

# LATE PREHISTORY AND PROTOHISTORY: BRONZE AGE AND IRON AGE

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## 1. THE EMERGENCE OF WARRIOR SOCIETIES AND ITS ECONOMIC, SOCIAL AND ENVIRONMENTAL CONSEQUENCES

**Edited by**

**Fernando Coimbra and Davide Delfino**

## 2. AEGEAN – MEDITERRANEAN IMPORTS AND INFLUENCES IN THE GRAVES FROM CONTINENTAL EUROPE – BRONZE AND IRON AGES

**Edited by**

**Valeriu Sîrbu and Cristian Schuster**

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## **Foreword to the XVII UISPP Congress Proceedings Series Edition**

Luiz OOSTERBEEK  
Secretary-General

UISPP has a long history, starting with the old International Association of Anthropology and Archaeology, back in 1865, until the foundation of UISPP itself in Bern, in 1931, and its growing relevance after WWII, from the 1950's. We also became members of the International Council of Philosophy and Human Sciences, associate of UNESCO, in 1955.

In its XIVth world congress in 2001, in Liège, UISPP started a reorganization process that was deepened in the congresses of Lisbon (2006) and Florianópolis (2011), leading to its current structure, solidly anchored in more than twenty-five international scientific commissions, each coordinating a major cluster of research within six major chapters: Historiography, methods and theories; Culture, economy and environments; Archaeology of specific environments; Art and culture; Technology and economy; Archaeology and societies.

The XVIIth world congress of 2014, in Burgos, with the strong support of Fundación Atapuerca and other institutions, involved over 1700 papers from almost 60 countries of all continents. The proceedings, edited in this series but also as special issues of specialized scientific journals, will remain as the most important outcome of the congress.

Research faces growing threats all over the planet, due to lack of funding, repressive behavior and other constraints. UISPP moves ahead in this context with a strictly scientific programme, focused on the origins and evolution of humans, without conceding any room to short term agendas that are not root in the interest of knowledge.

In the long run, which is the terrain of knowledge and science, not much will remain from the contextual political constraints, as severe or dramatic as they may be, but the new advances into understanding the human past and its cultural diversity will last, this being a relevant contribution for contemporary and future societies.

This is what UISPP is for, and this is also why we are currently engaged in contributing for the relaunching of Human Sciences in their relations with social and natural sciences, namely collaborating with the International Year of Global Understanding, in 2016, and with the World Conference of the Humanities, in 2017.

The next two congresses of UISPP, in Melbourn (2017) and in Geneva (2020), will confirm this route.

## Introduction

### 1. The Emergence of warrior societies and its economic, social and environmental consequences

Fernando COIMBRA and Davide DELFINO

The aim of violence, warfare and conflict in Late Prehistory (Neolithic and Bronze Age) was already approached from different points of view since some decades: general works on the subject of warfare in Later European Prehistory. Taking in account the main works published since the 60s in that specific issue, and about Europe outside the Aegean area) from a pure archaeological point of view there must be considered: Escalon de Fonton (1964), among the first to talk specifically about the birth of war in European prehistory; Sandars (1978) already speaking of a war society referring to Sea People; Sherratt (1987) which defines the Central European Bronze Age as characterized by chiefdom, a system dedicated to warfare and to trade network; Drews (1993), giving an opinion that there was already a warfare throughout Bronze Age and that this had evolved with the so-called crisis of the 12th century BC, and Kristinnson (2010) which analyzes the ancient warfare from the Urnfield Culture (*ibid.*: 40-57); Jimenez (2009) as part of a military history of Spain coordinates the Recent Prehistory and Protohistory part, bringing these periods of in military history on par to historic period; Kristiansen (2001) with a vision of European Bronze Age dominated by warrior societies also in the symbolic aspect; Osgood, Monk, and Toms (2000) dealing for the first time in a complete work on a European scale the theme of warfare in the Bronze Age without much exaggerated care, but frankly speaking, based on archaeological facts; Vandkilde (2006) which defines the warrior side of Corded Ware and Bell Beaker cultures correctly applying archaeological theory and data, and anthropology.

