

GLOBALIZATION IN PREHISTORY

CONTACT, EXCHANGE, AND THE "PEOPLE WITHOUT HISTORY"

Globalization in Prehistory challenges traditional historical and archaeological discourse about the drivers of social and cultural connectivity in the ancient world. It presents archaeological case studies of emerging globalization from around the world, from the Mesolithic period, through the Bronze and Iron Ages, to more recent historical times. The volume focuses on those societies and communities that history has bypassed – nomads, pastoralists, fishers, foragers, pirates, and traders, among others. It aims for a more complex understanding of the webs of connectivity that shaped communities living outside and beyond the urban, agrarian states that are the mainstay of books and courses on ancient civilizations and trade. Written by a team of international experts, the rich and variable case studies demonstrate the important role played by societies that were mobile and dispersed in the making of a more connected world long before the modern era.

Nicole Boivin is Director of the Department of Archaeology at the Max Planck Institute for the Science of Human History in Jena, Germany. Her archaeological research incorporates field and laboratory techniques to explore a range of issues, from anthropogenic landscape change to processes of dispersal, migration, and trade in human societies. She is the author of *Material Cultures, Material Minds: The Role of Things in Human Thought, Society, and Evolution* and co-editor of *Human Dispersal and Species Movement: From Prehistory to the Present*.

Michael D. Frachetti is Professor of Anthropology at Washington University in St. Louis. His work addresses how economic and political strategies served to shape interregional networks across Asia as early as 3000 BC (the Early Bronze Age), and how those networks laid the foundation for the later Silk Roads. He conducts archaeological field research in Eastern Kazakhstan and Uzbekistan. He is the author of *Pastoralist Landscapes and Social Interaction in Bronze Age Eurasia* and a forthcoming book entitled *Ancient Inner Asia*.

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PREFACE

The chapters in this volume emerged from presentations made in a session entitled “Globalisation and the People Without History” at the 2013 SAA conference in Honolulu, HI. In that session, a host of world-class researchers tackled issues of ancient globalization as it is expressed through the archaeology of diverse regions of the world at different times in (pre)history. The result of that exercise is a comparative volume that demands we reconsider the temporal and geographic scales of globalization as a process, and that we reimagine the social and institutional forces that bring that process into formation.

The chapters here represent a selection of the authors present at the conference, which was a starting point for many to enter into dialogue about the issues of globalization in comparative perspective. Over the period that this volume has evolved into its final form, each author has managed to refine the ideas first presented in their conference papers through dialogue and rounds of feedback and revision, both from other conference participants and also from outside reviewers. We would like to express our gratitude to this large team of anonymous outside chapter reviewers, as well as to the two anonymous referees who took the time to read through the entire volume and provide useful comments that have helped to further improve the book. We are also grateful to our editors at Cambridge University Press, Asya Graf and Beatrice Rehl, as well as the broader editorial team, for their advice, support, and important role in bringing the book to press. We have aspired to offer a fresh perspective on the idea of globalization in the past and hope that the chapters in this book can serve to widen the landscape of discussion about the nature of human connectivity, interaction, and participation from ancient times to the present day.

We dedicate this volume to the late Professor Gregory Possehl. As early as the 1970s, Gregory Possehl was thinking about globalization. While the first publication of the term would not come until the early 1980s, scholars and thinkers from a range of social sciences were interrogating the economy and institutional diffusions of the modern world through a new lens. Possehl was among this avante-garde in archaeology. As early as 1977 he had begun to imagine the expansion and integration of regional civilizations – which we can take as a key process of globalization – as the result of the activities of smaller,

less integrated communities such as nomads. Possehl wrote “... the presence of pastoral nomads [in the Indus Valley] makes very good sense if we see them as the mobile population which bridged the gap between settlements as the carriers of information, as the transporters of goods, as the population through which Harappan Civilization achieved its remarkable degree of integration” (1979, 12). By the 1980s he applied this theoretical stance more widely to consider its impact on both the Near East and Central Asia, and championed the idea of the Middle Asian Interaction Sphere (or MAIS), which is nothing less than a regionalized case study for ancient globalization (Possehl 2005). It is in the spirit of his multi-scalar investigation of local processes in a global context that we offer this collection of papers.

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