

HUNTING IN PREHISTORIC TIMES AND ITS TRACES IN TURKEY (ANATOLIA)

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A Summary of the Dissertation

This Ph.D. dissertation entitled "Hunting in Prehistoric Times and Its Traces in Turkey (Anatolia)" has been prepared under the supervision of Prof. Dr. I. Kılıç Kökten, chairman of the Prehistoric Archeology Department, Faculty of Letters, University of Ankara.

The dissertation consists of 314 pages of text and a supplement of 27 maps, 101 photographs, 360 illustrations showing fossil human and animal remains, hunting tools, weapons and artifacts, imaginary hunting scene demonstrating hunting in various prehistoric ages. The dissertation is unpublished and has been registered under Number 139 in the Department of Manuscripts and Book Rarities of the Faculty library.

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The Aim of the Dissertation

As explained in the preface, the prehistoric ages are characterized by a set of simple relationships between human-beings and nature, and humans between themselves in order to solve the prime biological need, that of nutrition. The problem of nutrition in prehistoric times was solved parallelly with a simple hunting and food - gathering' economic structure and this structure deeply affected the material and intellectual life of prehistoric times as a whole. Therefore, the subject covers a very important era in the history of civilization. The study approaches the nutrition problem in prehistoric times from this angle and considers hunting activities in Europe and Anatolia in detail; it offers observations on nutrition patterns with the aid of archeological findings and tries to re-construct the daily life of prehistoric societies from an evolutionary point of view.

The author tries to approach the problem, which is handled quite chaotically in both Turkish and foreign literature, from a synthetic point of view, influenced by features of philosophical anthropology and socio-economy. Another aim of the study is to collate the findings of the various archeological investigations and research undertaken in Turkey. In short, this study tries to establish link between existing phenomena of nutritional problems to indicate significant tendencies and ratios, to determine the diet of prehistoric man and to throw

light on the mode of their daily life in both European and Anatolian prehistoric communities. Finally, the study aims at describing as an organized whole hunting scenes as closely as possible by presenting a picture of the hunter his prey, and weapons, tools and tactics.

The Summary of the Dissertation

In Part I. Hunting and food-gathering activities in Europe, in the Pleistocene period are described systematically.

Chapter I points out the fact that any research study intending to examine hunting activities in prehistoric times, has to deal with nutrition phenomena -which is the precondition of survival-and those methods and techniques employed in hunting which should determine the basic social structure. Furthermore, a definition of prehistoric hunting is made and its limit is drawn in geochronological, biostratigraphical and prehistoric archeological terms. Prehistoric findings (tools, artifacts, cave paintings etc.) are classified and the prehistoric archeological methods related to the subject are evaluated and finally, the method used in the study is explained.

In Chapter 2. the entire food stocks (vegetable and animal) of prehistoric times are examined, classified within the paleobotanic and paleozoological framework, the ways and ratios of consumption of these stocks are discussed and special importance is given to the mammals of the Pleistocene epoch. Also, their biomass and zoo-geographical distribution is indicated. The European Pleistocene Age vertebrates table is given in detail.

In the 3rd Chapter, the problem of nutrition in general during the various prehistoric ages is studied to determine the importance of hunting and in a brief historical analysis, the evolution of nutritional methods from the Australopithecus stage of human development to the Neanthropien stage and the dynamics of this evolution are examined.

The 4 Chapter deals with to paleo theclimatic features of the Pleistocene period in which hunting was practised, the effect of climatic changes and glaciation on animal migrations and how all these influenced the prehistoric search for food.

In the 5th Chapter, the probable physical structure of the prehistoric hunters are examined, classified according to 'general human categories' and special attention is given to faunal remains and stone tools that have been found together with the human fossil remains which are a true witness to hunting in prehistoric times.

In the 6th Chapter the approach lays emphasis on the evolution of pebble-tool culture to Neolithic culture. In this evolutionary line, the paleolithic, mesolithic and neolithic cultures are presented within their archeological stratigraphies and the function of prehistoric industries is examined. In this chapter, all prehistoric tools are considered as hunting tools, assuming that they directly or indirectly related to nutrition and hunting activities, and the following conclusion is drawn: Tools such as sticks, lances, harpoons, bows and arrows were used directly and specifically for hunting in the various prehistoric ages. The precondition of the physical and social existence of prehistoric man is being a hunter. To be able to survive as a hunter and to guarantee the survival of his kind man had to produce various different kinds of tools for building shelters, producing or repairing hunting tools, for processing hides and skins, for cooking etc. Thus it is possible to put forward that, all kinds of prehistoric tools and equipment were used in achieving the prime objective of prehistoric mankind - nutrition and its prerequisite hunting. This point constitutes another significant feature of the dissertation.

The 7th Chapter, is devoted to the exposition of animals which are subjected the hunting in prehistoric times. From this angle the fossil remains of the hunted animals dug out from caves and rock shelters are classified within their zoological groups.

The 8th Chapter, in light of prehistoric archeological evidence and analogies between hunting methods and techniques of contemporary primitive societies and prehistoric ones, hypothetical hunting scene have been reconstructed.

The second part of the study is devoted wholly to the examination of prehistoric hunting activities in Anatolia which are similar to those which took place in Europe.

In the 9th Chapter, the geomorphological and paleogeographical position of Anatolia in the Quaternary era is examined in detail, the

vegetative characteristics, climatological and paleozoological features of Anatolian prehistoric times are considered and its paleoecological structure drawn as near as possible to what it might have been.

In the 10th Chapter of the study the Anatolian prehistoric hunter types are classified in to general human categories geochronologically and their links with European, African and Middle Eastern fossil human remains are established. All these are done using the data drawn from human paleontological research that has been carried out for long time in Anatolia.

