Prehistoric Agriculture

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this volume is the outcome of collaborative european research among archaeologists archaeobotanists ethnographers historians and agronomists and frequently uses experiments

in archaeology it aims to establish new common ground for integrating different approaches and for viewing agriculture from the standpoint of the human actors involved each chapter provides an interdisciplinary overview of the skills used and the social context of the pursuit of agriculture highlighting examples of tools technologies and processes from land clearance to cereal processing and food preparation this is the second of three volumes in the earth monograph series the dynamics of non industrial agriculture 8 000 years of resilience and innovation which shows the great variety of agricultural practices in human terms in their social political cultural and legal contexts

from about 5500 cal bc to soon after 5000 cal bc the lifeways of the first farmers of central europe the lbk culture linearbandkeramik are seen in distinctive practices of longhouse use settlement forms landscape choice subsistence material culture and mortuary rites within the five or more centuries of lbk existence a dynamic sequence of changes can be seen in for instance the expansion and increasing density of settlement progressive regionalisation in pottery decoration and at the end some signs of stress or even localised crisis although showing many features in common across its very broad distribution however the lbk phenomenon was not everywhere the same and there is a complicated mixture of uniformity and diversity this major study takes a strikingly large regional sample from northern hungary westwards along the danube to alsace in the upper rhine valley and addresses the question of the extent of diversity in the lifeways of developed and late lbk communities through a wide ranging study of diet lifetime mobility health and physical condition the presentation of the bodies of the deceased in mortuary ritual it uses an innovative combination of isotopic principally carbon nitrogen and strontium with some oxygen osteological and archaeological analysis to address difference and change across the lbk and to reflect on cultural change in general

this publication is one of the volumes of the proceedings of the 11th international conference of the international council for archaeozoology caz which was held in paris france 23rd 28th august 2010 page 7

discusses agricultural technology in various cultures from the stone age to 476 a d including china egypt mesoamerica and greece

the twenty eight contributors to this book show how experimental and ethnographic approaches are being used to shed new light on the process of domestication and harvesting

techniques tools and technology in the period just before and just after the appearance of agriculture the book takes an explicitly comparative approach with chapters on sw asia europe australia and africa

no detailed description available for origins of agriculture

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

first farmers the origins of agricultural societies offers readers an understanding of the origins and histories of early agricultural populations in all parts of the world uses data from archaeology comparative linguistics and biological anthropology to cover developments over the past 12 000 years examines the reasons for the multiple primary origins of agriculture focuses on agricultural origins in and dispersals out of the middle east central africa china new guinea mesoamerica and the northern andes covers the origins and dispersals of major language families such as indo european austronesian sino tibetan niger congo and uto aztecan

beginning with the transition from hunter gatherer societies in the neolithic period this book traces the evolution of agriculture from the initial struggle to engage creatively with the landscape to the full agroscape of the late iron age much of the evidence for prehistoric agriculture especially for the late iron age has been subjected to experimental research at the butser ancient farm research project in hampshire of which the author has been the director many of the latest results of that research have been incorporated into the text enhancing theory with practical probability

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 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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