

in search of the indo europeans

****In Search of the Indo-Europeans: Tracing the Origins of a Linguistic Legacy****

In search of the Indo Europeans is a journey that takes us deep into the mysteries of ancient history, language, and culture. This quest is not just about uncovering a lost people but about understanding the roots of many modern languages and civilizations across Europe and parts of Asia. The Indo-Europeans, often described as the prehistoric ancestors of a vast linguistic family, remain enigmatic yet central to the story of human migration and cultural development.

The Mystery Behind the Indo-European Origins

The term "Indo-European" refers primarily to a family of languages spoken across a wide geographical area from India to Western Europe. However, the people who spoke the proto-Indo-European language—the common ancestor of these tongues—have long been the subject of debate among historians, linguists, and archaeologists.

Who Were the Indo-Europeans?

The Indo-Europeans were probably a prehistoric group who lived several millennia ago, somewhere in the Eurasian Steppe or nearby regions. They are not recorded in written history because their culture predates writing systems as we know them. Instead, their existence and characteristics have been pieced together through linguistic reconstruction, comparative mythology, and archaeological findings.

The Significance of the Proto-Indo-European Language

At the heart of the search is the proto-Indo-European (PIE) language, a hypothetical ancestral language reconstructed by linguists. By comparing similarities in vocabulary, grammar, and phonetics across modern and ancient Indo-European languages such as Sanskrit, Latin, Greek, and Old English, researchers have worked backward to imagine the original form of this ancient tongue. This linguistic detective work helps reveal how different cultures are connected through language evolution and migration patterns.

Tracing the Indo-European Homeland

One of the most captivating aspects of the search for the Indo-Europeans is identifying their original homeland, often referred to as the "Urheimat." Several theories have emerged over the years, each supported by different strands of evidence.

The Steppe Hypothesis

Currently, the most widely accepted theory is the Steppe Hypothesis, which places the Indo-European homeland in the Pontic-Caspian Steppe region—modern-day Ukraine and southern Russia. Archaeological cultures like the Yamnaya, dating back around 5,000 years, are believed to be closely linked to the early Indo-Europeans.

The Steppe Hypothesis is supported by:

- Archaeological evidence of horse domestication and wheeled vehicles
- Genetic studies showing migrations from the Steppe into Europe and South Asia
- Linguistic clues related to words for horses, chariots, and pastoral life

Alternative Theories

Other ideas propose different origins. The Anatolian Hypothesis suggests that Indo-Europeans spread from Anatolia (modern Turkey) much earlier, tied to the spread of agriculture. Another less popular theory points to the Armenian Highlands or the Balkans. Each hypothesis offers insights but also faces challenges in explaining linguistic and archaeological data cohesively.

The Cultural Impact of Indo-European Migrations

Understanding the Indo-Europeans is not just about pinpointing their origins but also about recognizing how their movements shaped the ancient world.

Language Spread and Diversification

As Indo-European-speaking groups migrated across vast territories, their language evolved into distinct branches. These branches include:

- **Indo-Iranian**: Encompassing languages like Sanskrit, Persian, and Pashto
- **Balto-Slavic**: Including Russian, Polish, and Lithuanian
- **Germanic**: From English to German and Scandinavian languages
- **Italic**: Latin and its descendants, the Romance languages
- **Celtic**: Irish, Welsh, and other Celtic tongues
- **Hellenic**: Greek language and culture

The diversification of these languages reflects not only geographic spread but also adaptations to different environments and interactions with indigenous peoples.

Archaeological Cultures Linked to Indo-Europeans

Several archaeological cultures have been associated with Indo-European speakers, offering glimpses into their lifestyles:

- **Yamnaya Culture** (c. 3300–2600 BCE): Known for burial mounds (kurgans) and innovations like horseback riding
- **Corded Ware Culture** (c. 2900–2350 BCE): Spread across northern Europe, showing continuity with Yamnaya traditions
- **Andronovo Culture** (c. 2000–900 BCE): Linked to Indo-Iranian speakers in Central Asia

These cultures reveal a pastoral, mobile society with advancing technology, which likely facilitated their wide-ranging migrations.

Modern Science and the Search for Indo-Europeans

Recent advances in science have revolutionized our understanding of the Indo-Europeans, bringing new data and perspectives.

