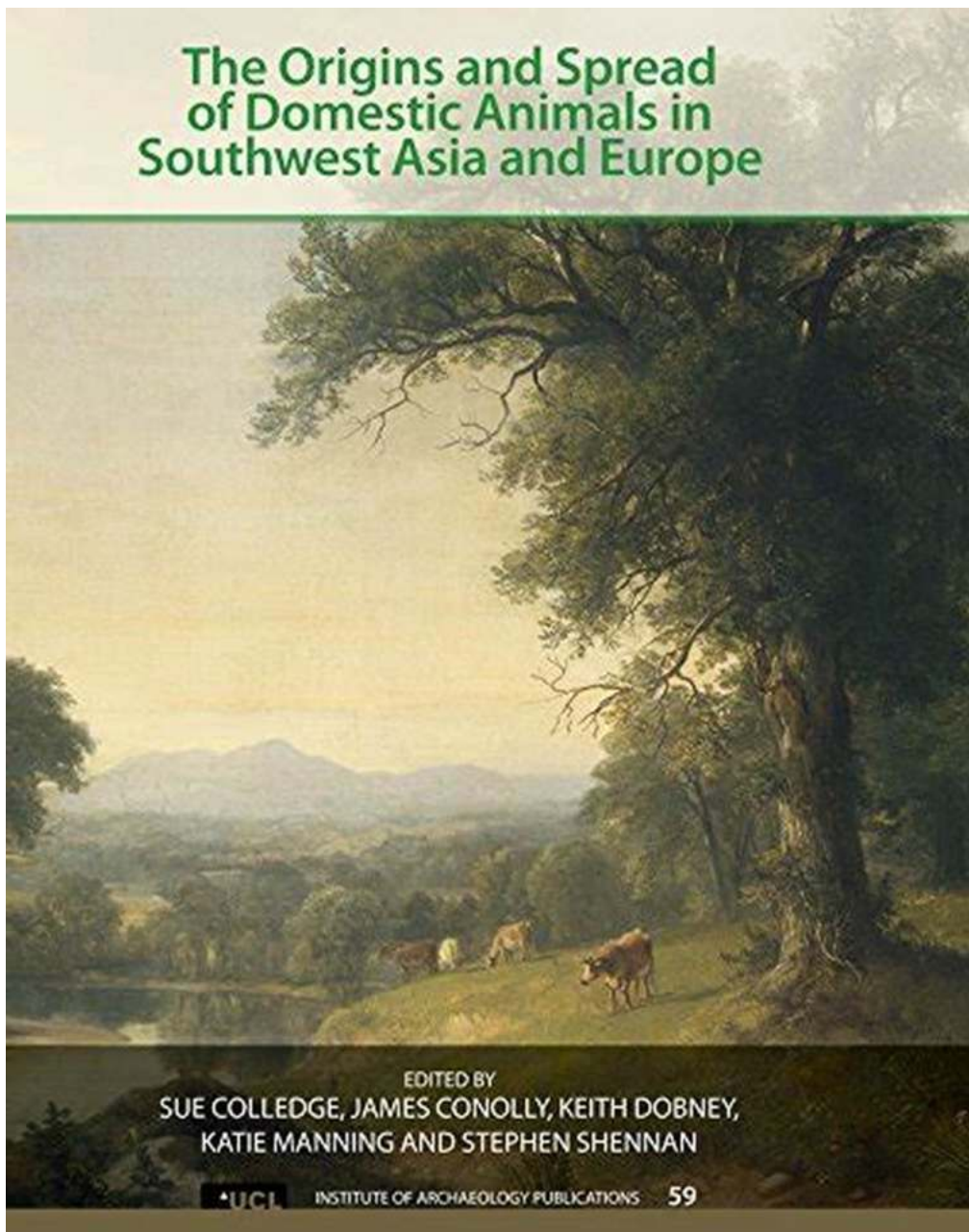


The Fascinating Origins And Global Spread of Domestic Animals - Uncovering the Secrets of Southwest Asia and Europe at UCL



Domestication of animals has played a pivotal role in shaping human civilization. From the earliest moments of our existence, humans have sought companionship, food, and labor from animals. The study of the origins and spread of domestic animals in Southwest Asia and Europe is a captivating field that provides valuable insights into our shared history. This article unveils the mesmerizing research conducted by the renowned UCL (University College London) in deciphering and understanding this ancient relationship between humans and animals.

