**Detailed Chapter Outline**

**Chapter 1**

**First Peoples; First Farmers**

Most of History in a Single Chapter, to 4,000 B.C.E.

**Chapter Opener**

- The Hazda of Tanzania are one of the last gathering and hunting societies on earth.
  - likely to disappear soon
  - will mark the end of what was universal human existence until 10,000–12,000 years ago
- For 95 percent of human history, the means of life was gathering and hunting.
  - food collection, not food production
  - has been labeled “Paleolithic” (old stone age) era
- 12,000 years ago, a new shift took place in Eurasia, Africa and the Americas.
  - deliberate cultivation of plants and domestication of animals
  - known as agricultural or Neolithic revolution
  - implications for every aspect of human life
  - Paleolithic and Neolithic periods represent all but last 5500 years of human history
- History courses often neglect Neolithic and Paleolithic periods.
  - start with civilizations instead
  - argue earlier periods largely unknowable
  - pace of change relatively slow
  - little of significance happened
- The first 200,000 years of human existence should not be ignored.
  - archeologists, biologists, demographers, linguists, and anthropologists cast light on the period
  - achievements of Paleolithic peoples important
  - settled the planet
  - created the earliest human societies
  - were the first to reflect on issues of life and death
  - achievements of Neolithic peoples important as well
  - agriculture arguably the most profound transformation of human life in all of history
  - while achievements slow compared to civilizations, quick compared to other species
  - changes cultural or learned, rather than biological
  - foundation on which all subsequent history was constructed

**I. Out of Africa: First Migrations**

- Homo sapiens emerged in eastern and southern Africa 250,000 years ago.
  - stayed there exclusively for about 150,000 years
b. humans began to inhabit environments not touched by earlier hominids  
c. technological innovation: use of stone and bone tools  
d. hunting and fishing, not just scavenging  
e. patterns of exchange  
f. use of ornaments, perhaps planned burials  
   ▪ earliest evidence ochre processing in Blombos Cave, South Africa, circa 100,000 years ago  
   ▪ between 100,000–60,000 years ago: beginning of migrations out of Africa  
      ▪ adapted to nearly every environment on earth  
      ▪ much took place in the difficulties of the last Ice Age

A. Into Eurasia  
1. Humans started migrating into the Middle East around 45,000 years ago.  
2. The best evidence of early European settlement comes from southern France and northern Spain.  
   a. settlers in northern Europe pushed southward into warmer areas around 20,000 years ago  
   b. developed new hunting habits, new hunting technologies  
3. The earliest Europeans left hundreds of cave paintings of animals, humans, and abstract designs.  
4. New technologies developed in Ukraine and Russia.  
   a. needles, multilayered clothing, weaving, nets, storage pits, baskets, pottery, etc.  
   b. partially underground dwellings made from mammoth remains  
   c. suggests semi permanent settlement  
   d. creation of female figurines (“Venus figurines”); earliest dated at least 35,000 years ago

B. Into Australia  
1. Humans reached Australia about 60,000 years ago from Indonesia.  
2. Settlement was very sparse.  
   a. estimated 300,000 people in 1788  
3. Some 250 languages developed.  
4. It was still a gathering and hunting economy when Europeans arrived in 1788.  
5. The inhabitants had a complex worldview.  
   a. the Dreamtime  
   b. stories, ceremonies, and art tell of ancestral beings  
   c. everything in the natural order is an echo of ancient happenings  
   d. people are intimately related to places and events in past  
6. Society had a major communication and exchange network.  
   ▪ stones, pigments, wood, pituri (psychoactive drug)  
   ▪ songs, dances, stories, and rituals

C. Into the Americas  
1. The settlement of the Americas began somewhere between 30,000 and 15,000 years ago.  
   a. date of settlement is disputed  
   b. mode of migration (Bering Strait or by sea down west coast of North America) is disputed
c. the number of migrations and their duration is disputed
d. evidence of humans in southern Chile by 12,500 years ago
2. Clovis is the first clearly defined and widespread culture of the Americas.
a. Named after the Clovis point, a kind of projectile point
b. flourished briefly around 13,000 years ago
c. people hunted large mammals (mammoths, bison)
d. disappeared at the same time as the extinction of a number of large mammals
3. The next stage of development saw much greater cultural diversity as people adapted to the end of the Ice Age in different ways.

