

The remains of past people are a testament to their lived experiences, and living environment. Synthesising the latest research, this book critically examines the sources of evidence used to understand and interpret violence in bioarchaeology, exploring the significant light that such evidence can shed on past hierarchies, gender roles and life courses.

The text draws on a diverse range of social and clinical science research to investigate violence and trauma in the archaeological record, focusing on human remains. It examines injury patterns in different groups, as well as the biological, psychological and cultural factors that make us behave violently; how our living environment influences injury and violence, the models used to identify and interpret violence in the past; and how violence is used as a social tool. Drawing on a range of case studies, Redfern explores new research directions that will contribute to nuanced interpretations of past lives.

Rebecca C. Redfern is Curator of Human Osteology in the Centre for Human Bioarchaeology, Museum of London, and Honorary Research Associate in the Department of Archaeology at the University of Durham.

"Redfern skilfully illustrates the potential of a truly bio-cultural approach to the skeletal record... This insight into past lives is instructive and affecting in equal measure, setting a new benchmark for violence studies."

Linda Fibiger, *University of Edinburgh, UK*

"This is an extremely welcome volume... a monumental approach to understanding the past experience of trauma in people from the stories they can tell us through the lens of their remains... This book shows how skeletons can tell us so much about who we are today, and as a species how our behaviour evolved."

Charlotte Roberts, *University of Durham, UK*

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Source Historic England.

CAMBRIDGE
UNIVERSITY PRESS
www.cambridge.org

ISBN 978-0-521-13304-3



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Foreword

Debra L. Martin

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