Genetics and Ancient DNA

One of the most exciting developments has been the extraction of ancient DNA from archaeological remains. Genetic studies have traced the movement of peoples from the Eurasian Steppe into Europe and South Asia, confirming migration patterns inferred from language and archaeology.

For example, genetic markers associated with the Yamnaya culture have been found in early European farmers and South Asian populations, supporting the theory of Indo-European dispersal from the Steppe.

Interdisciplinary Approaches

The search for the Indo-Europeans is a prime example of interdisciplinary research. Linguists, archaeologists, geneticists, and historians collaborate to piece together evidence. This holistic approach has refined timelines, clarified migration routes, and deepened insight into how ancient peoples lived and interacted.

Why the Search for Indo-Europeans Matters Today

The fascination with the Indo-Europeans goes beyond academic curiosity. This ancient group underpins the roots of many modern languages and cultures, influencing contemporary identity, literature, and even politics.

Understanding Language Connections

For language enthusiasts and learners, tracing the Indo-European lineage reveals surprising connections. For instance, English shares distant commonalities with Hindi and Russian, linking speakers across continents through a shared linguistic heritage.

Appreciating Ancient Cultural Exchanges

The migrations and interactions of Indo-European peoples highlight the fluidity of ancient societies. They remind us that cultures have always been dynamic, shaped by movement, exchange, and adaptation.

Inspiration for Historical and Mythological Studies

Many myths and religious traditions across Europe and Asia contain echoes of Indo-European beliefs. Exploring these links enriches our understanding of mythology, folklore, and the human quest for meaning.

In search of the Indo-Europeans, we embark on a captivating exploration that bridges language, culture, and history. Though their story is ancient and partially veiled in mystery, each discovery brings us closer to comprehending the vast tapestry of human civilization and the shared roots that connect so many of us today.

Frequently Asked Questions

What is 'In Search of the Indo-Europeans' about?

In Search of the Indo-Europeans is a documentary series that explores the origins, culture, and migrations of the ancient Indo-European peoples, who are the ancestors of many modern European and South Asian populations.

Who created 'In Search of the Indo-Europeans'?

The documentary was written and presented by Michael Wood, a British historian and broadcaster known for his engaging historical documentaries.

When was 'In Search of the Indo-Europeans' first released?

The series was first broadcast in 2016.

What methods does the documentary use to trace the Indo-Europeans?

The documentary combines archaeology, linguistics, genetics, and mythology to investigate the origins and spread of the Indo-European peoples.

Why are the Indo-Europeans significant in history?

The Indo-Europeans are significant because their languages form the basis of many modern languages spoken across Europe and parts of Asia, and their migrations shaped the cultural and genetic landscape of these regions.

What regions does 'In Search of the Indo-Europeans' explore?

The series explores regions including the Pontic-Caspian steppe, Anatolia, the Indian subcontinent, and parts of Europe, which are key to understanding Indo-European origins and migrations.

How does genetics contribute to the understanding of Indo-European origins in the series?

Genetic studies featured in the documentary help trace population movements and intermixing, providing evidence for the migration patterns of Indo-European peoples.

What role do ancient languages play in the documentary?

Ancient languages and comparative linguistics are used to reconstruct the Proto-Indo-European language and to map the spread of Indo-European-speaking populations.

Does the documentary address any controversies about Indo-European origins?

Yes, it discusses differing theories, such as the Steppe hypothesis and the Anatolian hypothesis, highlighting ongoing debates among scholars about the Indo-European homeland.

Where can viewers watch 'In Search of the Indo-Europeans'?

The documentary is available on various streaming platforms, educational websites, and sometimes on channels like PBS or the BBC, depending on the region.

Additional Resources

In Search of the Indo-Europeans: Tracing the Origins of a Linguistic Legacy

in search of the indo europeans has long been a compelling quest for historians, linguists, and archaeologists alike. This enigmatic population, credited with spreading one of the most widespread language families in the world, remains elusive despite decades of research. The Indo-European languages, encompassing everything from English and Spanish to Hindi and Russian, hint at a shared

ancestry that dates back thousands of years. Yet, uncovering who the Indo-Europeans were, where they lived, and how they migrated across continents continues to challenge scholars. This article delves into the multidisciplinary efforts to map the origins and movements of the Indo-European peoples, examining linguistic, archaeological, and genetic evidence to provide a comprehensive overview of this enduring mystery.

