

## ANCIENT CHINA AND ITS EURASIAN NEIGHBORS

This volume examines the role of objects in the region north and west of the dynastic state centers at the intersection of ancient China and Eurasia, a large area that stretches from Xinjiang to the China Sea, from ca. 3000 BCE to the mid-eighth century BCE. This area was a frontier, an ambiguous space that lay at the margins of direct political control by the metropolitan states, where local and colonial ideas and practices were reconstructed transculturally. These identities were often merged and displayed in material culture. Types of objects, styles and iconography were often hybrids or new to the region, as were the tomb assemblages in which they were deposited and found. Patrons commissioned objects that marked a symbolic vision of place and person and that could mobilize support, legitimize rule and bind people together. Through close examination of key artifacts, this book untangles the considerable changes in the socio-political structure and cultural makeup of the region.

Katheryn M. Linduff is a professor in the Departments of Art History and Anthropology at the University of Pittsburgh. She has engaged for many years in art-historical research and collaborative archaeological fieldwork, focusing on the pre- and early history, including the Bronze and Iron Age, of the Northern Zone. She has published extensively on metallurgy, gender, China and Eurasia, the archaeology of the Inner Asian Frontier and artifacts. Most recently, she co-edited *Social Complexity in Prehistoric Eurasia: Monuments, Metals and Mobility* (Cambridge University Press, 2009).

Yan Sun is a professor of Art History at Gettysburg College in Pennsylvania. Her research interests are regional bronze cultures in north China and the interplay between material culture, social identities and power during the late Shang and Western Zhou periods. She has published in the *International Journal of Historical Archaeology*, *Asian Archaeology's* inaugural edition, and *Antiquity*.

Wei Cao is a historian, a field archaeologist and a scholar specializing in ancient Chinese bronzes. He was previously a senior research fellow and the deputy director of the Museum of the Terracotta Army of the Qin Emperor in Shaanxi, China. He currently holds a professorship at Shaanxi Normal University. He serves as a board member of the Association for the Study of the Yin/Shang Culture. His research and publications focus on Zhou bronzes and their uses in ritual practice.

Yuanqing Liu is a Ph.D. candidate at Shaanxi Normal University completing a dissertation on the regional bronze industry of the Western Zhou period. She spent one year as a visiting graduate student at the University of Pittsburgh, where she helped to develop and analyze a vast amount of previously undigested literature and materials from the northwest of present-day China in the period of the western Zhou.

# ANCIENT CHINA AND ITS EURASIAN NEIGHBORS

ARTIFACTS, IDENTITY AND DEATH  
IN THE FRONTIER, 3000–700 BCE

**KATHERYN M. LINDUFF**

University of Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania

**YAN SUN**

Gettysburg College, Pennsylvania

**WEI CAO**

Shaanxi Normal University, China

**YUANQING LIU**

Shaanxi Normal University, China



**CAMBRIDGE**  
UNIVERSITY PRESS

Cambridge University Press  
978-1-108-41861-4 — Ancient China and its Eurasian Neighbors  
Katheryn M. Linduff, Yan Sun, Wei Cao, Yuanqing Liu  
Frontmatter  
[More Information](#)

**CAMBRIDGE**  
UNIVERSITY PRESS

One Liberty Plaza, 20th Floor, New York, NY 10006, USA

Cambridge University Press is part of the University of Cambridge.

It furthers the University's mission by disseminating knowledge in the pursuit of education, learning and research at the highest international levels of excellence.

[www.cambridge.org](http://www.cambridge.org)

Information on this title: [www.cambridge.org/9781108418614](http://www.cambridge.org/9781108418614)

DOI: 10.1017/9781108290555

© Katheryn M. Linduff, Yan Sun, Wei Cao, and Yuanqing Liu 2018

This publication is in copyright. Subject to statutory exception and to the provisions of relevant collective licensing agreements, no reproduction of any part may take place without the written permission of Cambridge University Press.

First published 2018

Printed in the United Kingdom by TJ International

*A catalogue record for this publication is available from the British Library.*

ISBN 978-1-108-41861-4 Hardback

Cambridge University Press has no responsibility for the persistence or accuracy of URLs for external or third-party internet websites referred to in this publication and does not guarantee that any content on such websites is, or will remain, accurate or appropriate.

