The Origins of Human Society
By PETER BOGUCKI, Princeton University


LC card number: GN358 .B64 1999
Hardback (1557863490) Price: £60.00 $69.95
Paperback (1577181123) Price: £16.99 $26.95

The origins and development of human society are explored and illuminated in this compelling history. The book provides readers with an understanding of the evolution of humans and the cultures they established, from the first traces of humanity to the creation of early literate societies. The author examines how Homo sapiens emerged as the sole-surviving human species and developed into modern humans. He provides a global account of prehistoric life and the roots of modern societies and empires. The major topics covered include the creation of hierarchical societies and hereditary ranking, the origins of language, the importance of agriculture, the evolution of tool-making, the development of religion, and the beginnings of war. The Origins of Human Society provides the essential foundation to the study of early civilization and reveals the origins of the major elements of modern human society and culture.

Contents:
Preface.
1. The Gateway to Human Prehistory.
2. The Earliest Human Societies.
3. The Human Diaspora.
4. After the Ice Age.
5. Seeds for Civilization.
6. Pathways to Inequality.
7. Elites and Commoners.
8. Early States and Chiefdoms in the Shadow of States.
Bibliography.
Index.

PETER BOGUCKI holds a Ph.D. in anthropology from Harvard University and has conducted archaeological fieldwork in Poland. He is currently associate dean for undergraduate affairs of the School of Engineering and Applied Science at Princeton University.