

# Early prehistory of Africa

## *Further reading list*

- J. D. Clark, *The Prehistory of Africa* (Thames and Hudson, London 1970)

The classic introduction of its day by the leading archaeologist of Africa in the middle decades of the twentieth century.



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- Louis and Mary Leakey, *Olduvai Gorge*, 3 volumes (CUP, Cambridge, 1965-71)

The detailed archaeological reports of excavations concerning the Oldowan toolmakers.

- D. W. Phillipson, *African Archaeology* (CUP, Cambridge, 3<sup>rd</sup> edition 2005)

The best modern introduction to the archaeology of Africa.

- L. Berger with Brett Hilton-Berber, *In the Footsteps of Eve: the Mystery of Human Origins* (National Geographic Adventure Press, Washington DC, 2000)

A detailed look at the origins of humanity in Africa, traced through DNA to a probable single founding woman in central Africa.

- P. Foster, 'Ice ages and the mitochondrial DNA chronology of human dispersals: a review', *Philosophical Transactions of the Royal Society of London*, No.359 (2004), pp. 255-64

The linking of genetic evidence, through the female line, for human dispersal beyond Africa linked with the probable impact of climate change.

- C. Ehret, *The Civilizations of Africa: A History to 1800* (James Currey, Oxford, 2002)

A clear exposition of the origins and spread of Africa's main language families and cultures by the leading linguistic historian of the continent.

- L. Barham and P. Mitchell, *The First Africans: African archaeology from the earliest toolmakers to the most recent foragers* (CUP, Cambridge, 2008)

The most up-to-date survey of the archaeological and climatic evidence for the evolution of humans in Africa and their development of hunting and gathering societies and cultures. The book concludes with an assessment of the survival of hunting and gathering into modern times.

- J. D. Lewis-Williams, *The rock art of Southern Africa* (CUP, Cambridge, 1983)

A ground-breaking interpretation of the rock art of the hunter-gatherers of southern Africa, copiously illustrated and explained.

## SECTION I

# CHAPTER 2

# Later prehistory: farming and pastoralism in tropical Africa and Ancient Egypt

## *Further reading list*

Two works that more or less defined our understanding of early **plant domestication** and **food production** in Africa:

- J. R. Harlan, J. M. J. de Wet and A. B. L. Stemler (eds), *Origins of African plant domestication* (Mouton, The Hague, 1976)
- J. D. Clark and S. A. Brandt (eds), *From hunters to farmers: the causes and consequences of food production in Africa* (1984)

More recent works on the subject:

- B. E. P. Barich, *Water and Grain: The Beginnings of Domestication in the Sahara and the Nile Valley*, (L'Erma di Bretschneider, Rome, 1998)
- M. van der Veen (ed), *The Exploitation of Plant Resources in Ancient Africa* (Kluwer Academic, New York, 1999)
- R. M. Blench and K. C. MacDonald (eds), *The Origins and Development of African Livestock: Archaeology, Genetics, Linguistics, and Ethnography* (UCL Press, London, 2000)
- T. Tainter, R. McIntosh & S. McIntosh (eds), *The Way Wind Blows: Climate, History and Human Action* (Columbia UP, New York, 2000)
- F. A. Hassan (ed), *Droughts, Food and Culture: Ecological Change and Food Security in Africa's Later Prehistory* (Kluwer Academic, New York, 2002)

- K. Neumann, A. Butler and S. Kahlheber (eds), *Food, Fuel and Fields: Progress in African Archaeobotany* (Heinrich-Barth Institute, Köln, 2003)
- Two short introductory essays on the subject by Jack Harlan are 'Farming Methods' and 'Food Crops', both appearing in J. O. Vogel (ed) *Encyclopedia of Precolonial Africa* (Altamira Press, Walnut Creek, CA, 1997)

For a stimulating article on the **role of cattle**, see:

- F. Marshall and E. Hildebrand, 'Cattle before Crops: The Beginnings of Food Production in Africa', *Journal of World Prehistory*, No.16 (2002), pp. 99-143

For the best use of the results of linguistic evidence in the unraveling of the history of the spread of African **plant and animal domestication** and usage, see:

- C. Ehret, *The Civilizations of Africa: A History to 1800* (James Currey, Oxford, 2002)

For **pre-dynastic Egypt**, a good introduction is:

- J. Philips, 'Egypt, Ancient: Predynastic Egypt and Nubia: Historical Outline', in K. Shillington (ed), *Encyclopedia of African History*, Volume 1, pp. 399-401 (Fitzroy Dearborn, New York, 2005)

For the '**Badarian**' **period of pre-dynastic Egypt**, a good introduction to the work of Guy Brunton and Gertrude Caton-Thompson, who defined the period in the 1920s, is:

- M. A. Huffman, *Egypt before the Pharaohs: the prehistoric foundations of Egyptian Civilization*, (Routledge and Kegan Paul, London, 1980).

Huffman's very approachable book and easy style also gives some insight into the methods and achievements of these and other individual archaeologists.

For those with a particular interest in **archaeology**, it is well worth delving into the original publication of Brunton and Caton-Thompson, whose precision and meticulous

research methods were remarkably advanced for the 1920s and still stand as an example for archaeologists today:

- G. Brunton and G. Caton-Thompson, *The Badarian Civilization and Prehistoric Remains near Badari* (Quaritch, London, 1928)

Three important recent works on **north-east African pre-history** are:

- F. A. Hassan, 'Soul birds and heavenly cows: transforming gender in pre-dynastic Egypt', in S. Nelson & M. Rosen-Ayalon (eds), *Pursuit of Gender: Worldwide Archaeological Approaches* (Altmira Press, New York, 2002), pp 43-65
- D. Wengrow, *The Archaeology of Early Egypt: social transformations in north-east Africa, 10,000 to 2650 BC* (CUP, Cambridge, 2006)

and the relevant parts of:

- L. Barham and P. Mitchell, *The First Africans: African archaeology from the earliest toolmakers to the most recent foragers* (CUP, Cambridge, 2008)

For the history of **Ancient Egypt** itself, see:

- T. A. H. Wilkinson, *Early Dynastic Egypt* (Routledge, New York, 1999)
- C. Aldred, *Egypt to the End of the Old Kingdom* (Thames and Hudson, London, 1965)
- M. Lehner, *The Complete Pyramids* (Thames and Hudson, London and New York, 1997)
- B. Manley, *The Penguin Historical Atlas of Ancient Egypt*, (Penguin, London, 1996)
- Dodson, 'Egypt, Ancient: Middle Kingdom, Historical Outline', in K. Shillington (ed), *Encyclopedia of African History*, Volume 1, pp. 406-8 (Fitzroy Dearborn, New York, 2005)
- J. Philips, 'Egypt, Ancient: New Kingdom and the Colonization of Nubia', in K. Shillington (ed), *Encyclopedia of African History*, Volume 1, pp. 408-10 (Fitzroy Dearborn, New York, 2005)

- W. V. Davies (ed), *Egypt and Africa: Nubia from Prehistory to Islam*, (British Museum, London, 1991)

For an important and pioneering, if controversial, work on the impact of **Ancient Egypt's civilization** on the rest of African and European culture, see:

- Cheikh Anta Diop, *The African Origin of Civilization: Myth or Reality?* (Lawrence Hill, New York, 1974, first published in French in 1954)