

TECHNOLOGICAL EVOLUTION, ADAPTATION AND EMERGENCE OF UPPER PALEOLITHIC IN NORTHEAST ASIA

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In this presentation, we will discuss the circumstances Early Upper Paleolithic (EUP) in the Northeast Asia. Specially, I will focus on EUP in East Siberia and Hokkaido Island, and compare with techno-complex of EUP in the both area. The emergence of EUP in NE Asia is characterized by the blade reduction technique from prismatic core. We can find widely this techno-complex from Siberia-Mongol zone to Northern China, Korean peninsula and Japanese archipelago. On the other hand, preceding Middle Paleolithic (MP) complex in this area are shown diversified situations, except for West part of South Siberia and Mongolian plateau. This situation is more characterized in the east side of coastal area of North Pacific. As West part of Eurasia, Blade reduction techno-complex was widely spread across the Northeast Asia in the Upper Pleistocene. And this archaeological phenomenon was related with the emergence and dispersal of anatomically modern human and colonization to the Northeast Asia and New World. Although it is difficult to recognize this technological change from MP to EUP as the simplistic unilinear technological change or replacement. In recent year, we have seen various type techno-complex in the period 40 to 30 ka ¹⁴C BP, the Baikal zone of Eastern Siberia and Hokkaido island. Many archaeological collection from both area shows the gradual adaptation process to the terrestrial environment and fauna. We can consider this situation as technological selection and application by a population in NE Asian EUP.