

Praise for MODERN HUMANS

"This is an exceptional book on an inherently interesting topic. Most students of human origins agree that fully modern humans represent the surviving tip of an evolutionary lineage that emerged in Africa, probably beginning at least 300,000 years ago. This was a time when other lineages, including the one that led to the Neanderthals, were evolving in Eurasia. Most specialists also agree that fully modern Africans expanded to Eurasia around 50,000 years ago, where they replaced and sometimes interbred with the Neanderthals and other non-modern people. Much has been written on the 'Out-of-Africa' dispersal, but now the emphasis is increasingly on indications that invading Africans acquired some genes from resident Eurasians. Fossils are then valued mostly for their ancient DNA and only incidentally for their form and geographic distribution, while relevant archaeological observations are completely ignored, even though they underlie the most plausible explanations for modern human success. John F. Hoffecker considers everything and ignores nothing, and his synthesis is extraordinary not only for its breadth but also for its clarity. *Modern Humans* will satisfy both curious lay readers and specialists who seek a readily intelligible, authoritative update on where we came from."

Richard G. Klein, Anne T. and Robert M. Bass Professor in the School of Humanities and Sciences, Stanford University, and author of *The Human Career: Human Biological and Cultural Origins, Third Edition*

"Hoffecker has produced an exhaustively researched but highly accessible account of the evidence—from paleontology, archaeology, material culture, and genomics—for one of the greatest stories ever told: how, from an unremarkable origin in Africa, our species *Homo sapiens* began behaving in extraordinary and unprecedented ways, and rapidly took over the entire habitable world—with consequences with which we are still grappling. *Modern Humans* is an invaluable resource for anyone interested in how modern humans came to be the amazing creatures they are."

Ian Tattersall, Curator Emeritus, Division of Anthropology, American Museum of Natural History, and author of *The Strange Case of the Ricketty Cossack and Other Cautionary Tales from Human Evolution*

COLUMBIA UNIVERSITY PRESS | NEW YORK

CUP.COLUMBIA.EDU

PRINTED IN THE U.S.A.

ISBN: 978-0-231-16076-6



Chapter One	
Information, Complexity, and Human Evolution	1
Chapter Two	
Modern Human Origins and Dispersal: The Synthesis	47
Chapter Three	
An Evolutionary Context for <i>Homo sapiens</i>	110
Chapter Four	
Recent African Origin	146
Chapter Five	
Global Dispersal: Southern Asia and Australia	207
Chapter Six	
Global Dispersal: Northern Eurasia	248
Chapter Seven	
Global Dispersal: Beringia and the Americas	302
NOTES	349
BIBLIOGRAPHY	423
ACKNOWLEDGMENTS	483
INDEX	485