



## A COMPARATIVE STUDY OF PALEOLITHIC PERIOD OF SOUTH ASIA AND EAST ASIA

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## KEYWORDS :

E.B. Tylor and L.H. Morgan postulated that man kind as a whole has passed through the stages of savagery, barbarism and civilization. Tylor did not place specific cultures into different stages of cultural development of human beings, but Morgan subdivided the stage of savagery and barbarism each into three groups, namely lower, middle and upper. He was of opinion that lower savagery began with development of language and gathering of fruits and nuts for subsistence. This stage ended with development of fishing and use of fire. No living example can be cited to this stratum.

Man has evolved in "Pleistocene Ice Age". The lithic culture began with stone tools like pebbles, hand axes, choppers, blades and stone flakes. This period follows the East Asian middle, lower and upper paleolithic traditions. The Hoabinhian tradition on the Southeast Asian mainland and northern Sumatra and the Island Southeast Asian.

There is a predominance of tools made from volcanic and metamorphic river pebbles (e.g. the Sonvian of Vietnam). In the Islands, there was a much greater availability of fine-grained rocks such as chert (e.g. the Tabon industries of Palawan in the Philippines and the Madai-Baturong industries in Sabah) some regions, such as the Niah caves in Sarawak and caves in northern Moluccas, lacked good stone, and the resulting industries are essentially without regular forms.

Nevertheless, two technological innovations of considerable significance were made during the Late Pleistocene. These are the edge grinding of pebble axes, reported widely but of variable date in Vietnam, Peninsular Malaysia and Sarawak (the oldest one could date to 30,000 years ago as in Japan and Australia) and the manufacture of large shell adzes, reported from about 13,000 B.P. in the northern Moluccas..

The present paper focuses its attention on the paleolithic period and the comparison between Southeast Asia and East Asia. The Acheulean culture and the Sohan culture paleolithic people were nomads, hunters and food gatherers and living rock shelters. The paleolithic period is divided into three periods

1. Lower paleolithic period
2. Middle paleolithic period
3. Upper paleolithic period

One of the most significant observations are that human life passed through three stages

1. Savagery
2. Barbarism
3. civilization

early human societies followed the above sequence. But some societies jumped to further stage by skipping the sequence stage.

Comparison of Paleolithic in South Asia and East Asia:

South Asia Paleolithic	East Asian Paleolithic
1. The Lower Palaeolithic (c. 1.5 million to 200,000 years ago) is represented in virtually all regions of India, but not Sri Lanka. It is a period of two major traditions of early tool making,	1. Lower Palaeolithic Two of the stone tools recovered from the lower layer of the Iwajuku site were bifacially flaked and progressed, and quaternary geology of the archipelago was

the western core biface (hand axe/cleaver) tradition and the eastern chopper/chopping tool tradition. The line defined by Professor Hallam Movius that follows the foothills of the Himalaya mountains down the Ganges Valley, dividing these two traditions, is a concept that has returned favor. The distribution of these tool-making traditions seems to be coincident with the distribution of bamboo, which could have been a major source of tools in the Lower Palaeolithic. 2. Sites with 'Middle Paleolithic (250,000-30,000 years ago) stone-flake tool industry is widely distributed in India, Pakistan and Afghanistan. Some sites have evidence of the Levallois, technique. The cave of Darra-i Kur in north-eastern Afghanistan produced a fossil that is anatomically a modern Homo Palaeolithic blade. Establishing a chronology for such a tool-making tradition, and documenting its distribution and relationship with the Middle Palaeolithic and the development of microlithic technology, is one of the major challenges in the prehistory of South Asia.

3. Upper Paleolithic The oldest fossil hominid in South Asia is an archaic Homo sapiens from Hathnora on the Narmada River, near the famous palaeolithic site at Hoshangabad (Kennedy 2000, pp. 1173-80). This find is not associated directly with stone tools, but the deposits from which it was derived are

Upper Pleistocene and date from about 200,000 to 250,000 years ago. Representatives of anatomically modern Homo sapiens have been found in Sri Lanka in the caves of Fa Hien, Batadomba Lena and Beli Lena Kitulgala (Kennedy 2000, pp. 180-8). Radiocarbon dates have shown that the Fa Hien specimens date to c. 33,000 BP and are associated with a non-

studied in greater detail, it became clear that the Iwajuku hand axes were situated in a layer of buried humus, representing a period of volcanic quiescence known today as Late Pleistocene formations, dating to what is now known as oxygen isotope stage 2 (OIS2).

2. Middle Paleolithic during the Middle Pleistocene OIS16 (about 0.63 million years ago) and OIS12 (about 0.43 million years ago) allowing the passage of large mammals like *Stegodon orientalis* and *Paleoloxodon namadicus naumanni*. Excavations were conducted during the 1960s at such sites as Sozudai in northern Kyushu and Hoshino near Iwajuku north of Tokyo, but the large number of lithic specimens meticulously recovered from formations dating to 40 000-130 000 years ago at these and other sites failed to meet general acceptance as artifacts.

3. Upper Paleolithic: the assemblages in whose excavations Fujimura participated, when there was a handful of assemblages which were thought to date to the earlier part of the Upper Pleistocene (OIS 5 and OIS 4), and whose artifactual nature remains controversial. New additions in recent years include the stone tools and bone flakes, associated with fossils of *P. namadicus naumanni* and *Sinomegaceros ordosianus yabei*, from sediments in Lake Nojiri in central Honshu (Figure 1), dated to be 41 516 radiocarbon years old.

<p>geometric microlithic tool industry. The fossil humans from Batadomba Lena date to c. 28,000 BP and are associated with microliths, bone tools, and faunal and floral remains</p> <p>4 . The other important sites in India are Hunsgi in Karnataka, kortallayar basian in Tamilnadu, chota Nagpur, Orisa, Pallavarm near Madras in java, Borneo and Burmaa and Pakisnta</p>	<p>4 .Achevulian culture sites in East Asia are Fujimura, syrea, Tokyo and China.</p>
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Now we can easily understood the comparission in the above table

### CONCLUSION

The Paleolithic period in Japan Fujimura, Sumatra, java, China and Borneo are land marks in history. Both south Asia abd East Asia Paleolithic period paved path for food gathers and hunters societies. Island Southeast Asia extends across both the equatorial and the intermediate tropical zones of world climate, and it also spans a region of complex and geologically unstable land and the sea relationships. The Sundaland region in the west and the isolated islands of Wallacea in the east both witnessed complex trajectories of human movement and evolution during the Pleistocene. Stone tool industries dating to within in the past 40,00 years are described, including new discoveries which indicate a surprising level of technological virtuosity. A clear picture has given in the present study about the comparission of Paleolithic cultures between South Asia and East Asia.

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