

1: Neanderthal evidence in Iran

Paleolithic archaeology in Iran Article (PDF Available) in International Journal of the Humanities 18(2) Â· January with Reads Export this citation.

Vincent Mourre Sonia Shidrang See discussions, stats, and author profiles for this publication at: The newly discovered fossil hominins from Kromdraai South Africa View project All content following this page was uploaded by Fereidoun Biglari on 17 January The user has requested enhancement of the downloaded file. New Research on Paleolithic of Iran: In domains such as first indication of j. Biglari sapiens, the extension of Neanderthals or the diffusion nationalmuseumofiran. Box , advisable not to underestimate. As it was a new project and Taheri Paleolithic surveys in the Lorestan, with new research field for French part , we wished Ilam, Kashan, Gilan, East Azarbaijan and Fars also to start with reasonable programming in order to grow led to new results Biglari a, b, ; Biglari up in power in the years to come. This work concerned the study of lithic series recently discovered by S. We are thus dealing with a lithic industry that It is clear that a notable investment of the scientific will be very difficult to date " even roughly " but international community, and more particularly which present indisputably Acheulean techno- European, is from now obvious towards Iran. The main discovery is a typical cleaver the Near East, and accompanies on the other hand the made on a side-struck flake of dark volcanic rock, movement towards exploration of till these last years probably andesite fig. This classical Acheulean poorly invested areas for the Paleolithic research: The newly collected implements and a new reexamination of few aspects of Paleolithic sequence analysis of the series led to revise a previous chrono- in e. Adler and Tushabramishvili , Armenia cultural attribution to Oldowan Otte et al. Biglari ; Biglari et al. This evocated by Singer and Wymer The completion industry thus represents a particular economic and of breakdowns and analysis V. Alipour during will allow location and the operating mode of the site itself. A us to publish a final report as soon as possible. It is the same for some human remains the basis of a double objective: The preliminary study of the units than Zagros, starting with the Central Plateau faunal assemblage which is mixed and poorly Niyasar. The micro- geomorphological investigation in Kermanshah area vertebrates bones relate to fish, reptiles, and birds L. Bruxelles to lay strong foundations for these remains and most of mammals remains belong to fields and to supplement previous research on raw caprines M. A first materials sources undertaken by S. University of Mons, Belgium on stalagmite at the base Concerning the first point, we excavated last year a of the sequence: The karstologic study and the For Niyasar area of Kashan , the important history of its sedimentary dynamics could be drawn discovery of Mousterian artifacts in this area of the L. The study of the lithic material Central Plateau Biglari a has been V. Dibble ; Dibble and Holdaway Even if the former studies were not really Upper Paleolithic technologically oriented, we come across similar During this campaign, we made an overview of the elements such as use of close raw materials, Levallois main Upper Paleolithic collections kept in the flaking almost exclusive, strong proportion of National Museum of Iran. This first study of some retouched tools with a majority of points, elongated Upper Paleolithic assemblages in the Museum 20 Archaeological Reports 4 allowed us to conclude to the good representation of but, in a wider context Umm el Tlell, Syria: Ploux the Baradostian in western Zagros. Nevertheless, the and Soriano ; Ksar-Aqil, Lebanon: Tixier and assemblages of Yafteh cave, near Khorramabad, Inizan , to the industrial development of the appeared without contest as the richest and the best Early Upper Paleolithic EUP on the whole of the preserved ones Fig. Thus, our efforts were eastern and northern Mediterranean circumference: Flannery Hole twisted bladelets at the top. This work confirms and and Flannery The typo-technological study precise the information given by Hole and Flannery made it possible to describe the principal productions and Olszewski This sequence should and associated methods: This study, undertaken by J. Shidrang, will be continued next year bilateral retouch Arjeneh points, rods. Kargar, technique is the direct soft-hammer percussion. Director of National Museum of Iran, Mr. Thanks to the quality of the old excavations, it was K. Thus, we could propose that these Kermanshah , Mrs. Mehdi Abadi, director of productions are organized in an archaeological Bisoutun National Project and all the Iranian sequence which can be related not only to the closest especially A. Rahmati, reference sequences

Warwasi: Olszewski , ; M. Razmjou and French B. Olszewski and Dibble ; Shanidar: Solecki , Maureille colleagues who helped us. Iranian Center for Archaeological Research, pp. Pennsylvania, University Museum Monograph 83, pp. Deutsches Bergbau-Museum Bochum, pp. New Evidence for Distribution of the Mitarbeit von G. Some Case for Archaeological Research, pp. The First Heydari, S. Taq-e Bustan Publications, pp. Olszewski and Tehran, , Tehran: Iranian Center for Archaeological H. Resolving Views of the Past: BAR International Series , pp. Hossein, , de Paris 3, pp. An Iranian Smith, P. Arkheologii i Etnografii, pp. Industries lithiques , pp. New Research on Paleolithic of Iran 23 Fig. Map of Iran showing the location of the sites under research by Iranian-French mission Graphic: A general view of Shiwatoo, arrows showing the location of the lithic scatter Photo: Acheulian artifacts from Shiwatoo, Mahabad region Drawing: Jaubert 24 Archaeological Reports 4 Fig. Mar Tarik cave, the arrow shows location of the cave mouth Photo: Mar Tarik, general map and longitudinal profile of the cavity Topography: Selected Mousterian artifacts from Mar Tarik cave Drawing: Shidrang 26 Archaeological Reports 4 Fig. Limestone plaque with engravings from Mar Tarik cave Photo: Selected Upper Paleolithic artifacts from Yafteh cave Drawing:

2: PALEOLITHIC AGE IN IRAN – Encyclopaedia Iranica

Paleolithic Archaeology in Iran Intl. J. Humanities () Vol. 18 (1) 64 Introduction Iran is surrounded by some of the most significant Paleolithic sites in the world.

Gachi Rockshelter Click to enlarge Prior to the s, research in Palaeolithic archaeology in Iran was primarily conducted by Western scholars who focused their efforts in the Zagros Mountains in western Iran for references see Smith The attraction was highly justified. The highlands of western Iran are part of the so-called Fertile Crescent, where small bands of humans made a living by collecting food and hunting animals for thousands of years prior to the advent of agriculture. Western Iran was also a locus where the initial steps in domesticating certain species of plants and animals were taken. The cessation of fieldwork by foreign expeditions after in this region prompted some Iranian archaeologists to continue research on the pre-Neolithic archaeology of western Iran see e. The members of the new Center for Palaeolithic Research at ICHO took the opportunity not only to consolidate their efforts, but also to prepare a framework for systematic and goal-oriented research in Iran. As our first systematic archaeological campaign we chose the province of Lorestan in central Zagros. Our goals were to evaluate the characteristics of Palaeolithic sites in the region, and to understand their relations with their natural settings. We began our survey in late December and continued to work until early January During our survey we discovered, mapped and sampled 21 sites. Flint artefacts were used to estimate the age of the sites, which ranged from the Middle Palaeolithic to the Neolithic periods, some continuing to be occupied even later. Click to enlarge Figure 3: Flaked stone tools from Leang Burung 2: Click to enlarge The sites we discovered fall into three major types: They can also be divided into three groups according to their geographical distribution. All the 10 sites found near Khorramabad are located within a km stretch on the southern slope of the Yafte Mountain. In this cluster of sites, nine yielded Zagros Aurignacian and Zarzian industries c. The second group consists of three sites, one cave and two rockshelters; they were clustered at the foot of the Maple Mountain, northeast of Kuhdasht Figure 2, left. The small lithic samples collected from these sites do not contain diagnostics and therefore the sites are dated by the Chalcolithic and Bronze Age potsherds associated with the stone tools. The third group consists of eight sites, out of which one is an open-air site, one is a cave, and six are rockshelters. The third site, the rock-shelter of Vare Zard Complex, shows characteristic features of Neolithic chipped stone industry, namely bullet cores, reamers and various kinds of retouched bladelets. The other sites, Fare Kash 1 and 2, Toul Kash 1 and 2 and Dare Eshkaft Figure 3, right yielded an unidentifiable flake industry with a few retouched tools. Lithic assemblages with the same characteristics were found at some rockshelters during two seasons of archaeological survey in the neighbouring region of the Islamabad Plain Abdi Because the industry is known only from surface collection, in the absence of stratified materials the chronological position of the sites will remain uncertain until further investigation. Nevertheless, the possibility remains that the lithic industry of these sites may date to the post Pleistocene era. In general, the lithic assemblages found in our survey can be divided into four groups: The Palaeolithic, comprising Mousterian, Zagros Aurignacian, and probably Zarzian industries; possible late Epi-palaeolithic and early Neolithic industries; possible Chalcolithic and Bronze Age lithic assemblages; and unidentified flake industry. Our preliminary analysis of the data suggests two different environmental settings for the Palaeolithic and post-Palaeolithic sites. The older sites are primarily located in what is known as the Zagros Thrust Zone in central Lorestan. The younger, post-Palaeolithic sites are located in the geologically Folded Zone in southwestern Lorestan. Once our research is completed, we should be able to attribute the various environmental niches of these sites to their chronological positions. In Persian, with an English abstract. The prehistory of southwestern Iran: Paleolithic archaeology in Iran. The University Museum, University of Pennsylvania.

