

# Emergence of Agriculture

*Bruce D. Smith*

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**Bruce D. Smith : Emergence of Agriculture** before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Emergence of Agriculture:

0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. Five StarsBy Marshall J. HortonWonderful book in great condition. Thank you!0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. Easy to understandBy teacherDefinitive on the subject. Easy to understand. Includes more recent knowledge that agriculture was indigenously developed in eastern North America as well as 6 other places around the world.0 of 2 people found the following review helpful. Too basic, without enough juicynessBy MelissaThis book is small and cheap, hence the reason many professors use it for anthropology. I was glad when I received it and found it was a small, short book. The information is very basic, almost too basic for the college level. However, it really did quite little to hold my interest. Although the chapters were short, it was difficult getting through them. Overall, not a terrible reading experience.

In this text, the archaeologist, Bruce Smith, explores the initial emergence and early expansion of agriculture and the transformations in human society that made it possible. He charts the course of the agricultural revolution as it occurred in the Middle East, Europe, China, Africa and the Americas, showing how basic archaeological methods and modern technologies, such as plant analysis, radiocarbon dating and DNA sampling are used to investigate this event. Although in the agricultural mind, the agricultural revolution is often seen as a one-step transition from hunter-gatherer societies to farming ones, Smith shows how truly varied were the patterns of animal and plant domestication

in different parts of the world.

From Library Journal Smith, an archaeologist, presents in plain English the story of the emergence of agriculture worldwide, as hunter-gatherers between 10,000-4500 years ago in different regions independently domesticated certain plants and animals. Smith provides a region-by-region examination, starting with the Fertile Crescent of the Mediterranean approximately 10,000 years ago, followed by Europe, Africa, Asia, Middle and South America, and finally North America, where he relates some of his own archaeological investigations. Color photographs and maps help tell the story. There are really two interwoven stories here: the when, where, how, and why of the transition to agriculture, and the investigations and discoveries of researchers attempting to find the answers. Smith explains how several recent technological developments have aided investigators. Another recent nontechnical yet intelligent work dealing with the beginnings of agriculture is the beautifully illustrated *People of the Stone Age: Hunter-Gatherers and Early Farmers* (LJ 2/1/94). Libraries collecting in this subject area will want both of these books. William H. Wiese, Iowa State Univ. Lib., Ames Copyright 1995 Reed Business Information, Inc.