

Contents

| | |
|----------------------|------|
| List of Figures..... | xiii |
| List of Tables..... | xvii |
| Foreword..... | xix |
| Preface..... | xxi |

| | |
|--|----------|
| 1. Theoretical Background and Introduction to The Question..... | 1 |
| 1.1. Current Theories for the Study of Lithic Technology | 1 |
| 1.2. Toward a Paleosociological Research Strategy..... | 3 |
| 1.3. Microblade-based industries in Paleosociological Research | 4 |
| 1.4. Organization of the Monograph..... | 5 |

Part I. Setting The Stage: Microblade Technology and Microblade-Based Societies

| | |
|---|-----------|
| 2. An Overview of Microblade Technology..... | 11 |
| 2.1. Microblade Technology..... | 11 |
| 2.1.1. Forms of Microcores..... | 12 |
| 2.1.2. Methods of Microblade Production | 12 |
| 2.1.3. Microblade Technology as a Composite Technology | 13 |
| 2.2. Origin and Spread of Microblade Technology in the Northern Circum-Pacific | 13 |
| 2.3. Assessment of the Culture-Historical Approach | 17 |
| 2.4. Geography and Climates of NE Asia..... | 19 |
| 2.4.1. Geography of Contemporary NE Asia..... | 19 |
| 2.4.2. NE Asia during the Last Ice Age..... | 19 |
| 2.5. Summary | 22 |
| 3. Temporo-Spatial Framework of Microblade-Based Societies in Northeastern Asia..... | 23 |
| 3.1. Microblade-based Societies | 23 |
| 3.2. Spatial Framework of Microblade-based Societies..... | 24 |
| 3.2.1. The “40 Degree North Latitude Phenomenon”..... | 24 |
| 3.2.2. The Four Regions of NE Asia | 26 |
| 3.3. Temporal Framework of Microblade-based societies | 29 |
| 3.3.1. Phase I..... | 29 |
| 3.3.2. Phase II..... | 31 |
| 3.3.3. Phase III | 31 |
| 3.3.4. Phase IV | 32 |
| 3.4. Two Waves of Cultural Change among Microblade-based Societies | 33 |

Part II. Building Frames of Reference

| | |
|---|-----------|
| 4. The Macroecological Approach..... | 37 |
| 4.1. The Macroecological Approach: Theoretical Background | 37 |
| 4.1.1. What is the Macroecological Approach? | 37 |
| 4.1.2. Study of the Past Using Modeled Past Climate Data..... | 38 |
| 4.2. Cultural changes among microblade-based societies..... | 38 |
| 4.2.1. Paleoclimate, Technological Organization, and Macroecology..... | 38 |
| 4.2.2. Cultural Changes among Microblade-based Societies: Research Questions..... | 40 |
| 4.2.3. The “Refugium Model”: A Starting Point to Study the First Wave of Cultural Change..... | 41 |
| 4.2.4. The Pleistocene-Holocene Transition: Investigation of the Second Wave of Cultural Change..... | 41 |
| 4.3. Construction of Input Files for Binford’s Frames of Reference from Existing Data Sources under Two Contrasting Climatic Conditions..... | 42 |
| 4.3.1. Modern Weather Station Data | 42 |
| 4.3.2. The Database for the Last Glacial Maximum | 42 |
| 4.3.3. Instructions for Running the EnvCalc2.1 Program..... | 43 |

