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The Migrations and Settlements of Pleistocene Hominins in China and East Asia

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FIRST PARAGRAPH: The migrations and settlements of Pleistocene hominins in China and related issues will be discussed in this paper. Since 1920's, thousands Palaeolithic localities have been found in China. Those provide more detailed information on the history of human evolution in this region. The earliest Palaeolithic remain found in the Nihewan Basin, north China is at least 1.6 myr old. Some hominid sites in central and south China are even earlier such as Yuanmou in Yunnan, Jianshi in Hubei and so on. Those are the earliest record of the migrations and settlements of Pleistocene Hominins in China as well as East Asia.

更新世人类在中国及东亚大陆的迁居

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首节：自上个世纪 20 年代以来，已有数以千计的旧石器时代遗址被发现在中国及东亚大陆。这些发现提供了早期人类在这一地区演化发展史的更详细记录。最早的旧石器遗存出现在华北的泥河湾盆地的时代可以早到距今 160 万年以上。华中与华南一些早期人类遗存的时代甚至更早,如云南元谋，湖北建始等。这些发现是早期人类在中国以及东亚地区迁居的最早记录。

Early Palaeolithic industries in north China are flake-tool tradition and consist mainly of scrapers, points and other light-duty tools made on flake blanks. The flake-tool technology continued to exist with no obvious change from the Lower to the Upper Pleistocene in north and southwest China. In the meantime, several hundred localities with core-chopper industries have been found recently along the river valleys of central and south China. These consist of choppers, picks and spheroids, as well as other heavy-duty tools. The core-chopper industries continued to develop from the late Lower Pleistocene to the Upper Pleistocene too.

Comparative study of Paleolithic industries between East Asia and the western part of the Old World indicates that connections between East Asia and the West existed probably earlier than 1 myr, evidenced by the appearance of the same simple lithic techniques and same components of lithic assemblages in these two regions, which can be defined as "Mode 1 technology". Those should be the evidence of the first migration from Africa to East Asia.

However, bottlenecks in cultural and gene flow between the two parts of the Old World developed during the period from the late Lower Pleistocene to early Upper Pleistocene, because the Mode 1 technology was replaced by the Acheulean industries, i.e. the Mode 2 technology soon in the West, while the core-chopper and flake-tool industries continued in the East for a long time. Such different technological development in these two regions continued. Mousterian industries dominated many parts of the West for the early Upper Pleistocene, in the meantime, core-chopper and flake tool traditions were still well preserved in China. The so-called Chinese Middle Paleolithic was a continuation of the previous core-chopper and flake-tool tradition, different from the Mousterian industries in the West. It seems that there were two evolutionary paths after the earliest Mode 1 technology: the

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Acheulean and Mousterian dominated the West, and core chopper and flake tools controlled the East. Even though distinctive Palaeolithic traditions existed east and west of the Qinghai-Tibet Plateau, there are still many common features in the adaptation among the Pleistocene hominids of these two sides including land use, subsistence strategy and so on.

Cultural segregation between China and the West seems only to be broken through in the late Upper Pleistocene, evidenced by the emergence of blade and micro-blade industries in North China, which might indicate new cultural exchange happened between these two sides. Recent geological investigations indicate that after the much stronger uplift during the late Lower Pleistocene and early Middle Pleistocene, the Qinghai-Tibet plateau became a significant physical barrier and brought about global climatic changes. It affected the surrounding areas greatly, created a huge dry desert in Central Asia, which might become a major factor interrupting human migration and cultural exchange between China and the West for a long time.

早期旧石器工业在华北地区是石片工业传统，其主要特点是用片状毛坯生产的刮削器、尖状器等轻型工具。石片工业在华北以及中国南方西部一些地区持续了相当长的时间，从早更新世一直到晚更新世的早期，其技术与工具组合均不见明显的变化。然而，近些年来，在华中、华南的平原河谷地带新发现的数以百计的石核-砍砸器工业遗址，这些石器工业的工具组合主要是由砍砸器、大型尖状器、石球以及其他重型工具所构成。石核-砍砸器工业传统在上述地区也一直从早更新世持续发展到晚更新世，而不见明显变化。

旧大陆两侧即东亚与喜马拉雅山与青藏高原西侧的西方地区旧石器工业的比较研究显示，早更新世早期共同的石核-砍砸器技术以及石器组合的特点，即石器生产技术的模式 1 的特点的共享，说明两者应该有共同的来源。这种同源性特点，显然应与早期人类第一次走出非洲的迁徙扩散事件相关。

然而，在早更新世晚期至晚更新世早期，在东西方之间，旧石器文化与人类基因的交流出现明显的障碍。在旧大陆的西侧，阿舍利工业很快就取代了模式 1；但在旧大陆的东侧，石核-砍砸器工业与石片工具传统则长期保持。当晚更新世早期，旧大陆西方已进入莫斯特阶段，在喜马拉雅山与青藏高原之东仍全然不见模式 3 技术特点确切存在的证据。一般所论的中国旧石器时代中期，还完全是早期的石核-砍砸器与石片工具传统的延续。这种情况显示，携带模式 1 技术的早期人类走出非洲之后，在东西方之间有相当长的时间内是沿着不同演化路径发展的。阿舍利与莫斯特文化传统主导着旧大陆之西方；而喜马拉雅山与青藏高原之东则一直是石核-砍砸器与石片工具传统的天下。不过，尽管在以青藏高原为分界的旧大陆两侧分布着拥有截然不同的旧石器工业传统的早期人类，但两者在栖居形式与生计手段等适应方式方面却仍存在着显著的共同特点。

东西方早期人类文化与基因交流的瓶颈的突破是一直到晚更新世的后期才有明显的证据，此时在中国北方所见到的石叶以及细石叶技术的出现应该是东西方交流重新通畅的表现。近年来地质学方面的研究进展对上述现象的存在提供了很好的解释，即早更新世晚期至中更新世之初喜马拉雅山与青藏高原的强烈隆起，对全球性气候及其周围地区造成巨大影响，在中亚地区形成广袤的沙漠与高山高原，成为东亚与旧大陆的西侧之间巨大的天然屏障。上述事件可能是长期阻断东西方之间早期人类及其文化的迁徙交流的最主要因素。