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Since the presentation of the tripartite model of Native American languages, genes, and cultures by Joseph H. Greenberg and others (1986), there have been few attempts to synthesize anthropological genetic data from New World populations to evaluate various models of the peopling of the Americas. Although offering no new theoretical paradigm to explain the observed patterns of biological diversity in the New World, The Origins of Native Americans presents a thorough review of the current genetic data from Siberian and Native American populations. Rather than taking an explicitly historical view of these anthropological genetic studies, the book instead examines the peopling of the New World through five main analytical perspectives, including the genetic variation, demography, population structure, morphological variation, and health and disease of populations past and present, and explores their relevance for understanding Native American origins. The post-contact hybridization of Native American groups with people of European and African descent and the implications of this historical trend for attempts to reconstruct population histories are also reviewed in considerable detail. In addition, author Michael Crawford raises important concerns about the biocultural factors that have shaped the biological variation among Native Americans, issues sometimes overlooked in discussions
of the "waves" of migration into the Americas that occurred some 15,000-
30,000 years ago.

The book has two other features that contribute to its distinct view of
Native American origins. First, Crawford has used many of the quantita­tive
methods for analyzing morphological and genetic variation in human popu­
lations discussed in the text during the more than twenty years he has been
involved in studies of human biological variation. In addition, he has used
the populations he has conducted field research among as case studies,
including aboriginal Siberians, St. Lawrence and Alaskan Eskimos, Mexi­
can Tlaxcaltecs, and Black Caribs of St. Vincent and the Caribbean. This
strategy gives the book an on-the-ground anthropological perspective on
patterns of genetic variation in Siberian and Native American groups some­
times lacking in similar works dealing with these issues; it also accords the
analyses of these patterns a strong North and Central American focus.

While providing a good overview of the current understanding of
Native American origins, the volume does have a few minor shortcomings.
Given the emphasis on the author's own research into these questions, for
example, its coverage of the most recent molecular studies of mitochondrial
DNA, Y-chromosome, and microsatellite loci for Native American and Sibe­
rian populations is not comprehensive. This is unfortunate since many of the
same populations have also been analyzed for nuclear genetic and morpho­
logical variation, and the new molecular data could have been compared
with those from classical anthropological genetic studies in interesting ways.
The book also assumes a certain familiarity with the genetic methods and
statistics used in these analyses, but this should not prevent the general
reader from grasping the main points of each section or chapter. And overall,
*The Origins of Native Americans* is an engaging and thoughtful account of
the population history of aboriginal groups from Siberia and the Americas
based on anthropological genetic data. **Theodore G. Schurr,** Department of
Genetics, Southwest Foundation for Biomedical Research, San Antonio,
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