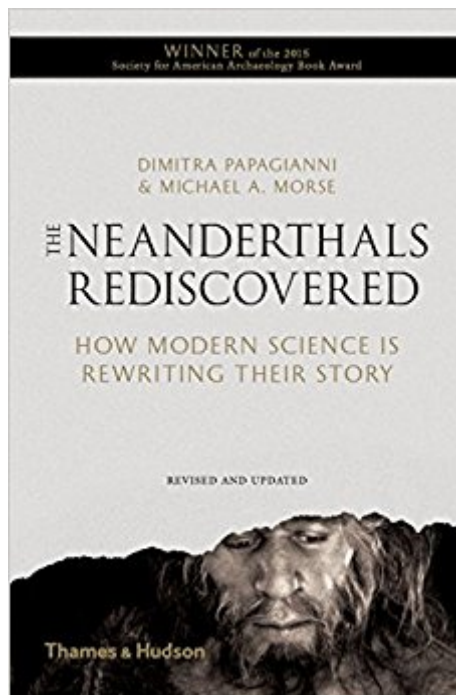




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The Neanderthals Rediscovered: How Modern Science Is Rewriting Their Story



Synopsis

"In the first complete chronological narrative of the species from emergence to extinction...archaeologist Dimitra Papagianni and science historian Michael Morse have shaped a gem." —Nature

In recent years, the common perception of the Neanderthals has been transformed, thanks to new discoveries and paradigm-shattering scientific innovations. It turns out that the Neanderthals' behavior was surprisingly modern: they buried the dead, cared for the sick, hunted large animals in their prime, harvested seafood, and communicated with spoken language. Meanwhile, advances in DNA technologies are compelling us to reassess the Neanderthals' place in our own past. For hundreds of thousands of years, Neanderthals evolved in Europe parallel to *Homo sapiens* evolving in Africa, and, when both species made their first forays into Asia, the Neanderthals may even have had the upper hand. In this important volume, Dimitra Papagianni and Michael A. Morse compile the first full chronological narrative of the Neanderthals' dramatic existence — from their evolution in Europe to their expansion to Siberia, their subsequent extinction, and ultimately their revival in popular novels, cartoons, cult movies, and television commercials.

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Customer Reviews

Much speculation and misinformation exists about Neanderthals, but what does recent research and the latest scientific innovation reveal about them? Dimitra Papagianni and Michael A. Moore delve into this, discussing the surprisingly modern behavior of Neanderthals, in their book, //The Neanderthals Rediscovered: How Modern Science is Rewriting Their Story//. From the first humans to the caricatures about Stone Age man, //The Neanderthals Rediscovered// covers a swath of early human history, concentrating on Neanderthals, and the archaeological record of some Homo species in Europe. Were the Neanderthals the victors over other species? Were they bred out of existence or overthrown? Papagianni and Moore discuss this as well, along with what can be inferred about daily life, Neanderthal spread and decline, and their legacy to modern culture. This is definitely a book for everyone with interest in human origins, with an emphasis on the Neanderthal perspective. It reads less like a textbook and more like a novel, simultaneously informing the scholar but not talking down to the lay person. Rather than being given facts and figures, it feels as though the reader is interacting with the author and sharing in the love for exploration of human origins and exuberance of discovery.--Review also provided to portlandbookreview.com

Very informative. Clearly and succinctly gives a logical view of how they evolved over the hundreds of thousands of years they lived in Europe. We usually think of Neanderthals as appearing in Europe fully developed and never evolving. This study turns that illogical concept on its head. It explains that while Sapiens were evolving in Africa Neanderthal was doing the same in their own environment.

I enjoyed this book. The pictures were very nice. I finished reading wanting more on the subject.

Wonderfully easy to read, but it doesn't "talk" down to you. I thought I knew a few things about Neanderthal, but...no I didn't. I have genuinely enjoyed reading this, and the information is fresh and enticing. Not only is there lots about the title species, but lots about the other hominins that were around before and during their reign. The amount of information is a bargain at this price. A must have.

Comprehensive & well-written review of current science & cultural findings & opinions related to Neanderthals. Wish the DNA information was more conclusive. This book will have to be updated again as new findings occur-, please keep buyers of this work so informed.

Together with ANCESTOR by RAYMOND STEYN (science thriller, i.e. fiction) this my favourite 'recent' book on Neanderthals. It contained a good summary of the latest Neanderthal research, and was written in an easily 'digestible' manner. The last chapter was especially entertaining (the authors' take on Neanderthal representation in popular culture. I have to agree with them - why are fictional Neanderthals always portrayed as telepathic? Surely there are other uses for a big brain? In fact, I don't think fiction authors need to embellish much - the facts are interesting enough). The one thing that struck me, though (and this isn't the book fault), is that so many theories (even mainstream ones) are based on very few facts. Scientists just don't seem willing to accept that certain things will never be revealed (societal structures, norms, behaviours). Unless you can invent a time machine, it's impossible to study these extinct societies in action. Also, the attitude towards Neanderthals throughout history seems extremely prejudiced. Many scientists today accept that, given a similar brain size, cognitive abilities were probably similar too. There's no way to deduct this from fossils or other artefacts. Which is why a clone (for which the technology is getting more plausible by the day - hence my reference to the fictional ANCESTOR) is the only thing that will settle the debate. All in all, though, a very informative book, with good language use throughout.

Answered all my questions about Neanderthals. Very well done.

I recently had my DNA tested to examine what could be known about my ancestry. I found that most people who descended from Western European Ancestors have some evidence of Neanderthal relations. This book was apparently written fairly recently and I believe provided a good background on the races that came together to result in what we now call modern man. I found the book well written and very interesting.

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