Exploring the Cradle of Domestication

Southwest Asia, often referred to as the Fertile Crescent, is considered the cradle of domestication. It is a region encompassing modern-day countries such as Iraq, Egypt, Israel, and Jordan. Scientists and archaeologists at UCL have dedicated years to excavating ancient sites and analyzing remains to trace the origins of various domesticated animals.



The Origins and Spread of Domestic Animals in Southwest Asia and Europe (UCL Institute of Archaeology Publications)

by Stéphane Angles (1st Edition, Kindle Edition)

★★★★★ 5 out of 5

Language : English
File size : 26056 KB
Text-to-Speech : Enabled
Enhanced typesetting : Enabled
Print length : 354 pages
Screen Reader : Supported



The Birth of the Agrarian Revolution

Approximately 12,000 years ago, humans transitioned from hunter-gatherer societies to settled communities practicing agriculture. This momentous shift, known as the Neolithic Revolution, marked the beginning of domestication. UCL researchers have discovered evidence indicating that Southwest Asia was a hotspot for this transformation.

Animal Domestication in Southwest Asia

UCL's groundbreaking research has shed light on the domestication of several key animals in Southwest Asia.

Dogs - Man's Best Friend through Millennia

Dogs are believed to be the first animals that humans domesticated. UCL scientists have uncovered skeletal remains in archaeological sites demonstrating the presence of domesticated dogs in Southwest Asia as early as 12,000 years ago. These dogs served as hunting companions, guards, and loyal companions, forming an intricate bond with our ancestors.

Cattle - From Wild Oxen to Plow Pullers

Cattle domestication played a significant role in the agricultural revolution. UCL researchers have unearthed evidence suggesting that cattle were domesticated around 10,000 years ago in what is now modern-day Turkey. From providing milk and meat to being employed as draft animals, cattle revolutionized farming practices and enabled human societies to thrive.

Sheep and Goats - Cornerstones of Early Agriculture

Sheep and goats were essential livestock in the early agricultural societies of Southwest Asia. These animals provided not only meat but also wool and milk. UCL's analysis of ancient DNA has revealed fascinating insights into the origins and genetic diversity of these domesticated animals.

The Spread of Domestication to Europe

As human societies flourished and expanded, the domestication of animals gradually spread to Europe. UCL's collaborative research endeavors have unraveled the intricate web of animal domestication and migration routes through the following highlights:

The Journey of Domesticated Dogs

UCL scientists have traced the migration patterns of domesticated dogs from Southwest Asia to Europe. Through genetic analysis, they have discovered that early European dog populations had significant genetic contributions from dogs in Southwest Asia, emphasizing the interconnectedness of human and animal movements during prehistoric times.

Sheep and Goats Across Borders

The expansion of early farming societies led to the spread of sheep and goats across Europe. UCL's research has provided evidence of diverse genetic lineages among these domesticated animals, pointing to multiple waves of migration and crossbreeding as societies intermingled with each other.

The Boar Story - Ancient Pigs in Europe

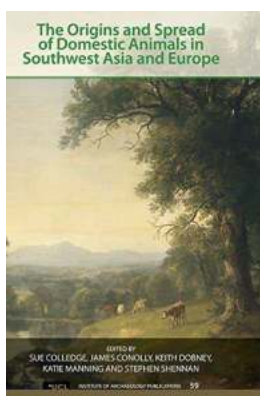
By studying ancient pig DNA, UCL researchers have reconstructed the fascinating history of pig domestication in Europe. They have discovered that domestic pigs originated from multiple wild boar populations across the continent and were selectively bred for various desirable traits.

