The Prehistoric Archaeology Of Ireland |
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Britain BeginsStories of Ireland’s PastIrelandLandscapes Archaeology in IrelandThe early prehistory in the west of Ireland: Investigations into the social archaeology of the Mesolithic, west of the Shannon, IrelandBurials and Society in Late Chalcolithic and Early Bronze Age IrelandThe Prehistory of Britain and IrelandIreland’s First SettlersA New History of Ireland: Prehistoric and early IrelandIn Search of Ancient IrelandThe Archaeology of Celtic Britain and IrelandThe Neolithic of Britain and IrelandArchaeological Excavations in Moneen Cave, the Burren, Co. ClareThe Origins of the IrishThe Prehistory of Britain and IrelandPrehistoric Archaeology of IrelandPrehistory Without BordersRock Art and the Prehistory of Atlantic EuropeSettlement in the Irish NeolithicFast PerceptionsThe Bronze Age Burials of IrelandThe Origins of the IrishThe Archaeology of Caves in IrelandThe Archaeology of Europe’s Drowned LandscapesA History of Settlement in IrelandPersonifying PrehistoryPrehistoric MaterialitiesIreland’s First Settlers tells the story of the archaeology and history of the first continuous phase of Ireland’s human settlement. It combines centuries of search and speculation about human antiquity in Ireland with a review of what is known today about the Irish Mesolithic. This is, in part, provided in the context of the author’s 50 years of personal experience searching to make sense of what initially appeared to be little more than collections of beach-collected and washed-up flint tools. The story embraces how the island of Ireland, its position, distinct landscape and ecology impacted on when and how Ireland was colonized. It also explores how these first settlers evolved their technologies and lifeways to suit the narrow range of abundant resources that were available. The volume concludes with discussions on how the landscape should be searched for the often ephemeral traces of these early settlers and how sites should be excavated. It asks what we really know about the thoughts and life of the people themselves and what happened to them as farming began to be introduced. This open access volume provides for the first time a comprehensive description and scientific evaluation of underwater archaeological finds referring to human occupation of the continental shelf around the coasts of Europe and the Mediterranean when sea levels were lower than present. These are the largest body of underwater finds worldwide, amounting to over 2500 find spots, ranging from individual stone tools to underwater villages with unique conditions of preservation. The material reviewed here ranges in date from the Lower Palaeolithic period to the Bronze Age and covers 20 countries bordering all the major marine basins from the Atlantic coasts of Ireland and Norway to the Black Sea, and from the western Baltic to the eastern Mediterranean. The book is the first to present a coherent and comprehensive archaeological context, with information on the history of discovery, conditions of preservation and visibility, their relationship to regional changes in sea-level and coastal geomorphology, and the institutional arrangements for their investigation and protection. Editorial introductions summarise the findings from each of the major marine basins. There is also a final section with extensive discussion of the historical background and the legal and regulatory frameworks that inform the management of the underwater cultural heritage and collaboration between offshore industries, archaeologists and government agencies. The volume is based on the work of COST Action TD0902 SPLASHCOS, a multi-disciplinary and multi-national research network supported by the EU-funded COST organisation (European Cooperation in Science and Technology). The project’s core membership is an international network of research and professional archaeologists, marine and quaternary scientists, cultural-heritage managers, commercial and governmental organisations, policy makers, and all those with an interest in the sea floor of the continental shelf and the human impact of changes in climate, sea-level and coastal geomorphology. Along the Atlantic seaboard, from Scotland to Spain, are numerous rock carvings made four to five thousand years ago, whose interpretation poses a major challenge to the archaeologist. In the first full-length treatment of the subject on a new fieldwork, Richard Bradley argues that these carvings should be interpreted as a series of symbolic messages that are shared between monuments, artefacts and natural places in the landscape. He discusses the cultural setting of the rock carvings and the ways in which they can be interpreted in relation to ancient land use, the creation of ritual monuments and the burial of the dead. Integrating this fascinating yet little-known material into the mainstream of prehistoric studies, Richard Bradley demonstrates that these carvings played a fundamental role in the organization of the prehistoric landscape. A History of Settlement in Ireland provides a stimulating and thought-provoking overview of the settlement history of Ireland from prehistory to the present day. Particular attention is paid to the issues of settlement change and distribution within the contexts of: * environment * demography * culture. The collection goes further by setting the agenda for future research in this rapidly expanding area of academic interest. This volume will be essential reading for all those with an interest in the archaeology, history and social geography of Ireland. This volume focuses on the analysis of materials, from the Neolithic and Early Bronze Age periods of Britain and Ireland, in the study of prehistoric artefacts. Challenging the assumption that materials are inert and shaped by past societies, it argues that it is rather the materials which shaped the societies. Sited at the furthest limits of the Neolithic revolution and standing at the confluence of the two great sea routes of prehistory, Britain and Ireland are distinct from continental Europe for much of the prehistoric sequence. In this landmark 2007 study – the first significant survey of the archaeology of Britain and Ireland for twenty years – Richard Bradley offers an interpretation of the prehistoric Burnt Mounds in the environmental context based on a wealth of current and largely unpublished data. Bradley surveys the entire archaeological sequence over a 4,000 year period, from the adoption of agriculture in the Mediterranean to the discovery of Britain and Ireland by travellers from the Mediterranean during the later pre-Roman Iron Age. Significantly, this is the first modern account to treat Britain and Ireland on equal terms, offering a detailed interpretation of the prehistory of both islands. The Neolithic of Britain and Ireland provides a synthesis of this dynamic period of prehistory from the end of the Mesolithic through to the early Beaker period. Drawing on new excavations and the application of new scientific approaches to data from this period, this book considers both life and death in the Neolithic. It offers a clear and concise introduction to this period but with an emphasis on the wider and on-going research. It is the first book to bring new to the study of for earlier periods to prehistoric research as well as acting as a reference for students and scholars already researching this area. The book begins by considering the Mesolithic prelude, specifically the millennium prior to the start of the Neolithic in
Of Ireland

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Ireland. It then goes on to consider what life was like for people at the time, alongside the monumental record and how people treated the dead. This is presented chronologically, with separate chapters on the Mesolithic, Neolithic, and Early Beaker. Finally, late Neolithic and early Bronze Age. The focus is on future research priorities for the study of the Neolithic. An essential new history of ancient Ireland and the Irish, written as an engaging detective story. About eighty million people today can trace their descent back to the occupants of Ireland. But where did the occupants of the island themselves come from and what do we even mean by "Irish" in the first place? This is the first major attempt to deal with the core issues of how people came to inhabit the island, the problems that faced the Irish in the early part of the 19th century, and what we can do about it. Not surprisingly, Irish immigrants counted as one quarter of New York City's population during the 1840s, a result of the arduous voyage across the Atlantic Ocean, many sought refuge in the harbor cities in which they landed. Not surprisingly, Irish immigrants counted as one quarter of New York City's population during the 1840s, a result of the arduous voyage across the Atlantic Ocean, many sought refuge in the harbor cities in which they landed. Not surprisingly, Irish immigrants counted as one quarter of New York City's population during the 1840s, a result of the arduous voyage across the Atlantic Ocean, many sought refuge in the harbor cities in which they landed.
1850s. In Historical Archaeology of the Irish Diaspora, Stephen A. Brighton places Irish and Irish American material culture within a broad historical context, including the waves of immigration that preceded the Famine. The development of new methodologies that followed the Famine has revolutionized archaeological research connected with excavations at two pre-Famine sites in County Roscommon, Ireland, and with several immigrant tenements located in the Five Points, Manhattan, and the Dublin section of nearby Paterson, New Jersey. Using this transnational approach to link artifacts and ceramics found in rural Ireland with those discovered in sites in the urban, northeastern United States, Brighton employs contemporary dating techniques to illustrate how the connection between the Irish and their descendants continued, and the Irish were first alienated from, and then gradually incorporated into, American society. With more than forty million Americans claiming Irish ancestry, fully understanding Ireland’s traumatic history and its impact on the growth of the United States remains a vital task for researchers on both sides of the Atlantic. Brighton’s lively approach to illustrating historical pathways and drawing conclusions will aid scholars and all who seek a variety of disciplines. Stephen A. Brighton is an assistant professor of anthropology at the University of Maryland. His articles have appeared in the International Journal of Historical Archaeology and Historical Geographies.
