World Prehistory and Archaeology, Third Canadian Edition

Michael Chazan, University of Toronto

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Chazan, World Prehistory and Archaeology, 3Ce brings new insights into the old world!

World Prehistory and Archaeology: Pathways Through Time, Third Canadian Edition, by Michael Chazan presents archaeology as a dynamic, scientifically rigorous, and socially engaged inquiry into the human past. This text provides an integrated discussion of world prehistory and archaeological methods, and emphasizes the relevance of how we know and what we know about our human prehistory.

The third Canadian edition involves students in the current state of archaeological research, connecting them to the continual process of human self-discovery, and shows them not only the discoveries that have been made, but also the challenges that remain.

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Organization

Part One, “The Past Is a Foreign Country: Getting from Here to There,” presents an introduction to archaeological method and theory. Archaeology involves not only conducting field and laboratory work, but also developing a framework for thinking about the past. Chapter 2 presents a brief history of the ways archaeologists have thought about the past.

Part Two, “Human Evolution,” covers the period from the first evidence of tool manufacture to the spread of modern humans (Homo sapiens) throughout the globe. The four chapters in this part follow the process of biological evolution, while tracking the geographic spread of human populations and developments in the way they lived.

Part Three, “Perspectives on Agriculture,” examines the shift to an agricultural way of life. The development of agricultural societies demanded a profound reorientation of the way humans related to plants and animals, along with equally significant changes in society and technology.

Part Four examines “The Development of Social Complexity.” This final part covers many of the world’s most spectacular and enigmatic archaeological sites, including Stonehenge, the pyramids at Giza, and the cities of the Maya. As with agriculture, social complexity developed independently in a number of regions.