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| 1. Record Nr. | UNINA9910809906803321 |
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| Titolo | The early Neolithic in Greece : the first farming communities in Europe // Catherine Perles ; illustrations by Gerard Montheil [[electronic resource]] |
| Pubbl/distr/stampa | Cambridge : , : Cambridge University Press, , 2001 |
| ISBN | 1-107-12284-8 1-280-43310-8 0-511-17452-7 0-511-15446-1 0-511-32836-2 0-511-61285-0 0-511-04767-3 |
| Descrizione fisica | 1 online resource (xiv, 356 pages) : digital, PDF file(s) |
| Collana | Cambridge world archaeology |
| Disciplina | 338.1/0938 |
| Soggetti | Neolithic period - Greece Agriculture, Prehistoric - Greece Greece Antiquities |
| Lingua di pubblicazione | Inglese |
| Formato | Materiale a stampa |
| Livello bibliografico | Monografia |
| Note generali | Title from publisher's bibliographic system (viewed on 05 Oct 2015). |
| Nota di bibliografia | Includes bibliographical references and index. |
| Nota di contenuto | Cover; Half-title; Series-title; Title; Copyright; Dedication; CONTENTS; FIGURES; TABLES; ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS; INTRODUCTION; CHAPTER 1 THE LAND AND ITS RESOURCES: THE GEOGRAPHIC CONTEXT; CHAPTER 2 THE MESOLITHIC BACKGROUND; CHAPTER 3 THE INTRODUCTION OF FARMING: LOCAL PROCESSES, DIFFUSION OR COLONIZATION?; CHAPTER 4 FOREIGN COLONISTS: WHERE FROM?; CHAPTER 5 THE EARLIEST NEOLITHIC DEPOSITS: ACERAMIC ,PRE-POTTERY OR CERAMIC ?; CHAPTER 6 THE SPREAD OF THE EARLY NEOLITHIC IN GREECE: CHRONOLOGICAL AND GEOGRAPHICAL ASPECTS CHAPTER 7 A CASE STUDY IN EARLY NEOLITHIC SETTLEMENT PATTERNS: EASTERN THESSALYCHAPTER 8 EARLY NEOLITHIC SUBSISTENCE ECONOMY: THE DOMESTIC AND THE WILD; CHAPTER 9 THE EARLY NEOLITHIC VILLAGE; CHAPTER 10 CRAFT SPECIALIZATION: THE CONTRASTING CASES OF CHIPPED-STONE TOOLS, POTTERY AND |

ORNAMENTS; CHAPTER 11 A VARIETY OF DAILY CRAFTS; CHAPTER 12 RITUAL INTERACTION? THE MINIATURE WORLD OF DOLLS OR DEITIES; CHAPTER 13 INTERACTING WITH THE DEAD: FROM THE DISPOSAL OF THE BODY TO FUNERARY RITUALS; CHAPTER 14 INTERACTIONS AMONG THE LIVING; CONCLUSION; BIBLIOGRAPHY; INDEX

Sommario/riassunto

Farmers made a sudden and dramatic appearance in Greece around 7000 BC, bringing with them new ceramics and crafts, and establishing settled villages. They were Europe's first farmers, and their settlements provide the link between the first agricultural communities in the Near East and the subsequent spread of the new technologies to the Balkans and on to Western Europe. In this 2001 book, Catherine Perles argues that the stimulus for the spread of agriculture to Europe was a colonisation movement involving small groups of maritime peoples. Drawing evidence from a wide range of archaeological sources, including often neglected 'small finds', and introducing daring new perspectives on funerary rituals and the distribution of figurines, she constructs a complex and subtle picture of early Neolithic societies, overturning the traditional view that these societies were simple and self-sufficient.