3: Archaeobotany-Iran

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vahdati@www.enganchecubano.com 61 *Paleolithic Archaeology in Iran Intl. J. Humanities* () Vol. 18 (1) Introduction
The most peculiar point about the Iranian Iran is surrounded by some of the most Paleolithic is the absence of any hominid significant Paleolithic.

A reconstruction of the Shanidar Neanderthal Zagros Paleolithic Museum Biface trihedral Amar Merdeg, Mehran, Lower Paleolithic, National Museum of Iran One of the potential routes for early human migrations toward southern and eastern Asia is Iran, a country characterized by a wide range of geographic variation and resources, which could support early groups of hominins who wandered into the region. Evidence for the presence of these early populations in Iran includes some stone artifacts discovered from gravel deposits along the Kashafrud River Basin in eastern Iran, the Mashkid and Ladiz Rivers in the southeast, the Sefidrud River in the north, the Mahabad River in the northwest, and some surface occurrences and isolated finds from the west and northwestern parts of the country. The main known early human occupation sites in Iran are: These sites fall between one million years ago to , years ago. There are more cultural remains of Neanderthal man dating back to the Middle Paleolithic period, which mainly have been found in the Zagros region and fewer in central Iran at sites such as Kobeh, Kaldar, Bisetun , Qaleh Bozi , Tamtama, Warwasi. In October a tooth belonging to a Neanderthal child has been discovered in Iran for the first time. The tooth belongs to a six-year-old child that was found along with some rocky tools of the middle Paleolithic period in the mountains of Kermanshah province. Epipalaeolithic Near East The end of the Palaeolithic, called Epipalaeolithic , is in a period of about years from c. In those days groups of hunter-gatherers were mostly living in the caves of the Zagros Mountains. Compared to earlier groups of game hunters, a tendency towards increasing the number of the kinds of plants and animals, which were collected and hunted, can be observed. Not only smaller vertebrates were hunted but also pistachios and wild fruit were collected. Finally, consuming snails and smaller aquatic animals like crabs is new Flannery Map showing location of Ganj Dareh and other early Neolithic sites in western Zagros. Neolithic to Chalcolithic[edit] Almost nothing is known about the years which followed the Epipalaeolithic after 11, BC. Only when discovering the place of Asiab c. Asiab was a small camp of hunter-gatherers, only seasonally inhabited. Besides the fact that wild goats and sheep were hunted, great numbers of snail shells were found. These finds were interpreted in the way that from time to time the hunting activities of the inhabitants of Asiab were unsuccessful and that then they were forced to consume food which they usually did not like. Clay human figurine Fertility goddess Tappeh Sarab, Kermanshah ca. There, flocks of sheep and herds of goats were kept for the first time. Managing animals meant a fundamentally new orientation of the Neolithic inhabitants of Iran and must be understood to be connected with a whole number of other innovations, particularly the architecture of houses. We do not definitely know if in those days there was any cultivation of cereals. Tools for harvesting and for making cereal products are there, but remnants of burned grain are extremely rare. Neolithic sites in Iran Pottery vessel, fourth millennium B. Zagros National Museum of Iran. In the eighth millennium BC, agricultural communities such as Chogha Bonut the earliest village in Susiana [4] started to form in western Iran, either as a result of indigenous development or of outside influences. Around about the same time the earliest known clay vessels and modeled human and animal terracotta figurines were produced at Ganj Dareh and Tepe Sarab, also in western Iran. Some of the oldest agricultural ground has been discovered in Susa now a city still existing since BC. Early agricultural communities such as Chogha Golan in 10, BC [12] [13] along with settlements such as Chogha Bonut the earliest village in Elam in BC, [14] [15] began to flourish in and around the Zagros Mountains region in western Iran. Tepe Sialk , Jiroft culture , Elam , Kuraâ€™Araxes culture , Akkadian Empire , Kassites , and Mannaeans Chogha Zanbil is one of the few extant ziggurats outside of Mesopotamia and is considered to be the best preserved example in the world. Based on C14 dating, the time of foundation of the city is as early as BC, [21] a time that goes beyond the age of civilization in Mesopotamia. The general perception among archeologists is that Susa was an extension of the Sumerian city

state of Uruk. It is one of the most artifact-rich archaeological sites in the Middle East. Archaeological excavations in Jiroft led to the discovery of several objects belonging to the 4th millennium BC. The objects and their iconography are unlike anything ever seen before by archeologists. Many are made from chlorite , a gray-green soft stone; others are in copper , bronze , terracotta , and even lapis lazuli. The Early Bronze Age saw the rise of urbanization into organized city states and the invention of writing the Uruk period in the Near East. While Bronze Age Elam made use of writing from an early time, the Proto-Elamite script remains undeciphered, and records from Sumer pertaining to Elam are scarce. Russian historian Igor M. Diakonoff states that the modern inhabitants of the Iranian Plateau are descendants of mainly non-Persian groups: The arrival of Iranians on the Iranian plateau forced the Elamites to relinquish one area of their empire after another and to take refuge in Elam, Khuzestan and the nearby area, which only then became coterminous with Elam. Until the rise of the Medes, they all remained under Assyrian domination, like the rest of the Near East. In the first half of the first millennium BC, parts of what is now Iranian Azerbaijan were incorporated into Urartu.

4: Philip E.L. Smith, "Palaeolithic Archaeology in Iran. - Persian" ©

The end of the Palaeolithic, called Epipalaeolithic, is in a period of about years from c. 18, to 11, www.enganchecubano.com those days groups of hunter-gatherers were mostly living in the caves of the Zagros Mountains.