The authors examine Irish prehistory from the economic, sociological and artistic viewpoints enabling the reader to comprehend the vast amount of archaeological work accomplished in Ireland over the last twenty years. The authors examine Irish prehistory from the economic, sociological and artistic viewpoints enabling the reader to comprehend the vast amount of archaeological work accomplished in Ireland over the last twenty years. From medieval Carlingford in Louth to Blarney Castle in Cork, discover the top 100 places to visit in Ireland’s Ancient East. Wander through time at sites such as Clonmacnoise, Newgrange and the Rock of Cashel, as well as at hidden gems like Athenry Priory in Tipperary, Loughcrew Passage Tomb in Meath and Heywood Gardens in Laois. From dolmens to round towers, Anglo-Norman castles to historic gardens, over 5,000 years of Ireland’s history, heritage, archaeology and folklore are waiting to be discovered. Find out which round towers can be climbed—where there is a 2,000-year-old trackway across a bog—where famous garden features a piece of the Berlin Wall—where St Nicholas is buried. Included is practical information on each location directly from the visitor experience. With easy-to-read new maps and specially commissioned photographs, this is the first guide to Ireland’s Ancient East. Presents new perspectives on the use and perception of caves at different times in the past, from the Early Mesolithic through to post-medieval times; reveals complex and varied funerary practices and rituals associated with cave burials; suggests the changing roles of caves as shelter, occupation, burial and ritual practices during the From the end of the Ice Age to the arrival of Christianity in Ireland, this is the most complete picture of Cork in prehistory. Generously illustrated. Sited at the furthest limits of the Neolithic revolution and standing at the confluence of the two great sea routes of prehistory, Britain and Ireland are distinct from continental Europe for much of the prehistoric sequence. In this landmark 2007 study—the first significant survey of both Britain and Ireland for two decades—Richard Bradley offers an interpretation of the unique archaeological record of these islands based on a wealth of current and largely unpublished data. Bradley surveys the entire archaeological sequence over a 4,000 year period, from the adoption of agriculture in the Neolithic period to the discovery of Britain and Ireland by travellers from the continent in the Iron Age. Significantly, this is the first pre-Roman Iron Age book to treat Britain and Ireland on equal terms, offering a detailed interpretation of the prehistory of both islands. This engaging book traces the history, archaeology, and legends of ancient Ireland from 9000 B.C., when nomadic hunter-gatherers appeared in Ireland, at the end of the last Ice Age to 1167 A.D., when a Norman invasion brought the country under control of the English crown for the first time. So much of what people today accept as ancient Irish history—Celtic invaders from Europe turning Ireland into a Celtic nation; St. Patrick driving the snakes from Ireland and converting its people to Christianity—is myth and legend with little basis in reality. The truth is more interesting. The Irish, as the authors show, are not even Celtic in an archaeological sense. There were plenty of bishops in Ireland before a British missionary called Patrick arrived. But In Search of Ancient Ireland is not simply the story of events from long ago. Across Ireland today are festivals, places, and folk customs that provide a tangible link to events thousands of years past. The authors visit and describe many of these places and festivals, talking to a wide variety of historians, scholars, poets, and storytellers in the very settings where history happened. Thus the book is also a journey on the ground to uncover ten thousand years of Irish identity. In Search of Ancient Ireland is the first full-length companion to the three-part PBS documentary series. With 14 black-and-white photos, 6 b&w line drawings, 1 bw map, and 16 specially commissioned photographs, this is the first guide to Ireland’s Ancient East. Modern borders of all kinds, political, geographical and social, affect the kinds of prehistoric narratives archaeologists can write. Borders that dominate today did not exist in prehistory. This volume works across such borders and focuses specifically on the region between the Rivers Forth and Tyne, an area divided by the modern political border between Scotland and England. The introduction and opening chapters consider the impact of the Anglo-Scots and similar borders on our understanding of prehistoric patterns of activity. The introduction also asks whether, when, and to what extent this could be considered a coherent region in the prehistoric past. Further chapters explore the history of research in the region, including field survey and aerial photography. Another nine chapters discuss the results of recent research, including new and older excavations, or conduct regional analyses of artefacts and mortuary practices, starting with the Late Upper Palaeolithic and continuing with studies from the Early Neolithic through to the Late Iron Age. Taken as a whole, the publication suggests that while there was no coherent Tyne-Forth region in prehistory, except for perhaps in the Late Iron Age, research at this regional scale provides a basis for understanding past interactions at a variety of scales. The work of the Irish is the first major attempt in nearly eighty years to deal with the core issues of how the Irish people came into being. Written as an engaging detective story, this authoritative and brilliantly argued book emphasizes that the Irish did not have a single origin, but are a product of multiple influences that can only be tracked by employing the varied disciplines of archaeology, genetics, geology, linguistics and more to illustrate new connections and inform broad interpretations. This is essentially a book for anyone interested in Ireland and the Irish. This book, first published in 2006, surveys the archaeology of the Celtic-speaking areas of Britain and Ireland, AD 400 to 1200. A collection of eighteen original essays which discusses the prehistoric archaeology of southwest Ireland from the earliest human settlement to the beginnings of the Iron Age this edited volume of 16 papers provides an introduction to the techniques and methodologies, approaches and potential of environmental archaeology within Ireland. Each of the 16 invited contributions focuses on a particular aspect of environmental archaeology and include such specialist areas as radiocarbon dating, dendrochronology, palaeoentomology, human osteoarchaeology, palynology and geoarchaeology, thereby providing a comprehensive overview of environmental archaeology within an Irish context. The inclusion of pertinent case studies within each chapter will heighten awareness of the profusion of high standard environmental archaeological research that is currently being undertaken on Irish material.