Understanding the Indo-European Language Family

At the heart of the search for the Indo-Europeans lies the Indo-European language family—a vast grouping of languages that share common structural and lexical features. Linguists first recognized these similarities in the 18th century, which sparked the hypothesis of a proto-Indo-European language spoken by a common ancestral group.

Characteristics of Indo-European Languages

Indo-European languages exhibit consistent grammatical structures such as inflectional morphology, verb conjugations, and noun declensions. Shared vocabulary related to kinship, nature, and social organization also points to a common cultural framework. For example, words for "mother," "father," and "fire" show remarkable resemblance across diverse languages like Sanskrit, Latin, and Old English.

Importance of Linguistic Reconstruction

Linguistic reconstruction techniques, including the comparative method, allow researchers to approximate the proto-language by analyzing patterns of sound changes and cognates. This method has helped linguists piece together a hypothetical vocabulary and grammar for the early Indo-Europeans, providing clues about their environment and lifestyle.

Archaeological Perspectives on Indo-European Origins

While linguistic evidence establishes connections among languages, archaeology offers tangible insights into the people behind these tongues. Excavations of ancient settlements, burial sites, and artifacts contribute to the narrative of Indo-European origins and dispersals.

The Kurgan Hypothesis

One of the most influential archaeological models is the Kurgan hypothesis, proposed by Marija Gimbutas. This theory situates the Indo-European homeland in the Pontic-Caspian steppe region north of the Black Sea around 4500–3500 BCE. The Kurgan people are characterized by their burial mounds (kurgans), horse domestication, and pastoral nomadism.

The Anatolian Hypothesis

An alternative view is the Anatolian hypothesis, which suggests that the Indo-European languages spread from Anatolia (modern-day Turkey) with the expansion of early farming communities around 7000–6000 BCE. Proponents argue that agricultural diffusion explains the widespread distribution of Indo-European languages more plausibly than later steppe migrations.

Comparing Archaeological Evidence

Both hypotheses offer compelling evidence but differ significantly in timelines and mechanisms of dispersal. The steppe cultures exhibit clear signs of mobility and warfare, which may have facilitated rapid language spread. Conversely, the Anatolian model aligns with gradual demographic shifts tied to farming but struggles to explain linguistic uniformity over vast distances.

The Role of Genetics in Unraveling Indo-European History

Recent advances in ancient DNA analysis have revolutionized the study of human migrations, providing new data to test longstanding hypotheses about the Indo-Europeans.

Genetic Markers and Population Movements

Studies of Y-chromosome haplogroups and mitochondrial DNA reveal patterns consistent with large-scale migrations from the Pontic-Caspian steppe into Europe during the Bronze Age. These genetic signatures correspond temporally with the spread of Indo-European languages and the archaeological record of kurgan cultures.

Integrating Genetics with Linguistics and Archaeology

The convergence of genetic data with archaeological findings strengthens the argument for the steppe origin of the Indo-Europeans. However, genetic diversity within Indo-European-speaking populations also indicates complex admixture events and regional adaptations, underscoring the multifaceted nature of human history.

Challenges in Tracing Indo-European Origins

Despite interdisciplinary progress, many aspects of the Indo-European puzzle remain unresolved, highlighting the difficulties inherent in reconstructing prehistoric human narratives.

- **Dating Discrepancies:** Linguistic estimates of proto-language age sometimes conflict with archaeological timelines, complicating efforts to synchronize evidence.
- **Geographical Ambiguity:** Multiple regions present plausible candidates for the Indo-European homeland, and migration routes are often speculative.
- **Fragmentary Evidence:** The scarcity of written records from the relevant periods limits direct insight into Indo-European cultures.
- **Interpretative Biases:** Nationalistic or ideological viewpoints have occasionally influenced interpretations of Indo-European origins, necessitating cautious, objective analysis.

The Impact of New Discoveries

Ongoing archaeological excavations and breakthroughs in genomic sequencing continually reshape our understanding, often challenging previous assumptions. The discovery of ancient burials with preserved DNA or new linguistic data from hitherto understudied languages can dramatically alter theoretical models.

The Legacy of the Indo-Europeans Today

The influence of Indo-European languages spans continents and millennia, shaping cultures, religions, and histories worldwide. From the epics of ancient India to the classical literature of Greece and Rome, the Indo-European linguistic heritage underpins much of human civilization's intellectual foundation.