Language Persian The purpose of this paper is to review development of the Paleolithic research in Iran since the late nineteenth. The presence of stone tools in Iran was noted as early as the late s by de Morgan in the Alborz Mountains. The first serious attempt in searching Paleolithic sites was made by C. Coon after the Second World War. His excavations marked a turning point in the study of the Paleolithic past of the country. Paleolithic archaeological surveys and excavations intensified in the Zagros Mountains and to a lesser degree to other parts of the country during the s and the s until the Iranian revolution of These field works were exclusively undertaken by foreign researchers mainly from the United States, Britain, Denmark, and France. As a result, about 23 Middle Paleolithic, Upper Paleolithic and Epipaleolithic sites were briefly tested or excavated. Furthermore, near sites were surveyed and recorded of which the largest number ca. Because of their educational background, which was based on the later prehistory and especially historic archaeology courses, the Iranian archaeologists had little interest and proper knowledge in Paleolithic archaeology. The Iranian revolution of brought all foreign missions to a halt which lasted until During this period, a number of new Paleolithic sites were recorded and published by the Iranian archaeologists of which the first discoveries include a Paleolithic open-air site near Semnan found by Kabiri and Amirlou in , and a number of the Middle Paleolithic cave sites found by Biglari at Bisetun in In the same year, Amirlou published a review of the Iranian Paleolithic in the Journal of Iranian Archaeology and History which provided a general view of Iranian Paleolithic cultures for the Persian speaking archaeologists and students. These early attempts were followed by excavation at an open air site near Damavand by E. Amirlou in which assigned to the Epipaleolithic period. A number of new Paleolithic finds were reported from the Zagros and other parts of Iran during the s. These were the Paleolithic finds from the Kermanshah region by Biglari in , Open-air sites in the Qom region by Kaboli in and Shamirzadi in During the latter years Paleolithic sites became one of the objectives for general archaeological surveys in various parts of Iran, followed by extensive Paleolithic surveys in the late s and test excavations in caves and rockshelters during the s. Reports of new discoveries began to appear in local and international journals during the s that followed by numerous papers, a monograph and an edited volume during the s. Recent field investigations greatly enlarged the Iranian Paleolithic archaeological record, not just from the Zagros, but also from the Alborz, central Iran, and the northern coasts of the Persian Gulf. These new discoveries and publications draw the attention of official members of the Iranian Cultural Heritage Organization to the importance and rich potential of Paleolithic research in Iran.

5: New Research on the Palaeolithic of Lurestan, West Central Iran | CAISA©

The author carried out fieldwork in Iran in the s. The work was translated from English into Persian by Ezat O. Negahban. Small signature of a former owner on the front endpaper, no signs of use.

XIII and p. Translation in Farsi 46 p. Like in some other countries in the Mediterranean and the Near East the archaeological exploration of Iran until the middle of this century was concentrated mainly on the excavation of late prehistoric and historic sites. The early prehistory of e. Greece, Turkey, Iraq, and Iran was known only from a few more or less incidental finds. The archaeological attraction of these countries was obviously linked with their great classical and historic traditions. In Iran the first actual excavation of a Palaeolithic site was performed by Carleton S. Coon, who "as expressed by Robert J. However, during the years from to a number of palaeolithic investigations were carried out by pre- historians from Canada, Denmark, France, Great Britain, Italy and the United States. Most of this research took place in the Zagros mountains in the most western part of Iran and can be linked with important excavations of Palaeolithic key sites like Barda Balka, Shanidar, and Zarzi on the Iraqi side of the border. But Khuzistan, the Central Plateau, and the Northern and Eastern Highlands were also touched upon by Palaeolithic researchers, although these areas are mostly represented by surface collections some of which are difficult to date. In this boom of archaeological investigations came to an end, caused by the political changes in Iran. So, as stated by the editors of the first volume of the American Institute of Iranian Studies Monograph Series, the s promised to be a decade of writing rather than field research! Palaeolithic research in France, Egypt, Iraq, and Iran. The book is divided into eight main chapters, followed by a very extensive and useful bibliography, a list of figures, descriptions and proveniences of illustrated artifacts, and a slightly abbreviated Persian translation by Ezat O. The chapters are captioned as follows: Some General Comments, II. Present and Past, IV. The Lower Palaeolithic, V. The Middle Palaeolithic, VI. Instead this is basically a descriptive account that tries to identify the main problem areas, and makes some suggestions about what we need to know to make further progress" p. As the picture of the Iranian Palaeolithic now appears, the earliest evidence of human activity in Iran comes from open-air occurrences located along the eastern and western borders of Iran. Choppers, chopping tools and a series of smaller flakes and flake tools made primarily on quartz were found in the alluvial fill of the Kashafrud basin in Khorasan by Claude Thibault, and on the ancient river terraces of Mashkid and Ladiz Rud in Baluchistan Gary Hume found a number of crude stone tools which he attributed to "the Asian chopper-chopping tool complex" and baptized the "Ladizian". In the western provinces, in Kurdistan and Luristan, chop- 3. But like the stone industries from East Iran these occurrences are difficult to date. Most interesting is perhaps a scatter of chopping and flake tools found with several small handaxes on an alluvial fan at Pal Barik in the Hulailan valley in Luristan. Thus Iran might easily become an important factor in the discussion of the chronological and geographic relationship between the so-called chopper-chopping tool tradition and the Acheulian handaxe tradition. But as pointed out by Smith, the weaknesses in the basic data are so serious that hardly any facts let alone any definite ideas of the real nature of the Lower Palaeolithic of Iran can be proposed for the time being. The Middle Palaeolithic is somewhat better known, represented as it is by more than twenty finds from caves, shelters and open-air sites, mainly from the Zagros region. The industry characteristic of Iran in this period is a variety of Mousterian, similar to what in Europe has been called Typical Mousterian " and in this context by some prehisto- rians named the Zagros Mousterian. Although it may have lasted for more than 50, years no clearly marked difference has as yet been observed between the earlier and the late Mousterian industries in Iran, as represented e. There are, however, differences between some of the Mousterian assemblages found in caves and shelters and some of those from open-air sites. But it is not clear whether these dissimilarities, including the occasional use of the Levallois technique of stone working, reflect chronological differences, the presence of several traditions of ethnic groupings, or functional and seasonal variations in the activities practiced at the various types of sites. In this respect it would no doubt be of great importance if Philip E. Smith sometime in the future were to have the opportunity of excavating Ghar-i-Khar, the most promising cave site " at least the size of Shanidar " that has so far been located in Iran. Situated above Bisitun, this

long and deep cave was briefly tested in by Smith, revealing a Mousterian occupation below two metres of Upper Palaeolithic deposits. Although Middle and Upper Palaeolithic layers have been found in several caves and shelters in the Zagros, the transition from the Mousterian to the earliest Upper Palaeolithic industries is not at all clearly defined. The Zarzian in Iran is fairly well defined, but its origin is not quite clear, and although one might assume that it developed into some kind of very early Neolithic, perhaps represented by open-air sites like Zawi Chemi Shanidar in Iraq we do not yet in Iran have a transitional industry between the Epipalaeolithic and the Early Neolithic, like e. The problem is very clearly present for example in the extensively surveyed Hulailan valley in Luristan where there is an apparent gap between the late Zarzian, represented by at least four cave sites and three open-air sites, and the earliest Neolithic settlement at Tepe Guran. In spite of the fact that Philip E. One minor point of criticism relates to the illustrations of the artifacts, some of which are very crude indeed e. I presume it is not the fault of the author but of some of his less meticulous colleagues, whose illustrations he reproduces. Coon, *Cave Explorations in Iran* *American Anthropologist*, 54, 4:

6: " Encyclopaedia Iranica

Although the Iranian plateau has witnessed Paleolithic researches since the early twenty century, still little is known about the Paleolithic of Iran. There are several reasons for this situation.

