Contents

	t of illustrations t of tables	xii xix
1.	Europe: the birthplace of mining? The geological environment The human environment A history of research The archaeology of prehistoric copper mines Prehistoric copper mines in Europe	13 16 27 32
2.	South-east Europe The first metallurgy in Europe Early copper mining in Serbia Early copper mining in Bulgaria Discussion	37 38 39 47 53
3.	Eastern and central Mediterranean Greece and the Aegean Islands Cyprus: island of copper Sardinia and Corsica Italy	55 55 58 67 67
4.	Iberia and the western Mediterranean South-west Spain Portugal South-east and central-east Spain Northern Spain Conclusions	. 77 79 89 90 92 103
5.	France and the western Alps Early copper mines in the Languedoc Other mines in southern France The French Alps Discussion	105 105 115 117 122
6.	Northern Europe Ireland Britain Scandinavia	125 125 138 155

7.	Central and eastern Europe	161
	The first metal workers	161
	The Austrian mines	163
	The German mountain ranges	185
	Slovakia	186
	Eurasia	187
8.	Technology and work practices	195
	The search for copper	195
	The approach to mining	199
	Methods of rock extraction	203
	The mining environment	216
	The treatment of copper ore	221
	Ore to metal	229
	Ancillary activities	233
	Conclusions	242
9.	Mining, community, and environment	245
	Mining as community	247
	Mining as belief	253
	Mining and settlement	263
	Mining and the environment	269
10.	Mining, economy, and society	279
	A mining economy	279
	Copper resources and social power	290
	Boom to bust	298
References		303
Index		341