

Theoretical Perspectives on Beginning of Agriculture: Models and debates

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Abstract:

This essay explores the Beginning of agriculture debate at world context from earliest times. From the neolithic revolution concepts to post processual archeology has remained the trajectories and boundaries of this debate. Some current models for future possibilities of researches in area is enumerated. A conjecture is drawn to show how mixing of different models can bring better research possibility in this highly debated and complex area of inquiry.

Archaeologists seem like adventurers, digging into pyramids and finding long forgotten inscriptions in remote places. A century ago, many archaeologists were indeed adventurers. Even as late as the 1870s, you could go out digging in Southwest Asia and find a long-lost civilization. German businessman turned-archaeologist. Heinrich Schlieman was convinced that Homer's Troy had actually existed. Schliemann found the remains of nine cities stratified one above the other and announced that the seventh was Homer's Troy (Traill, 1995). So did Frenchman Emil de Sarzec when he unearthed Sumer in desolate southern Mesopotamia, a civilization that soon turned out to be one of the earliest in the world and the society where the Flood legened in Genesis probably originated. Today, however, the fascination of great adventure has been replaced by all the excitement of the detective story. (Penke, 1985, p. 8) The twentieth century saw archaeology turn from a casual treasure hunt into a complex and demanding science (Fagan, 1985). There have been dramatic discoveries by the dozens: Tutankhamun's tomb in 1922; Harappa 1921, the royal cemetery at Ur in Iraq in 1928, the spectacular early human fossils discovered by the Leakey family in East Africa during the last quarter of the century, and the magnificent royal burials in China, Guatemala, and Peru in the 1980s.

Archaeology is the study of ancient human behavior based on surviving material finds. For the past 5000 years, humans have used writing as a means of recording

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