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Cannibalistic Farmers? Neolithic Art, a Medium of Violence?; Battle Scenes in the Sierras of the Spanish Levant; Injuries and Capital Executions; Causes for Quarrel; Hunters and/or Farmers in Confrontation; The Strong and the Weak; 3 Humans as Targets: 4,000 to 8,000 Years Ago; The Contrasting Geography of Violence; A Progressive Intensification of Conflict?; War upon the Plateaus of Southern France?; The Difficulties of Making an Assessment; Effective Weapons of Death; Injury and Trepanation; Did Collective Burial Sites Sometimes Serve as Communal Graves?

Lessons from the San Juan Ante Portam Latinam Burial Site (Alava, Spain) Ballistic Accuracy; 4 The Warrior: An Ideological Construction; The Importance of the Male; Accompanying a Man in Death; A Full Quiver: For Hunting, for Fighting, or for Show; Arrows and Jewels: Masculine/Feminine; Menhir-Statues: The First Armed Steles; From Mount Bego to the Italian Alps; Masculinity/Femininity: Reversing the Symbols; Open Villages and Fortified Settlements; Proto-Warriors of the West; 5 The Concept of the Hero Emerges; Weapons and their Significance; The Warrior Becomes a Feature of Barbarian Europe The Sword: King of Weapons Ramparts, Forts, and Citadels; The East: Chariots in Battle; The Development of a Cavalry; Tracing the Footsteps of Heroes; Steles: Marking Combatants for Posterity; Multiple Sacrifices; Mutilated Bodies Preserved in Peat Bogs; Conclusion; Appendices; 1: Evidence of Arrow-Inflicted Injuries from the Neolithic Age in France; 2: Chronological Distribution of the 44 Confirmed Sites; Notes; Bibliography; Works by Jean Guilaine; Index

Sommario/riassunto

Stretching across continents and centuries, *The Origins of War: Violence in Prehistory* provides a fascinating examination of executions, torture, ritual sacrifices, and other acts of violence committed in the prehistoric world. Written as an accessible guide to the nature of life in prehistory and to the underpinnings of human violence. Combines symbolic interpretations of archaeological remains with a medical understanding of violent acts. Written by an eminent prehistorian and a respected medical doctor.
