

PREFACE TO THE EDITION

The forthcoming issue of the **International Journal of History and Archaeological Research Studies (IJHARS)** brings together a diverse set of scholarly contributions that collectively illuminate the complexity of human societies across time and space. The articles featured in this issue demonstrate the strength of interdisciplinary historical and archaeological inquiry, drawing upon archaeological evidence, environmental data, bioarchaeology, and historical analysis to reassess long-standing interpretations of the past.

Several contributions explore the relationship between environment, technology, and societal transformation. One study revisits the long-debated collapse of the Classic Maya civilization, integrating paleoclimatic data with archaeological evidence to argue that prolonged drought functioned not as a single determining factor but as part of a broader matrix of ecological and political pressures. Another article reconsiders the origins of Maya urban complexity through the monumental architecture of El Mirador, highlighting the sophistication of Late Pre-Classic political organization and challenging linear models of civilizational development. Complementing these discussions of societal adaptation is a study on technological innovation in the Paleolithic–Mesolithic transition, which examines how shifting ecological conditions after the last Ice Age shaped the evolution of hunting technologies and human subsistence strategies.

The issue also presents important regional studies that deepen our understanding of cultural interaction and religious transformation. A detailed examination of pre-colonial Arunachal Pradesh investigates the convergence between Tibetan Buddhist traditions and indigenous animist belief systems, revealing how local communities actively negotiated religious syncretism rather than passively adopting external influences. Similarly, research on the Indian Ocean and Maritime Silk Road networks highlights the central role played by Southeast Asian port societies in shaping long-distance trade, demonstrating that these communities were dynamic agents in a complex web of economic and cultural exchange.

Archaeological investigations into ancient labor systems and maritime commerce further enrich this issue. A bioarchaeological study of skeletal remains from the workers' cemeteries at Giza provides new insights into the labor organization behind the construction of the Egyptian pyramids, challenging persistent myths of slave labor and instead pointing toward a state-organized *corvée* system that sustained and provisioned its workforce.

Taken together, the articles in this issue highlight the dynamic interplay of environment, technology, culture, and power in shaping human history. By combining rigorous empirical research with innovative interpretive frameworks, the contributors demonstrate how historical and archaeological scholarship continues to refine our understanding of the past while engaging with contemporary debates about heritage, identity, and global responsibility.

The editorial team of IJHARS extends its sincere appreciation to the authors for their valuable contributions, as well as to the reviewers whose careful evaluations ensured the scholarly quality of this issue. It is our hope that the research presented here will stimulate further discussion and inspire new directions in historical and archaeological inquiry.

Dr. Vinodkumar Kallolickal
Chief editor

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