

## **A new history of the Americas**

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Several recent, independent lines of evidence have all indicated that the first settlement of the New World was not from Asia, but from Europe, specifically the Solutreans of southwestern France.

Dr. Bruce Bradley of the Smithsonian, who is also skilled at working with flint, noticed that the spear points of the Solutreans were very similar to the points found in a dry lake bed at Clovis, New Mexico. He believes that both sets of points were created using the same techniques. These spears are bifacial, percussion, and pressure-flaked points created by the overshot flaking technique, which reduces the thickness without reducing the width. These points have now been found in all of the lower 48 States and many parts of Central America. Their dates at Clovis were 11,500 years ago, also about the time when many large mammal species such as mammoth, giant sloth, and short faced bear went extinct.

Dr. James Adovasio of the University of Pittsburg, has done extensive work at Meadowcroft Cave near Pittsburg, Pa. When he worked below the 11,500 year level, he continued to find tools and spear points down to 18,000 years ago. This was well before the migration from Siberia across the Bering Strait land bridge previously postulated by most archeologists.

Cactus Hill is an archeological site in southeastern Virginia. Bifacial stone tools and artifacts are dated from 15,000 to 17,000 years ago, with some radiocarbon dates as early as 19,700 years ago. The points found here may be an intermediary link between Solutrean and Clovis. Recently, several dozen European-style stone tools have been discovered at six locations along the East Coast which are dated from 19,000 to 26,000 years ago.

No Clovis points have ever been found along any migration routes from Siberia into Alaska. Spear points have been found, but they are very different from Clovis. Also, no evidence of human activity has been found in this area prior to around 15,500 years ago. Where did the much earlier tools and Clovis style points found in Eastern North America come from?

When he was at Emory University Dr. Douglas Wallace, a geneticist, researched mitochondrial DNA in native American populations and found the haplogroup X marker, which is from European populations, to also be present in samples from the Ojibwa tribe of the upper Midwest United States. From the various mutations this marker has undergone, he determined that the X marker entered the Ojibwa population about 15,000 years ago. I have seen pictures of Native Americans from the upper Midwest that appear very European. Some reports of early post-Columbian contact with these peoples indicate that some had blond hair and blue eyes.

**One of the major questions about early diffusion from Europe to America has been the crossing of the Atlantic Ocean. During the time of Solutrean migration, probably 18,000 to 26,000 years ago, the last glaciation was at its peak. Neanderthal had just gone extinct in their last refuge at Gorham Cave, Gibraltar. The Atlantic Ocean was covered with ice down to the latitude of France. Inuit Eskimos from northern Alaska routinely travel long distances along the edge of ice sheets in small boats they build themselves. The abundance of fish and seal in northern Atlantic waters would have made this long journey by the Solutreans possible. During storms they could have pulled their boats up on the ice for shelter, like Inuits do today. The Solutreans had eyed needles made from bone, which they could have used to sew warm and waterproof clothing, and to make their boats out of animal skins, just like the Inuits do today.**

**We now know that thousands of artifacts from the Middle East and possibly Egypt have been found in the New World as a result of subsequent diffusion. Among others, the Phoenicians and Carthaginians were experienced mariners; the Atlantic Ocean would have been no permanent barrier to them. In his book “Maps of the Ancient Sea Kings”, Professor Charles Hapgood describes maps of Antarctica found in Europe during the middle ages which show accurate drawings of the ice free coast, last seen 6,000 years ago (see my review in the Summer 2010 MES Newsletter, vol. 27, no. 3, page 4). We should not underestimate the knowledge and abilities of ancient peoples to move at will in their environments.**