

Readings in Economic Prehistory

Department of Economics

Simon Fraser University

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This is a compilation of working papers, articles, and books written by economists on the subject of economic prehistory. Prehistory is loosely defined to mean the period between the evolution of anatomically modern humans and the appearance of written documents.

The bibliography was compiled by Greg Dow, Leanna Mitchell, and Scott Skjei, and it borrows heavily from Greg's joint research with Clyde Reed. Funding was provided by the Social Sciences and Humanities Research Council of Canada and also by the Human Evolutionary Studies Program at Simon Fraser University.

The list includes research on hunter-gatherers; marriage and kinship; technological change; sedentism; agriculture; property rights; warfare; inequality; the state; social collapse; and the implications of prehistory for modern economic growth.

This bibliography does not provide systematic coverage of human biological evolution; economic development; growth theory; or economic history proper. However, a few such papers are included (typically those we have used in our own research projects).

We do not cover the huge literature on prehistory by archaeologists and anthropologists. Interested readers will find many references to this literature in the items listed here.

We want to update this bibliography regularly and make it as complete as possible. Any suggestions about working papers or published material suitable for inclusion should be sent to Greg Dow, Department of Economics, Simon Fraser University (gdow@sfu.ca). Please include complete citations or web links to such materials whenever possible.

We would also appreciate hearing about errors or suggestions for improvement.

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