D. Into the Pacific
1. The last phase of the great human migration started about 3,500 years ago.
2. Migration occurred by water from the Bismarck and Solomon islands and the Philippines.
3. There was very quick migration over very long distances.
4. Migrants spoke Austronesian languages, which can be traced to southern China.
5. Every habitable area of the pacific basin was settled within 2,500 years.
   a. also settled the island of Madagascar
   b. Austronesian became the most widespread language family
   c. initial human settlement of the world completed about 1000–1300 C.E. with occupation of Aotearoa (New Zealand)
6. Pacific settlers had unique characteristics.
   a. took agriculture with them, unlike other migrations
   b. apparently followed a deliberate colonization plan
   c. created highly stratified societies or chiefdoms, as seen in Hawaii
   d. massive environmental impact on previously uninhabited lands

II. The Ways We Were

A. The First Human Societies
1. Societies were small, consisting of bands of 25–50 people.
2. Because of available technology, there was very low population density.
   a. very slow population growth
   b. 70,000 years ago population dropped to about 10,000
   c. grew to 500,000 by 30,000 years ago
   d. reached 6 million 10,000 years ago
3. Paleolithic bands were seasonally mobile or nomadic
   a. moved in regular patterns to exploit wild plants and animals
   b. since they moved around, they could not accumulate goods
4. The first human societies were highly egalitarian.
   a. perhaps the most free people in human existence
   b. did not have specialists, so most people had the same skills
   c. relationships between women and men were far more equal than in later societies
     § rape, wife beating, and the sexual double standard all unknown in San culture
- San mostly live in monogamous relationships and divorce is common among young adults

5. James Cook described the gathering and hunting peoples of Australia as tranquil and socially equal.
   a. tensions do exist
   b. European settlers observed physical competition among Australian males, and wife beating
   c. some aboriginal myths explain how men achieved power over women
   d. in San culture the distribution of meat, perceived laziness, stinginess, rivalry for women all cause tension

6. Paleolithic societies had clearly defined rules.
   a. men hunted, women gathered
   b. clear rules about distribution of meat from a kill
   c. rules about incest and adultery

B. Economy and the Environment
   1. Gathering and hunting peoples used to be regarded as “primitive” and impoverished.
      a. modern studies point out that they worked fewer hours
      b. wanted or needed little
      c. life expectancy was low (35 years on average)

   2. Gathering and hunting peoples altered natural environments.
      a. deliberately set fires to encourage growth of certain plants
      b. extinction of many large animals shortly after humans arrived
      c. gradual extinction of other hominids such as the Neanderthals (Europe) and Flores man (Indonesia)

C. The Realm of the Spirit
   1. It is difficult to decipher the spiritual world of Paleolithic peoples.
      a. lack of written sources
      b. art is subject to interpretation
      c. contemporary gathering and hunting peoples may not reflect ancient experience

   2. Paleolithic peoples had a rich ceremonial life.
      a. led by part-time shamans, people especially skilled at dealing with the spirit world
      b. frequent use of psychoactive drugs to contact spirits

   3. Paleolithic peoples seem to have had a variety of beliefs.
      a. some societies were seemingly monotheistic
      b. others saw several levels of supernatural beings
      c. others believed in an impersonal force running throughout the natural order
      d. Venus figurines lead some to suggest Paleolithic religion was strongly feminine, with a great goddess
      e. cyclical view of time
      f. no sharp distinction between the material and spiritual worlds

D. Settling Down: The Great Transition
   1. There was gradual change as populations grew, climates changed, and peoples interacted.
2. The collection of wild grains began in northeastern Africa around 16,000 years ago.
3. The last Ice Age ended 16,000–10,000 years ago.
   a. followed by a “global warming” period
   b. richer and more diverse environment for human societies
   c. population rise
   d. beginnings of settlement
4. Settlement led to societal change.
   a. larger and more complex societies
   b. storage and accumulation of goods led to inequality
5. The settling-down process occurred in many areas 12,000–4,000 years ago.
   a. Jomon culture in Japan
   b. Scandinavia, Southeast Asia, North America, Middle East
   c. bows and arrows invented independently in Europe, Africa, and Middle East
6. The Göbekli Tepe archeological complex in southeastern Turkey is an example of monumental construction by gatherer hunters.
   a. ceremonial site comprising 20 circles made up of carved limestone pillars
   b. gatherer hunter builders lived at least part of the year in settled villages
7. Chumash gather hunters lived in southern California
   a. developed substantial permanent structures
   b. hereditary political elites
   c. elements of a market economy
   d. beginnings of class distinctions
8. Settled gatherer hunter communities were a major change from small group nomadic communities.
   a. placed greater demand on the environment
   b. agriculture emerged in the more complex gathering and hunting societies

