

HUMAN PREHISTORY

More than 3 million years ago in Africa, our early ancestors began to systematically modify rocks into usable tools, thus inventing the first technologies that eventually permitted humans to dominate all life forms on the planet. In this book, Deborah Barsky offers a long-term evolutionary perspective on human culture and its relationship with technology. Using scientific information and examples from the global archeological record, she follows the remarkable human journey from the early phases of prehistory and shows how it has led humans to a dangerously uncertain future. Her archeological approach offers a fresh perspective regarding important issues that plague contemporary society, such as racism, the digital revolution, human migrations, terrorism and war. Written in an accessible style, Barsky's book demonstrates how insights into the distant past serve as a tool for understanding the present and building a sustainable future for all life on planet Earth.

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Exploring the Past to Understand the Future

Deborah Barsky

The Catalan Institute of Human Paleoecology and Social Evolution



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For you, Dad, for inspiring me throughout my life
and helping me to express how learning about the
distant past is valuable for understanding the
present situation of humankind.

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A WORD ABOUT THE BOOK COVER

The book cover is a detail of the original painting by the Canadian artist Sacha Barrette. The work, entitled *E* (130 cm × 146 cm), is part of the *Homo urbanus* series of paintings and sculptures commemorating the importance of studying the past to better understand our present condition and the human trajectory into the future. Painted in Collioure, France, on May 30, 2018, sachaimages@gmail.com.