| | |
|---|-----------|
| 5. Developing A Frame of Reference | 45 |
| 5.1. Key Variables | 45 |
| 5.2. Climate, Biomes, and Habitat | 45 |
| 5.2.1. Climate | 45 |
| 5.2.2. Biomes and Habitat | 51 |
| 5.3. Minimalist Terrestrial Model: Modelling A-Cultural Adaptation of Human Beings..... | 54 |
| 5.3.1. Population Densities..... | 55 |
| 5.3.2. Subsistence Specialization | 57 |
| 5.4. Modelling Density–Dependent Change in Hunter-Gatherer Subsistence..... | 59 |
| 5.4.1. Subsistence: Hunting, Gathering, or Fishing | 60 |
| 5.4.2. Projected Population Density | 63 |
| 5.4.3. Group Size and Social Organization | 64 |
| 5.4.4. Mobility..... | 66 |
| 5.5. Unpacked or Packed: A Growth Rate Model and Density Controlled Subsistence..... | 68 |
| 5.5.1. Mapping Unpacked and Packed Subsistence Specialization | 70 |
| 5.5.2. Population Packing and Technological Change | 74 |
| 5.6. Lifeways of Hunter-Gatherers: Habitat and Diversity of Behavior..... | 75 |
| 5.6.1. Climate Change and its Impacts on Past Foraging Societies | 75 |
| 5.6.2. Vegetation Change | 78 |
| 5.6.3. Variables among Different Culture-Ecological Regions | 80 |
| 5.6.4. Summary | 85 |

**Part III. Cultural Process among Microblade-Based Societies in Northeastern Asia I:
Cultural Change during the Last Glacial Maximum**

| | |
|---|-----------|
| 6. High Latitudes of Northeastern Asia: Transbaikal and the Pshk | 89 |
| 6.1. Continuously Occupied or Abandoned?..... | 89 |
| 6.2. Assessment of the Previous Viewpoints..... | 89 |
| 6.3. A Macroecological Approach..... | 91 |
| 7. Edge of The Loess | 95 |
| 7.1. Local Origin or Exotic Technology: An Assessment of Previous Viewpoints..... | 95 |
| 7.2. A Macroecological Approach..... | 97 |

**Part IV. Cultural Process Among Microblade-based Societies in Northeastern Asia II:
Cultural Change During The Pleistocene-Holocene Transition**

| | |
|--|------------|
| 8. Rise of Jomon: From The Paleo-Honshu Island to the Pshk Peninsula | 109 |
| 8.1. The “Jomon Revolution”..... | 109 |
| 8.2. A Macroecological Approach..... | 111 |
| 9. Cultural Change in Eastern Siberia and its Neighbors: The Rise of a Mesolithic Adaptation | 119 |
| 9.1. The Temporo-Spatial Framework of Archaeological Cultures in Eastern Siberia and Its Neighbors | 119 |
| 9.2. A Macroecological Approach..... | 120 |
| 10. Northern China: Food Production and Microblade-based Societies | 143 |
| 10.1. Archaeological Sites Associated with Microblade Technology in North China | 143 |
| 10.2. Early Intensification or Group Activity: A Study of Plant Use at the Shizitan Site..... | 143 |
| 10.3. Broad Spectrum Revolution and Intensification: A Study of the Pleistocene-Holocene Transition | 156 |
| 10.4. The Demise of Microblade-based Societies: A Preliminary Study on Microblade Assemblages during Early Holocene | 164 |
| 11. A New Frontier: Microblade-based Societies on the Tibetan Plateau..... | 167 |
| 11.1. Paleolithic and Neolithic on the Tibetan Plateau | 167 |
| 11.2. A Macroecological Approach..... | 171 |
| 11.2.1. Sites of the Late Pleistocene..... | 171 |
| 11.2.2. Epipaleolithic Hunter-Gatherers..... | 173 |
| 11.2.3. Neolithic Agriculturalists | 175 |
| 11.2.4. A tale of Two Models | 177 |

| | |
|--|------------|
| 12. A New Starting Point for Further Research | 183 |
| 12.1. What Has Been Learned?..... | 183 |
| 12.2. Where to Go Next?..... | 185 |
| 12.2.1. The Regions Not Yet Analyzed | 185 |
| 12.2.2. Global Microlithization and Beyond..... | 187 |
| 12.2.3. The “Paleoarctic Tradition” and “The First Americans”..... | 188 |
| 12.2.4. The Forging-to-Farming Transition | 188 |
| 12.3. Unfinished to be Continued..... | 189 |
| Appendix Coordinates of the principle sites..... | 191 |
| References Cited..... | 195 |