



# **The Neanderthals Rediscovered: How Modern Science is Rewriting Their Story**

*Dimitra Papagianni , Michael A. Morse*

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In recent years, the common perception of the Neanderthals has been transformed, thanks to new discoveries and paradigm-shattering scientific innovations. It turns out that the Neanderthals' behavior was surprisingly modern: they buried the dead, cared for the sick, hunted large animals in their prime, harvested seafood, and communicated with spoken language. Meanwhile, advances in DNA technologies are compelling us to reassess the Neanderthals' place in our own past.

For hundreds of thousands of years, Neanderthals evolved in Europe parallel to *Homo sapiens* evolving in Africa, and, when both species made their first forays into Asia, the Neanderthals may even have had the upper hand. In this important volume, Dimitra Papagianni and Michael A. Morse compile the first full chronological narrative of the Neanderthals' dramatic existence—from their evolution in Europe to their expansion to Siberia, their subsequent extinction, and ultimately their revival in popular novels, cartoons, cult movies, and television commercials.

## **The Neanderthals Rediscovered: How Modern Science is Rewriting Their Story Details**

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## **From Reader Review The Neanderthals Rediscovered: How Modern Science is Rewriting Their Story for online ebook**

### **M.J. Daspit says**

Very informative and up to date. I particularly liked the explanations of how the newest dating technologies work and where the newest discoveries have been made. Though the book didn't establish beyond reiterating various theories what happened to extinguish this line of humanity, it did reveal some evidence, that I was previously unaware of, that there was interbreeding among Neanderthals and other human lines. I didn't so much care for the social commentary on how Neanderthals are viewed in modern society as "cavemen." That seemed extraneous to the basic science.

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### **Captain Sir Roddy, R.N. (Ret.) says**

This was an excellent read! Dr. Papagianni has synthesized the latest and greatest archaeological and genetics data and information about our closest human cousins, the Neanderthals. While this book will clearly appeal to the lay-reader, I found it to be a very accurate representation of the latest theories and hypotheses associated with better understanding the long history of the Neanderthals and their place in Human family tree. Dr. Papagianni has also included a relatively comprehensive bibliography that references general publications, specialized and technical books, and an excellent listing of important journal articles addressing significant issues and findings in human evolution.

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### **Deborah Pickstone says**

Riveting account of newer strands of thought regards Neanderthal people that largely discounts any notion that they died out due to being a 'lesser' hominid and also gives the lie to the notion of them lacking the capacity for speech. Disappointingly, the authors put their disappearance down to 'climate change' (ie we are no further forward on this and have frankly no idea) which seems to be a catch-all for anything Science doesn't know but wants to sound profound about.

My personal theory is a devastating epidemic-type disease - the first Influenza epidemic perhaps? It is a possibility as they could have had no immunity AND may have had a genetic susceptibility- wiped them out almost completely: up to 4% of our genetic structure today remains Neanderthal.

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### **Ömer says**

2.3/5

Yorumu için: <http://kronikokur.blogspot.com.tr/201...>

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## **Barry Corbett says**

### **Good read**

Easy to read for the lay person. Not a great deal to offer other than a summation of the last century of scientific discovery regarding homo neanderthals I look forward to a more in depth volume from the author in the future.

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## **James Hartley says**

Excellent, easy-to-read book on the latest findings. That whole period of history/prehistory is now coming out of the shadows. That there were various "types" of humans is a given; exactly how they interacted and who did what to whom is not so clear. But there is enough fascinating information here to keep you glued to the pages for at least three quarters of the this book. Sadly there's not enough to completely pad it out, so you get a few chapters on things like "Neanderthals in film and books" which is dull. What is interesting is really nicely written, though.

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## **Eoin says**

Relatively short and highly accessible account of the development of our knowledge of our extinct human cousins. The book draws a succinct portrait of Neanderthal life and particularly good for relating it to the parallel development of homo sapiens. The book is also thorough in relating Neanderthal history to climate change.

The writers seem to have a strange missionary zeal in attempting to rehabilitate the reputation of neanderthal man in popular consciousness. This pops up throughout the book, but the full chapter dedicated to it, detailing books, movies and cartoons containing neanderthals is rather superfluous

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## **Sara says**

Comprehensive and very accessible look at our not-so-knuckle-dragging cousins. Makes a great case for Neanderthal intelligence, while making the owners of the bones look like characters from the Far Side. "Perhaps the single child in the group wandered into an uninhabitable cave and fell in a pit. Then one by one the rest of the clan became trapped in the course of failed rescue attempts." And you're wondering why they went extinct?