At a level of symbolism of a warrior society characterizing the European Late Prehistory there must be quoted the work of Harrison (2004) and the work coordinated by Baray, Honegger and Dias-Meirinho (2011) which with a study between cognitive archaeology, funerary archaeology and the study of artefacts, build a European scenario of a warrior society with its symbols.

Also from an anthropologic point of view, the aim of the violence and warfare in prehistoric societies was treated, overall by North American anthropologists, and resulted in various works, some of these useful also to the interpretation of the societies in European Later Prehistory. Many of which clearly explain the presence of violence in mankind, and how this has inevitably led to the development of natural warfare in the first complex societies. Among the main works, we must cite Kelly (2000) using some examples of behavior in hunter-gatherer groups to isolate some human distinctive characteristics that can lead to warfare in the complexes societies; the work by Keeley (1996) gives an explanation to the anthropological archaeological data going beyond the traditional European cultural and historical setting, giving a clear and solid basis to justify warfare since the Neolithic. Also others works (Wilson 2012: 71-85) link war with the necessity of having sufficient territory and resources to support the increasingly numerous human community from the Neolithic.

Among the multidisciplinary studies, often carried out between archaeologists and anthropologists, are fundamental the work by Guillaîne and Zammit (1998) which with a comparative view between rock art, palaeopathology and physical anthropology, structures of fortified settlements impeccably explains the transition from prehistoric violence, in particular the Mesolithic, until the real war in Recent Prehistory; the work coordinated by Fry (2013) which with a panorama enriched by primatology, cultural anthropology, animal behavior, physical anthropology in prehistoric skeletons, archeology and polemology explains human nature between a predisposition to both war and peace, with evidence from the origins of the human race and with evidence of organization in warfare in

Recent Prehistory. Also the very recent work by Golitko (2015) proposes a socio-economical cause of conflict since Early Neolithic, starting by archaeometry of LBK pottery.

Several works have been dedicated to the aim of warfare in European Bronze Age, by a point of view of bronze technology and archaeometallurgy: starting by the works by Coles (1962 and 1977) with several use of Experimentation Archaeology in demonstrating ancient really use of shields, passing to the work by Molloy (2004, 2007 and 2009) until the volume by Uckelman and Moedlinger (2011) summarizing the work of two conferences on technology and the use of weapons in Bronze Age.

The present volume wants to be a short and actualized contribution to the study and interpretation of warrior societies, through a point of view of the marks of the first warfare in Europe, its causes and its consequences in all the intelligible evidences, both from a point of view of material culture, of landscape, of human behavior and artistic manifestations. Some of the articles presented here are related to communications that were first proposed to the thematic session, *Iberian Peninsula in Bronze Age and Iron Age: between Atlantic and Mediterranean*, which didn't take place due to the lack of a minimum of communications. Since the themes of these papers are issues related in some way to people who manifested allegiance to warrior societies, it was decided to host these communications in the present session and, consequently, to publish them in this volume.

According to the order of presentation of the session's papers during the XVII IUPPS Conference in Burgos, the articles published here are the following: *Symbols for protection in war among European societies (1000 BC-1000 AD)*, by Fernando Coimbra, where the author analyses symbols such as the swastika, the triskeles and the pentagram, which appear intensively associated with warriors and their weapons in a very diverse range of iconography and artefacts; *Walled enclosures in Western Europe as marks of conflict in Late Prehistory. A psychological, anthropological and archaeological approach*, by Davide Delfino which focuses on the debate of the role of walled enclosures in Late Prehistory being ritual or defensive, making also a brief overview involving the psychology and anthropology of combat; *The emergence of war in human societies*, by Stefano Ruzza and Gabriele Berrutti, studying the birth of violence and conflicts in human societies from a point of view of anthropology and social sciences; *The Group of cuirasses found in the Danube region in the Late Bronze Age*, by Katalin Jankovits, presenting a defensive armament in a Danube Valley regarding the European context and from an archaeometallurgical point of view; *The Bronze Age battlefield in the Tollense Valley, Mecklenburg-Western Pomerania, Northeast Germany – Combat marks on human bones as evidence of early warrior societies in northern Middle Europe?*, by Ute Brinker, Annemarie Schramm, Stefan Flohr, Detlef Jantzen, Jürgen Piek, Karlheinz Hauenstein and Jörg Orschiedt, presenting archaeological evidence of traces of violence in numerous human skeletal remains after a battlefield, dating about 1250 BC, found together with weapons and horse bones; *Warfare in Valcamonica rock art: new emerging data from Paspardo area*, by Dario Sigari, analyzing the rock art representation of warriors in the attitude of duel in the area of Paspardo, in the Italian Alps.

