

# Contents

Preface	1
1 Introduction	1
2 The Deep Past: From Gatherer-Hunters to the First Farmers	12
3 The Rise and Development of Agricultural Societies	21
4 Into the Middle Neolithic Era (5000–3000 BCE): Food for New Thoughts	31
5 Interregional Interaction and Emerging Cities in the Third and Second Millennia BCE	38
6 From Ancient to Early China: Some Concluding Thoughts	52
Bibliography	63