

# WORLD HISTORY-1

## MODULE I-PREHISTORIC SOCIETIES



**TOPIC-NEOLITHIC REVOLUTION**  
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# NEOLITHIC AGE



- It was a period of transition
- Period of primitive technological and social development towards the end of the stone age
- This period saw the development of early villages, agriculture, domestication of animals, tools etc
- Change from food gathering to food procuring
- COMING OF FARMERS-1. Forest gardening is thought to be the oldest known form of agriculture.
- 2. Gordon Childe describes an 'agricultural revolution' occurring about 10,000 BCE with the adoption of agriculture and domestication of animals
- 3. They produced fruits and vegetables
- 4. They had to protect their fields from wild beasts, so they settled down near their farms



- 4. Mediterranean region was the focal point. it spread from there to the three continents.
- 5. Agriculture became the strongest agency for promoting civilization.

SETTLEMENTS: The settled life of man was one of the result of Agriculture

- Man began to live in pit dwellings, mud houses made of wooden poles with thatched roofs
- Earliest agriculture took place in South East Asia
- Archaeological excavations at a place called Jericho in Palestine have revealed the remains of settled village life during the neolithic period
- The land belt covering Syria, Iraq and Iran had also revealed ruins of numerous agricultural villages of the neolithic period
- There is evidence of harvesting of wild grasses in Asia minor in about 9500BC

# Neolithic culture



- Neolithic culture began in Asia spread to Europe
- It seems the techniques of planting and harvesting spread to Europe from Asia minor

## DOMESTICATION OF ANIMALS

- The first traces of keeping of sheep come from northern Iraq in about 9000 BCE
- The new stone age men were busy with the taming of animals
- Besides dog and cow, they domesticated sheep, swine and Horses in large numbers
- Farming and cattle rearing assured them of a regular supply of food
- The new era of ‘mixed farming’ in which both agriculture and domestication of animals were combined.



- The use of manure and other facilities helped for surplus production
- The neolithic men developed the production of pottery to cook and store food
- The increase in food production was also due to the invention of new stone tools during the neolithic period
- The polished celt was an important tools of this period. Sickle, bow and arrow were used in this age
- Neolithic people had used animal bones to make artifacts like needle and harpoons
- The invention of wheel was another land mark in the history of the neolithic men. Man must have constructed wheel from huge round trunks of trees
- Wheel was used in pottery making, weaving and spinning and also carry

# NEOLITHIC AGE TOOLS





- heavy goods from one place to another
- Wheel cart which made transport more easier
- Clothes made up of linen,cotton and replaced existing animal skin and leaves which were used as clothes
- Cotton was grown in the Indus valley around 3000BCE and wool was practically in use in Iran, almost at the same period
- Surplus production and settled life began to provide leisure time to specialize in certain craft works
- In the course of time those who had involved in specialization in crafts were given food by the community
- This led to the division of labour
- Agricultural land was regarded as the property of the community as a whole
- In the course of time ownership of land passed into individual families
- Along with the privatisation of landed property, houses, pots,ornaments etc also turned out as private properties of individual families



- People had believed in life after death from their burial practices
- Dead bodies were buried with weapons, food, drinks, pottery etc
- The belief in ‘Totems’ developed during the neolithic period-image of an animal or plant as a symbol for clan.
- Each tribe had its own totems and worshipped them
- Tribes began to worship natural forces like sun, moon, stars and other forces
- The erection of megaliths or large stones at the burial places during the later phase of the neolithic period is marked in different parts of the world like Europe and south India
- Megaliths were also used to build as temples to worship sun god
- Small clay figurines of women found in many of the neolithic sites in the different parts of the world






- These figurines are called ‘mother goddesses’. The development of the concept of mother goddess was related with the beginning of agriculture
- The earth was considered as their ‘mother’ and the figurines were worshipped in the belief that the fertility of the land would increase.
- Man was and is the change maker and with this capacity of change making he passed over the early pre historic periods.

# Wheel which used by neolithic people



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