The Pacific was one of the most significant areas on earth for the origin of Early Man and the development of humankind. Scholars from nearly 50 countries have worked for many years since the foundation of the Pacific Science Association in the 1920s, often meet in congresses of Pacific studies for the exchange of scientific information.

The XIX Congress, entitled “Environment of the Pacific Ocean for the Development of Humankind”, was held in 1979 in Khabarovsk, USSR. Eighteen papers, included in the monograph under review, were presented in one of the congress’s symposia, “Late Pleistocene and Early Holocene Cultural Contacts of North Asia and America”. The monograph is divided into two relevant sections: Ancient Cultural Contacts, and Chronology and Periodization. The papers, written by specialists from the Soviet Union, United States, Canada, and Japan, include: New Information on the Mongolian Paleolithic (A.P. Okladnikov); Cultural Contacts between Northeastern Asia and America on the Basis of the Late Pleistocene and Early Holocene Sites of the Kamchatka, Chukotka and the upper Kolyma River (N.N. Dikov); Levaillos Traditions of North Asia and North America (R.S. Vasil’yevsky); Paleolithic Population of Southern Siberia and Ancient Cultures of North America (G.I. Medvedev); On the Peopling of Sakhalin Island (V.A. Golubev); Evaluation of the Late Pleistocene and Early Holocene Archaeology of Coastal Alaska, the Bering Sea and Asia (R.E. Ackerman); Late Pleistocene Settlements of Northeast Asia and Northwest America (A.L. Bryan); Early Cultures of Northern Northwest America (R.L. Carlson); Sinodontia and Sundadontia: Origin, Microevolution and Distribution of the Mongoloids in the Pacific, Siberia and America on the Basis of Odontological Data (C.G. Turner); Contacts of Northern Japan with American Preceramic Traditions During the Holocene (V. Herli, P. Blid, and M. Esidzaki); Culf of Birds in California (E.A. Okladnikova); Small Tools from the Lower Horizon of the Hosino Site in Japan (T. Seridzava); Early Sites of the Middle Coast of British Columbia (F.M. Hobler); The Placement of the Yubileyny Site in the Stone Age of Yakutia (V.A. Kashin); Final Paleolithic of Trans-Baykal (M.V. Konstantinov); The Neolithic Site of the Chertyvo Vorota Cave (V.A. Tatarnikov); Archaeological Investigations in the Coast of the Western Tatar Peninsula (V.I. D’yakov and O.V. D’yakova); and Excavations of the Middle Age Mounds in the In River (V.E. Medvedev).

Although each of these articles is significant for the study of Early Man in the northern Pacific, I emphasize in this review those papers which deal directly with comparative studies of the two continents and some articles written by certain Soviet archaeologists which are not readily accessible to readers in the West.

In order to understand the problems of the peopling of North America it is necessary to familiarize oneself with the origins of Early Man in Siberia. Okladnikov’s and Vasil’yevsky’s articles address this topic in concise form. Both of these long-established Soviet scholars have devoted many years of study to Early Man. In an attempt to establish the ethnogenetic origins of past human cultures, the questions usually asked have been directed toward the investigation of the migration of Early Man from the Old to the New World, and toward a definition of the geographical dimensions of archaeological cultures. The settlement of Siberia by Early Man was a lengthy and complex process originating in various regions of Asia and Europe, where human cultures had already long existed. Unlike the studies concerning Soviet Central Asia, southeastern Asia, and eastern Europe, no indisputable evidence has as yet been found to confirm the habitation of Siberia by man of the Lower Paleolithic period. The earliest Upper Paleolithic settlements of Siberia (except Ulatinka in Altay and the Kumara sites in the middle Amur) belong to the Karas-Kum interstadial or Sartam Glacial (Tanaykin, 1979).

The spread of Early Man into new areas with severe winter climates also required a significant period of time for adaptation to the new conditions. The settlement of the expanses of Siberia, rich in natural resources but with difficult climatic conditions, was directly linked to a host of ecological and demographic changes occurring in areas already inhabited by man, from which they were established several routes for migration to Siberia. The first route originated in Soviet Central Asia (Kazakhstan, Uzbekistan, Turkmenia). In the latest Paleolithic settlements of the Altay and the Yeneisky River, one finds Levallois cores and long blades similar to those found on the Kara-Kum desert on the Syr Dar’ya River, near the city of Leninabad, and in the Khadzhikensky Cave near the city of Tashkent (Anisyutkin and Astakhov, 1970). The hypothesis first suggested by Mergart, Savitsky, and Sal’moni (Kholyushkin, 1981) was expanded later by Okladnikov. In a number of his publications, Okladnikov defines a “Siberian-Mongolian Upper Paleolithic
region", correlating the Upper Siberian Paleolithic inventory of the Mousterian type with the Levallois-Mousterian traditions of neighboring Middle Asia (Soviet Central Asia, Mongolia, and northern China). A route to northern Asia was also opened from the south, out of the Mongolian steppes. To the south, in eastern and southeastern Asia, was located the home of Homo erectus. In several Paleolithic sites in Siberia (Ulalinka, Markarovo, Osinovka) some pebble-choppers were found, perhaps indicating a connection between these Paleolithic settlements and the more ancient southern regions of Asia (Okladnikov and Pospelova, 1982).

