

Peer Review

Review of: "Does Palaeolithic Resource Management Leading to Domestication Explain Human “Modernity”?”

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This is a thorough consideration of the relationship between human society and culture and the domestication of certain animals during the Paleolithic period. Although I am not an expert on the regions of the world considered by the author, it seems that he has included the most pertinent literature to his argument. Furthermore, he has selected the primary animals of domestication and their environments for argumentation. I have a few minor concerns here and there with his presentation and his position on early human society and culture, but I am willing to let them pass and not ask that they be further explained, or perhaps even corrected, if required.

However, I do have two major issues that bother me considerably. First, why did the author not include plant domestication in his argument? The manipulation of plants in some ways by humans is more complex in terms of management than animals. They often require much more attention and care and, as opposed to meat, require more processing for consumption: planting, harvesting, storing, cooking, etc. In short, the author's argument could have been much stronger by considering plant domestication's impact on human society. Second, and most important, is that, in my opinion, the author never sufficiently resolves his own query: does resource management leading to domestication lead to human modernity? He alludes to and dances around the issue and briefly points to the topic, but never really addresses it in the end. So, how does the domestication process lead to modern human management, society, and culture? Elaborate on this issue, please. In this regard, I was very disappointed in the essay.

There are a number of major books published in recent years that speak to the impact of plant domestication on human cognition and society. As for the impact on human society and culture, how did management affect human cognitive development, the evolution of technology and social organization,

especially in regard to mobility, and religion and spirituality as in the later case of bovines in Turkey and elsewhere? And how did the domestication of animals domesticate humans?

Declarations

Potential competing interests: No potential competing interests to declare.