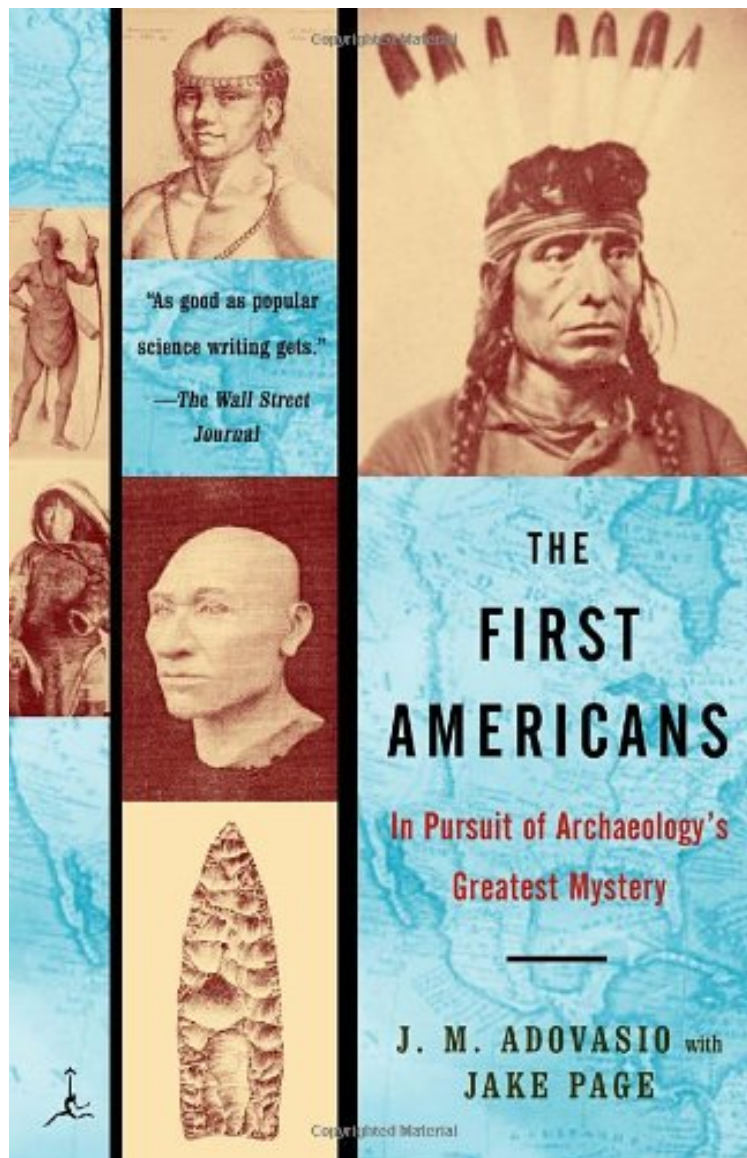


[Mobile ebook] The First Americans: In Pursuit of Archaeology's Greatest Mystery (Modern Library Paperbacks)

The First Americans: In Pursuit of Archaeology's Greatest Mystery (Modern Library Paperbacks)

James Adovasio, Jake Page
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James Adovasio, Jake Page : The First Americans: In Pursuit of Archaeology's Greatest Mystery (Modern Library Paperbacks) before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised The First Americans: In Pursuit of Archaeology's Greatest Mystery (Modern Library Paperbacks):

4 of 4 people found the following review helpful. An Interesting Look Into "Real-World" Archaeological Debate.....By TickedOffArchaeologistAdovasio's book, describing his work and research at the Meadowcroft Rockshelter site, is a highly interesting read both for professionals in archaeology and for members of the general public. His descriptions of the sites, research, and underlying debates concerning the arrival of the first human beings in the Americas are eminently readable and very important for understanding our current state of knowledge about the Paleoindians. The only issues I have with the work are Adovasio's tendency to dismiss or to vituperate those who hold to the "Clovis first" paradigm - I agree with his conclusions that they're incorrect, but a bit more grace might have been better. (However, it still makes for interesting reading - and gives an insight into academic politics for those outside the biz!)I strongly recommend this book, and enjoyed it very much!0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. I liked it. It presents the view of Nort America ...By Douglas TerryI liked it. It presents the view of Nort America being peopled much further back than the approximate 10,000 years of the Clovis Man theory and the view seem to be based on good science. It also offers support to influxes of people at different times which really seems to make sense to me. Yes he does rather take on his detractors but it's in response to attacks on him. And the book is well written, well edited and humorous. It's not a dull, dry read by any means.2 of 2 people found the following review helpful. Good summary of the "controversy"By tom porterNot only a great summation of the history of archaeology, but a revealing account of the excavation of one of the most important dig sites that pushed back the dates on North Americas occupancy. You get a revealing look into the controversy on how early that occupancy occurred , and see close up how close minded parts of the archaeological community are (the Clovis Firsters). I applaud Adovasio's courage in taking on the Firsters and revealing their 'flat earth' approach to science.

