



Guns, Germs, and Steel: The World According To Jared Diamond

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Topics of Discussion

- I. Up to the Starting Line: The World 13,000 Years Ago
- II. The Age of Conquest : The World of the 16th Century
- III. Conquest: The Proximate Factors
- IV. Conquest: The Ultimate Factors
- V. Conclusions

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I. Up to the Starting Line: The World 13,000 Years Ago

Why does Jared Diamond focus on the last 13,000 years?

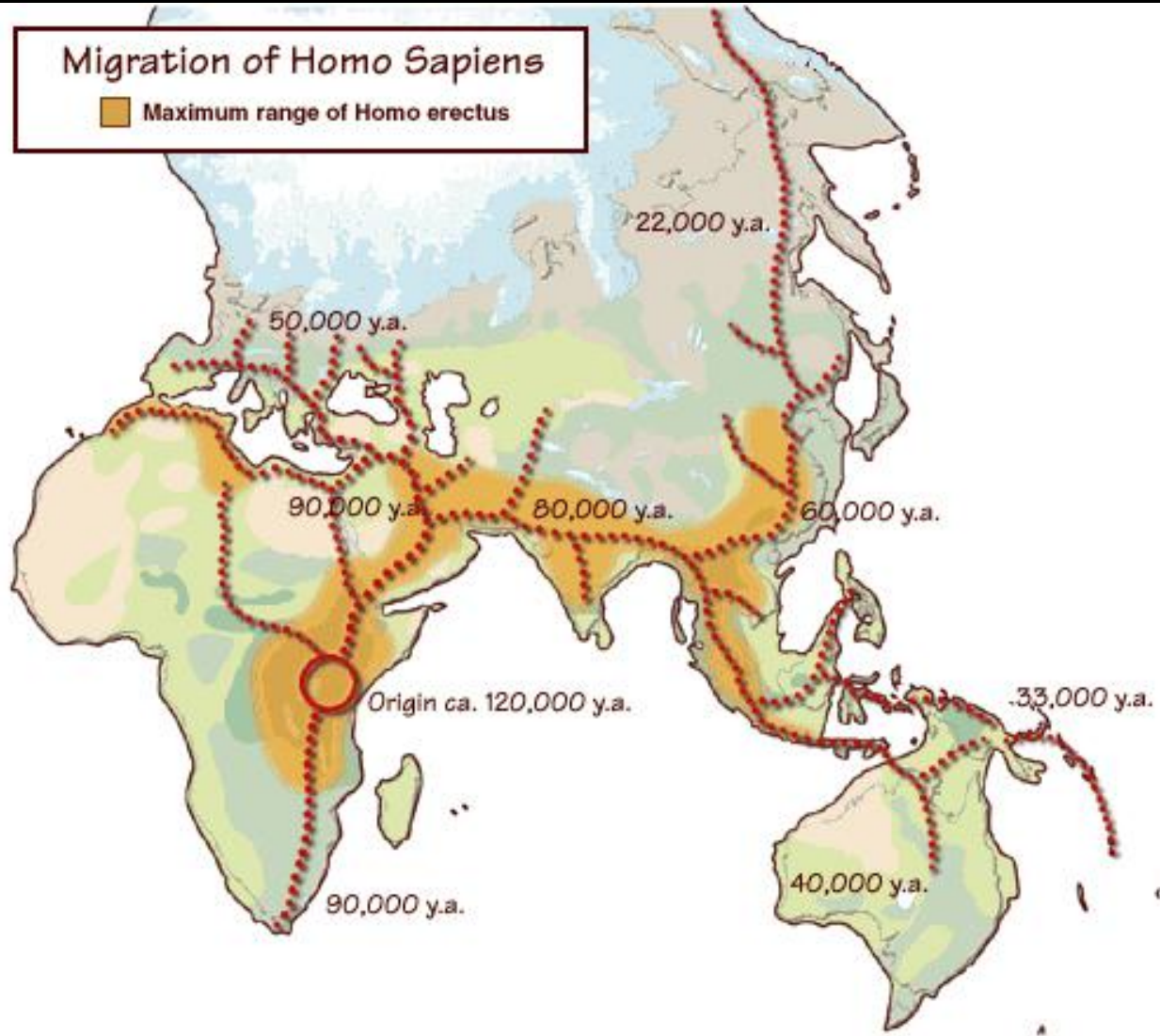
At that time – 13,000 years ago – were people living on all six of the habitable continents: Africa, Europe, Asia, Australia, North America, South America?