In the 11th Chapter, skeleton remains of Anatolian mammalian of the Pleistocene era are determined and classified in to their zoological groups. Evaluated according to the location of finding some animals which are believed to have been hunted are classified seperately. Therefore, the study can be considered as a first attempt to determine Anatolian mammalian fauna in the Pleistocene era.

In the 12th Chapter, the hunting tools, weapons and other equipment that were used by Anatolian prehistoric men, are described in the context of cultural evolution according to the archeological stratigraphies of the location of finding and their functional similarities with European prehistoric industries.

In the 13th Chapter, an attempt is made to reconstruct Anatolian prehistoric hunting activities, to determine the probable hunting tactics with comparative ethnographic methods and to illustrate the daily life of Anatolian prehistoric communities.

In the 14th Chapter, some abstract theoretical conclusions are reached and the general results and findings are dealt with by approaching then through structural anthropology and economic prehistory:

I The fact that the dynamics of human communities (including the prehistoric ones) are to be found in the inevitable relationships established between men and nature and men themselves independent of their wills, when satisfying biological and economic needs is the basic concept of the social anthropological sciences. This at the same time is the main point of view of the study.

II- The fundamental problem of human beings and especially prehistoric man was how to preserve their existence by instinct. The

feeding instinct can be considered as the precondition of the survival of mankind.

III- Societies including prehistoric ones solved their nutrition problems in various economic modes: hunting, food gathering, food producing etc. It can be assumed that these economic modes determined the type of social structure, whereas, the developing social structure also affected the techniques used for hunting and the related nutrition activities themselves. The aim of the study is, therefore, to determine the type of solution found by prehistoric men to solve their nutrition problems and to reconstruct it as realistically as possible, examining its traces in Anatolia.

IV- The fundamental assumption of this dissertation is, that prehistoric societies solved their nutrition problems in accordance with a hunting and food gathering' economic structure. Consequently the social structure of prehistoric times is characterized by small nomadic population at a primitive technological level with no division of labor. Therefore, hunting and food gathering in prehistoric times constitutes the first step in solving the nutrition problem or its development.

V- In prehistoric hunting the use of a man-made weapon and tool, appears to be a very important point. In other words hunting in prehistoric times can be defined as the period in which man acquired the habit of hunting with self-made tools. The tool transferred prehistoric man from the zoological group to the community. Also humans can be defined as animals producing tools in order to produce other tools.

VI- In order to get the most realistic picture of prehistoric hunting it is necessary to determine three aspects: Human, hunting weapons and tools, hunting subject (animal), and then to go through the data which outlines the optimum conditions of natural environment. It is also necessary to determine and interpret human remains, those cave paintings which are related to hunting, their interrelationship and the hunting methods and tactics of various prehistoric ages, using the analogy of primitive huntign methods of today. This dissertation aims at presenting hunting activities in Europe and Anatolia in such a way.

VII- In this study, prehistoric hunting is approached from a dynamic, evolutionary and determinist point especially anthropology (social and structural anthropology, comparative ethnography, philosophical anthropology) and archeology (prehistoric, analitic and experimental archeology) are utilized to a great extent.

The author considers the theoretical and pratical conclusion he has reached as open to further discussion. Points such as the following may be considered:

a) The fundamental activity of prehistoric society was hunting and food gathering. Other activities were of secondary importance. Society improved its social organisation and technology as long as it had the desire to improve its nutrition. Or, on the contrary, improved technology and social organisation created new food possibilities.

b) Prehistoric hunting did not begin with the achievement of a certain economic, technological and cultural level but with the appearance of the human being in his most primitive form and with the production of pebble-tools. When man became hominoid he achieved a consciousness of hunger and necessity to eat which is different from animal ones, in other words, when man became alienated from his hunger, he solved this alienation by another alienation that is consciously and planned hunting activity which is basically different from an animal one again. This situation impeled prehistoric man to produce his own hunting tools and weapons and to plan hunting activities consciously at the begining.

c- The two conditions of nutrition and hunting in prehistoric times are bound up with each other. The subjective condition of nutrition is the necessity of individual to eat and to be able survive and reproduce. The objective condition, however is the necessity of individual to eat in order to be able to help other members of the community in hunting activities as a member of a community. For this reason, in prehistoric times a hunter could not be imagined without others. In other words, in prehistoric ages the concept of 'man-the hunter' and 'the hunting man' are identical. Prehistoric man became more human he hunted to get food, and had to be fed to keep up hunting. This paradox constitutes the dynamics of the evolutionary process of human beings.

d) Hunting-weapons, tools and equipment constituted the sum total of prehistoric industry and technology. The non-hunting tools which were used in daily life are assumed to have affected the nutrition problem indirectly, therefore they are considered in general to be hunting tools.

e- Prehistoric hunting can be interpreted as primitive production rather than primitive consumption. In a sense, provision of food for consumption is the equivalent of production.

f- The question of whether the different prehistoric times should be analysed using natural sciences or social sciences is left open to discussion. The author tends to handle the problem within the context of the social sciences. His main concern has been to determine the relevance of recent prehistory.

g- The validity of comparative ethnography in explaining the prehistoric archeological evidence should also be considered.

h- The question of the adequacy of this theory of prehistoric hunting food gathering activities in explaining prehistoric social organisation is raised through the study. Another important problem faced was the question of whether the archeological findings are good enough to reflect prehistoric social activities other than hunting.

The fact that there are important problems in prehistoric archeology that have no clear solutions for the time being, encourages the author to carry on with further and deeper research.