I laughed. I cried. I knapped myself some flint tools.

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## **Nikki says**

For a book that promises to be all about Neanderthals and not so much about our ancestors, this didn't totally deliver. The Neanderthals are compared to our (more direct) ancestors in pretty much every chapter, and not

just where the two may have met and interacted. Nonetheless, it's a good survey of what we currently know about Neanderthals thanks to work by people like Svante Pääbo who've taken it to the lab, and people who work in the field.

Honestly, it's not as in-depth as I hoped, but it is an interesting subject and some of the photos in the full-colour plates are well worth a look — reconstructions, sites, skeletons, etc.

Reviewed for The Bibliophilian.

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### **Alison says**

A thorough, accessible and readable overview of current consensus and debate on neanderthal peoples. Much more in the style of summarising and explaining than polemic, the book is a relatively quick read. The immense likability of the authors, particularly their gentle humour, suits this very well. I can only hope they agree to keep updating this, as the science evolves at an ever rapid pace.

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### **J. Bryce says**

What a great and readable introduction to recent Neanderthal research! Not for specialists or academics, but for the rest of us, this is terrific.

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### **Mehmet says**

*"Onlar? gerçekten özlemle anmam?za, yokluklar?n?n yas?n? tutmam?za ne engel oluyor? Belki de aradan geçen zaman?n uzunlu?u."* (s.210)

Bir kitapç?da rafta gördü?ümde, her zamanki kitap seçicili?im tutmu?; *"Sapiens tutunca bunu bast?lar"* deyip yan?ndan burun k?v?r?p geçmi?tim. Lakin sonra ilgi duydu?um bir konu oldu?u için çekimine kap?ld?m. Adana'da popüler bir kitap ma?azas?nda tekrar kar??la?t???mda kitab?n gerçekten kitap gibi koktu?unu fark edip kokusunu içime çekip durdum. Me?erse i?in s?rr?, aralardaki ku?e formalardanm??. Çocuklu?umda eve götürür görürmez koklad???m Bilim ve Teknik dergileri gibi kokuyordu.

Velhas?l, 23 Ekim'de kütüphanemin "Ayd?nlanma Asansörü" ad?n? verdi?im raf?nda yerini bulunca hemen okuma s?ramda torpil yap?p en öne ald?m. Elbette *kokusu nedeniyle!*

Okumaya ba?lad???m andan itibaren, bu kitab?n Sapiens ile alakas?n?n olmad???n? anlamam bir oldu. Zaten ondan çok önce yaz?m ve bas?m çal??malar? ba?lam??. Kapitalizmin bir günah ç?karmas? niteli?indeki Hayvanlardan Tanr?lara - Sapiens: ?nsan Türünün K?sa Bir Tarihi (Yorumuma bak?n?z) ile k?yaslad???mda çok daha bilimsel bir kitap oldu?unu da anlamam fazla sürmedi.

Kitab?n yazarlar?n?n alanlar?ndan da kaynakl? olarak; öncelikle;

- 1) Neandertaller üzerine bilimsel çal??malar?n yöntemleri
- 2) Neandertallerin kulland?klar? aletler
- 3) Kaz? çal??malar?n?n sorunlar? ve teknik imkans?zl?klar

#### 4) Bilimsel çal??malar?n teknolojik enstrümanlar?n?n geldikleri noktalar

ba?ta olmak üzere; Neandertaller üzerine hemen her konuya de?indi?ini göreceksiniz (De?inilen konular?n tam listesini a?a??ya özetledim). Kitaba eklenen, ku?e; renkli görsellerin okuru s?k?ld??? anda kendine ba?lad???: görsel duyular? geli?mi? okurlar?n kafas?nda her ?eyin daha iyi canlanmas?n? sa?lad??? da ortada.

Kitap Neandertaller üzerine çok ?ey söyleken, onlar?n nas?l insanlar olduklar?, neler ya?ad?klar? konusunda hiçbir ?ey söylemiyor da diyebiliriz. Bu ba?ta okuru biraz hayal k?r?kl?na u?rat?rken; kitab?n ilerleyen bölümlerinde sahte bilime yönelik ele?tiriler sayesinde bunun nedenini anlars?n?z. Yazarlar, bilimsel ispatlar? olmayan her türlü fantastik ö?eyi bu kitaptan uzak tutmaya çal??m??lar. Bu nedenle "Neandertaller y?ld?zlara bak?p iç geçirdiler mi?", "Neandertaller a??k olurlar m?yd??" veya "Neandertalleri Sapiensler yedi mi?" ya da "Irzlar?na geçip katledip yakt?lar m??" gibi fantastik kurgular?n hiçbirinin cevab? bu kitapta bulunamayacaktır. Bu kitap, Neandertaller ile ilgili;

-Nereden geldiler?