The unsettled political climate in the region has meant that archaeological explorations have been sporadic. Yet the meagre information that has become available to us has led historians and anthropologists to re-examine theories about the earliest known presence of humans and human-like peoples living and working as a community. In Greater Old Iran, the earliest known sites that contain evidence of occupation by the ancestors of modern humans are to be found in present-day Tajikistan. The occupation of one site is dated at , to , years ago - nearly a million years before the present. The evidence available to us currently shows that while the this phase of early human development took place almost simultaneously in different parts of the globe, the dates for different stages of the Stone Age based on the development of stone tools was different for different parts of the world. As a consequence, dates for the Stone Age have changed with every discovery and the development of dating methods. There is evidence stone implements being used as early as 2. Therefore, current theory places the earliest development of human beings in Africa. However, migratory theories which should more appropriately be labelled as constructs based on an extremely small and unrepresentative sample , are always subject to the latest discovery and we have no way of knowing what evidence has been lost to us forever. Modern human beings are the only hominin species still in existence. The main hominins who existed during this period were: Neanderthal remains have been found from one end of Greater Aryana to the other - from the upper Tigris region in the west to Central Asia in the east as well as in a region neighbouring Greater Aryana to the north-east: Okladnikov in the Altai region commonly thought of as the ancestral home of the Turkic peoples. *Homo sapiens sapiens* thousand years ago to present. The Stone Age in a particular region ended with evidence of the earliest known metal implements, and generally ends between 6, and 4, BCE. During the Stone Age of human development, the earth also experienced an Ice Age some 1. We do not know precisely what microclimates existed in specific localities especially in Central Asia. Weather changes could have impacted the availability of food as well as general living conditions - consequently resulting in movements of hominin or human groups. Evolution of the Human species *Homo* genus with relative brain size. Coon in Seven Caves pg. With much more certainty one might claim Iran and the contiguous areas of south-west Asian generally as the area of origin, since Neolithic men were widespread in the whole region [our note: The seven caves described by C. Nowadays we also read mention of the seven caves of Mazandaran. Advancements in stone tool making in the region of Greater Old Iran had of course started much earlier than the Neolithic. The Cambridge History of Iran pg. The Khurnik stone implement industry, while basically resembling that of Behistun, demonstrates mastery of even more sophisticated techniques - thereby indicating and even earlier advancement in stone implement making in what we can think of as central Aryana - the Khorasan-Sistan area. The dates ascribed to these skeletal remains range from the relatively recent Neolithic period 4, to 10, years ago to the Paleolithic period that ranges from 15, years ago to the dawn of humanity. Finding skeletal remains under a cave floor that has also yielded signs of habitation does not automatically mean that burial under the floor of a house was the norm in those days. Such conclusions are at best premature and misleading. At the outset, it is yet to be determined if some of the cave occupied by humans or humanoids were permanent or seasonal dwellings. The Shanidar Cave has been used as a seasonal winter dwelling until recent times. In summer, the inhabitants would range the countryside finding fresh pastures for their animals, going ever higher on the slopes as the summer progressed - sleeping in the open or in non-permanent summer dwellings as is still the practice in Maymand, Kerman. Some of these signs are that the bones have shifted or they are not touching one another. One explanation given is that the weight of the accumulating soil on top would have shifted the bones. At times, only partial remains have been found. What we do not know is if with some secondary burials, the bodies were first exposed to the elements and for the flesh to be consumed by birds and animals before the dried bones were buried the so-called secondary burial. We also do not know if there was any consistency in burial practices and it would be unreasonable to expect

such a consistency before the advent of a cultural, religious or political code that was subscribed to by various groups. Until such a time, burial practices can be expected to have been local and based on local conditions and needs. One group could have emulated the practices of another group when they became aware of such practices. However, there is evidence of some burials included tokens of affection from those they had left behind. There is also evidence of some kind of belief in an afterlife. For instance, in the Shanidar Cave, there is an indication that, years ago, flowers were placed beside a buried individual. No evidence of Stone Age coffins have been found. Instead traces of matting and fabric have been found with or around the skeletons. One 3rd to 2nd millennium BCE skeleton from Tepe Hissar was uncovered with an alabaster cup held by both hands. This is the earliest evidence of an organized cemetery known to date. In a Tepe Hissar burial from some, years ago, personal items were found with the skeletal remains placed near the head or upper body. The personal items included pottery vessels, copper pins, daggers for men only, seals or seal-shaped ornaments, and large numbers of beaded necklaces, bracelets, armlets, diadems, belts and anklets, made of gypsum and other materials. There would be little reason to bury personal goods with a body unless there was a belief in an afterlife. A belief in an afterlife automatically requires a belief in some form of existence - such as a spiritual existence - one that continues beyond death. The region of ancient Iran may have been home to some of the earliest forms of these beliefs. The practice was developed further during the subsequent Metal Age. The skeletal remains in the tombs were found surrounded by a variety of items including jewellery, weapons, household and toiletry articles. The jewellery consisted of elaborate items made from gold, silver, and semiprecious stones. Also found in large numbers were weapons made from bronze. Household items included pottery, long-spouted vessels, cooking utensils, figurines and decorated vessels made from precious metals. Eduljee Base image credit: The making of these artifacts are dated from, to, years ago. The sites reflect early adaptations by hominins to mid-latitude environments, and the stone-tool discovered at the sites are composed of pebble and flake implements. The findings at these sites have made anthropologists rethink theories about where early humanoids and humans developed their tool-making and social skills. It is located close to the Yaksu River At the site, a relatively small find of forty artifacts were discovered in the 11th and 12th soil layers m below the surface soil dated to about, years BP. These artifacts included stone tools of the quartzite pebble variety: These type of artifacts are at times referred to as "pebble tools" and at other times as "shingle technology", i. We find it noteworthy that archaeologists refer to the different subsoil layers containing artifacts as "cultural layers" for it is in culture that we find the roots of civilization. Karatau is located about 55 km SSE of Dushanbe It is an open-air site and site about 1, m above sea level. The oldest artifacts pebble tools from Karatau were found in a layer dated to, BP in the Lower Paleolithic period. The site also has also yielded Middle Paleolithic artifacts. In all, Karatau 1 has yielded more than artifacts made mostly from metamorphic pebbles. Prepared cores and bifaced tools were not found amongst the Karatau tools though they were found at Lakhuti. The Stone tools found at Lakhuti are more developed than those found in Karatau. The pebble tools recovered from Lakhuti are similar to the ones from Karatau. Also recovered were a few prepared cores and blades. Stone tools similar to those from Khudji see below, Obi Rakhmat in Uzbekistan and Shugnou levels are reported to have been found at the Khonako open-air site in a massive outcrop some 10 km northeast of Shugnou. It sits on the western bank of Khudji stream at an elevation of about m above sea level. The site was discovered in during road construction and appears from the reports to be an open-air site. Presumably the paleosol layers were also levels representing different periods when the site was occupied. The site excavation team consisted of Tajik and Russian archaeologists Vadim Ranov an ethnographic archaeologist from Tajikistan, A. Amosova and Stanislav Laukhin. The lowest level sat on overflow sediments from the stream and debris washed down from the slopes of the surrounding hills. This lower layer yielded a rich find of hearths with charcoal remnants, 5, lithic stone artifacts and 3, pieces of animal remains spread over an area of about 40 sq. Both excavation level sets at the site gave conventional radiocarbon dates of around 40, years BP - the end of Middle Paleolithic period. These included stone tools such as blades, side scrapers and points. In the upper layers, the diversity of animal species was reduced and consisted primarily of wild mountain goat and deer remains. Well preserved hearths were also absent from the upper layers. The tooth was recovered together with "abundant quantities of small pieces of bone" and waste

material produced during lithic reduction and the production of chipped stone tools. The researchers note that "the cultural level sloped slightly toward the Khudji brook, such that long-term low energy slope-wash processes may have removed some elements. The researchers note that the tooth is too small to be an adult tooth. In normal English a lateral tooth is the one next to the two front teeth. A deciduous incisor is a baby tooth. Lateral teething of a human child normally occurs within the first 9 to 16 months of its life. The tooth is shed when the child is six to twelve years of age. In their report, the researchers state at p. Proceedings, American Philosophical Society Vol. A reconstruction of what the child might have looked like based on the conclusions of M. It cave is famed for the discovery of the Middle Paleolithic 70, year old cf. The discovery is credited to Soviet archaeologist Alexei Okladnikov. The cave is more specifically located 18 km north of Baysun city and km south of Samarkand.

