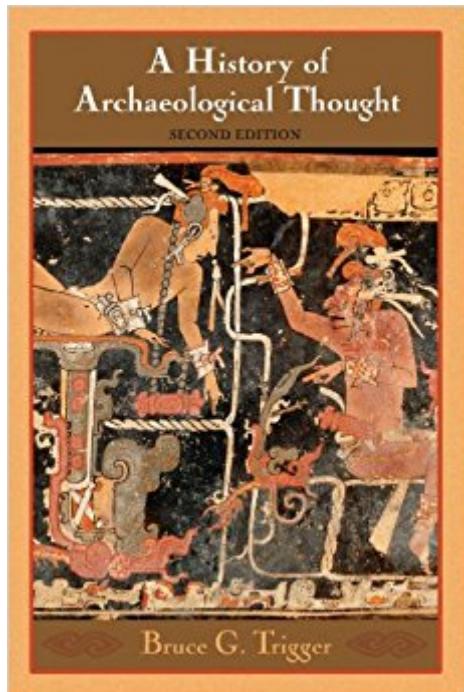


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A History Of Archaeological Thought



Synopsis

In its original edition, Bruce Trigger's book was the first ever to examine the history of archaeological thought from medieval times to the present in world-wide perspective. Now, in this new edition, he both updates the original work and introduces new archaeological perspectives and concerns. At once stimulating and even-handed, it places the development of archaeological thought and theory throughout within a broad social and intellectual framework. The successive but interacting trends apparent in archaeological thought are defined and the author seeks to determine the extent to which these trends were a reflection of the personal and collective interests of archaeologists as these relate - in the West at least - to the fluctuating fortunes of the middle classes. While subjective influences have been powerful, Professor Trigger argues that the gradual accumulation of archaeological data has exercised a growing constraint on interpretation. In turn, this has increased the objectivity of archaeological research and enhanced its value for understanding the entire span of human history and the human condition in general.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

"A History of Archaeological Thought is humbling and overwhelming in its command of ideas and evidence and the lucidity of its prose. This book would be the largest jewel in the crown of any scholar's career; that Trigger published two vast works within three years simply confirms Trigger's abilities[...]A History should be read by all professionals and budding archaeologists." -Kenneth M. Ames, Portland State University, Canadian Journal of Archaeology

In its original edition, Bruce Trigger's book was the first ever to examine the history of archaeological thought from medieval times to the present in world-wide perspective. Now, in this new edition, he both updates the original work and introduces new archaeological perspectives and concerns.

Required reading.... a little thick in places, but OK.

So so dense, but very helpful and informative. Outlines all theoretical frameworks in archaeology and their theorists.

An absolutely essential reference. There is no more comprehensive and complete survey of the history of archaeology. The revisions in this edition all make sense, kudos to Bruce Trigger for bringing this excellent text forward 20+ years, and rethinking some of the more distant historical contexts as well. No other work can stand in for this book, and yet for the purposes of teaching the history of archaeological theory, the book doesn't work. It is lethal. Undergraduates will not read it; they can't, and maybe they shouldn't be expected to. I'm not interested in running in the other direction, administering Death by Theory or something equally light on content. That doesn't work either. But how can we justify assigning this text in light of the small fraction of it that will actually be absorbed, even by majors in the discipline?

This is a superb account of the development of archaeology. Essential reading for anyone interesting in archaeology. Even-handed and erudite. For more:

<https://highplainsskeptic.wordpress.com/2014/11/29/bruce-g-trigger-a-history-of-archaeological-thought-the-growth-of-archaeology-as-a-scientific-discipline/>

Trigger's second edition is a mainstay of archaeological theory courses for its comprehensiveness and insightful commentary. This is my primary text for the history of archaeological theory. I've had to replace it twice, suggesting that students also appreciate it.

Trigger's book, "A History of Archaeological Thought", is an excellent addition to any archaeological method and theory (M&T) class at the graduate or undergraduate level. I purchased this book, as recommended by a professor of mine, to read in addition to all the readings assigned in my graduate M&T class. Trigger articulates in few words what many archaeological theorists take

pages to explain (eg. Binford). It was extremely helpful, and made wading through different theoretical paradigms much more enjoyable.

Good book for referencing, but not for chapter perusal. You won't remember a thing you read, since there are just so many concepts and people discussed. Valuable, none the less.

almost totally new, it worthy the price. The book condition is also very good. Shipping is also gelivable. I strongly recommend this book if you want to learn more about the history of archaeological thought and theories.

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