**Zooming In** Göbekli Tepe: Monumental Construction before Agriculture

**III. Breakthroughs to Agriculture**

- Agriculture is the second great human process after settlement of the globe.
  a. called the Neolithic (New Stone Age) or Agricultural Revolution
     - started about 12,000 years ago
     - deliberate cultivation of plants and domestication of animals
     - gradually replaced gathering and hunting in most parts of the world
  b. Agriculture transformed human life across the planet.
     - brought new relationship between humans and other living things
     - actively changing what they found in nature rather than just using it
     - shaping the landscape
     - selectively breeding animals
     - domestication of nature created new mutual dependence
     - many domesticated plants and animals came to rely on humans
     - humans lost gathering and hunting skills
     - intensification of living: getting more food and resources from much less land
     - more food led to more people
more people led to greater need for intensive exploitation

A. Common Patterns

1. Agricultural Revolution happened independently in several world regions.
   a. Fertile Crescent of Southwest Asia
   b. several areas in sub-Saharan Africa
   c. China
   d. New Guinea
   e. Mesoamerica
   f. The Andes
   g. Eastern North America
   h. occurred at about the same time, 12,000–4,000 years ago
      • scholars ask why agriculture developed so late in human history
   2. The Agricultural Revolution coincided with the end of the last Ice Age.
      a. global warming cycle started about 16,000 years ago
      b. Ice Age over by about 11,000 years ago
      c. end of Ice Age coincided with human migration across earth
      d. extinction of some large mammals: climate change and hunting
      e. warmer, wetter weather allowed more wild plants to flourish
   3. Gathering and hunting peoples had already learned some ways to manage the natural world.
      a. “broad spectrum diet”
      b. development of sickles, baskets, and other tools to make use of wild grain in the Middle East
      c. Amazon: people had learned to cut back some plants to encourage growth of others
      d. Australia: people had elaborate eel traps
   4. Women were probably the agricultural innovators.
   5. Gathering and hunting peoples started to establish more permanent villages.
      a. targeted resource-rich areas
      b. population growth perhaps led to a “food crisis”
   6. The need to supply food to those who built and maintained Göbekli Tepe may have stimulated agriculture.

C. Variations

1. Agriculture developed in a number of regions, with variation.
   a. depended on the plants and animals that were available
   b. only a few hundred plant species have been domesticated
   c. only fourteen large mammal species were domesticated
   2. The Fertile Crescent was the first to have a full Agricultural Revolution.
      a. presence of large variety of plants and animals to be domesticated
      b. transition to agriculture triggered by a cold and dry spell between 11,000 and 9500 B.C.E.
      c. transition apparently only took about 500 years
      d. much more societal sophistication
         • mud bricks, monuments and shrines
         • more elaborate burials
         • more sophisticated tools)
3. Domestication started in the eastern Sahara (present-day Sudan) at about the same time as it did in the Fertile Crescent.
   a. region much more hospitable 10,000–5,000 years ago
   b. domestication of cattle about 1,000 years before Middle East and India
   c. in Africa, animals were domesticated first; elsewhere, plants were domesticated first
   d. emergence of several widely scattered farming practices
   e. African agriculture less productive than agriculture in the Fertile Crescent

4. Separate development of agriculture took place at several places in the Americas.
   a. absence of animals available for domestication
   b. lacked cereal grains, instead relied on maize or corn
   c. replacement of gathering and hunting with agriculture took 3,500 years in Mesoamerica
   d. Americas are oriented north/south, so agricultural practices had to adapt to distinct climate zones to spread

IV. The Globalization of Agriculture

- The spread of agriculture occurred in two ways.
  a. diffusion: gradual spread of techniques and perhaps plants and animals, without much movement of human population
  b. colonization or migration of agricultural peoples
  c. often both processes were involved

A. Triumph and Resistance

1. Language and culture spread with agriculture.
   a. Indo-European languages probably started in Turkey, are spoken today from Europe to India
   b. similar process with Chinese farming
   c. spread of Bantu language in southern Africa
   d. similar spread of Austronesian-speaking peoples to Philippines and Indonesian islands, then to Pacific islands and Madagascar

2. The globalization of agriculture took about 10,000 years.
   a. did not spread beyond its core region in New Guinea
   b. did not spread in a number of other regions
   c. was resisted where the land was unsuitable for farming or where there was great natural abundance

