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Ancient Jomon of Japan

Junko Habu illustrates recent developments in the archaeology of the Jomon period (circa 14,500–300 BC) of Japan and presents new analyses. Unlike most prehistoric pottery-using peoples, the Jomon people are thought to have been hunter-gatherers. Evidence of plant cultivation does exist, but none of the cultigens recovered from Jomon sites seems to have been used as a staple food resource. High site density, food storage, and long-distance trade also characterize the Jomon period. Using ecological models of hunter-gatherer culture and behavior, Habu examines various aspects of Jomon culture including subsistence–settlement, rituals, crafts and trade, and presents a model of long-term change in hunter-gatherer cultural complexity. In this comprehensive analysis, Junko Habu helps to bridge the gap between largely Japanese discourse on this 10,000-year period of Japanese prehistory and the modern scientific debate on later hunter-gatherer societies. It will prove invaluable to students and researchers alike.

JUNKO HABU is Associate Professor at the Department of Anthropology, University of California at Berkeley. She has conducted field-work both in Japan and in North America. Her publications include *Subsistence–Settlement Systems and Intersite Variability in the Moroiso Phase of the Early Jomon Period of Japan*, International Monographs in Prehistory (2001).

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To Professor Kimio Suzuki, who first taught me the
importance of active interaction between Japanese
and world archaeology

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