7: Dawn of History - Paleolithic (Palaeolithic) & Early Peoples of Greater Old Iran

PALEOLITHIC AGE IN IRAN.. www.enganchecubano.com Paleolithic or 'Old Stone Age' begins with the first stone tools some million years ago in Africa (Gowlett , p.),and it ends with the Neolithic or 'New Stone Age,' essentially at the beginnings of agriculture.

Hamed Vahdati Nasab Intl. There are several reasons for this situation and lack of scholarly enthusiasm on the part of Iranian archaeologists seems to be the most imperative one. Concerning the history of Paleolithic surveys and excavations conducted in Iran, three distinct phases are recognizable. First, from the beginning of the twenty century to the when numerous field missions were executed in this region all by western institutes, second phase observes a twenty years gap in the Paleolithic studies hence; only few surveys could be performed in this period, and the third phase starts with the reopening of the Iranian fields to the non-Iranian researchers, which led to the survey and excavation of handful of new Paleolithic sites. This article reviews Paleolithic researches conducted in Iran since the beginning of twenty century to the present time. Paleolithic, Iran, Zagros, Alborz 1. To its remains with just few exceptions e. There large Neanderthal collection Solecki , could be several reasons for such situation; Trinkaus, To the northwest, some major however, lack of Paleolithic excavations is the Paleolithic sites in Turkey Kuhn , and the most important ones. The mentioned sites are Persian Gulf, and the Caspian Sea. Iran consists just those that provide hominid remains of rugged, mountainous rims surrounding high belonging to the Pleistocene, needless to say interior basins. The main mountain chains are that there are many Paleolithic sites based on Zagros and Alborz Figure 1. Zagros is a series the artifact typology within political boundaries of parallel ridges interspersed with plains that of Iran as well Figure 1. Dispersion of Paleolithic sites in Iran,: Hitherto, numerous Kiani Haftlang The center of Iran Paleolithic sites have been recorded and some Rimming the Caspian Sea littoral is another were nominated for more comprehensive chain of mountains, the narrow but high Alborz studies. Absolute and relative chronological Mountains. The average elevation of this plateau is doubt that the Paleolithic period of Iran must be about meters 3, ft , but several of the treated such as the Near East; therefore, the four mountains that tower over the plateau exceed major Paleolithic periods of the Lower, Middle, 3, meters 9, ft. The eastern part of the Upper and Epipaleolithic are recognizable with plateau is covered by two deserts, the Dasht-e almost the same chronological frame as the Kavir and the Dasht-e Lut. Except for some Near East and Europe. An important point is scattered oases, these deserts are uninhabited. In that in case of absolute dating; most of the general, Iran has an arid climate in which most Paleolithic sites in Iran suffer from the lack of the relatively scant annual precipitation falls reliable dating techniques e. In most of the dates obtained by C14 techniques prior to the country, yearly precipitation averages could be drastically changed because of 25 centimeters 9. The major absence of reliable calibration at the time. History of Paleolithic Researches in Iran Early 20th Century to The Iranian plateau is located right at the This phase starts by limited surveys conducted migratory corridor to the access of central and by Jacques de Morgan alongside the river eastern Asia. Archaeological data indicate that terraces of Pardameh in Mazandaran province this corridor has been used frequently by in the early 20th century, which led to the Humian populations during the prehistoric and discovery of some lithic scatters; assigned by historic times. The close examination of the discovered Zagros Mountains Braidwood Warwasi artifacts, which are currently being kept in the and Kobeh rock shelters are among the major Saint Germain En-Laye Museum in Paris Paleolithic sites excavated by them. Warwasi is indicates that the possibility of all being natural a very important locality, which could rocks must be considered as well Vahdati demonstrate evidences of occupations from Nasab, personal observation. He also dug a small test as Frank Hole and Kent Flannery continued this trench in Kunji cave at the outskirts of mission in the Luristan province in the central Khorramabad city in Loristan province in Zagros and managed to survey 15 valleys, central Zagros Field In , Charles McBurney excavated at the With the beginning of and due to Middle Paleolithic layers of Kiaram I cave in political unrest in Iraq, the Oriental Institute of the northeastern of Albroz Mountains in the University of Chicago decided to shift its Golestan province and reported the existence of focus from Iraq to Iran and consequently Late some Mousterian flint knapping traditions with

Robert Braidwood and his colleagues started no signs of Levallois technique McBurney their field expeditions in the west of Iran in the ; however, soon he shifted his research 66 Vahdati Nasab. He tested excavations, other parts of Iranian plateau has three rock shelters Humian 1, 2, and Barde- been chosen by researchers for different Spid in Kuhdasht region in western of reasons, such as Ladiz in the southeastern Iran. Luristan, which among them Humian1 During the years , Gary Hume from contained Mousterian layers McBurney , university of Minnesota initiated Paleolithic Humian 1 is an important site holding surveys in the river terraces of Simish and the oldest dated archeological layer in Iran. The re- named as Ghar-e Khar was nominated for examination of the artifacts has reconfirmed small size excavation. Recent industry with the Soanian industries from surveys of Ghar-e Khar have revealed that this Pakistan imply early Middle Paleolithic age as site is in great danger by pot hunting activities, well Lycett, Iranian plateau has never witnessed the Although Zagros Mountains and its extension of ice sheets and therefore sediments exceptional geomorphology has attracted lots of in there could not be contemporaneous with 67 Paleolithic Archaeology in Iran Intl. His report surveys in Amol region, which eventually concluded that the Mousterian layers were ended in discovery and excavation of Garm severely disturbed by porcupine activates Rud 2 Berillon et al. Later he managed to analyze and In , Peder Mortensen started his study the recovered artifacts and assigned them archaeological surveys in Hulailan valley in to the Zagros Mousterian group Baumler and Loristan to reconstruct the settlement patterns Speth, During the 70s, which encompassed from Lower to the numerous surveys and excavations were Epipaleolithic periods Mortensen Later he carried out some surveys nearby Thibault, Although surveyors of the Maharlu Lake, the place that had already been Kashafud terraces claimed middle Pleistocene visited and mentioned by Henry Field in the age based on the sedimentology of the river Fars province in central Iran Field, and terraces, there is still a great deal of uncertainty based on the artifact typology assigned one of for the employed dating methods the caves named as Eshgaf e Ghadi Barmishur Jamialahmadi et al. Not having access to the such as the presence of Levalloisian techniques Paleolithic fields in Iran forced some western Vita-Finzi and Copeland, Harold Dibble restudied the Paleontological research in Maragheh. She Mousterian artifacts derived from Bisitun rock reported three caves and seven Paleolithic open shelter during the expedition by Coon sites in northwestern Iran in Azerbaijan area Coon, , and proposed that in spite of the and assigned the caves to the Lower Paleolithic previous claims concerning the lack of Sadek-Kooros, Unfortunately, due to Levallois technique in the Zagros Mousterian the technological shortages at the time of industries, Bisitun collections demonstrate survey, the exact locations of the sites are relatively high quantity of Levallois technique, remaining unidentified up to this time. Rosenberg reported some Paleolithic sites in the Deborah Olszewski conducted extensive Marvdasht region Rosenberg, , later he work on the Upper and Epipaleolithic of Zagros excavated Eshkaft-e Gavi cave and reported the in general and on Warwasi rock shelter, which presence of Middle to Epipaleolithic layers in had been excavated by Howe in particular. Due this site; however, he could not prove any to the presence of almost all of the diagnostic continuity among the industries Rosenberg, lithic elements of Aurignacian industries in Eshkaft-e Gavi is among few Paleolithic Warwasi, Olszewski and Dibble proposed the sites in Iran that could have provided few pieces term Zagros Aurignacian instead of Baradostian of Humian skeletal remains. In the early s, all Paleolithic studies in Iran Baumler and Speth performed were suspended. Aside from political instability technotypological analysis on the Mousterian in the Zagros region Iraq-Iran War, artifacts of Kunji cave, and concluded that the , a primary reason for the gap was the lack raw material accessibility played an important 69 Paleolithic Archaeology in Iran Intl. The Zagros migratory chronology must be halted. The only Paleolithic model proposes that, during the Pleistocene excavation in this period was carried out by period, Paleolithic societies were left with no Late Amirloo in Ghaleh Askar nearby Mount other option than to migrate from the highlands Demavand in Tehran province. Based on the to lowland regions in the nearby Central Iranian primary artifact typology, Amirloo assigned this Desert and Khuzestan Plain Lindly, Reopening Taurus and Levant. Her research suggested that In year , some major changes occurred in the reason for such differences among the the archaeology of Iran in general and in the Paleolithic industries from Zagros-Taurus and Paleolithic studies in particular. Cultural Heritage and Tourism Organization It must be mentioned that although during ICTHO , that its sole purpose was to conduct these years as it was discussed Paleolithic

