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Nota di contenuto	Inventing human nature / Kathleen Sterling -- Histories of mound building and scales of explanation in archaeology / Susan M. Alt -- Secularism as ideology : exploring assumptions of cultural equivalence in museum repatriation / Christopher N. Matthews and Kurt A. Jordan -- Imagined pasts imagined : memory and ideology in archaeology / Ruth M. Van Dyke -- Hidden boundaries : archaeology, education, and ideology in the United States / LouAnn Wurst and Sue Novinger -- Ideology, archaeolog / Vicente Lull, Rafael Mico, Cristina Rihuete Herrada, and Roberto Risch -- Commentary : can archaeology change society? / Jean-Paul Demoule. Ideology and archaeology : between imagination and relational practice / Reinhard Bernbeck and Randall H. McGuire -- Complex relations : archaeologists' ideologies and those of their subjects. A conceptual history of ideology and its place in archaeology / Reinhard Bernbeck and Randall H. McGuire ; A hegemonic struggle of cosmological proportions : the traditional house of the Malagasy Highlands in the face of indigenous and foreign regimes / Susan Kus and Victor Rahariaona ; The archaeology of "shoppertainment" : ideology,

empowerment, and place in consumer culture / Matthew Cochran and Paul Mullins ; Archaeology in the public interest : tourist effects and other paradoxes that come with heritage tourism / Uzi Baram ; Imperial ideologies and hidden transcripts : a case from Akkadian-period Mesopotamia / Susan Pollock ; The illusion of power, the power of illusion : ideology and the concretization of social difference in early-Iron Age Europe / Bettina Arnold -- Ideological dimensions of archaeological discourse. Inventing human nature / Kathleen Sterling ; Histories of mound building and scales of explanation in archaeology / Susan M. Alt ; Secularism as ideology : exploring assumptions of cultural equivalence in museum repatriation / Christopher N. Matthews and Kurt A. Jordan ; Imagined pasts imagined : memory and ideology in archaeology / Ruth M. Van Dyke ; Hidden boundaries : archaeology, education, and ideology in the United States / LouAnn Wurst and Sue Novinger ; Ideology, archaeology / Vicente Lull, Rafael Mico, Cristina Rihuete Herrada, and Roberto Risch Commentary : can archaeology change society? / Jean-Paul Demoule.

Sommario/riassunto

Archaeologists have often used the term ideology to vaguely refer to a "realm of ideas." Scholars from Marx to Zizek have developed a sharper concept, arguing that ideology works by representing--or misrepresenting--power relations through concealment, enhancement, or transformation of real social relations between groups." Ideologies in Archaeology "examines the role of ideology in this latter sense as it pertains to both the practice and the content of archaeological studies. While ideas like reflexive archaeology and multivocality have generated some recent interest, this book is the first work to address in any detail the mutual relationship between ideologies of the past and present ideological conditions producing archaeological knowledge.

Contributors to this volume focus on elements of life in past societies that "went without saying" and that concealed different forms of power as obvious and unquestionable. From the use of burial rites as political theater in Iron Age Germany to the intersection of economics and elite power in Mississippian mound building, the contributors uncover complex manipulations of power that have often gone unrecognized. They show that Occam's razor--the tendency to favor simpler explanations--is sometimes just an excuse to avoid dealing with the historical world in its full complexity. Jean-Paul Demoule's concluding chapter echoes this sentiment and moreover brings a continental European perspective to the preceding case studies. In addition to situating this volume in a wider history of archaeological currents, Demoule identifies the institutional and cultural factors that may account for the current direction in North American archaeology. He also offers a defense of archaeology in an era of scientific relativism, which leads him to reflect on the responsibilities of archaeologists.

Includes contributions by: Susan M. Alt, Bettina Arnold, Uzi Baram, Reinhard Bernbeck, Matthew David Cochran, Jean-Paul Demoule, Kurt A. Jordan, Susan Kus, Vicente Lull, Christopher N. Matthews, Randall H. McGuire, Rafael Mico, Cristina Rihuete Herrada, Paul Mullins, Sue Novinger, Susan Pollock, Victor Raharijaona, Roberto Risch, Kathleen Sterling, Ruth M. Van Dyke, and LouAnn Wurst