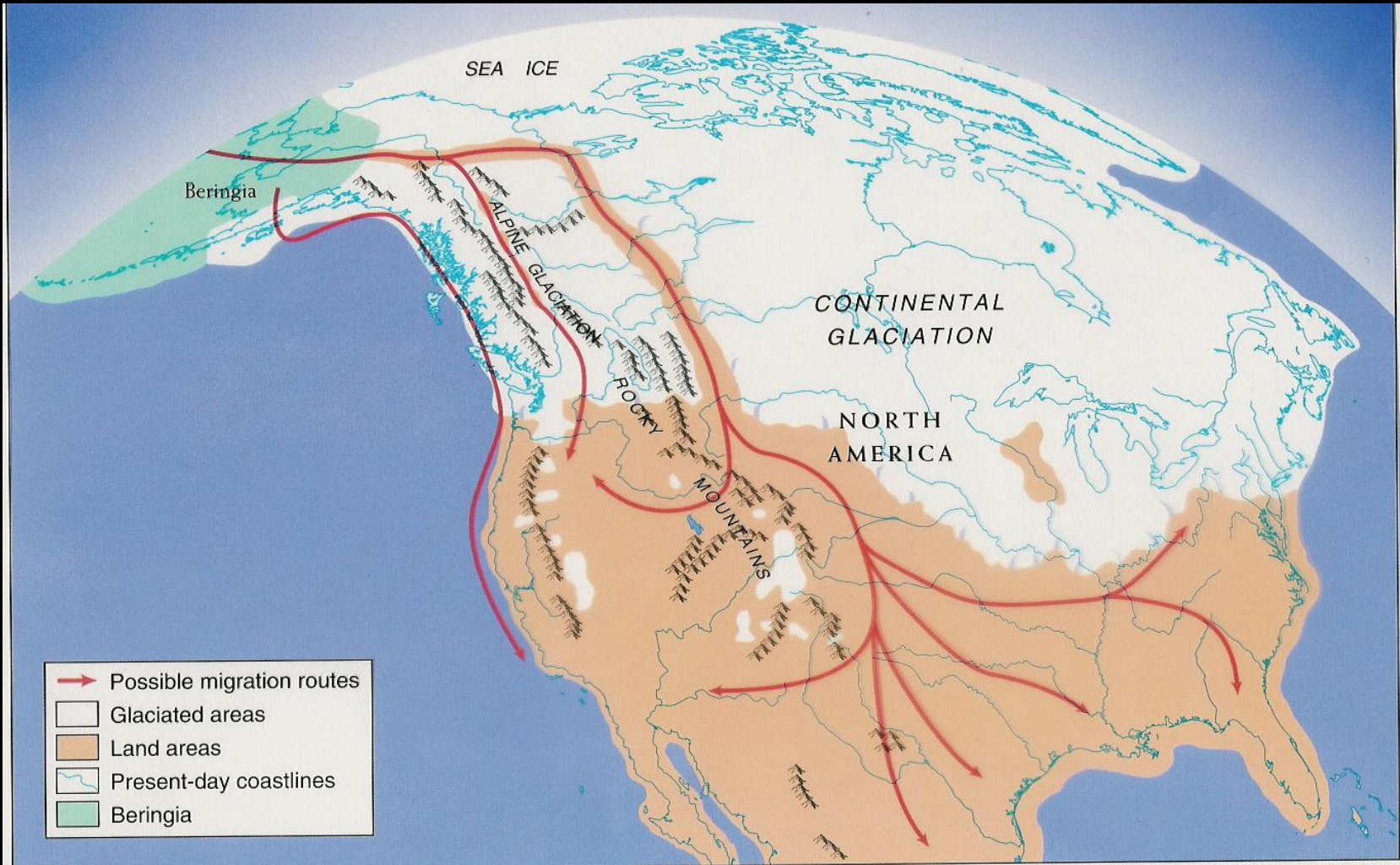
If so, when did they get to those continents?

And, what did all the peoples of the world have in common 13,000 years ago?

Migration of Homo Sapiens

■ Maximum range of Homo erectus





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I. Up to the Starting Line: The World 13,000 Years Ago

11,000 BCE or 13,000 years ago, Africa, Europe, Asia, and the Americas were inhabited

Soon, the people on these continents would be isolated from one another when the ice age ended some 10,000 years ago.

What characteristics did all people share some 13,000 to 10,000 years ago?



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II. The Age of Conquest: The World of the 16th Century

If the world was roughly equal 13,000 years ago . . .

then

what happened at the turn of the 16th century?

That is . . . Why were a few hundred Spaniards under Cortez and Pizarro able to conquer the two largest empires in the Americas (the Aztecs and the Incas)?

FIRST, GIVE ME THE PROXIMATE FACTORS . . .

