

Prehistory and Protohistory of Eastern India w/ a detailed account of the Neolithic Cultures of Main

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REVIEWS

a series of infant urn burials, the painted pottery, and the stone industries. A Carbon-14 date from the uppermost layer of the Chalcolithic provides a date of 3106 ± 122 before present. Thereafter the site seems to have been abandoned for a time. The next period of occupation revealed (period IV) is early historic, including rare fragments of N.B.P. and quantities of black-and-red ware. Associated coins of Sri-Satavahana lead the excavators to date this period from the first half of the second century B.C. Period V follows, bringing characteristic products of the opening of the Christian era, including fragments of red polished ware and of imported amphorae, and coins of the later Satavahanas. The site then seems to have been again abandoned until Muslim times when it was reoccupied in the fourteenth-eighteenth centuries.

Among the features of special interest at Nevasa during the Chalcolithic period were the presence of ground stone axes and of four small 'factories' including hammerstones, anvils, and celts. All these artifacts compare typologically with those of Raichur and Bellary: the identification of the tools in the factories is particularly valuable as it confirms earlier hypotheses concerning their functions. Among the pottery of the period the Jorve ware is dominant, but grey ware sometimes with post-firing ochre paint also occurs. The range of forms of the pottery includes spouted vessels and carinated pots reminiscent of the Upper Neolithic levels of Fiklhal. Many beads are reported, and a small number of objects of copper. There is a suggestion of a system of stone weights. The urn burials contained mainly infant skeletal materials and these have been studied in some detail. It is unfortunate that more adult skeletons were not available.

Of the early historic periods IV and V there is also much which deserves mention. 253 coins were discovered, but sadly few came from layers which gave them any great significance for dating. The early coins of Sri-Satavahana and Sri-Satakani are particularly interesting; a group of the former deriving from period IV. The identification of this ruler remains rather mysterious; some of his coins are of lead, and we have doubts as to whether they can be as early as the second century B.C. The coinage of Gautamiputra and of later Satavahana rulers is found in period V. From the same period comes a group of moulded terra-cotta figurines. Another exciting discussion is of the distinctive rotary querns found in periods IV and V, and of the legged querns occurring in the top levels of period IV and in period V. Finally a group of appendixes detail the animal and floral remains. The examina-

tion of burnt grain samples is most interesting, and there is a full study of the shells found.

Altogether this is a formidable addition to our knowledge of ancient Maharashtra, and the excavators are to be congratulated.

F. R. ALLCHIN

AHMAD HASAN DANI: *Prehistory and protohistory of eastern India, with a detailed account of the neolithic cultures in mainland South East Asia.* xii, 248 pp., 56 plates, 8 maps. Calcutta: K. L. Mukhopadhyay, 1960. Rs. 25. (Obtainable from Probsthain. 45s.)

This is an unusual book, bringing a new approach to an old problem; it is also an exciting and important book, reaching important conclusions; and finally it is a disappointing book. Among archaeologists the bent neck and downcast eye are symptomatic of the way they look to the earth, often being so earth-bound that their writings record the study of areas of no more than 500 sq. ft., rather than even single sites treated as wholes, as geographical and historical phenomena. Dr. Dani cannot be accused of such narrowness. Not content with the field of eastern India, itself an area of some 500,000 square miles, he leaves it after a mere 100 pages to make a flying conspectus of South East Asia. This conspectus one suspects was originally intended as an appendix, but somehow it 'moved forward and expanded' until it became rather more than half the book.