J. M. Adovasio has spent the last thirty years at the center of one of our most fiery scientific debates: Who were the first humans in the Americas, and how and when did they get there? At its heart, *The First Americans* is the story of the revolution in thinking that Adovasio and his fellow archaeologists have brought about, and the firestorm it has ignited. As he writes, The work of lifetimes has been put at risk, reputations have been damaged, an astounding amount of silliness and even profound stupidity has been taken as serious thought, and always lurking in the background of all the argumentation and gnashing of tenets has been the question of whether the field of archaeology can ever be pursued as a science.

From Publishers WeeklyWho got here first? That's the controversial question that has galvanized American archeology from its earliest days. The traditional view is that the first residents of the new world were the Clovis people, hunters who crossed the Bering Strait during the Ice Age, 10,000 years ago. Yet based on his own research, archeologist Adovasio launches a spirited attack on the Clovis theory. With co-writer Jake Page, a former Natural History editor, Adovasio explains his findings at a site called Meadowcroft in southwestern Pennsylvania. Two of the ancient tools from this dig were carbon-dated to 12,900 and 13,170 B.C., thousands of years before the Clovis lived. This discovery has thrust Adovasio into the center of the anti-Clovis movement. Adovasio weighs the Meadowcroft findings against the history of American archeology itself. He profiles seminal figures in the field as well as some cranky Clovis theorists, and reviews different theoretical approaches. He also explains the use of dating methods such as dendrochronology (counting the rings of trees) and lucidly discusses the natural history of the continent, with its glaciers and ancient megafauna. While these factors are relevant to the question of human habitation, Adovasio's very broad view somewhat dilutes the main story of the Clovis wars. There's also a note of bitterness and personal grievance in Adovasio's discussion of his pro-Clovis colleagues, which may turn off some readers. Copyright 2002 Cahners Business Information, Inc. From Library JournalAn anthropologist, field archaeologist, and founder and director of the Mercyhurst Archaeological Institute, Adovasio has been at the frontier of developments in archaeology since the Seventies, when the site he was excavating, Meadowcroft Rockshelter (near Pittsburgh), yielded materials thousands of years older than what was found at the Clovis sites in the Southwest. Challenging the primacy of "Clovis Man" as the earliest settler of the Western Hemisphere was "not for the timid of heart," Adovasio explains in the introduction to this robustly written insider view of fieldwork, discovery, and warfare among specialists. In examining various theories, beliefs, and scientific inquiries into who the first Americans were and how they got here, Adovasio touches on many aspects of this question: Native Americans; the views of Europeans, starting with Columbus; conjectures regarding the mound builders; the discovery of the Clovis culture in the 1930s, later dated from 9200 to 8500 B.C.E. by radiocarbon; and evidence from linguistics, genetics, and skeletal remains, including the recent events surrounding "Kennewick Man" (see James E. Chatters's *Ancient Encounters*). Written with candor, humor, and passion, this well-documented study makes the latest findings accessible to general readers and students. For public libraries and special collections in anthropology and archaeology. Joan W. Gartland, Detroit P.L. Copyright 2002 Reed Business Information, Inc. From Scientific AmericanWhen did the first humans reach North America? Archaeologist Adovasio's answer is, thousands of years earlier than the Clovis people of 11,200 to 10,500 years ago (9200 to 8500 B.C.), who are held by "a tenet of archaeology" to have been the pioneers. He first advanced that argument in 1974, after charcoal taken from two fire pits in a shallow cave at Meadowcroft Rockshelter in western Pennsylvania revealed

through radiocarbon dating "that humans had been there using these two hearths in about 13,000 B.C.," some 4,000 years "before any human being was supposed to have set foot anywhere in this hemisphere." Now five pre-Clovis sites are known in the Americas, all displaying very different technologies. The existence of so much cultural diversity "strongly suggests that there were multiple incursions into this hemisphere by people who were probably diverse genetically." In telling this story, Adovasio founder and director of the Mercyhurst Archaeological Institute and science writer Page give the general reader a fine grounding in what is known of human migration. Editors of Scientific American