

## Prehistoric Agriculture

Gardens of Prehistory details the social developments that were created by the prehistoric agricultural systems of the New World.

The Agricultural Revolution in Prehistory addresses one of the most debated and least understood revolutions in the history of our species, the change from hunting and gathering to farming. Graeme Barker takes a global view, and integrates a massive array of information from archaeology and many other disciplines, including anthropology, botany, climatology, genetics, linguistics, and zoology. Against current orthodoxy, Barker develops a strong case for the development of agricultural systems in many areas as transformations in the life-ways of the indigenous forager societies, and argues that these were as much changes in social norms and ideologies as in ways of obtaining food. With a large number of helpful line drawings and photographs as well as a comprehensive bibliography, this authoritative study will appeal to a wide general readership as well as to specialists in a variety of fields.

Emphasizing past gains in knowledge from experimental, aerial and field archaeology, Dr Fowler demonstrates how the application of archaeological approaches to agrarian history has made the subject central to our understanding of the prehistoric period. Emphasizing past gains in knowledge from experimental, aerial and field archaeology, Dr Fowler demonstrates how the application of archaeological approaches to agrarian history has made the subject central to our understanding of the prehistoric period.

This book promises to be pivotal in the current debate about how and why early hunting and gathering peoples adopted domesticated plants. it it. W. H. Wills offers a new

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model to explain the decision-making process that led to this adoption - a model hinging on the argument that the critical value of early domesticated plants was not their productivity but their predicatability.

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During virtually the entire four-million-year history of our habitation on this planet, humans have been hunters and gatherers, dependent for nourishment on the availability of wild plants and animals. Beginning about 10,000 years ago, however, the most remarkable phenomenon in the course of human prehistory was set in motion. At locations around the world, over a period of about 5,000 years, hunters became farmers. Far more than the domestication of plant and animal species was involved in

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this revolution, which was accompanied by massive changes in the structure and organization of the societies that adopted agriculture and by a totally new relationship with the environment. Whereas hunter-gatherers live off the land in an extensive fashion, exploiting a diversity of resources over a broad area, farmers utilize the landscape intensively. The implications of these changes in human activity and social organization reverberate down to the present day.

A long-overdue advancement in ceramic studies, this volume sheds new light on the adoption and dispersal of pottery by non-agricultural societies of prehistoric Eurasia. Major contributions from Western Europe, Eastern Europe and Asia make this a truly international work that brings together different theories and material for the first time. Researchers and scholars studying the origins and dispersal of pottery, the prehistoric peoples of Eurasia, and flow of ancient technologies will all benefit from this book.

First printed in 1982, this is the third and final volume to be published as a result of the British Academy Major Research Project on the Early History of Agriculture, carried out in the Department of Archaeology in Cambridge under the direction of the late Eric Higgs. After his death in 1976, the Project was drawn to its conclusion by his associates, and this book is effectively a summary of the results of the Project. The first two volumes, *Papers in Economic Prehistory* and

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Palaeoeconomy, argued that the development of agriculture was a much more gradual and widespread phenomenon than had been thought previously. This book now discusses the origins and early development of prehistoric agriculture within the framework of prehistoric subsistence economies in general. Early human economies are viewed in their adaptation to three crucial resource zones: the uplands, the lowlands and the littorals.

Mississippian agriculture has been described as successful with periods of instability. Utilizing the productive Mississippi and Ohio floodplains, Mississippian farmers established a three-tiered settlement hierarchy that included towns, villages, hamlets, and farmsteads. Towns were undoubtedly the focus of these systems, but they also reflect, from an agricultural standpoint, the largest producers and consumers in the system. Archaeobotanical materials from four town sites in the Confluence Region of western Kentucky are analyzed and provide the relationships between plant use and the functioning of hierarchical communities. Town sites contain complex and rich depositional sequences surrounding mound and plaza precincts. Archaeological data indicates that occupations were continuous at each site from A.D. 900-1450. Stratigraphic, ceramic, radiocarbon, and archaeobotanical data form the basis for examining the occupational history at these sites, their site catchments, subsistence

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patterns, subsistence diversification, and variation between regions. While many researchers have focused on specific ethnohistorical and modern agricultural data in modeling these systems, this study examines the plants themselves and their importance through time. The archaeobotanical record is paramount in addressing models associated with Mississippian agricultural societies. Results of this research reject the view that Mississippian economies were specialized and only supported by a maize, beans, and squash triad of crops. While maize was obviously the most important crop, the archaeobotanical record indicates that Mississippian farmers continued to rely on native seeds and wild plant foods even in periods of prolonged stability. This research confirms the view that Mississippian agriculture was stable, due in part to subsistence diversity. Mississippian towns contained sequences that suggest a long period of occupation and stability. Periods of instability and eventual decline are attributed to population growth and environmental constraints.

Prehistoric Agriculture in Eastern Middle Sweden  
A Model for Food Production, Population Growth, Agricultural Innovations, and Ecological Limitations in Prehistoric Eastern Middle Sweden 4000 B.C.-A.D. 1000  
Liberlaromedel  
Prehistoric Farming in Europe  
CUP Archive

Archaeology's ancient farmer' provides a distillation of twenty years experimental work

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in growing, harvesting and storing crops, in breeding and raising stock - the full cycle of the farming year. Good pictures.

A general absence of studies on prehistoric crops and flora, and a lack of samples suitable for analysis, makes this an important contribution to research on prehistoric Spain. Although concentrating on a very small area of Andalucia, the author presents evidence on crops, crop-processing, products and by-products and their contribution to the prehistoric diet. A good, concise argument for applying an ethnographic model to the prehistoric data is given and the methodology and data sets are clearly presented. A masterly account of prehistoric farming and its potential to influence today's industrial farmers.

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