surveys and field missions across earlier the Paleolithic field missions in Iran got Iran. One of the first regions chosen by this suspended, few surveys and one excavation group was Khorramabad valley and its were exempted. Prior to the early twenty first proximate areas e. In the winter of the members of some independent Paleolithic surveys in the this group reported 21 Paleolithic sites Zagros and Albroz Mountains and managed to 1. The original name of this research center was revisit some of the known Paleolithic sites plus Paleoanthropology and Paleontology department! Five consecutive field missions revealed Paleolithic Research Group, a shift toward the great potential of Alborz Mountains in permitting non-Iranian scholars to conduct general and the Caspian Sea regions in Paleolithic field works in Iran was a major particular. FIPP also performed three seasons of opportunity to conduct Paleolithic field works excavations at Garm Rud 2 open air site in Iran after close to twenty years gap. That same year as a side Project TISARP initiated its field works in project with the Iran-Japan archaeological some regions in central and southwestern of expedition at the northern part of the Alborz Iran such as northeastern of Karkas Mountain Mountains in Gilan province, the Lower and as a result of that numerous Paleolithic Paleolithic site of GanjPar located at the localities were reported including the large open terraces of Sepidroud River was discovered site of Barida, which was assigned to the Epi Biglari et al. Yafteh does not have In , as a part of a joint project between Middle Paleolithic layers. This excavation continued till seems a bit premature to consider Zagros Shidrang, and its results confirmed what Mountains as the geographical place for the was previously published concerning the Upper origin of Aurignacian industry. Paleolithic of central Zagros, meantime new In the same year, excavation at the chronological data pushed back the Paleolithic Paleolithic cave complex known as Qaleh Bozi, settlements in this region to the early stages of located in the central Iran nearby the city of the Upper Paleolithic in the Near East and Isfahan was began by the Iranian researchers at Europe. Aurignacian industries was among the main The preliminary analysis of the artifacts reasons for Otte and his colleagues to conduct indicates relative similarities with the Zagros field missions in Yafteh cave. As a consequence Mousterian site; however, at the same time it they have nominated the central Zagros as the deviates from typical Iranian Mousterian possible birthplace of such industry Otte et al. However, neither Otte Otte et al. The witnessed some major occupations during the preliminary analysis of the artifacts and results end of Pleistocene and beginning of the of absolute dating confirms this cave was Holocene Niknami et al. This survey archaeological layers Vahdati Nasab et al. Figure 2 demonstrates some of the lithic information concerning the significance of the materials discovered at the Epipaleolithic layers coastal areas during the Pleistocene period of Komishan. It must be taken to the account that during Conducting some general archaeological this period aside from the limited number of surveys on the terraces of Abhar Rud River in excavations, numerous Paleolithic surveys were Zanjan province located at km west of conducted all across Iran, which led to the Tehran led to the discovery of another discovery of hand full of new sites. As an Paleolithic site known as Khaleseh. These localities that are Lower Paleolithic site of Ganj Par. After further located right at the northern edge of the Iranian examinations, and due to the presence of some Central desert and southern foothills of Alborz Middle Pleistocene fauna remains in side of the Mountains were first recognized during some site, Darband A was assigned to the Lower general archaeological surveys in the 80s. Delazian is a large dense artifact scatter of some general archaeological surveys in the by the size of more than acres. Delazian Boeen Zahra region, located at the south of was undergone through systematic surveys and Qazvin plain in western of Tehran, several artifact collection in , and as a result of that Paleolithic sites were recorded, which later the previous claims concerning the relative based on their artifact typology and presence of dating of the site was reconfirmed Fig. This site was first located by archaeologists in and later was chosen for further analysis. Technotypological analysis of its artifacts indicates that this site must be assigned to the Upper Paleolithic period Shidrang, This study eolithic open sites in the Near East with the size suggests that presence of cut marks and some that goes beyond acres Rezvani and other signatures of cannibalism might be the Vahdati Nasab Discussions and Conclusion Aside from conducting field surveys and Based on the Paleolithic surveys and excavations, some laboratory analyses have excavations, it is clear that the geographical contributed a great deal of new data to the boundaries of Iran have been in use by hunter-Paleolithic of Iran. In Trinkaus and Biglari gatherers since the Pleistocene. Concentration reanalyzed the two

and only hominid remains of the majority of the Paleolithic field missions Humian right radius proximal diaphysis and in the Zagros Mountains Figure 1 has led an incisor recovered from the Middle some of the researchers to claim that this region Paleolithic layers at the rock shelter of Bisitun consists most of the Paleolithic sites in Iran. However, the Persian Gulf, southern coast of the Caspian concerning the Humian right radius proximal Sea, and the central Plateau have been in use diaphysis, the comparative analysis suggests that during the Paleolithic periods as well. Zagros could be the less focus on them. Just recently, reexamination of hominid Although, the rate of conducting Paleolithic remains discovered from the Upper and surveys and excavations in Iran is relatively Epipaleolithic layers of Eshkaft-e Gavi cave slow compare to the other archaeological during the summer of expedition by periods e. Lithics from Mirak open site, Illustrated by Mozghan Jayez. Paleolithic caves, rock shelters and open sites As it was discussed earlier in this article, the have been introduced, and among them some of Paleolithic archaeology of Iran must be treated the most promising ones have been selected for such as the Near East and Europe. The most recent systematic surveys Lower Paleolithic, data derived from Middle, have shown that in contrast to the popular belief Upper, and Epi-paleolithic sites which hold that the Middle-Upper Pleistocene societies absolute chronologies clearly imply that these used to spend their time in caves and rock periods and the lithic industries assigned to shelters, the number of Paleolithic open air sites them were started and ended in the Iranian are far more than covered places caves and Paleolithic sites as their contemporaneous ones rock shelters. The main reason behind in the Near East and Europe. Humian abundance of the later is that they are easy to chronology with its Mousterian assemblages is find. The Paleolithic open air sites are difficult companionable with the Levant, Taurus, and to come across unless systematic intensive Europe. The oldest Upper Paleolithic surveys are performed. It is crucial to emphasis that in most cases The same scenario stands for the Iranian these dates must be abounded. Generally Epipaleolithic as well. Once more results speaking all of the proposed absolute obtained from absolute dating and chronologies for the surface collections in Iran technotypological analysis of the artifacts of e.