Cambridge University Press  
978-1-108-41861-4 — Ancient China and its Eurasian Neighbors  
Katheryn M. Linduff, Yan Sun, Wei Cao, Yuanqing Liu  
Frontmatter  
[More Information](#)

---

*To our families, who taught us the importance of establishing an identity:  
one that is respectful of the past, faithful to the present and amenable  
to an unpredictable future.*

## CONTENTS

<i>List of Figures</i>	<i>page</i> ix
<i>List of Charts</i>	xi
<i>List of Maps</i>	xiii
Introduction: THE INNER ASIAN FRONTIER RECONSIDERED	I
The Reconsidered Inner Asian Frontier	2
1 SHAPING THE STUDY OF INNER ASIAN ARTIFACTS AND MENTAL BOUNDARIES	12
<i>Katheryn M. Linduff</i>	
Past Scholarship	15
Materialization of Identity in Metal on the Inner Asian Frontier: Artifacts in Action	21
Frontiers or Contact Zones	23
Artifacts as Classificatory on the Inner Asian Frontier	26
Methods and Objectives	29
Technoscapes, Individualscapes, Regionscapes and Lineagescapes	32
2 TECHNOSCAPES AND THE MATERIALIZATION OF IDEAS IN METAL ON THE INNER ASIAN FRONTIER (C. 3000–1500 BCE)	35
<i>Katheryn M. Linduff</i>	
The Emergence and Distribution of Early Metal Use: The Scholarship	38
Inner Asian Frontier Technoscapes	44
Consequences of These Early Technoscapes: Artifacts in Action	66

viii	CONTENTS	
3	IDENTITY AND ARTIFACTS ON THE NORTH CENTRAL AND NORTHEASTERN FRONTIER DURING THE PERIOD OF STATE EXPANSION IN THE LATE SECOND AND THE EARLY FIRST MILLENNIUM BCE	72
	<i>Yan Sun</i>	
	The Northeastern Region	75
	Variations in Identity Construction in the Northeastern Region	118
	The North Central Region	121
	Different Modes of Identity Construction in the Central Region of the Inner Asian Frontier	144
4	THE RISE OF STATES AND THE FORMATION OF GROUP IDENTITIES IN THE WESTERN REGIONS OF THE INNER ASIAN FRONTIER (C. 1500 TO THE EIGHTH CENTURY BCE)	146
	<i>Wei Cao, and Yuanqing Liu, with Katheryn M. Linduff and Yan Sun</i>	
	The Jing and Wei River Valleys	149
	Local Communities in Western Gansu and the Qinghai Region	189
5	FINAL STATEMENTS/CONCLUSIONS AND FUTURE CHALLENGES	215
	<i>Katheryn M. Linduff and Yan Sun</i>	
	The Inner Asian Frontier: A Cultural Crossroads	216
	The Formation of Technoscapes on the Inner Asian Frontier	220
	Individualscapes, Regionscapes and Lineagescapes from the Late Second to the Early First Millennium BCE	220
	The Fluidity of the Scapes	225
	Final Summation	226
	<i>Glossary of Terms</i>	229
	<i>Bibliography 参考书目</i>	237
	<i>Index</i>	267

## FIGURES

(Where dimensions are not listed, they are unknown)

2.1	Copper objects from Qijia culture sites	<i>page</i> 45
2.2	Penannular earrings from Siberia and the Inner Asian Frontier	46
2.3	Bronze items from Huoshaogou, Yumen, Gansu	48
2.4	Pierced bronze spatulas from Huoshaogou, Yumen, Gansu	49
2.5	Metal artifacts from Afanasievo kurgan Khul uul, Ulaankhus sum, Bayan-Ulgii aimag	53
2.6	Metal artifacts from Chemurchek barrows	54
2.7	Stone vessel with copper “patches” from the Chemurchek barrow Hadat ovoo	55
2.8	Bronze artifacts from Munkh-Khairkhan culture barrows	56
2.9	Bronze artifacts from Tomb 1052, Zhukaigou, Inner Mongolian Autonomous Republic	62
2.10	Bronze items recovered from Lower Xiajiadian sites	64
2.11	Bronze items recovered from Yinjiacheng, Saishui, Shandong	67
3.1	Bronze vessels and gold ornaments from the Liujiache tomb	82
3.2	Bronze vessels and gold ornaments in the Jing, Jin and Tang region	86
3.3	Northern-frontier-style bronze weapons and tools from the Yan mountainous region	90
3.4	Placement of frontier-style bronzes in M2 and M3 at Baifu	92
3.5	Northern-frontier-style bronze helmets	93
3.6	Bronzes from the Xibozi cache	96
3.7	Gold armlet and bronze earrings of the Weiyngzi culture	100
3.8	Bronze vessel and chariot and horse fittings of the Weiyngzi culture	101
3.9	Bronzes from the Longtoushan site	107
3.10	Bronzes from the Dapaozi tomb	109
3.11	Bronze horse bits and depictions of horse-hunting scenes on bronze and bone artifacts at the Nanshan’gen site	110
3.12	Bronze swords of the Upper Xiajiadian culture	111
3.13	Bronze knives and sheaths from burial M8501 at Xiaoheshigou	112
3.14	Rubbings of bronze sword pommels from burial M101 at Nanshan’gen	112
3.15	Bronze knives from burial M101 at Nanshan’gen	113
3.16	Bronze vessels from M8501	115