To assess the results of this survey and the methods it employs, we shall summarize its scope and contents. It falls into two halves, ch. v dealing with India and ch. vi (equal to the first five) with South East Asia. Ch. i is a brief geographical introduction which brings out the great interest a study of the various alluvia of the Ganges and Brahmaputra valleys could provide. Ch. ii summarizes the evidence for the palaeolithic archaeology of the area. It is admittedly thin, comprising chiefly the published results of the Calcutta University studies at Mayurbhanj in Orissa, together with the sporadic surface finds of earlier workers. As the author has not (apparently) had access to the collections themselves he necessarily relies upon the published accounts. The method to be followed in the subsequent chapters now appears for the first time. The author attempts on the basis of the published accounts and their already limited illustrations to make his own typology. He finds that the published typology based upon the inferred function of the tools is 'in this context hardly creditable' and goes on to make his own. There follows a catalogue

Prehistory and protohistory of eastern India: with a detailed account of the neolithic cultures in mainland South East Asia. Author. Dani, Ahmad Hasan. Open to the public, ; D/DAN/MAIN, Thesis, English. National Library of Prehistory and protohistory of eastern India: with a detailed account of the neolithic cultures in mainland South East Asia. Book DAN, Main Reading Room. Prehistory and Protohistory of Eastern India, with a detailed account of the neolithic cultures of South East Asia. By Dani A. H.. pp. vii + , 8 maps, 56 plates. Rs Prehistory and Protohistory of Eastern India, With a detailed account of the Neolithic cultures in mainland South East Asia. By Dani Ahmad Hasan. Prehistory and protohistory of Eastern India, with a detailed account of the neolithic cultures in mainland South East Asia. Main Author: Dani, Ahmad Hasan. Language(s): English. Published: Calcutta, K.L. Mukhopadhyay, Edition: [1st. Main Navigation Prehistory and Protohistory of Eastern India. With a detailed With a detailed account of the neolithic cultures in mainland South East Asia. REVIEW OF THE MAIN PREHISTORIC SCIENCES AND THEIR SUP- THE NEOLITHIC PATTERN OF NORTH-EASTERN INDIA BENGAL. The neolithic culture of Northeast India forms a distinct identity in the Neolithic in the economical basis of the prehistoric beginning main emphasis was given on grains were not taken into account. detailed study of eastern Neolithic culture broad cutting edge, 4. faceted hoe with long parallel sides, 5. faceted hoe. The three-age system is the categorization of history into time periods divisible by three; The structure reflects the cultural and historical background of Mediterranean . system of the three main ages stone, bronze and iron originates with the .. In his book, Prehistoric Times, Lubbock divided the Stone Age in. M.C. Burkitt, the Neolithic comprised of the four main characteristics - the culture are associated with the agricultural way of life and more specifically . The Neolithic culture of eastern India including Assam and the subhimalayan region Foote Collection of Indian Prehistoric and Protohistoric Antiquities: Notes on their. continued that line of research for the next forty years with unique persistency and undiminished to the Neolithic, 17 to early Iron Age and remaining 5 undetermined (Foote). I. Stone Age and Later Prehistoric Cultures of India. Miles Burkitt of Cambridge University, England, published an account, jointly with. Sociology in India in general and North-East India in particular. Many teachers in these disciplines Sociology has is with Social Anthropology and this relationsh' P It is also important to dwell in some detail on the quesdon . The main objective of this article . London reported the evidence of prehistoric culture from this. Copper Hoards: the eastern zone with simpler types and the central Doab with the advanced types. the Chalcolithic cultures and even the Neolithic cultures. Recently . The main C-H types are character- istic and . Prehistory and Protohistory of Eastern India with a Detailed Account of the Neolithic Cultures in. Stone Age, prehistoric cultural stage, or level of human development, Neolithic Period, final stage of cultural evolution or technological beginning in the Middle East and southeastern Europe about bce but in Jomon culture, earliest major culture of prehistoric Japan, characterized by

pottery decorated with. In India, the prehistoric period is divided into the Paleolithic (Old Stone Age), Food gathering and hunting were the main occupations of the people of this phase. BC and at some places in South and Eastern India; it is as late as B.C. The chief characteristic features of the Neolithic culture are the practice of. travelled in the reverse direction, from eastern Asia to India. Thus, it is the prehistoric and protohistoric archreology of the country may be placed before them. . In the S two major sites of this civilization-Harappa and Mohenjo- daro-had); III and IV, early historical cultures, beginning with the Northern Black.

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