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BOREAL FISHER-HUNTER-GATHERERS UNDER EXTERNAL PRESSURE:
INTERACTIONS WITH ADVANCING PASTORALISTS AND FARMERS

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In the early third millennium BC, major population and cultural turnovers continental Europe led to the emergence of the expansionist Corded Ware. In the regions of the eastern Baltic Sea and beyond, it encountered a new environment: boreal forests inhabited by numerous fisher-hunter-gatherers. The new cultural phenomenon took root especially in the Baltic area, but also in river valleys in the central part of European Russia. Recent aDNA studies show that the appearance of Corded Ware in these regions does indeed involve interactions with a different genetic make-up but they have, so far, not been able to solve the vexed question of the role of fisher-hunter-gatherers in these events. We do not know which contacts prevailed between the arriving and local populations: whether much the interaction involved violence, substitution, cultural adaptation or hybridization. Moreover, it is even less known how forager populations outside the immediate Corded Ware distribution reacted and adapted to the new situation. Did these groups contribute to what we think may be the final centuries of fisher-hunter-gatherers in much of the boreal region.

Keywords

fisher-hunter-gatherers, Corded Ware Complex, north-east Europe, 3rd millennium BC, settlements

Note/comment