



Biocultural Evolution: The Anthropology of Human Prehistory

By Clare L. Boulanger

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In a writing style that will captivate those new to the subject, Boulanger presents an understanding of human biological and cultural evolution that is both scientific and humanistic, in keeping with classic anthropological ideals. The aim of this reasonably priced text is to help students think critically about what being human has been, what it is at present, and what it may be in the future. While the book focuses on the anthropological subfields of biological anthropology and archaeology, information and insights are also drawn from cultural anthropology and anthropological linguistics. Boulanger's absorbing treatment, in contrast to other texts on human evolution, features an opening chapter that seeks to negotiate fairly, without defensiveness or condescension, a pathway for creationists to follow into the topic. The next three chapters provide background on the history of evolutionary science, the biology of inheritance and population change, and primatology. Chapters 5 through 9 focus on human biocultural evolution from the time of the ancestor we share with chimpanzees through the development of agriculture and the founding of states. The last chapter deals with the issue of race&38212;how it has affected our interpretation of the past and how it continues to influence the present. In addition to an extensive glossary, the fully illustrated textbook features numerous topic-enhancing sidebars, questions for discussion and review, and student exercises.

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Editorial Review

Review

"Boulanger's approach and interests make this text the most appealing I have reviewed in years. I will consider switching for the first time in over a decade." --James J. Funaro, Cabrillo College

"I enjoyed reading Boulanger's text. It is well written and easily comprehended, unlike many texts that are cluttered with many charts, graphs and other figures that students oftentimes gloss over. I think it is a good summary of the field." --Joseph Lorenz, Central Washington University

"While it may be difficult to balance between writing a clear and concise college textbook centered on human prehistory, evolution, and the development of city-states, and an accessible well-organized description of current thinking in both paleontology and archaeology, the author has succeed in creating such a balance." --David I. Orenstein, paleolibrarian.info

Users Review

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Michael Kendig:

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Walter Feuerstein:

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