Unraveling the Mysteries of our Past

Thanks to UCL's relentless efforts, our understanding of the origins and spread of domesticated animals in Southwest Asia and Europe has significantly deepened.

Their research has enriched our knowledge of early human-animal interactions, migration patterns, and the complex networks that shaped our world.

As we look back at our shared history, it becomes clear that the domestication of animals played a pivotal role in our development as a species. UCL's groundbreaking research on the origins and spread of domesticated animals in Southwest Asia and Europe helps us unravel the mysteries of our past and appreciate the profound impact that animals have had on our lives.



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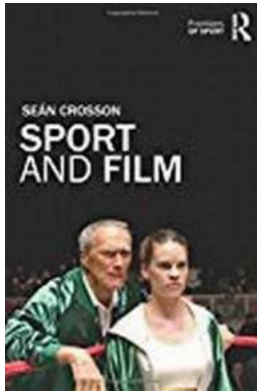
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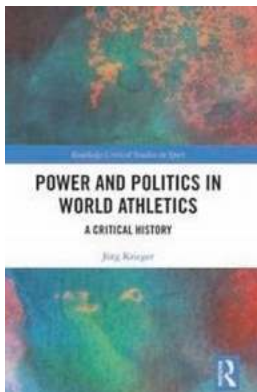


This volume tackles the fundamental and broad-scale questions concerning the spread of early animal herding from its origins in the Near East into Europe beginning in the mid-10th millennium BC. Original work by more than 30 leading international researchers synthesizes of our current knowledge about the origins and spread of animal domestication. In this comprehensive book, the zooarchaeological record and discussions of the evolution and development of Neolithic stock-keeping take center stage in the debate over the profound effects of the Neolithic revolution on both our biological and cultural evolution.



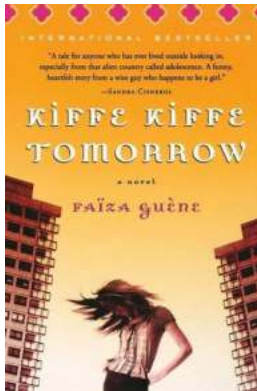
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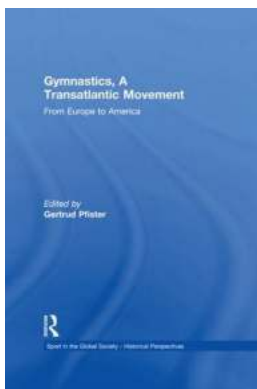
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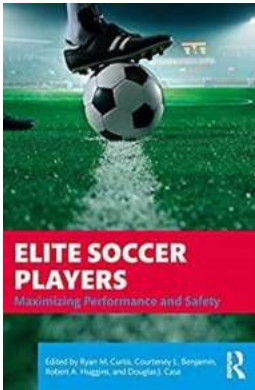
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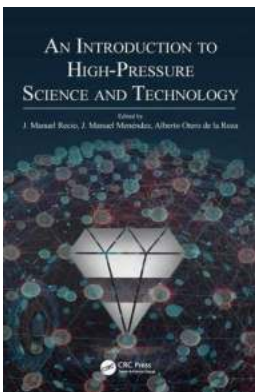
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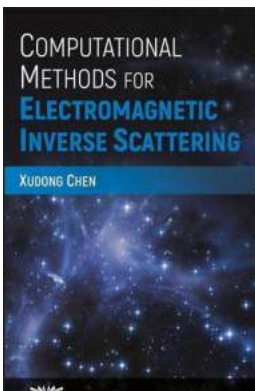
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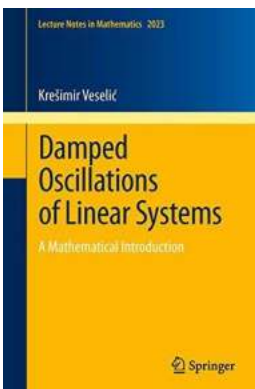
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