The Archaeology of Beringia

FREDERICK HADLEIGH WEST

Columbia University Press
New York, 1981
This document is copyrighted material.

Alaska Resources Library and Information Services (ARLIS) is providing this excerpt in an attempt to identify and post all documents from the Susitna Hydroelectric Project.

This book is identified as APA no. 2316 in the Susitna Hydroelectric Project Document Index (1988), compiled by the Alaska Power Authority.

It is unable to be posted online in its entirety. Selected pages are displayed here to identify the published work.

The book is available at call number F951.W5 1981 in the ARLIS Susitna collection.
## Contents

Figures vii  
Tables ix  
Preface xi  
Acknowledgments xvii  
Introduction 1

1. Northeastern Siberia and Alaska: The Remnants of Beringia as They Exist Today 5  
2. Reconstructing the Environment of Late Pleistocene Beringia 31  
3. Archaeology: The Beringians 75  
4. Origin and Relationships of the Eastern Branch of the Beringian Tradition 155  
5. The Beringian Tradition and the Origin of New World Cultures 183  
6. Epilogue: The Beringians and Beyond 211

References 233  
Author Index 255  
Subject Index 259
Figures

Frontispiece Beringia at Würm maximum.

1. Climates of northeast Asia and northwest America. 13
2. Vegetation associations, northeast Asia and northwest America. 15
3. Native languages, northeast Asia and northwest America. 30
4. Local vegetational successions in the late Quaternary summarized from pollen studies. 36
5. Generalized regional vegetational successions in western Beringia. 47
6. Summarized vegetation successions at archaeological localities in western Beringia. 50
7. Glacial chronologies of late Quaternary Beringia. 57
8. Fluctuations in sea level. 64
9. Contrast in Late Würmian and Holocene faunal composition of eastern Beringia. 71
10. Formal classification of Beringian blade cores. 90
11. Tangle Lakes. 112
12. Tangle Lakes. 113
13a and 13b. Denali culture materials from Tangle Lakes, drawings and corresponding photographs. 116
14a and 14b. Denali culture materials from Tangle Lakes, drawings and corresponding photographs. 118
FIGURES

15a and 15b. Denali culture materials from Tangle Lakes, drawings and corresponding photographs. 120
17. Beringian sites in the Tangle Lakes in their relationship with late glacial features. 128
18. Stratigraphy and soil relationships at two Denali complex sites of the Tangle Lakes. 136
19. Materials from Campus Site, Alaska. 140
20. Materials from Akmak site, Alaska. 141
21. Materials from Onion Portage (Kobuk complex) and Noatak River drainage, Alaska. 142
22. Materials from Donnelly Ridge, Alaska (Denali complex). 143
23. Materials from Donnelly Ridge (Denali complex). 144
24. Materials from Dyuktai Cave, Yakutia (Dyuktai culture). 145
25. Materials from Dyuktai Cave, Yakutia (Dyuktai culture). 146
26. Materials from Ikhine I, Yakutia (Dyuktai culture). 147
27. Materials from Ezhantsy, Yakutia (Dyuktai culture). 148
28. Materials from Ezhantsy, Yakutia (Dyuktai culture). 149
29. Materials from Upper Troitskaya, Yakutia (Dyuktai culture). 150
30. Materials from Upper Troitskaya, Yakutia (Dyuktai culture). 151
31. Materials from Tumulur, Yakutia (Dyuktai culture). 152
32. Materials from Ushki, Kamchatka (Dyuktai culture). 153
33. Materials from Ushki, Kamchatka (Dyuktai culture). 154
34. Land emergence curve, central Beringia. 168
35. Extinction of the central Beringian biome. 174
36. The Mackenzie Corridor as portrayed in a model of late Würmian deglaciation. 194
37. Hypothetical population curve, central Beringia. 201
38. Hypothetical population curve, eastern Beringia in late Quaternary. 225
39. Generalized regional sequences from selected areas of Alaska-Yukon. 228
40. Index map. Endpapers.
Tables

1.1 Climatic Data, Eastern Siberia and Alaska. 11
1.2 Daylight: Hours That Sun Is Above Horizon at Three Latitudes. 13
2.1 Hypothetical Climatic Transect, Central Beringia under Full Glacial Conditions. 60
2.2 Generalized Summary of Large Mammal Occurrences in Beringia during Würm Times. 67
2.3 Selected Radiocarbon Dates on Pleistocene Mammals in Beringia. 70
3.1 Materials of Unclear Standing, North America. 78
3.2 Formal Classification of Beringian Blade Cores. 92
3.3 Beringian Tradition Assemblages of Eastern Beringia. 93
3.4 Beringian Tradition Assemblages of Western Beringia. 107
3.5 Radiocarbon Chronology of Late Pleistocene–Early Holocene in Tangle Lakes. 129
The Beringia Working Group is an informal assembly of investigators from multiple fields of study who are collectively researching the role of Beringia in the peopling of the Americas. The group includes human geneticists, linguists, paleo-ecologists, biological anthropologists, geologists, and archaeologists. [more]. View project. Project. Human evolution and technological complexity. John F Hoffecker. Ian Hoffecker. Flooding began to submerge Beringia some 15,000 years ago. As it did so, Stolbovoy became disconnected from modern mainland Russia. Researcher Tomas Simokaitis told The Siberian Times: “We suppose the site is Paleolithic. We suppose these implements we have found are hundreds of thousands of years old, but so far we have no iron proof.” A range of tests will be conducted on the finds, he said. The article, originally titled “Suspected first trace of Beringia people on the land bridge - now mostly sunken - joining Russia and North America” originally appeared on The Siberian Times and has been republished with permission.

BOULDER, COLORADO—A review of genetic evidence suggests that the Native American founding population lived in Beringia for thousands of years before migrating south into North America. And sediments taken from the Bering Sea show that at the time, the region also had woody plants for building fires, and grassland steppes where woolly mammoths and other game animals could have grazed.

It’s the most logical place for a group of people to hunker down, John Hof