The third route of Early Man into Siberia, from the Trans-Ural region and the Russian Plain, likewise cannot be excluded. The supporters of this concept were the pioneers of Russian archaeology, who have been strongly influenced by the early evolutionist school; they include Savenkov, Petrov, Gromov, Pospelov, Ovchinnikov, and others. Some of their conclusions were supported by the extensive discoveries in the Paleolithic sites of Mal'ta and Buret' in Cis-Baykal.

It thus follows that the settlement of Siberia by Paleolithic man proceeded not from one center and not in one direction, but from at least three centers, the differences between the microblade industries of the two continents are a more convincing evidence concerning the settlement of Siberia by Early Man. The tradition first came to North America from Asia about 40,000 years ago, and the differences between the microblade industries of the two continents are a result of cultural adaptation to a specific environment.

In his article, Dikov also attempts to correlate North Asian and American Late Pleistocene-Early Holocene archaeology by using the data from Kamchatka, Chukotka, and the upper Kolyma River. Dikov finds that the lithic assemblages from the Ushki Lake sites, specifically the technological typological similarity of some stemmed projectile points of Asia, blade points of northwest America, and Denali and Akmak assemblages of Alaska, have a common origin. While Dikov's hypothesis is provocative, his archaeological data are limited to only a few poorly defined and dated archaeological sites in northern Asia. These limitations should be considered critical ones for the comparative analyses of archaeological assemblages. To my knowledge, the lithic assemblages of the Ushki Lake sites and ecological settings have some common traits with the Early Holocene southern Alaskan traditions, rather than with the central (Denali) and northwestern (Akmak) Alaskan traditions. Archaeologically and ecologically the Denali and Akmak are more similar to the Dyuktay complex of the middle Aldan Basin, defined by Mochanov. Furthermore, many American anthropologists, particularly Bryan in his paper, point out the difficulties in observing the technological origin of Paleolithic traditions of North Asia and Alaska. These traditions of the Old Crow site of the northern Yukon River, he dates the appearance of Early Man in North America to 25,000-40,000 years ago.

In sum, this monograph, as a joint work of specialists from the USSR, USA, Canada, and Japan, demonstrates the necessity of comparative analyses and cooperates research for the study of North Pacific prehistory, since in the past it was a homogenous cultural area where the development of Early Man took place. One important aspect of Soviet archaeological methodology must be mentioned. The traditional artificial and economic orientation. While ecological principles are currently very popular for the explanation of culture change in the Soviet Union (Dolukhanov, 1978), there has hardly been any research undertaken by Siberian archaeologists which has conceptually and quantitatively utilized ecological data for explanation of human behavior. But it would be worthwhile to try this.

REFERENCES


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This ambitious work presents an extremely broad range of basic information on Canada north of 60°. Its detail, wealth of tables and figures, careful attention to regional variations across the North, and the amendments which will be issued periodically to update it will make the Manual a valuable reference for the non-governmental publications, but they do at least indicate some supplementary sources of information.

While the factual presentation is generally laudable given the constraints of available space, as soon as the Manual moves away from the strictly factual, the perspective of its analysis becomes ambiguous and its credibility suffers. What is never clear are the true proportions of disinterested analysis and "official line" in the Manual. It is hard to avoid the feeling that the text is designed to present a vision of the North which reflects most favourably on DIAND or at least which pays more respect to DIAND's policy needs than to the reader's need for insight.

The bias takes several forms. The first is to paint a generally rosier picture of the North than would most observers. The Manual does not tell the reader that the Yukon economy is on its knees, that while the text was being written not a single mine was operating in the Territory nor that the problems of the White Pass and Yukon Railway have become so severe as to lead to the suspension of its operations. Similarly, the reader is not troubled by information on the severe market difficulties facing the fur industry or on the disappearancing history of native employment in the mining and oil and gas sectors of the economy. Northern social problems are acknowledged, but only in a brief and partial fashion.

A second, equally tendentious, pattern is the Manual's presentation of the policies of the Government of Canada in the most favourable light, while negative aspects of these policies receive little or no attention. For example, the discussion of Ottawa's policy regarding native claims presents it as a benign position, downplaying Ottawa's disdain prior to the suspension of its operations. Similarly, the reader is not troubled by information on the severe market difficulties facing the fur industry or on the disappearancing history of native employment in the mining and oil and gas sectors of the economy. Northern social problems are acknowledged, but only in a brief and partial fashion.

The confusion as to whether the Manual should be read as one would read the annual report of a governmental department or an official statement of policy, or should be treated as an independent and nonpartisan reference, produces a third problem. This is that any judgment that it offers which goes beyond existing officially-established policy may be interpreted as a statement of policy or at least as a precursor of policy. Particularly regarding questions involving stakes which are both very high and dependent on future governmental decisions, prudence compels the Manual to avoid offering judgments or even background information. Because of the risk involved, the chapter on northern hydrocarbon transportation proposals is silent about the respective prospects of the projects it outlines and even about the considerations which define these prospects. In the case of the Alaska Highway Gas Pipeline, the Manual reports neither the favourable information that the project is authorized by the Northern Pipeline Act nor the unfavourable financing prospects facing the project. Similarly, the marketing problems facing the Arctic Pilot Project are not even hinted at. Particularly as no bibliography is provided for...