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Who Were the First Americans? New Perspectives on the Clovis vs. Pre-Clovis Debate

It is generally agreed that the first people to inhabit the New World arrived on foot from Siberia, when the low sea levels of the Pleistocene converted the present Bering Strait into a land bridge. Adherents of this "Clovis" theory suggest that this migration began ~12,000 years ago, using a type of arrowhead, the oldest technology securely dated, as a reference point. Other prehistorians suggest that this migration began ~30,000 to 40,000 years ago, or even earlier.

Although new radiocarbon and DNA evidence for a pre-Clovis occupation of the Americas has come to light recently, Ron Dorn argues that the Clovis vs. Pre-Clovis debate can only be resolved when it is viewed as a cultural process to be explained by competing migration models, rather than as a simple problem in chronology.

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Wednesday 7:30 pm

Third Floor, Levis Faculty Center

619 West Illinois Street, Urbana

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