

3,000,000 OVERVIEW OF HOMINID EVOLUTION INCLUDING DARK MOTHERS PLUS LATER MIGRATIONS

Northern African glaciations resulted in a cool, tropical climate c. 3,000,000 to 3,300,000 years ago, presenting excellent conditions for woodland dwelling Australopithecus, or the earliest genus of African hominid. Numerous paleontologists, archaeologists, physical anthropologists, and geneticists including world renowned L. Luca Cavalli-Sforza agree that from this tropical setting, emerged a single widespread unique species with advanced technological skills c. 3 to 3.3 million years ago. Numerous ancient finds have been discovered in several primary locations including the Gregory Rift Valley in East Africa and the southern caves in the high veldt or veld. Given these significant discoveries, this area is known as the Cradle of Humankind. New technologies and finds continue to impact timelines and dating considerations of these discoveries as is also true of the subsequent African expansion.

Given these new technologies, recent fossil discoveries, higher-resolution imagers, plus new genomic tools, reanalyses of the African emergence to subtropical Asia continue to revise not only timelines but numerous other determinations. One such revision is the study by Roy Larick and Russell L. Ciochon in "The African Emergence and Early Asian Dispersals of the Genus Homo" that Homo sapiens began migrating out of Africa c. 1,500,000-1,000,000 BCE.

In tropical and subtropical East Asia, the age of newly discovered fossils of Homo and simple stone tools, as well as some revised dates for known remains now approach 2 million years, nearly 1 million years older than previous estimations. ... The new finds and age determinations give distinctness and complexity as well as antiquity to the formerly late and amorphous pattern for Asian dispersal. Our interest lies in the initial dispersal of early Homo from tropical Africa eastward across tropical and subtropical habitats of south and East Asia. In fact, early Homo now seems to have arrived in East Asia so early that its African emergence and initial subtropical Asian dispersal must be linked. Thus the factors that triggered the evolution of Homo from Australopithecus also encouraged early Homo to leave Africa, at least initially. We reconsider the new evidence for early dispersals in the light of climatic, morphological, technological and behavioral factors hypothesized for the emergence of Homo. We find that the striding gait, the elementary stone tools and the simple, but expansive, pattern of scavenging that characterizes the emergence of Homo also served its initial dispersal. In contrast, later populations of Homo colonized more temperate habitats under more complex and less obvious conditions (AEEA: 538-39). (DS: A4.)

This expansion would eventually include Europe, Asia, Near East, and the Americas. The significance of this ancient dispersal is both profound and multifaceted. It not only indicates environmental and ecological changes, but also illustrates "a hominid not adapted to specific territorial conditions, but adapted to

manage many local conditions through physical presence, technology, and flexible social organization” (AEEA: 551). To date, this species was the first to use technology and rituals and first to colonize the “subtropical Old World without the benefit of language, symbolic culture or individual consciousness as we know it.” (AEEA: 551; HGHG: 61.) Adding to this hominid discussion is paleoanthropologist Aeresanay Alemseged’s discovery of a three-year-old girl whose fossils are 3.3-million years old therefore 100,000 (or 150,000) years older than the *Australopithecus africanus*’ fossil remains of Lucy. (TCH: 42.)

After migrating out of Africa and then moving on to the Near East, Asia, and later Europe, this “single species began splitting apart at the onset of a series of ice ages around [1,500,000 or earlier to] 950,000 years ago” (NE: A1). (As noted above, timelines will be updated relative to new findings and technologies.) Out of this African branch of the *Homo erectus* or *Homo ergaster* species, developed what is considered modern *Homo sapiens*. These true humans later migrated back to Europe and became the Cro Magnon people. “The original European branch most probably evolved into the Neanderthals, who failed to compete with the Cro Magnon people and became extinct,” as did the *Homo erectus* Asian species. (NE: A1.)

Around 150,000 BCE, migrating Africans were sailing to the centrally located Mediterranean islands, including Sardinia, Sicily, and Malta and then proceeded to travel by land to west to the Near East and Asia c. 100,000 BCE. According to geneticist, Luca Cavalli-Sforza “in the DNA there is one human race, and it originated in Africa” (AO: 1-2).

Not only were these true human Africans the first to sail and use technology but they also appear to have been the first to venerate the African dark mother and the first to use ochre (iron hematite) for ritual purposes. Archaeologist Emmanuel Anati confirms that c. 60,000-50,000 BCE migrating Africans were inscribing ritual inscriptions in the caves and cliffs in all continents. (AO: 1-2.) Ancient Africans were using aniconic signs and venerated symbols such as red ocher and pubic V (vulva) and subsequently dispersed these practices throughout what would become a new global village. L. Birnbaum adds that the:

oldest sanctuary in the world was created c. 40,000 BCE by migrating Africans at the place Jews and Christians call Mt. Sinai and Muslims call Har Karkom may be the unacknowledged place of origin of world religions. After 25,000 BCE icons and images of the dark mother [were] found along African migration routes throughout the world. More signs, icons, and images of the dark mother were dispersed after 10,000 BCE throughout the region called Europe in return migrations of west Asian Anatolians (originally African) farmers after 10,000 BCE (AO: 1-2).

For additional information on ancient African Dark Mothers and related trade routes, see BCE entries: 500,000-300,000, Dark Mother Tan-Tan of Morocco; 280,000-250,000, The Berekhat Ram Figure; 70,000, Blombos Cave and V

Shaped Engraving; 50,000, African Homo Sapien Migrations and Matrilineal Motherline; 40,000, Har Karkom; 30,000-25,000, Aurignacian Age; 30,000-25,000, Goddess of Willendorf; 26,000, Grimaldi Caves; 25,000-20,000, Gravettian Age; 25,000-20,000, Goddess of Laussel; 24,000, Dolni Vestonice; 23,000, Austrian Goddess of Lespugue; 10,000, Grotta dell'Addaura; 7000, Jericho, Canaan/Palestine: Mesolithic to Neolithic; 7000, Hieros Gamos; 6000, Sicilians to Malta; 5200, Malta and Gozo; 4700, Dolmens; 2200, Nahariyah and Ashrath-Yam; 1900-1800, Dawning of the African Alphabet and the Aniconic Goddess Triangle; 800, Tanit; 800, Carthage, Africa, The Goddess Tanit and Sacrifice; 750-650, Cybele and King Midas, Anatolia; 664-525, Neith and the Black Virgin Mary Temple at Sais, Egypt; 600, Goddess Kaabou at Petra, Jordan plus Mecca, Saudi Arabia; 400, Cathedra Goddess Isis; and 370, Isis and Philae, Egypt.

Further information is discussed by the notable scholars: archaeologist, Emmanuel Anati; geneticist, L. Luca Cavalli-Sforza; linguist, Harald Haarmann; and archaeomythologist, Marija Gimbutas.

Also see:

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- _____. "Introducing the World Archives of Rock Art (WARA): 50,000 Years of Visual Arts." Valcamonica Symposium, Capo di Ponte, Edizioni del Centro. *New Discoveries, New Interpretations, New Research Methods XXI* (2004). 51-69. (ITWA)
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- _____. *The Language of the Goddess*. San Francisco: Harper, 1989. (LOG)
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Cultural Continuity in the Mediterranean World*. New York: Mouton de
Gruyter, 1996. (ECLF)
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From the Realm of the Ancestors: Essays in Honor of Marija Gimbutas.
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1997. 108-121. (WAM)

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