The book will provide a key text for students and practitioners of archaeology, archaeological science and palaeoecology. This book offers a comprehensive introduction to the archaeological prehistory and an essential reference to the most recent research and fieldwork. Only book available to offer general coverage of Mediterranean prehistory. Written by 14 of the leading archaeologists in the field. Spans the Neolithic through the Iron Age, and draws from all the major regions of the Mediterranean's coast and islands. Presents the central debates in Mediterranean prehistory—trade and interaction, rural economies, ritual, social structure, gender, monumentality, insularity, archaeometallurgy and the metals trade, stone technologies, settlement, and maritime traffic—as well as contemporary legacies of the region's prehistoric past. Structure of text is pedagogically driven. Engages diverse theoretical approaches so students will see the benefits of multivocality. This book describes and analyses the increasing complexity of later Chalcolithic and Early Bronze Age burial in Ireland, using burial complexity as a proxy for increasing social complexity, and as a tool for examining social structure. It features: the most comprehensive and detailed compact guide to the archaeological sites of Ireland; coverage of all the main archaeological sites; arranged in eight regional sections, with easy-to-follow instructions on finding and visiting sites; introductory section providing background and context to the monuments; over 250 photographs, plans, and maps; extensive reference section including a chronology, glossary of essential terms, and further reading; and helpful listings of museums and their collections.©—Jacket. Through time people have lived with darkness. Archaeology shows us that over the whole human journey people have sought out dark places, for burials, for votive deposition and sometimes for retreat or religious ritual away from the wider community. Thirteen papers explore Palaeolithic use of deep caves in Europe and the orientation of mortuary monuments in the Neolithic and Bronze Age. It examines how the senses are affected in caves and monuments that were used for ritual activities, from Bronze Age miners in Wales working in dangerous subterranean settings, to initiands in Italian caves, to a modern caver's experience of spending time in the one of the world's deepest caves in Russia. We see how darkness was and is viewed at northern latitudes where parts of the year are spent in eternal night, and in Easter Island where darkness provided communal refuge from the pervasive sun. We know that spending extended periods in darkness and silence can affect one physically, emotionally and spiritually. How did interactions between people and darkness affect individuals in the past and how were regarded by their communities? And how did this interaction transform places in the landscape? As the ever-increasing electrification of the planet steadily minimizes the amount of darkness in our lives, curiously, darkness is coming more into focus. This first collection of papers on the subject begins a conversation about the role of darkness in human experience through time. The Bronze Age is frequently framed in social evolutionary terms. Viewed as the period which saw the emergence of social differentiation, the development of long-distance trade, and the intensification of agricultural production, it is seen as the precursor and origin-point for significant aspects of the modern world. This book presents a very different image of Bronze Age Britain and Ireland. Drawing on the wealth of material from recent excavations, as well as a long history of research, it explores the impact of the post-Enlightenment 'othering' of the non-human on our understanding of Bronze Age society. There is much to suggest that the conceptual boundary between the active human subject and the passive world of objects, so familiar from our own cultural context, was not drawn in this categorical way in the Bronze Age; the self was constructed in relational rather than individualistic terms, and aspects of the non-human world such as pots, houses, and mountains were considered animate entities with their own spirit or soul. In a series of thematic chapters on the human body, artefacts, settlements, and landscapes, this book considers the character of Bronze Age personhood, the relationship between individual and society, and ideas around agency and social power. The treatment and deposition of things such as querns, axes, and human remains provides insights into the meanings and values ascribed to objects and places, and the ways in which such items acted as social agents in the Bronze Age world.