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Review of *Ice Age Peoples of North America: Environments, Origins, and Adaptations of the First Americans* Edited by Robson Bonnichsen and Karen L. Turnmire

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This collection of nineteen articles presents up-to-date regional or topical syntheses of the best data relating to the last Ice Age inhabitants in Northeast Asia, Beringia, and North America. Many of the papers were given in 1989 at the First World Summit, sponsored by the Center for the Study of the First Americans at the University of Maine. Authors were given the opportunity to update their syntheses to include new finds in their regions during the decade between the Summit and the book’s publication, though some contributors waived the opportunity.

Perhaps prompted by the important discovery, publication, and acceptance of the pre-Clovis age Monte Verde site in Chile, Bonnichsen and Turnmire present in the opening article an overview of the various scenarios for the peopling of the Americas. The organization of the rest of the book follows the geographical path generally touted as the route taken by the first Americans, beginning in Asia, with articles on “Ice Age Environments of Northern Eurasia with Special Reference to the Beringian Margin of Siberia,” by M. G. Grosswald; “Impact of Ice-Related Plant Nutrients on Glacial Margin Environments,” by M. D. Turner, E. J. Zeller, G. A. Dreschoff, and


These contributions are, for the most part, well written, amply illustrated, and thought provoking. In this regard, the publication should be found on the shelves of professionals, students, and the interested public. The articles by George Frison, Dennis Stanford, and Don Wyckoff directly apply to the Great Plains, and syntheses covering adjacent regions refer to Great Plains chronologies in discussions of population movements and
technological developments, making the entire book of interest to Plains scholars.

One aspect I found particularly intriguing. In all of the articles synthesizing regional sites, the total number of dated sites for any given time period within that region can be counted on one person’s fingers and toes, and in many instances shoes and socks need not be removed. Given the small number of dated sites that define the various chronologies, it is not surprising that the discovery of a single new site can have a profound influence on how the peopling of the Americas is perceived. This is one of many factors that keep Paleo-American studies exciting. Leland C. Bement, Oklahoma Archeological Survey, University of Oklahoma.