

First Paper topic - Modeling the origins of domestication and food production in the Near East

Background

Historically a number of fairly simplistic models have been proposed to "explain" the origins of plant and animal domestication and food production in the Near East (see the handout and the Lamberg-Karlovsky and Sabloff text). Three of the older models whose factors are regarded as still having some historical correctness or potential explanatory value are the population pressure hypothesis, the marginal zone hypothesis and the neoclimatic change hypothesis. Each emphasizes the importance of one or sometimes two particular factors in the origin of domestication and food production. These factors include climate and environmental change, population growth, uneven distribution of resources, and human technological "inventiveness". However, none of these simple models offers a completely satisfactory description of the process in the Near East.

The current view

Recently additional factors and more inclusive models have been proposed, and these views are presented in several of your readings, Zeder (2006), Diamond (2002), Bar-Yosef (1998), Henry (1985) and McCorriston and Hole (1991). Each considers the necessary preconditions and initial starting conditions for the development of domesticated plants and the first agricultural societies in the Near East. From these readings it is clear that multiple factors act in synergistic combination to bring about early agriculture in the Levant. These factors include:

- the region's unique geographic conditions,
- changes in settlement patterns and concomitant changes in social structure,
- long term population growth,
- uneven distribution of local and regional resources,
- the influences of individual cultural traditions, and
- marked and rapid climatic and environmental changes

Your task

Based on your readings create a composite model which you feel best accounts for the development of agricultural economies in the Near East and prepare a "flow diagram" style chart which illustrates this process. Describe your model in an essay of at least seven (7) typewritten pages and support it with specific examples or evidence from your readings. Use the chart as an integral part of the essay to illustrate your views. Be sure to reference the sources of your ideas and data and use the suggested format for references.

Advice

1. Appropriate length of the text is 7 to 8 pages: typed, double-spaced with adequate margins. It may be longer, but don't exceed 10 pages.
2. Include a title page and number your pages of text.
3. Reference all sources you use. See attached handout for suggested archaeological style format.
4. Include a 'References Cited' ('Bibliography') section (see style handout for proper format).
5. Proofread your paper carefully.
6. Late papers will be penalized, unless prior arrangements for late submission have been made.

PAPER DUE: Thursday, October 12

Guidelines for referencing archaeological/anthropological papers

Bibliographic referencing and citations:

Several slightly different styles are used for bibliographic references and citation in the field of Archaeology. One of the most commonly used styles is that followed by the journal *American Anthropologist*. You should use it for all your written work in this subject. Sample references for journal articles, books, and papers in books are shown below. Whether a book, journal article or paper in a book, all references are listed alphabetically in a **single-spaced** list.

(examples for journals)

- Brown, F., J. Harris, R. Leakey and A. Walker
 1985 Early *Homo erectus* Skeleton from West Lake Turkana, Kenya. *Nature* 316:788-792.
- Moore, A.
 1979 A Pre-neolithic Farming Village on the Euphrates. *Scientific American* 241(2):62-70.
- Mann, A. and E. Trinkaus
 1973 Neandertal and Neandertal-like Fossils from the Upper Pleistocene. *Yearbook of Physical Anthropology* 17:169-193.

(example for books)

- Lamberg-Karlovsky, C.C., and J.A. Sabloff
 1995 *Ancient Civilizations: The Near East and Mesoamerica* (2nd ed). Prospect Heights, IL: Waveland Press.

(examples for papers in books)

- Henry, D.O.
 1985 Preagricultural Sedentism: the Natufian example. In *Prehistoric Hunter-Gatherers*. T.D. Price and J.A. Brown, eds. Pp. 365-384. Orlando, FL: Academic Press.
- Zihlman, A.
 1981 Women as Shapers of the Human Adaptation. In *Woman the Gatherer*. F. Dahlberg, ed. Pp. 75-120. New Haven, CT: Yale University Press.

In most archaeological writing footnotes are not used for citations. Instead the author's name and the date of the publication are placed in parentheses at the end of the sentence (**but within it**), to acknowledge the source of the idea or information. Similarly, the source for a quotation is given in parentheses at the end of the quote. (Whether a period [“.”] is required following it, depends on the quote’s position in the sentence.) The citation for a quote includes the author's name, date and page number. The following examples are based on the sources above.

standard citation

- (Moore 1979).
 (Mann and Trinkaus 1973).
 (Brown *et al.* 1985).

citation for a quote

- (Moore 1979:63).
 (Mann and Trinkaus 1973:192).
 (Brown *et al.* 1985:790).

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"Hypotheses for the origin of agriculture" (Figures 4-1 through 4-5).

In Redman, C. L. *The Rise of Civilization: From Early Farming to Urban Society in the Ancient Near East*. San Francisco, CA: Freeman, 1978.