3. By the beginning of the Common Era, gathering and hunting peoples were a small minority of humankind.

C. The Culture of Agriculture

1. Agriculture led to much greater populations.
2. Changes in world population were dramatic.
   a. 10,000 years ago: around 6 million people
   b. 5,000 years ago: around 50 million people
   c. beginning of Common Era: around 250 million people

3. There were large effects on the environment.
a. fields and grazing land replaced forests and grasslands
b. humans modified the genetic composition of plants and animals through selection
c. civilization brought even more intensive agriculture

4. Farming did not necessarily improve life for ordinary people.
   a. much more hard work
   b. health deteriorated in early agricultural societies
   c. new diseases from interaction with animals
   d. the first epidemics appeared because of conditions in larger communities
   e. new vulnerability to famine, because of dependence on a small number of plants or animals

5. New constraints on human communities developed.
   a. all agricultural people settled in permanent villages
   b. the case of Banpo in China (settled c. 7,000 years ago)

6. There was an explosion of technological innovation.
   a. pots
   b. textiles
   c. metallurgy

7. The secondary products revolution started c. 4000 B.C.E. and brought a new set of technological changes
   a. new uses for domesticated animals: milking, riding, plows and carts
   b. only available in Eastern Hemisphere

8. Widespread brewing of alcohol emerged with the agricultural revolution.

**Zooming In**  Ishi, the last of His People

**V. Social Variation in the Age of Agriculture**

**A. Pastoral Societies**

1. Some regions relied much more heavily on animals, because farming was difficult or impossible.
2. Pastoral nomads emerged in central Asia, the Arabian Peninsula, the Sahara desert, parts of eastern and southern Africa.
3. People relied on different animals in different regions.
   a. horses domesticated by 4000 B.C.E. and encouraged the spread of pastoral peoples on Central Asian steppes
   b. domesticated camels facilitated human life in the inner Asian, Arabian, and Saharan deserts
4. No pastoral societies emerged in the Americas.
5. Relations between nomadic herders and their farming neighbors has been an enduring theme in Afro-Eurasian history.
   a. often conflict as pastoralists sought access to agricultural products and competed for land
   b. peaceful exchanges of technology, ideas, products and peoples
6. Relative equality between men and women persisted in pastoral societies.
   a. women essential in milking animals, processing milk and making textiles
   b. some participate in battle
B. Agricultural Village Societies

1. This was the most characteristic form of early agricultural societies.
   a. Banpo, Jericho

2. These societies maintained equality and freedom.
   a. no kings, chiefs, bureaucrats, aristocrats

3. Çatalhüyük, in southern Turkey provides a good example of an agricultural village society.
   a. population: several thousand
   b. dead buried under their houses
   c. no streets; people moved around on rooftops
   d. many specialized crafts, but little sign of inherited social inequality
   e. no indication of male or female dominance

4. In horticultural villages, women were relatively equal to men.
   a. roles in farming and weaving may explain
   b. some villages used matrilineal family lines, others patrilineal
   c. in Europe and China evidence of preference for male children

5. Village-based agricultural societies flourished into the nineteenth century.
   a. organized by kinship or lineage groups
   b. lineage system performed the functions of government
   c. possessed modest levels of social inequality
   d. elders sometimes sought to exploit labor of junior members and control women’s reproductive powers
   e. “title societies” brought prestige to members but were not hereditary

C. Chiefdoms

1. Chiefs, unlike kings, usually rely on generosity, ritual status, or charisma to govern, not force.

2. Chiefdoms emerged in Mesopotamia sometime after 6000 B.C.E.

3. Anthropologists have studied recent chiefdoms in the Pacific islands
   a. chiefs usually claim descent from first son of an imagined ancestor
   b. fulfill secular and religious roles
   c. collect tribute and redistribute it to privileged groups
   d. keep part of tribute to sustain status

4. Chiefdoms such as Cahokia emerged in North America.

5. The Agricultural Revolution transformed the trajectory of human journey and evolution of life on earth.
   a. humankind came to dominate nature
   b. increasingly some people dominated others

Reflections: The Uses of the Paleolithic

- The study of history is about those who tell it today, not just about the past.
  o views of the past reflect our own smugness or disillusionment
  o Paleolithic era is sometimes regarded as a golden age
  o admired by feminists, environmentalists, anti-materialists
  o scholars have looked to the Paleolithic era in questioning explosive population and economic growth of recent past
gathering and hunting peoples of today have looked to Paleolithic era in an effort to maintain or recover their identities

- A basic question: “What have we lost in the mad rush to modernity?”
- Nobody can be completely detached when studying the past.