

Cambridge University Press & Assessment 978-1-316-51542-6 — Human Prehistory Deborah Barsky Table of Contents More Information

CONTENTS

List of Figures x
List of Tables xii

Acknowledgments xiii

A Word about the Book Cover xiv

INTRODUCTION · 1

1 A BRIEF INTRODUCTION TO PREHISTORIC ARCHEOLOGY · 5

What Is Prehistoric Archeology? · 5

Some Historical Landmarks in the Birth of the Discipline of Prehistory · 7

The Quaternary Period: Framework for Human Emergence

and Evolution · 11

Constructing the Archives of Prehistory · 13

The Anthropocene Epoch: The First Human-Induced Subdivision of

Geological Time · 16

Prehistoric Archeology: A Modern, International Science

Embracing Humanity · 19

The Rise of Archeological Consciousness · 22

2 PREHISTORY: A MULTIDISCIPLINARY SCIENCE · 26

The Multidisciplinary Approach: Assimilating Knowledge in

Prehistoric Archeology · 26

A Brief Synthesis of Some Methodologies Used in

Prehistoric Archeology · 28

Interpreting Cultural Evolution from Stone Artifacts · 36

Applying Modern Methods to Ancient Evidence · 44

3 BECOMING HUMAN · 47

What It Means to Be Human · 47

Bipedalism and Toolmaking: Milestones along the Human Pathway · 50

CONTENTS · vii



Cambridge University Press & Assessment 978-1-316-51542-6 — Human Prehistory Deborah Barsky Table of Contents More Information

4	THE EMERGENCE	OF LOWER	PALEOLITHIC CULTURES	$5 \cdot 61$
---	---------------	----------	----------------------	--------------

Toolmaking and the Emergence of Culture 61
What Happened before the Oldowan? 64
The Oldowan Technocomplex and the Birth of Human Technologies 65
First Migrations: The Oldowan Expansion 69
The Acheulian Technocomplex: The First Cultural Revolution 75
Social Networking in the Late Acheulian 82

5 THE ASCENT OF PALEOLITHIC CULTURES · 84

Expansion and Transformation after the Acheulian 84
The Neandertal World 86
The Mysterious Demise of the Neandertal 90
The Technical Skills of Neandertal Peoples 94
The New Face of the Neandertal 98

6 CONQUEST: THE FINAL PHASES OF THE STONE AGE · 101

The First Anatomically Modern Humans 101

The Material World of Upper Paleolithic Homo sapiens 106

An Overview of the Successive Cultural Complexes from the European Upper Paleolithic 109

Repercussions of the Expansion and Planetary Conquest of Anatomically Modern Human Populations 117

7 THE NEW WORLD ORDER FOLLOWING THE PALEOLITHIC · 120

The Epipaleolithic Period: A Prologue to New Patterns of Production 120 Neolithic Peoples and the Consolidation of Social Boundaries 126 Effects of the Neolithic Transformation 131

8 COMMUNICATION NETWORKING AT THE END OF THE PREHISTORIC ERA \cdot 134

Metallurgy: A Novel Human Experiment 134
Establishing Long-Range Social Interconnections for Trade and
Wealth Production 141
How Ideas Came to Transcend Time 143

9 GLOBAL WARMING: NATURAL CLIMATIC TREND OR HUMANLY INDUCED PHENOMENON? · 146

Climate Change through Time · 146

Assessing Climate Change in the Archeological Record · 148

What Is Happening with the Climate Today? · 156

Human Responsibility and Actions on Climate Change · 160

viii · CONTENTS



Cambridge University Press & Assessment 978-1-316-51542-6 — Human Prehistory Deborah Barsky Table of Contents More Information

10 TECHNOLOGY AND HUMAN ALIENATION FROM NATURE · 163

Reflections on the Human Condition 163

Toolmaking, Language and the Evolution of Complex Symbolic

Thought Processes 166

On Symbolism, Identity and Demographic Expansion 168

How Culture Consolidated the Human Divorce from Nature 170

11 WHO ARE WE? ANCIENT AND MODERN HUMAN MIGRATIONS · 173

A Prehistoric Perspective on Racism and Nationalism in the Modern World 173 Moving Cultures: Human Migrations through Time 176 Intrahuman Domination through Culture 179 Future Human Migrations 182

12 ON RELIGION, WAR AND TERRORISM IN THE GLOBALIZED WORLD · 184

Why Do Religions Still Exist? 184

Religion as Symbolic Collective Consciousness 186

Dealing with Death in the Prehistoric Context 187

How Religions Evolved 191

Religion as the Swathe of War and Terrorism in the Globalized World 193

13 THE ROLE OF PREHISTORY IN UNDERSTANDING THE MODERN HUMAN CONDITION · 198

Linking up the Past to Understand the Present and Step into the Future 198
What Future for Studies of the Past? 201
New Perspectives on Old Paradigms 204

Notes · 207 References · 220 Index · 239

CONTENTS · ix