3.17	Local-style bronze vessels and their pottery prototypes	116
3.18	Local-style bronze jars	117
3.19	Stone molds from the Xicha site	125
3.20	Bronze weapons and tools from the Xicha site	126
3.21	Bronze weapons and tools from the Lijiaya site	129
3.22	Depictions of animals on bronzes from the Jinshan Plateau	134
3.23	Gold ornaments, necklace and earrings	135
3.24	Bronzes from a tomb at Linzheyu	136
3.25	Bronze weapons and tools from a tomb at Shangdongcun	139
3.26	Bronze weapons and tools from a tomb at Liulin	140
3.27	A jingle-pommeled bronze dagger and battle axe from Caojiayuan, Shilou	141
4.1	Bronze vessels at Nianzipo	153
4.2a	Written characters and pictographs at Nianzipo	154
4.2b	Written characters on oracle bones at Nianzipo	154
4.3	Bronze weapons and ornaments from Nianzipo	155
4.4	Bronze weapons and tools and bronze and gold ornaments at Duanjing	159
4.5	Bronze vessels at Heidouzui	161
4.6	Bronze weapons and tools and bronze and gold ornaments at Heidouzui	162
4.7	Bronze weapons, ornaments and vessels at the Yanjiagou site	164
4.8	Bronze weapons, ornaments and vessels of the Liujia culture	167
4.9	Bronze weapons, tools and ornaments of the Siwa culture	170
4.10	Bronze weapons, tools and ornaments of the Siwa culture	172
4.11	Written characters and pictographs at Xujianian	174
4.12	Bronze vessels, weapons and ornaments in Yu lineage cemeteries	182
4.13	Pottery <i>li</i> and bronze vessels and weapons in Shigushan cemeteries	184
4.14	Bronze weapons and ornaments from the Xiaohandi culture	194
4.15	Bronze ornaments from Tomb 326 at Xiaohandi	195
4.16	Bronze weapons, tools and ornaments of the Kayue culture	197
4.17	Bronze weapons and tools of the Nuomuhong culture	203
4.18	Bronze weapons, bronze and iron tools and bronze and gold ornaments of the Shajing culture	206
4.19	Bronze weapons, tools and ornaments from Tomb 4 at Xigang	208
4.20	Bronze tools and ornaments from Tomb 140 at Xigang	210
4.21	Bronze weapons, tool and ornaments of the Shanma type	212



## CHARTS

3.1	Bronze-yielding burials in the Jing, Jin and Tang region	<i>page</i> 81
3.2	Bronze-yielding burials of the Weiyangzi culture	99

## MAPS

1.1 Map of the Inner Asian Frontier: Zones of contact across all periods, including all sites listed in the chapters	<i>page</i> 13
2.1 Map of the Inner Asian Frontier: All sites from the Early Metal-Using Period	36
2.2 Afanasievo and Chemurchek sites excavated in Mongolia	58
2.3 Munkh-Khairkhan sites excavated in Mongolia	58
3.1 Topographical map of North Central and Northeastern regions of the Inner Asian Frontier	73
3.2 Bronze-yielding sites in the Northeastern region	84
3.3a Bronze-yielding sites in the southern part of the North Central region	123
3.3b Bronze-yielding sites in the northern part of the North Central region	124
4.1 Bronze-yielding sites in the Northwestern region	148