

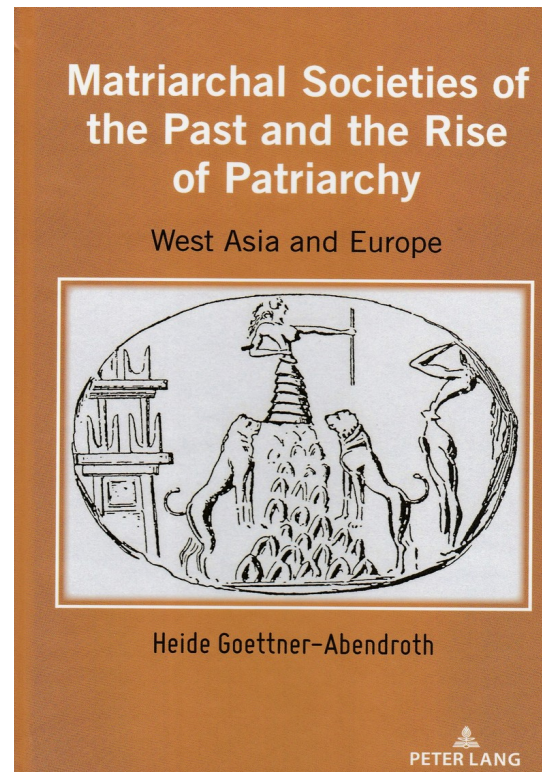
ANNOUNCEMENT: BOOK RELEASE

***Matriarchal Societies of the Past
and the Rise of Patriarchy in West Asia and Europe*
Peter Lang, New York 2022**

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This new book, my second major work on modern Matriarchal Studies, was published in German in 2019, and now it is published in English. In order to write this book, I relied on detailed knowledge I gained from my studies on still existing matriarchal societies, which were published in my earlier book, *Matriarchal Societies. Studies on Indigenous Cultures across the Globe* (Peter Lang, New York 2012/2013).

I wanted to get deeper insight into the history of cultures than has been given until now by archaeologists. The new book is seriously based on their old and newest findings; this is the basis to avoid speculation. But I am critical in regard to the interpretations of conventional archaeology which are very often patriarchally biased. My studies on still existing matriarchal societies



helped me to recognize this and see many of their findings in a different light. Therefore, some clear criticism of ideology was necessary, too.

I include very interesting new evidence on the topic of egalitarian societies in early history, which were women-centered, or matriarchal, which is not well known today. Apart from this, I visited nearly all the archaeological places in West Asia and West Europe which are included in this book. My travels during three decades gave me the opportunity to see most of them with my own eyes.

Some notes on the book

Historiography tends to focus on war; it is concerned about domination, about emperors, kings and other potentates, and their expansion of power. As such, it is male history, that is, the history of the victors. Women do not form part of this history, aside from a few exceptions, which do not alter the patriarchal nature of the narrative. They and their achievements have been treated as marginal or non-existent by conventional archaeology, just as if women's practical inventions and the social and cultural patterns they created had never existed.

The aim of this book is to help redress this bias by using an integrative approach that **rewrites and rebalances human cultural history**. This provides a new perception, seeing cultural history not only from "above" but also from "below", the only way to achieve complete understanding.

Above all, it is not simply about the early history of women, but rather the history of a very different form of society, **matriarchal society**, with its social, economic and political institutions, and its different world view. This form of society was shaped by women and supported by maternal values, such as respect for diversity combined with general equality, making it fundamentally **egalitarian**. This kind of society is revealed in early history by thorough research based on archaeological findings.

The emergence of patriarchal patterns is also explained in my new book, not through theoretical speculation, but again based on archaeological findings. The origins and development of patriarchy differ widely in the various cultural zones of the world, so there is no simple, universal explanatory pattern. This book looks at the emergence of patriarchal patterns in the major cultural areas of West Asia and Europe, and also the conditions for their subsequent expansion.

Table of Contents

Introduction: The development of modern Matriarchal Studies and its relevance for history

Chapter 1: The new ideology of 'eternal war.' Critical thoughts on early history

Chapter 2: Palaeolithic era in West Asia, the Mediterranean, and Europe. The development of mother-centered societies

Chapter 3: Neolithic era in West Asia. The invention of agriculture and the development of matriarchal societies

Chapter 4: Neolithic in the Mediterranean and Europe. The unfolding of matriarchal societies

Chapter 5: Bronze Age in the Eurasian steppe. The origins of early patriarchal societies and the Amazon question

Chapter 6: Bronze Age and Iron Age in West Asia. The rise of state and empire

Chapter 7: Bronze Age and Iron Age in South Europe. Late matriarchal Societies and increasing patriarchalization

Chapter 8: Bronze Age and Iron Age in Europe north of the Alps. Matriarchal elements in a patriarchal surrounding

Illustrations included.

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