Three papers were initially dedicated to the mentioned cancelled session: *Metalwork's model and scraps bronze circulation between Mediterranean and Atlantic in Middle Tagus in Final Bronze Age*, by Davide Delfino examining several Late Bronze Age objects in different contexts such as scraps hoards, workshops in walled settlements and some bronze scraps in agricultural farms from the Middle Portuguese Tagus Valley; *New developments in Galician pottery from the second half of the second millennium BC. From the regional to the extra-regional: Wide Horizontal Rim vessels and stamping*, by Laure Nonat, M. Pilar Prieto Martínez and Pablo Vázquez Liz, focusing on a specific type of pottery, known as Wide Horizontal Rim (WHRv), which is mainly decorated and exclusively found in the NW Iberian Peninsula; *Bronze Age Settlements and Dwellings in Galicia. Seeking Connections with Europe*, by Mikel Díaz Rodríguez and M. Pilar Prieto Martínez where the authors study the shapes of Settlement structures of Middle and Late Bronze Age of Galicia and show some connections with the European world.

In the Congress, the session had also one more paper, which was not sent for publication: *Warrior ideology, burial customs and gender roles in European Bronze Age societies (2500-800 BC)*, by Dirk Brandherm.

After the presentation of all the papers there was a productive final discussion, which led to some conclusions:

Warrior societies leave several marks in the diverse manifestations of human culture, such as mythology, arts, architecture, trade, technology and the environmental space throughout all the metal ages.

The transformation of peasant societies into warrior societies is a turning point in the history of Mankind, which results in a change from local conflicts to widespread conflicts.

It's possible to define as a warrior society not only the human groups starting from Iron Age, but also the manifestation of organized violence and used both as defense and as a method to increase the prestige and resources, which is clearly documented since at least the Neolithic. However, it is during Bronze Age, which, also thanks to the technology of bronze, it becomes possible to systematize and professionalize warfare.

The fact that conflict and the art of war are not only ritual manifestations, it is evident both from the manifestations of a non-rituality of violence starting from the Neolithic, both from a series of data obtained not only with archaeology, but also with sociology, psychology and archaeometry. But also, clearly, by the good sense to understand that one thing that is ritual, before becoming such, is practice; unless someone confuses a human habit (like eating, breeding, hunting, making war) as a ritual only because it is carried out periodically.

All the papers presented at Session A3c and published here have been peer reviewed.

## Introduction

### **2. Aegean – Mediterranean imports and influences in the graves from continental Europe – Bronze and Iron Ages**

Valeriu SÎRBU and Cristian SCHUSTER

There is already a ‘history’ with not only different opinions, but sometimes contradictory regarding the role played by the Aegean-Mediterranean area in the evolution of the peoples who lived in continental Europe during the age of Bronze and Iron, including burial customs.

The organizers of the section proposed, through ongoing communication and the discussions that followed, to obtain new data on the influences and Aegean-Mediterranean imports found in the graves, and the possible movements of groups of people who carried them.

Our interest has focused on the ‘roads’ and the stages of their penetration, but also considered feedback from peripheral areas.

Our intention was to highlight the role of the southern imports in the evolution of local communities elites and their impact on the general development of the populations of continental Europe, the possible meanings of their deposit in the burials.

Analysis of these phenomena over wide geographical areas (from the Urals to the Atlantic) and large chronological periods (the third- first millennia BC) allowed us to identify certain traits as general (eg., the continuity and discontinuity), or particular (eg., the impact of imports and southern influences on communities of different geographical areas).

The five papers presented there, despite their small number, have identified the variety in themes, as well as interesting aspects treated evidenced by the fact that they have led to numerous questions, comments and discussions.

Another aspect worthy to be mentioned is that all those who submitted contributions, have already prepared for publication, so that they will quickly enter the international scientific circuit.

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