Modern Implications of the Indo-European Studies

Understanding the Indo-Europeans is not merely an academic exercise; it sheds light on human migration patterns, cultural diffusion, and the interconnectedness of societies. It also informs contemporary discussions on identity, language preservation, and the dynamics of cultural change.

In search of the Indo-Europeans continues to captivate scholars and enthusiasts alike, embodying the broader human quest to comprehend our shared past. As methodologies evolve and new evidence emerges, the story of the Indo-Europeans remains a dynamic field of inquiry—one that bridges languages, lands, and disciplines in pursuit of a common origin.

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in search of the indo europeans: The Indo-Europeans Rediscovered J. P. Mallory, 2025-06-19 Today the number of native speakers of Indo-European languages across the world is reckoned to be over 2.6 billion or about 45% of the earths population. Yet the idea that an ancient, prehistoric population in one time and place gave rise to our own family of people and language is one with a long and troubled past. In this expansive investigation, based on over 50 years of research, J. P. Mallory navigates the complex history of our search for the Indo-European homeland, offering fresh insight into the debates surrounding their origin as well as the latest genetic research. In this compelling account, Mallory explores ancient migrations, linguistics and archaeology, applying cutting edge-genetic research to untangle the key arguments with wit and verve. He addresses how the controversial idea of a single, shared homeland has been viewed by scientists, archaeologists and linguists across the past century and reconsiders how, in the case of the Nazis and more recent nationalist movements, they have been manipulated for political advantage. He goes on to unpick the linguistic trail linking us to the Indo-Europeans, looking at Sanskrit, Greek, Latin and more, tracing our linguistic origins across multiple peoples and cultures, finally bringing the most up to date phylogenetic research to bear on the story. Ultimately this book offers the most conclusive answer to the controversial question of where we are from and how we got here.

in search of the indo europeans: The Indo-Europeans Jean-Paul Demoule, 2023 The existence of an Indo-European linguistic family, allowing for the fact that several languages widely dispersed across Eurasia share numerous traits, has been demonstrated for several centuries now. But the underlying factors for this shared heritage have been fiercely debated by linguists, historians, archaeologists, and anthropologists. The leading theory, of which countless variations exist, argues that this similarity is best explained by the existence, at one given point in time and space, of a common language and corresponding population. This ancient, prehistoric, population would then have diffused across Eurasia, eventually leading to the variation observed in historical and modern times. The Indo-Europeans: Archaeology, Language, Race, and the Search for the Origins of the West argues that despite its acceptance and use by most researchers from different disciplines, such a model is inherently flawed. This book describes how, beginning in the late eighteenth century, Europeans began a quest for a supposed original homeland, from which a small conquering people would one day spread out, bringing their language to Europe and parts of Asia (India, Iran, Afghanistan). This quest was often closely tied to ideological preoccupations and it was in its name that the Nazi leadership, claiming for the Germans the status of the purest Indo-Europeans (or Aryans), waged genocide. The last part of the book summarizes the current state of knowledge and current hypotheses in the fields of linguistics, archaeology, comparative mythology, and genetics. The culmination of three decades of research, this book offers a sweeping survey of the historiography of the Indo-European debate and poses a devastating challenge to the Indo-European origin story at its roots.

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linguistic, and epistemological authority occasioned by expanded use of writing and the practice of Athenian democracy. Lincoln then turns his attention to the period when myth was recuperated as a privileged type of narrative, a process he locates in the political and cultural ferment of the eighteenth and nineteenth centuries. Here, he connects renewed enthusiasm for myth to the nexus of Romanticism, nationalism, and Aryan triumphalism, particularly the quest for a language and set of stories on which nation-states could be founded. In the final section of this wide-ranging book, Lincoln advocates a fresh approach to the study of myth, providing varied case studies to support his view of myth—and scholarship on myth—as ideology in narrative form.

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Europäische Sprachen weisen in Wortschatz und Grammatik erstaunliche Ähnlichkeiten mit östlichen Sprachen wie dem Persischen und dem Sanskrit auf. Wie kommt es zu dieser Verwandtschaft in einem so weiten Raum von Westeuropa bis Indien? Harald Haarmann beschreibt anschaulich, was wir über die Ursprache der Indoeuropäer und ihre Urheimat in der südrussischen Steppe wissen, und erklärt, wie die berittenen Steppennomaden ab dem 4. Jahrtausend v. Chr. nach Westen und Osten gewandert sind, wo sie sich mit vorindoeuropäischen Kulturen vermischten und schließlich in Persien, Indien, Westeuropa und andernorts sesshaft wurden. Nicht nur die Sprachen der Indoeuropäer legen Zeugnis von dieser Entwicklung ab, sondern auch ihre Mythen sowie archäologische Funde.

