Xingcan Chen

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“Contact Between the East and the West: Archaeological Evidence from the Third and Second Millennium BC, China”

Recent archaeological evidence proves that several important inventions may have been transplanted from the West to the present-day China during the third and second millennium BC when China on the way from the late Neolithic to the Early Bronze Age. This presentation, based on the updated archaeological materials mainly from China, argues that Bronze and Iron metallurgy, wheat, barley, sheep, cattle and horse may all come from the West though the routes are not clear yet. The whole process may last for more than 1500 years, but the transplantation might be seen as a package because the inventions were somehow interconnected. It also discusses the inventions from the West may have played an important role in the formation of Chinese civilization.

Xingcan Chen is Senior Fellow and Deputy Director of the Institute of Archaeology, Chinese Academy of Social Sciences and also Professor at Department of Archaeology, Graduate School, Chinese Academy of Social Sciences, Beijing, China. He has been working in the middle Yellow River Valley for more than 20 years and published numerous articles, books and monographs. Among his various publications are The History of Chinese Pre-historic Archaeology (1895-1949) (in Chinese, Beijing 1997, 2007; in Korean, Seoul, 2011), Essays on Archaeology (in Chinese, Beijing, 2002), State Formation in Early China (co-authored with Li Liu, London 2003; in Korean, Seoul, 2006), China Before China (co-authored with Magnus Fiskesjö, Stockholm, 2004), Papers on the History of Chinese Archaeology (in Chinese, Beijing, 2009) and The Archaeology of China: From late Palaeolithic to early Bronze Age (co-authored with Li Liu; Cambridge, 2012). His interests include prehistoric archaeology of China, history of Chinese archaeology, archaeological methods and theory, ethnoarchaeology, the state formation of China.

If you have any questions regarding our events, please contact:

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