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### Book Reviews

Prehistory of Australia, by lohn Mulvaney and lohan Kamminga, Smithsonian Institution, Washington D.C., 1999

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### Abstract

The prehistory of Australia is a fascinating topic. But it has also been a controversial subject, as aboriginal populations, settlers, and archaeologists have argued over the past, its ownership and its meaning and interpretation. Derek John Mulvaney has seen Australian archaeology develop from its early days, and in this book, he and co-author Johan Kamminga try to review the latest evidence. It is not clear who the book is intended for but it would include professional archaeologists as well as average Australians, aboriginal and non-aboriginal alike. This is the third edition of a work first published in 1969; a second edition appeared in 1975.

**How to Cite:** Willoughby, P., 2000. Prehistory of Australia, by lohn Mulvaney and lohan Kamminga, Smithsonian Institution, Washington D.C., 1999. *Bulletin of the History of Archaeology*, 10(1), pp.19–21. DOI: <http://doi.org/10.5334/bha.10106>

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Alternative ideas on Australian prehistory are increasingly brought to the public through high volume sales of magazines and books, and there are indications that such views currently have a surprising level of popularity. Increasingly these views [Show full abstract] are being rephrased to be mystical or 'New Age' in nature rather than pseudo-scientific. This monograph addresses aspects of continuity and change in the prehistory of one region of Aboriginal Australia, southeast Cape York Peninsula. It is divided into two major components, the first of which summarises the results of excavations undertaken in the region. The study aims are to determine the nature of change in the archaeological record. Prehistory of Australia Paperback – June 17, 1999. by Derek John Mulvaney (Author), Johan Kamminga (Author). 4.3 out of 5 stars 3 ratings. This was an interesting introduction to Australian prehistory. I'd not come across a similar general text on the subject before this one, although I've read some of the data as passing references in other books on prehistory. Some of the discussion on the flint technology was a little slow-going because the differences in technique, stone sources, and styles among the various periods and regions were less apparent and less engrossing to me than they obviously are to the authors. In other respects the book is an excellent starting point for anyone with an interest in Australia or in prehistory. Prehistory Of Australia book. Read reviews from world's largest community for readers. From the 1960s-1990s, the richness and complexity of Australia's remote human past have come into sharper focus. The earliest known occupation of the continent predates human presence in the Americas. The arrival of the first Aborigines stands as the earliest evidence of sea voyaging by modern humans. Australian rock art is among the world's oldest, and the continent's ethnography. From the 1960s-1990s, the richness and complexity of Australia's remote human past have come into sharper focus. Published June 17th 1999 by Smithsonian Books (DC). More Details Original Title. Prehistory of Australia. ISBN.