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Precocious Development; The South West Asian Homeland; The East Asian Homeland; Geography Matters; 2: The Domestication of Eurasia, 10,000-5000 BC ; The Changing Environment of the Fertile Crescent; New Strategies for Subsistence; The Beginnings of Agriculture; Relocation and a New Stability, 6900-5400 BC

Out of South West AsiaTo the Nile Valley; To Baluchistan and the Indus; To the Fringes of the Deserts of Central Asia; By Sea to the Islands and to Europe; Across the European Peninsula; Into the Steppe; The East Asian Cradle; The Origins of Rice Cultivation in the Yangtze Valley; The Origins of Millet Cultivation in the Yellow River Region; The Steppe Corridor: Some Possibilities; Retrospect; 3: Horses and Copper: The Centrality of the Steppe, 5000-2500 BC ; Herders and Farmers on the Pontic-Caspian Steppe, 5200-4500 BC; Whence Came Woolly Sheep?; The Horse

The Steppe Interface with Europe, 4300-3500 BCThe Caucasian Barrier; The Late Uruk Expansion; Uruk and the Maikop Elite, 3700-3100 BC; Back to the Steppe: The Yamnaya Complex, 3300-2800 BC; Covered Wagons; Across the Kazakh Steppe; Into Transcaucasia, 3000-2500 BC; Coloured Stones and Glittering Copper; The Carpathian-Balkan Achievement; The Adoption of Copper Technology throughout the Steppe; Perspective; 4: The Opening of the Eurasian Steppe, 2500-1600 BC ; Mesopotamia, 2900-1600 BC; Across the Iranian Plateau; The Indus Valley; The Desert Cities of Western Central Asia

Chariot Warriors on the Steppe: The Sintashta CultureAcross the Deserts of Central Asia; The Western Steppe in the Early Second Millennium; From the Altai to the Tarim Basin; The Gansu Corridor; 5: Nomads and Empires: The First Confrontations, 1600-600 BC; Band of Brothers: The Great Powers in the Near East, 1500-1200 BC; The Collapse of the Regional Kingdoms, 1200-900 BC; The Assyrian Empire: Its Rise and Fall, 900-612 BC; Maritime Systems in the West, 1000-600 BC; The Red Sea and the Persian Gulf, 1500-600 BC; Medes and Persians on the Iranian Plateau, 1400-600 BC

China and the Early States, 1700-481 BCChinese Chariots; The Steppe Corridor; The Altai-Sayan region; The Nomads of the Pontic-Caspian Steppe; Who Were the Scythians?; Steppe Culture and the Western Sedentary States, 800-600 BC; Nomads and the Chinese States, 800-600 BC; Nomads and Empires; 6: Learning from Each Other: Interaction along the Interface, 600-250 BC ; The Rise of the Persian Empire; An Empire of Provinces; The European Opposition and the Rise of Macedon; Alexander: The Last King of Persia; Hellenism in the East; The Indian Interface and the Beginnings of Ocean Trade

Scythians on the Pontic Steppe and in Europe, 600-300 BC

Sommario/riassunto

By Steppe, Desert, and Ocean is nothing less than the story of how humans first started building the globalized world we know today. Set on a huge continental stage, from Europe to China, it is a tale covering over 10,000 years, from the origins of farming around 9000 BC to the expansion of the Mongols in the thirteenth century AD. An unashamedly 'big history', it charts the development of European, Near Eastern, and Chinese civilizations and the growing links between them by way of the Indian Ocean, the silk Roads, and the great steppe corridor (which crucially allowed horse riders to travel