-Ne zaman ortaya ç?kt?lar?

-?nsançocu?unun geli?iminde bir evre miydi? Yoksa bamba?ka bir tür müydüler?

-Sapiensler onlardan m? türedi yoksa ortak atay? m? payla??yorlard??

-Bugün hala ya??yorlar m??

-Nas?l yok oldular?

-Nerelerde ya?ad?lar ve nelerle beslendiler?

-Ne tür aletler kulland?lar?

-Ölü gömme gelenekleri var m?yd??

-Bir sanata veya dine sahipler miydi?

-Nas?l görünüyorlard??

gibi, arkeolojik bulgularla anla??l?p ispat edilebilecek konulara de?inmi?.

Kitapta ele?tirebilece?im tek ?ey ba?larda bir "Avrupa merkezli" alg? sezmi? olmam. Puan?m? da bu nedenle bir y?ld?z k?rd?m. Gerçi Neandertalleri Avrupa merkezli ya?ad?klar? için ba?ka türlü anlatman?n olanaks?zl??? ortadayken; "?lk Avrupal?lar" yönüyle irdeleyen birkaç paragraf nedeniyle biraz Avrupa merkezcilik de sezilmiyor de?il.

Bu kitab? kendine özgü yapan detaylardan birisi; en sonundaki "Kurmaca Eserlerdeki Neandertaller" bölümünün son derece ilgi çekici olmas?. Kitapta yazarlar Neandertaller ile ilgili yayg?n ön yarg?lar? da ele?tirirken bu önyarg?lar?n kaynaklar?n? da irdeleyerek yan?lg?lar?n kökenlerini ortaya ç?kar?yorlar.

Yazarlar?n en büyük ele?tiri ise Onlar?n "ilkel ma?ara insanlar?" olarak görülmelerine yönelik. Bunun zaman zaman bilimsanlar? taraf?ndan da dü?ülen bir hata oldu?u yazarlar?n dikkatinden kaçm?yor.

K?sacas?;

Hayvanlardan Tanr?lara - Sapiens: ?nsan Türünün K?sa Bir Tarihi  
Üçüncü ?empanze

popüler kitaplar?yla bir Üçleme olarak okunabilir.

M.B.

### **Peter McLoughlin says**

Neanderthals modern humans first cousins were in Europe 1 million years ago before moderns were modern. They survived as species living with humans until about 30,000 years ago. They survived ice ages and warm periods managed to live in the same places and times as modern humans for over 50,000 years. It isn't known if we caused their extinction by competition for food or warfare or if they actually went extinct. Recent genetic evidence suggests that non-African humans may share 1 to 4 percent of our DNA with ancient Neanderthals.

The Neanderthals probably had language, complex tools, and even buried their dead (which suggests belief in an afterlife.) This maligned group whose name is used as an epithet for a crude or primitive person gives a very inaccurate picture of this other human species. Neanderthals would stand out if living today. If you put one in modern clothing you would still see immediately that these aren't ordinary humans they would be noticeable. Also with a much more robust build they could take out any modern human in a fight.

Neanderthals conquered Eurasia under very adverse conditions long before modern humans left Africa. Their disappearance left us alone to dominate the planet and possible suspects in their demise and as a reminder that a human species similar to us can go extinct.

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### **David Potocnik says**

Easy to read for a topic that I knew little about prior to reading the book. It is interesting that so much new information keeps pouring in, and changes (or overturns) long-held beliefs about our ancestry. It does explain quite a paradigm shift. I look forward to researching more about an ancestral line that I have quite a bit of in my own DNA.

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### **Jaksen says**

Former science teacher here who wanted to be either a paleontologist or physical anthropologist...

Loved this book. Reread several sections more than once. I wish there had been more color photos! (But I think that makes a book more expensive.) I had already read some of the older books on the subject, which these authors often cite, so this was a good update for me. I find the entire subject of our ancestors compelling and the Neanderthals have always fascinated me. It was eye-opening in many ways, including the fact that we, or our immediate ancestors, might have cohabitated for a while. (The inbreeding aspect I'd read about in other books and magazines.) But I've often wondered why, if there are several species of cat in the world, and bear, etc., why only one surviving species of humans?

I am still wondering, but it is books like this that can really open your eyes to the possibilities. One more thing I liked about this book - it raises as many (as yet unanswered) questions as it attempts to answers. The open-mindedness of the authors comes through.

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