

F.H. Bordes. Evolution in the Paleolithic Cultures
~~The Evolution of Man.~~ (ed.) Sol Tax,
Univ. of Chicago Press, 1960. p.109

Q5

Can we distinguish any particular direction or tendencies in the general evolution of prehistoric cultures? I believe so. It seems possible to distinguish three great cycles which developed in a parallel fashion, though with astonishing convergences at times, in the inhabited parts of the earth.

The first great cycle is that of the Lower and Middle Paleolithic. Even if there was a common origin or connections between the Abbevillian-Acheulian of Africa, Europe, and Asia, it remains none the less true that later development was distinct

The second cycle is that of the Upper Paleolithic - Mesolithic and concerns peoples who were still exclusively, or nearly exclusively, hunters. The Upper Paleolithic (in the sense of an evolutionary

stage) existed in Europe, North Africa (the Typical Capsian), in Asia (China), and in America (Folsom, etc.) In Africa it seems that this stage, if not jumped, was avoided, and after the Stillbayan we find industries which are more Mesolithic than Upper Paleolithic, although we cannot assume an evolution unless we can rule out any outside influence. There exists in Kenya, in the famous "Capsian," an industry of this Upper Paleolithic-Mesolithic type. The true Mesolithic, in the sense of an evolutionary stage, seems to be widespread over the whole world.

The third great cycle is that of the Neolithic, which is characterized much less by pottery and polished stone than by cultivation of the soil, domestication of animals, and food production. It is recognized today that multiple centers of "Neolithicization" have existed throughout the world.

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In earlier days it seemed perfectly satisfactory to parallel the evolution of Paleolithic cultures with the physical evolution of man. Thus Heidelberg Man was responsible for the Abbevillian; Neandertal Man for the Mousterian; and Homo sapiens for the Upper Paleolithic. This viewpoint, which is probably reasonably correct in the broadest sense, nevertheless today appears to correspond only loosely with reality.

