen Stabdolchen* (2014), and he later carried out similar studies of lances, spears and swords in northern Europe during his participation in the EU Marie Curie project ‘Forging Identities’, from which he published several articles. His recent project is entitled ‘Materiality of Violence’ and focuses on Bronze Age rock art and metalwork, collaborating with material scientists and conducting fieldwork at the UNESCO world heritage site at Tanum.

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PREFACE

This volume is the result of a conference on Bronze Age warfare held in December 2012 at the University of Gothenburg. The aim was to situate warfare in its social, demographic, technological and ideological contexts. We wish to express our gratitude to all speakers and participants for their active engagement and for contributing to lively discussions during the conference. Since then, the editors and authors have worked together to transform the original contributions and debates into a coherent publication. We are grateful to the two anonymous reviewers for providing constructive comments, which benefitted the book, and we are also grateful to Helle Vandkilde for her willingness to provide a concluding chapter.

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