

F.H. Bordes. Evolution in the Paleolithic Cultures
The Evolution of Man. (ed.) Sol Tax,
Univ. of Chicago Press, 1960. p.110

Q 30

But, as I see it, there was another revolution in even earlier times which seems to have passed almost unnoticed: the revolution brought about by the invention of the long-distance projectile-thrower, first the spear- or dart-thrower, then later, perhaps in the Upper Paleolithic, the bow. This revolution, when combined with a steppe environment with its rich herds of animals, produced a milieu so favorable to hunting peoples that we may safely consider the resulting cultures of the Upper Paleolithic as the first great civilization, with its peak or climax in the Magdalenian. For it was indeed a civilization, with everything that word implies in terms of a cultural superstructure: rites, legends, songs (all, unhappily, forever lost), and art, even if based on magic or religion (medieval and Greek art was, after all, nothing else). All of which indicates a

relatively dense population, rather well-off
materially and capable of providing a certain amount
of leisure time to think and create.