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TRENDS IN LINGUISTICS is a series of books that open new perspectives in our understanding of language. The series publishes state-of-the-art work on core areas of linguistics across theoretical frameworks, as well as studies that provide new insights by approaching language from an interdisciplinary perspective. TRENDS IN LINGUISTICS considers itself a forum for cutting-edge research based on solid empirical data on language in its various manifestations, including sign languages. It regards linguistic variation in its synchronic and diachronic dimensions as well as in its social contexts as important sources of insight for a better understanding of the design of linguistic systems and the ecology and evolution of language. TRENDS IN LINGUISTICS publishes monographs and outstanding dissertations as well as edited volumes, which provide the opportunity to address controversial topics from different empirical and theoretical viewpoints. High quality standards are ensured through anonymous reviewing.

in search of the indo europeans: *Indogermanische Sprachwissenschaft* Matthias Fritz, Michael Meier-Brügger, 2020-11-23 Das Studienbuch Indogermanische Sprachwissenschaft bietet auf bewährte Weise eine Einführung in die Indogermanistik und gibt einen zeitgemäßen Überblick über Phonologie, Morphologie, Syntax und Lexikon der Familie der indogermanischen Sprachen sowie eine Übersicht über ihre Sprachzweige; neben den klassischen Sprachen Griechisch, Latein und Sanskrit werden in dieser völlig neu bearbeiteten Neuauflage auch die anderen Sprachzweige (wie Germanisch, Iranisch und Slawisch) samt den weniger bekannten (von Keltisch bis Tocharisch und von Albanisch bis Anatolisch) gleichermaßen miteinbezogen. Eine kurze Darstellung der Geschichte des Faches rundet die Einführung ab, die sich an Studierende der Indogermanistik und anderer linguistischer und philologischer Disziplinen richtet sowie an interessierte Laien.

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Sarunas Milisauskas· 1.1 INTRODUCTION The purpose of this book is four-fold: to introduce English-speaking students and scholars to some of the outstanding archaeological research that has been done in Europe in recent years; to integrate this research into an anthropological frame of

reference; to address episodes of culture change such as the transition to farming; the origin of complex societies, and the origin of urbanism, and to provide an overview of European prehistory from the earliest appearance of humans to the rise of the Roman empire. In 1978, the Academic Press published my book *European Prehistory* which, typically for that period, emphasized cultural evolution, culture process, technology, environment, and economy. To produce a new version and an up-to-date prehistory of Europe, I have invited contributions from specialists in the Palaeolithic, Mesolithic, Bronze and Iron Ages. Thus while this version of *European Prehistory* is a new book, however, it still incorporates some data from the 1978 version, particularly in The Present Environment and Neolithic chapters. Like its predecessor, this edition is structured around selected general topics, such as technology, trade, settlement, warfare, and ritual.

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in search of the indo europeans: Altertumskunde - Altertumswissenschaft - Kulturwissenschaft Heinrich Beck, Dieter Geuenich, Heiko Steuer, 2011-12-27 Nach 40jähriger Bearbeitungszeit wurde das Reallexikon der Germanischen Altertumskunde mit 35 Bänden und zwei Registerbänden im Jahre 2007 abgeschlossen. Der hier vorgelegte Tagungsband zieht Bilanz und verknüpft durch fächerverbindende Diskussion die am Lexikon beteiligten Disziplinen Archäologie, Geschichte, Philologie sowie zahlreiche Naturwissenschaften von der Anthropologie bis zur Umweltgeschichte. Über die Diskussion des Titelbegriffs „germanisch“ hinaus geht es um Aspekte der Altertumswissenschaften im geographischen Raum Mittel- und Nordeuropa. Der sich ständig verändernde Kenntnisstand wird hier für unser Jahrzehnt gebündelt und schafft damit auch die Vorbereitung für die Fortsetzung des Lexikons als Germanische Altertumskunde Online. Die im Buch zusammengefassten Themen greifen aktuelle Fragestellungen, Methoden und neue Quellenbestände auf, sowohl archäologische als auch geschichtliche und linguistische, und führen somit das Lexikon in die unmittelbare Gegenwart der wissenschaftlichen Diskussion fort. Dieser Band bildet somit einerseits eine Brücke zwischen dem Lexikon (RGA) und den Ergänzungsbänden und bereitet andererseits den Weg zum elektronischen Lexikon (GAO) als Fortsetzung vor.