8: Paleolithic Archaeology in Iran : Free Download, Borrow, and Streaming : Internet Archive

*Palaeolithic Archaeology in Iran (American Institute of Iranian Studies Monographs, Vol 1) [Philip E. L. Smith] on www.enganchecubano.com *FREE* shipping on qualifying offers.*

The Paleolithic is known almost exclusively from lithic artifacts—stone tools, classified in conventional ways into types that are diagnostic of the various periods. There is virtually no information about the perishable tools and devices made of wood, fiber, or skins that may have been in use. Layers in archeological sites typically contain quantities of lithics, bones of animals that were hunted and consumed, and the ash from domestic fires. Paleolithic sites in Iran are known primarily from caves and rock shelters in the central Zagros mountains along with a few sites on the Caspian Sea coast and scattered sites on the desert plateau. Found in Africa, the eastern Mediterranean and Europe, the Lower Paleolithic is known for two distinctive tool traditions. The first has hand axes and choppers, along with relatively crude flakes struck from flint or quartzite cores. Such tools are thought to have been made by *Homo erectus*, an archaic form of human that preceded the Neanderthals. The hallmark tool of the Lower Paleolithic, the hand axe, is virtually unknown east of the Euphrates, whereas west of that river it is commonly found. Iran may belong to a second Lower Paleolithic tradition that extends across eastern Asia and is known for its choppers, chopping tools, and crude flakes. Based on geology, the site is thought to date to the end of the last interglacial older than , years ago , a relatively warm period when there were elephants and rhinos, as well as sheep, goats, and onagers, on the landscape Braidwood and Howe, ; Wright and Howe, A few hand axes have turned up on the surface in Iran Braidwood, , but none has come from a secure archeological context, and it is possible that they may be Middle Paleolithic in date, as suggested by the occasional presence of hand axes in Middle Paleolithic tool assemblages. Other sites with possible Lower Paleolithic material, but not hand axes, have been reported from the Central Zagros Biglari et al. Sites as old as , years have been discovered in Central Asia, suggesting that occurrences of similar age may be found in Iran Davis and Ranov, Middle Paleolithic sites are known from the Taurus mountains Minzoni-Deroche, , the Zagros mountains see below , Uzbekistan Movius, , several sites in Central Asia, one of which is dated to , years ago Davis and Ranov, Despite the limited extent of investigations in Iran, there are many Middle Paleolithic sites, although few have been excavated and published in full. In the Levant, the Middle Paleolithic extends back more than , years and terminates 40, years ago. The true age of the Mousterian in the Zagros is not known, although carbon from Kunji Cave gave a radiocarbon date of greater than 40, years Hole and Flannery, a. While we cannot be certain when the Middle Paleolithic began in Iran, we know that it ended before 30, years ago with the appearance of the Baradostian Upper Paleolithic. Much has been made of the distinctive technical characteristics of the stone tools of the Zagros Mousterian Baumler and Speth, ; Dibble and Holdaway, ; Skinner, ; Smith, , as compared with those of the Levant or Europe. Shanidar Cave in Iraqi Kurdistan is the most important site in the region Solecki, owing to the remains of numerous Neanderthals, some of whom were crushed by rockfalls in this earthquake-prone region. One apparent burial, in sediments containing flower pollen, is the subject of a book Leroi-Gourhan, ; Solecki, and ; Stewart, No Neanderthal skeletal remains have yet been found in any of the Iranian caves. Apart from these sites, numerous other similar occurrences are known, but few have seen even small test excavations, and these have simply added similar material Biglari, ; Biglari and Heydari, ; Roustaei et al. All of the excavated sites have yielded lithics, animal bones, and fireplace ash, but no other types of artifacts, such as might have been made of bone or wood. The Middle Paleolithic occurred during periods of profound climate change, yet there are no indications that habits changed, implying that people occupied these mountain regions only during the warmer periods. The sites inform more on the presence of people and their hunting habits than on other particulars of their life style. There was a technological transformation or evolution between the Middle and Upper Paleolithic. Rather than a lithic industry based on flakes, now there is an increasing emphasis on blades elongate and regularly shaped flakes and in time a gradual reduction in their size Hole and Flannery, a; Olszewski, a. More important than the shape of the flakes is that now they are used to make a new array of specialized tools, including scrapers, graters, and narrow points that were probably

hafted on spears or arrows. Significant innovations also include the use of bone for awls, and flat stones for grinding ochre pigments and plant foods. The numerous occurrences of Upper Paleolithic lithics on the plateau as well as in the Zagros implies that the distribution of people was wider and their adaptation more varied than in the Middle Paleolithic. The excavated sites give few clues to significant differences in adaptation from the Middle Paleolithic, perhaps because the sites are functionally similar— hunting camps rather than residential. On the other hand, the same animals were being hunted, albeit with new and evolving tool types that give the Upper Paleolithic the appearance of being more diverse and specialized. The latest part of the Upper Paleolithic occurred during the Late Glacial Maximum LGM, when the mountains were permanently covered with snow, so that one should expect there to be gaps or discontinuities in settlement. Weather during the late Pleistocene was always colder than today, but there were periods when it cycled between moderate and frigid. Neanderthals as well as the Upper Paleolithic people had to adapt to these changes, either through developing efficient shelters or by migrating to warmer places. If they migrated, then the sites we find in Iran must often have been relatively short-term camps of hunters who made only brief forays into the mountains during the warm periods. One of the questions driving research is to find sites that hold evidence of a transition from Middle to Upper Paleolithic, a question stimulated by an interest in the origins of modern *Homo sapiens* and the disappearance of Neanderthals. Was there a biological evolution from Neanderthal to modern people, or was there a replacement of Neanderthals? So far, the data in archeological sites have not been adequate to answer this question Bar-Yosef, ; Smith, , p. The actual dates for the duration of the Baradostian are not known, despite radiocarbon determinations from both Yafteh and Shanidar caves. The first series of dates for the early Baradostian from Yafteh Cave, run on carbon, gave an estimate of , years ago Hole and Flannery, b , but recent analyses on charred bone, using the more accurate AMS accelerator mass spectrometry method, determined an age of , years, while bone collagen yielded dates of only , years ago. One might argue for either set of dates as being correct. The older dates correspond well with dates for comparable lithics in the Levant and Europe, and leave less room for a temporal gap between the Middle and Upper Paleolithic, as suggested for Shanidar Solecki, , p. On the other hand, Warwasi, Ghar-i Khar, and Gar Arjeneh lack any stratigraphic break between Middle and Upper Paleolithic, as one would expect if some , years separated them. Adjusting the Middle Paleolithic forward in time does not seem possible in view of radiocarbon dates of greater than 40, years from Kunji Cave. If the early Baradostian is as late as 22,, it is in the midst of the LGM, when it seems unlikely that the Zagros supported much human activity van Zeist and Bottema, An argument for an even later date for the end of the Baradostian is that it appears to develop into the Zarzian, a final Paleolithic industry. Again, there is no apparent stratigraphic break between the Baradostian and Zarzian at the three sites where it has been excavated and reported. The hallmark of the Zarzian is small blades microlithics , many of which in the latest Zarzian are chipped into geometric forms such as triangles and trapezoids Hole and Flannery, b; Wahida, The reduction in size of tools that started in the early Baradostian reached its climax with the Zarzian, and this change required the development of the single platform core from which the little blades were struck Hildebrand, Radiocarbon dates from Shanidar and Palegawra, also in Iraqi Kurdistan, indicate a Zarzian presence by 17, years ago, and it is generally assumed that it lasted until the advent of the Neolithic about 10, years ago. This date range would allow for settlement of the Zagros in the millennia after the LGM when conditions improved sufficiently to allow the spread of vegetation back into the higher elevations. This date does, however, imply a considerable gap with the Baradostian, even if we use the latest dates for that industry. With climatic amelioration throughout the world following the LGM, there were opportunities for the movement of people out of warmer zones into the mountains, making use of camps outside caves and shelters. The primary Zarzian sites are Ghar-i Khar, Gar Arjeneh, and Pa Sangar, where small bands of hunters observed game on the plain below and brought the meat back to eat. Based on scant information from the excavated sites of Pa Sangar, Palegawra, Zarzi, and Shanidar, there was little change in hunting practices from previous periods in that goats and onager were still the main quarry. However, there was an increased emphasis on small game, including partridge and duck, as well as freshwater crabs, clams, turtles, and, for the first time, fish. At both Zarzi and Shanidar excavators found quantities of land snails among the Zarzian debris. Flannery characterized this diversity as the broad spectrum revolution, in which the

