

The first English translation of the complete study of one of the world's oldest human settlements . . .

One of the oldest modern human settlement in Europe, the archaeological site at Dolní Věstonice–Pavlov, in the rolling, forested plains just north of the Danube River, has yielded a treasure trove of Ice Age artifacts since its first excavation in 1924. The earliest people who lived here some 30,000 years ago produced tools crafted from stone and bone, elaborately carved animal and human figurines fashioned of mammoth ivory, and sculptures of fired clay, including the famous “Venus of Dolní Věstonice,” one of the oldest known ceramic artifacts in the world. Interestingly, novelist Jean M. Auel took much of the inspiration for her popular novel, *Clan of the Cave Bear*, from the discoveries at Dolní Věstonice–Pavlov.

Jiří A. Svoboda, professor of anthropology at Masaryk University in Brno, Czech Republic, has guided the excavation and study of Dolní Věstonice since 1985. Prominent archaeologist and anthropologist Erik Trinkaus states, “This collection of sites is the richest complex known from the Paleolithic . . . It also boasts the world’s oldest ceramics, evidence of textiles, and human fingerprints. . . . Jiří Svoboda has written a book that does justice to these crucially important sites.”

Richly illustrated throughout, including beautiful color renderings of scenes from Paleolithic life suggested by Svoboda’s research, this first English translation of *Dolní Věstonice–Pavlov: Explaining Paleolithic Settlements in Central Europe* is sure to provide not only vital information for scholars, researchers, and students, but also insightful and thought-provoking background for interested general readers.

Jiří A. Svoboda has served as principal investigator of the site at Dolní Věstonice since 1985. He is co-editor of *Early Modern Human Evolution in Central Europe: The People of Dolní Věstonice and Pavlov*.

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