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## Review of *The Prehistory of Texas* Edited by Timothy K. Perttula

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**The Prehistory of Texas.** Edited by Timothy K. Perttula. College Station: Texas A&M University Press, 2004. vi + 471 pp. Maps, photographs, line drawings, tables, references cited. \$100.00 cloth.

*The Prehistory of Texas* is an attempt to synthesize work on the prehistoric archaeology of the Southern Great Plains and surrounding areas of Texas. Sixteen archeologists contributed to the book, which is divided into six parts. The first chapter of part one provides the necessary cultural-historical and environmental

background for the chapters that follow. The second chapter is a long, in-depth, well-researched treatment of the Paleoindian presence in Texas.

Parts two through six are each devoted to one or more regions of the state. Part two includes a pair of thoroughly researched and amply illustrated chapters on the hunter-gatherers of central and south Texas. Contributors to part three discuss the state's coastal regions, with one chapter on the upper coastal region and another on the lower. Part four encompasses western Texas, including a chapter on the eastern Trans-Pecos and far West Texas regions and a second on the remarkable rock art sites in the Lower Pecos River region. Part five contains chapters on the Paleoindian period in the Southern High Plains Panhandle region of Texas, the Late Prehistoric Palo Duro complex, and the Antelope Creek phase. Part six is devoted to the hunter-gatherers and farmers who occupied the eastern portion of the state, including the Caddo Indians.

The success of *The Prehistory of Texas* depends on how one measures the volume. If the yardstick is the editor's goal of creating an up-to-date, comprehensive synthesis of Texas prehistory, the work falls short. Several chapters are excellent, but the quality throughout varies considerably. Some chapters include detailed, thorough summaries of all periods, as well as illustrations of diagnostic artifacts. Others seem to be following individual authors' research interests and focus mainly on a particular theme or time period. In some instances, illustrations or photographs of diagnostic artifacts are presented but not adequately labeled—or are missing altogether. Furthermore, major regions of the state, notably north Texas and the Rolling Plains, are completely absent.

If one surveys the volume as simply a collection of recent articles on Texas archaeology, then it succeeds well. *The Prehistory of Texas* summarizes much useful information, and the discussions of the regions and time periods that *are* covered will serve as an excellent reference for those who want to learn more about the prehistory of the Southern Great Plains. **James E. Bruseth**, *Archeology Division, Texas Historical Commission*.