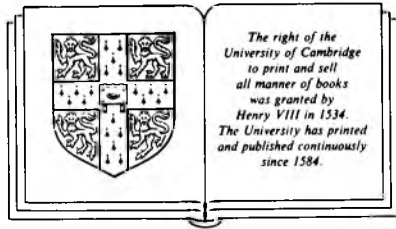


# THE EVOLUTION OF POLITICAL SYSTEMS

Sociopolitics in Small-Scale Sedentary Societies

EDITED BY  
STEADMAN UPHAM

A SCHOOL OF AMERICAN RESEARCH BOOK



CAMBRIDGE UNIVERSITY PRESS  
Cambridge  
New York . Port Chester . Melbourne . Sydney

# Contents

List of figures	<i>page</i> xi
List of tables	xii
List of contributors	xiii
Foreword by Jonathan Haas	xv
Preface by Steadman Upham	xix
1 Decoupling the processes of political evolution	1
STEADMAN UPHAM	
PART I EVOLUTIONARY PERSPECTIVES AND EXPLANATORY FRAMEWORKS	
2 Population, permanent agriculture, and polities: unpacking the evolutionary portmanteau	21
ROBERT MCC. NETTING	
3 Selection and evolution in nonhierarchical organization	62
DAVID P. BRAUN	
4 Analog or digital?: Toward a generic framework for explaining the development of emergent political systems	87
STEADMAN UPHAM	

*Contents*

PART II THE ROLE OF DECISION-MAKING,  
PRODUCTIVE, AND ENVIRONMENTAL PROCESSES IN  
POLITICAL CHANGE

- 5 Maintaining economic equality in opposition to  
complexity: an Iroquoian case study 119  
BRUCE G. TRIGGER
- 6 One path to the heights: negotiating political inequality in  
the Sausa of Peru 146  
CHRISTINE A. HASTORF
- 7 Agriculture, sedentism, and environment in the evolution  
of political systems 177  
STEPHEN PLOG

PART III MARXIST VIEWS OF POLITICAL CHANGE

- 8 Politics and surplus flow in prehistoric communal  
societies 203  
DEAN J. SAITTA AND ARTHUR S. KEENE
- 9 Primitive communism and the origin of social inequality 225  
RICHARD B. LEE
- 10 The dynamics of nonhierarchical societies 247  
BARBARA BENDER
- References 264
- Index 304