range of species hunted was greatly expanded from previous periods Flannery, Mary Stiner attributes the diversity, in part, to dietary stress, which forced people to collect smaller animals, because the larger ones were no longer available either through over-hunting or environmental changes Stiner, In the absence of human skeletons from this period, we cannot assess how humans may have been affected. At Palegawra we have the first indication of domesticated dog Turnbull It would be interesting to know whether people were eating much plant food during the Zarzian, presaging an agricultural diet, as occurred in the Levant. There are few Neolithic artifacts from these sites apart from bone awls. At Pa Sangar, two large saltwater scallop shells lay side by side, and bits of red ochre were also recovered Hole, Beyond the Zagros, lithics attributed to the Epipaleolithic, but not specifically Zarzian, have been reported from a number of places in southern Iran. In the Marv Dasht valley, Rosenberg found a handful of sites with Iranian Paleolithic geometric microliths that he attributes to the Zarzian or a variant of it Rosenberg, , p. Two sites along the southern Caspian coast have stone tools resembling those of the Terminal Paleolithic. During the Pleistocene, the Caspian Sea was at a higher level than today, and Ali Tappeh was just above its shoreline. As the sea receded, Belt and Hotu became accessible and were occupied. People living along the coast took advantage of the resources of the sea, the coastal marshes, and the mountain slopes. The fauna show an interesting change. Early there is a predominance of gazelle and seal, with some ox and deer, but later gazelle predominate, with some goat or sheep McBurney, One may speculate that an environmental change led to the shift in diet. These sites give hints of the potential of the region for further exploration and excavation using modern methods. The Terminal Paleolithic took place during a period of rising temperatures until about 13, BCE, when the region suffered a rapid reversal to near glacial conditions the Younger Dryas period "a shock that must have decimated many populations. Perhaps because people abandoned the Zagros during this time, there is no site that gives convincing evidence of continuity with the proto-Neolithic cultures that follow. This review has highlighted the dearth of solid information. Iran has immense geographic variability, but our knowledge of the Paleolithic comes largely from the Zagros mountain zone. We need investigations of the plateau and desert regions, especially around the playa lakes that formed during wetter periods. The southern coast, with its potential for a maritime adaptation focused on sea mammals and fish holds much Iranian Paleolithic promise for all periods. We also need accurate determinations of ages using modern techniques, and finally we need an accurate assessment of climate changes and their effects on the humans and other species. With new focused field research, Iran holds the promise of yielding substantial new discoveries of all periods. A Preliminary Report with sections on the artifacts by L. Dupree and the human skeletal remains by J. Idem, The Seven Caves. Dupree, Transactions of the American Philosophical Society 62, pt. Ucko, London, , pp. Gebel, Berlin, , pp. The Harland Symposium, ed. Howells, New York, , pp. Idem and Harold L. Bagherzadeh, Tehran, , pp. Smith, Palaeolithic Archaeology in Iran, Philadelphia, Anthropology 63, , pp. July 28, Originally Published: July 28, Last Updated:

9: Paleolithic Archaeology in Iran

The purpose of this paper is to review development of the Paleolithic research in Iran since the late nineteenth. The presence of stone tools in Iran was noted as early as the late s by de Morgan in the Alborz Mountains.

Caves and rock shelters were particularly attractive living places for the hunter gatherers of the early Paleolithic period and the geographic situation of the Iranian Plateau with its bordering mountain systems including the Zagros range on the west and the Alborz range on the north has meant that there were many cave sites which would have been suitable for early cave dwelling man. Although this multiplicity of cave habitats would seem to lend itself to the extended study of the early Stone Age hunting and gathering way of life, there has in fact been comparatively little scientific study of early cave man in Persia, possibly because of the stronger attraction to the archeologists of the rich Neolithic remains of prehistoric agricultural settlers found throughout the country. There are, however, a few excavations which have produced material throwing light on the Paleolithic period in Persia. In general the Zagros highlands have been subject to more Stone Age research and investigation than have the Alborz mountains and therefore a more detailed picture of early cave dwelling life has been developed for the Zagros region where traces of cave dwellers from the Lower Paleolithic to the Middle Paleolithic, Upper Paleolithic, and Epipaleolithic periods have been found. Although other parts of Persia have been less investigated than the Zagros highlands, traces of cave dwellers have also been found at sites scattered throughout the Iranian Plateau and in the lowlands. Lower Paleolithic pebble tools? Middle Paleolithic Mousterian ,, B. Much more in the way of remains from the Middle Paleolithic period, characterized by stone tools made on flakes with scrapers, notched pieces, borers and burins, have been found in various parts of Persia, especially in the Zagros highlands. Most of these sites are concentrated in the Zagros highlands in the provinces of Azerbaijan, Kurdistan, and Luristan, with only limited remains found in other parts of Persia. Upper Paleolithic Baradostian 40,, B. The Upper Paleolithic period is characterized by burins and scrapers on flakes and notched blades as well as picks, choppers, and grinding stones. Although one would expect there to be more material from the Upper Paleolithic as compared to the Middle Paleolithic period found throughout Persia, remains thus far found from the Upper Paleolithic period are rather scant and restricted for the most part to the Zagros highlands. Epipaleolithic Zarzian 18,, B. Rather more remains from the Epipaleolithic period, characterized by microlithic stone tools with some geometric elements such as triangles, crescents, and trapezoids have been found in Persia, centered mainly in the Zagros highlands and the Caspian lowlands. Several trenches A,B,C, and D cut at the site produced pottery sherds, stone implements and samples for C 14 determination. From the most recent to the earliest, these eight groups, with corresponding dates, are given in Table 1. It is evident that although some information has been developed on the cave dwelling way of life in Stone Age Persia, much more survey, investigation, and excavation in ancient caves and other prehistoric sites is required to produce a detailed and comprehensive picture of development during this period. Excavations in the Zagros Mountains: Idem, The Seven Caves: Field, Contributions to the Anthropology of Iran, Chicago, Smith, Palaeolithic Archaeology in Iran, Philadelphia, December 15, Last Updated: February 2, This article is available in print.

Yoga of the Bhagavat Gita Proceedings of the Republican and Union convention for the sixth congressional district, held at Bleecker The Evolution of Robin Thicke Albert einstein book on relativity The Shane manuscript collection Designing an internet network Appendix C. A note on the Nanki collection of Purcells works Imogen Holst Stories of Sherlock Holmes Love letters of a priest A night to remember Graham Watkins The Well-Appointed Bath Annapolis, a walk through history Part 2 : The management of food. Can you password protect a for Nutrition and metabolism in sports exercise and health When Charles the First was King: A Romance of Osgoldcross, 1632-1649 A Companion to Descartes (Blackwell Companions to Philosophy) 4 The Genetics of Phenotypic Plasticity 67 Gomer Little Gomer The little daughter of Jairus IAMSLIC and international scientific organizations : an approach to trans-Pacific information exchange Ge The Lawyers Almanac, 2007 Edition (Lawyers Almanac (Lawyers Almanac) The spirit of May Making connections through reading and writing The Paradise of Forms Cleopatras people Common Channel Signaling Heath Anthology American Literature Concise Plus Chesnutt An American Signifier Conspiracy trial, 1865. Promise in the storm A new deal for kids Neural Tube Defects Fuzzy mathematical programming and fuzzy matrix games Extreme entrepreneurship 73. Racial disparity in survival among patients with endometrial cancer Piano collections kingdom hearts The story of Philip Juchipila, MexUSA How much money is enough? A regional geography of the United States and Canada