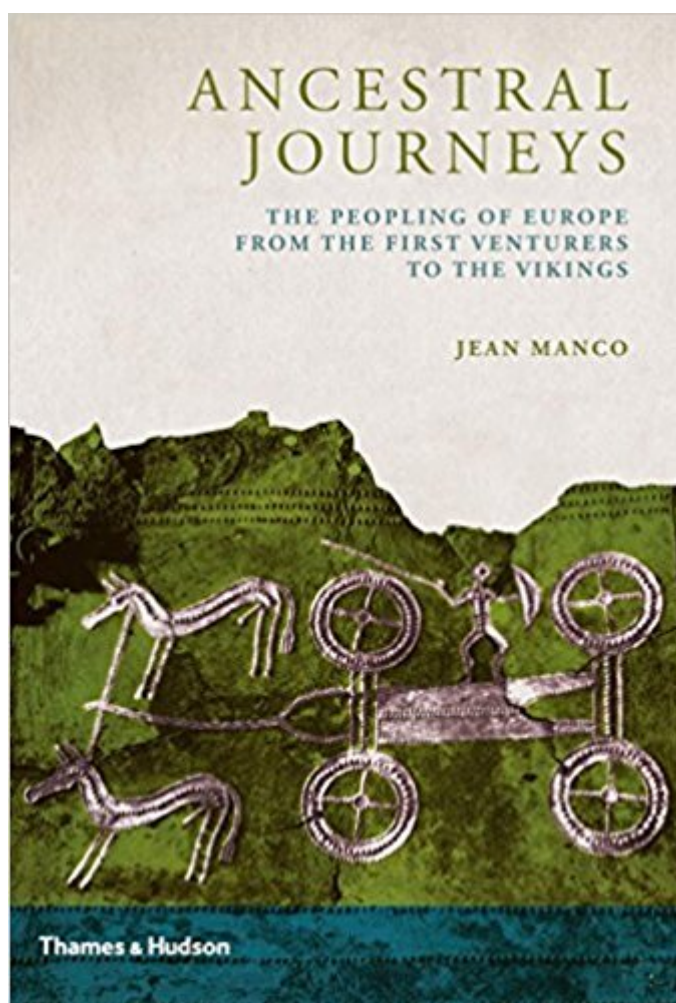


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Ancestral Journeys: The Peopling Of Europe From The First Venturers To The Vikings



Synopsis

Incorporates the latest discoveries and theories from archaeology, genetics, history, and linguistics to paint a spirited history of European settlement Who are the Europeans and where did they come from? In recent years scientific advances have released a mass of data, turning cherished ideas upside down. The idea of migration in prehistory, so long out of favor, is back on the agenda. New advances allow us to track human movement and the spread of crops, animals, and disease, and we can see the evidence of population crashes and rises, both continent-wide and locally. Visions of continuity have been replaced with a more dynamic view of Europe's past, with one wave of migration followed by another, from the first human arrivals in Europe to the Vikings. Ancient DNA links Europe to its nearest neighbors. It is not a new idea that farming was brought from the Near East, but genetics now reveal an unexpectedly complex process in which farmers arrived not in one wave, but several. Even more unexpected is the evidence that the European gene pool was stirred vigorously many times after farming had reached most of Europe. Climate change played a part in this upheaval, but so did new inventions such as the cart and wheeled vehicles. Genetic and linguistic clues also enhance our understanding of the upheavals of the Migration Period, the wanderings of steppe nomads, and the adventures of the Vikings. 124 illustrations, including 59 maps

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Customer Reviews

“An interesting account of the peopling of Europe that attempts to integrate archaeology, history, and linguistics with the latest genetic evidence. . . . Recommended.” -

Choice “The armchair route to uncovering the mysteries of who we really are.” -

Woman Around Town – “Richly illustrated . . . this highly readable volume outlines a new paradigm in European archaeology and pre-history and tackles the central question of the meaning of European identity, genetic and cultural.” – ProtoView

Jean Manco is a building historian who trained within an archaeological unit and applies an interdisciplinary approach to her work. She is also the author of *Blood of the Celts*.

First off this book is not for those looking for a significant treatment of their particular Y DNA or mtDNA. This book will however educate you on the broad movements of Y and mtDNA in Europe. It is also not for someone looking for simplistic answers to very complex questions. This book is absolutely incredible in the way it takes a multidisciplinary approach to the Peopling of Europe and presents it in a way that is both compelling and understandable to the lay person. It draws heavily on the latest research in linguistics, history, archeology, anthropology and DNA to weave the tale of human migrations and settlement in Europe. Its wonderful maps, charts and illustrations provide excellent illustration for the material presented. I very much appreciate that the author presents different viewpoints and gives us a thorough background of how ideas have changed over time. Although new research will certainly impact the evidence presented here, unlike another reviewer I do not see that this book will become quickly obsolete. As a genetic genealogist interested in ancient origins this book places genetics into the broader context of history and geography. I am grateful to the author for taking so much information and bringing it together so that those from different perspectives can see what each discipline brings to the table in helping us to understand the migrations of our ancient ancestors. Perhaps I am influenced by my own belief that anything to do with humans is complicated. I happen to agree with the author that any one single migration is less likely than lots of smaller ones over time and sometimes getting to the same place via very different routes. The Notes and Bibliography are particularly impressive. This is an exceedingly well researched book presented with all the rigors of an academic textbook but accessible for any one with a keen interest in the subject. Bravo!

First, let me say that I am not an expert in any of the fields relevant to this book - I'm a retired biochemist, so the genetics is quite comprehensible to me, but I have no training in population genetics. It doesn't seem to be mentioned in the book or on , but the author has a website called ancestraljourneys.org, which is a supplement to the book. If you are considering buying it, you can get a good idea what the book is like by looking at the site, and it has updated tables of ancient DNA

results which are very useful if you are interested in this. As the author makes clear in the book, some hypotheses about ancient Europe that have prevailed for a long time are being overturned by ancient DNA results, and even some population geneticists are still publishing papers arguing for models that are completely inconsistent with ancient DNA typing results. The author has some training relevant to archaeology, and she has followed this very big topic of the pre-history of Europe for a long time, taking notes on the developments in archaeology, linguistics, population genetics, climate science, etc. that are relevant. I found the book very worthwhile for someone like me who recently got interested in genetic genealogy and past population movements. I have read a number of research papers in the pertinent population genetics, but I needed a broad overview, especially of fields like archaeology, where I know much less. Manco does probably as good a job at this as any non-specialist could. Unlike another reviewer, I thought the book was pretty well written, but there are some shortcomings of organization. It seems that topics are introduced at a point in the narrative that doesn't make sense - the tsunami that inundated Doggerland in ~6100 B.C. is brought up in a late chapter, rather than the early chapter where it logically should go. There seems to be no end to the number of ancient regional cultures that are known largely from archaeology, mention by classical authors, and the speculations of historical linguists. If you are familiar with West Eurasian archaeology, this may be old hat, but for the rest of us, it would have helped to get a little more background before describing the migrations of a tribe. Even accounting for the complexity of the topic, the book has a feel of having been rushed to press. There are a number of typos, including figure legends that imply SNP frequencies of

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