in search of the indo europeans: Introduction to Indo-European Linguistics Oswald Szemerényi, Oswald John Louis Szemerényi, 1999 Professor Szemerényi's Einführung in die vergleichende Sprachwissenschaft, first published in 1970, remains the standard introduction to comparative Indo-European linguistics. Updated and revised for its English translation, it appears here in a new paperback format. The introductory section presents a general survey of the principles of diachronic-comparative linguistics, and the remainder of the book is a thorough and detailed analysis, according to those principles, of the phonological and morphological structure of the Indo-European group of languages. Each section of the book has a detailed bibliography, so that the student can progress from the general overview to a more detailed examination of particular topics.

in search of the indo europeans: The Well of Remembrance Ralph Metzner, 2001-05-01 In his introduction to *The Well of Remembrance*, author Ralph Metzner provides a telling explanation of the theme of his work: This book explores some of the mythic roots of the Western worldview, the worldview of the culture that, for better and worse, has come to dominate most of the rest of the world's peoples. This domination has involved not only economic and political systems but also

values, basic attitudes, religious beliefs, language, scientific understanding, and technological applications. Many individuals, tribes, and nations are struggling to free themselves from the residues of the ideological oppression practiced by what they see as Eurocentric culture. They seek to define their own ethnic or national identities by referring to ancestral traditions and mythic patterns of knowledge. At this time, it seems appropriate for Europeans and Euro-Americans likewise to probe their own ancestral mythology for insight and self-understanding. Focusing on the mythology and worldview of the pre-Christian Germanic tribes of Northern Europe, Metzner offers a meaningful exploration of Western ancestry.

in search of the indo europeans: Indology, Indomania, and Orientalism Douglas T. McGetchin, 2009 He has presented more than a dozen papers at academic conferences in North America, Europe, and South Asia, including Harvard University, Humboldt University, Heidelberg University's South Asia Institute, and the Max Mueller Bhavan in New Delhi, India.

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in search of the indo europeans: History of Humanity UNESCO, 1996-12-31 The second volume covers the first two and a half thousand years of recorded history, from the start of the Bronze Age 5,000 years ago to the beginnings of the Iron Age. Written by a team of over sixty specialists, this volume includes a comprehensive bibliography and a detailed index.

in search of the indo europeans: The Genesis of the Turks Osman Karatay, 2022-01-25 This book suggests a new theory on the origins and Urheimat of the Turks within the context of Central Eurasia and, more properly, the South Urals, by exploring the relations of the Turkic language with the Altaic, Uralic and Indo-European languages and by referring to historical, genetic and archaeological sources. The book shows that the elements that started the making of the Turkic ethno-linguistic entity were also shared by the regions where the later Hungarians would emerge, and that the consolidation of their identity seems to be related to the emergence and rise of the Sintashta culture. It argues that the fertile lands and suitable climatic conditions, together with the coming of agriculture likely at the end of the 3rd millennium BC, allowed them to increase their population.

in search of the indo europeans: Archaeology and Language II Roger Blench, Matthew Spriggs, 2003-09-02 Using language to date the origin and spread of food production, Archaeology and Language II represents groundbreaking work in synthesizing two disciplines that are now seen as interlinked: linguistics and archaeology. This volume is the second part of a three-part survey of innovative results emerging from their combination. Archaeology and historical linguistics have largely pursued separate tracks until recently, although their goals can be very similar. While there is a new awareness that these disciplines can be used to complement one another, both rigorous methodological awareness and detailed case-studies are still lacking in the literature. This three-part survey is the first study to address this. Archaeology and Language II examines in some detail how archaeological data can be interpreted through linguistic hypotheses. This collection demonstrates the possibility that, where archaeological sequences are reasonably well-known, they might be tied into evidence of language diversification and thus produce absolute chronologies. Where there is evidence for migrations and expansions these can be explored through both disciplines to produce a richer interpretation of prehistory. An important part of this is the origin and spread of food production which can be modelled through the spread of both plants and words for them. Archaeology and Language II will be of interest to researchers in linguistics, archaeologists and anthropologists.

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