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III. Conquest: The Proximate Factors



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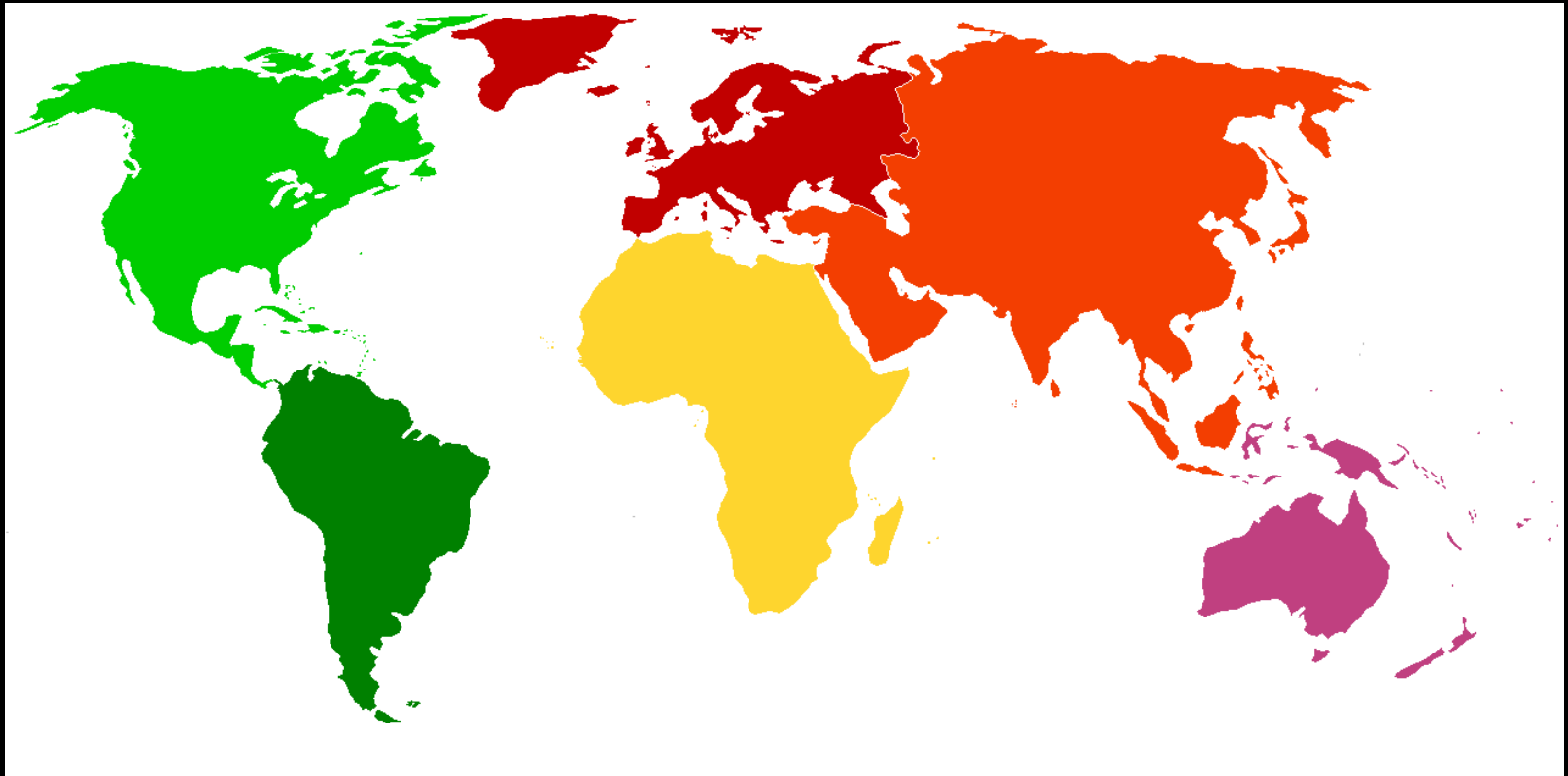


III. Conquest: The Proximate Factors

OK, why did the Spaniards have the proximate advantages?

What does Diamond posit as the “ULTIMATE FACTORS”

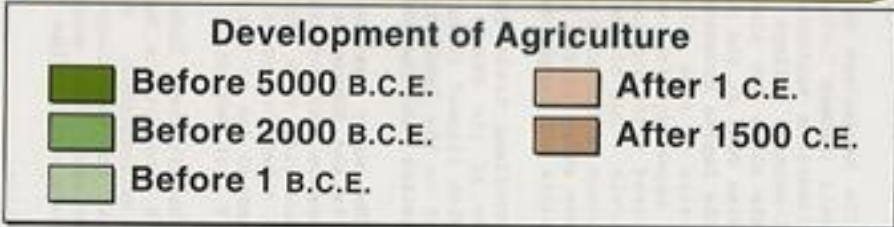
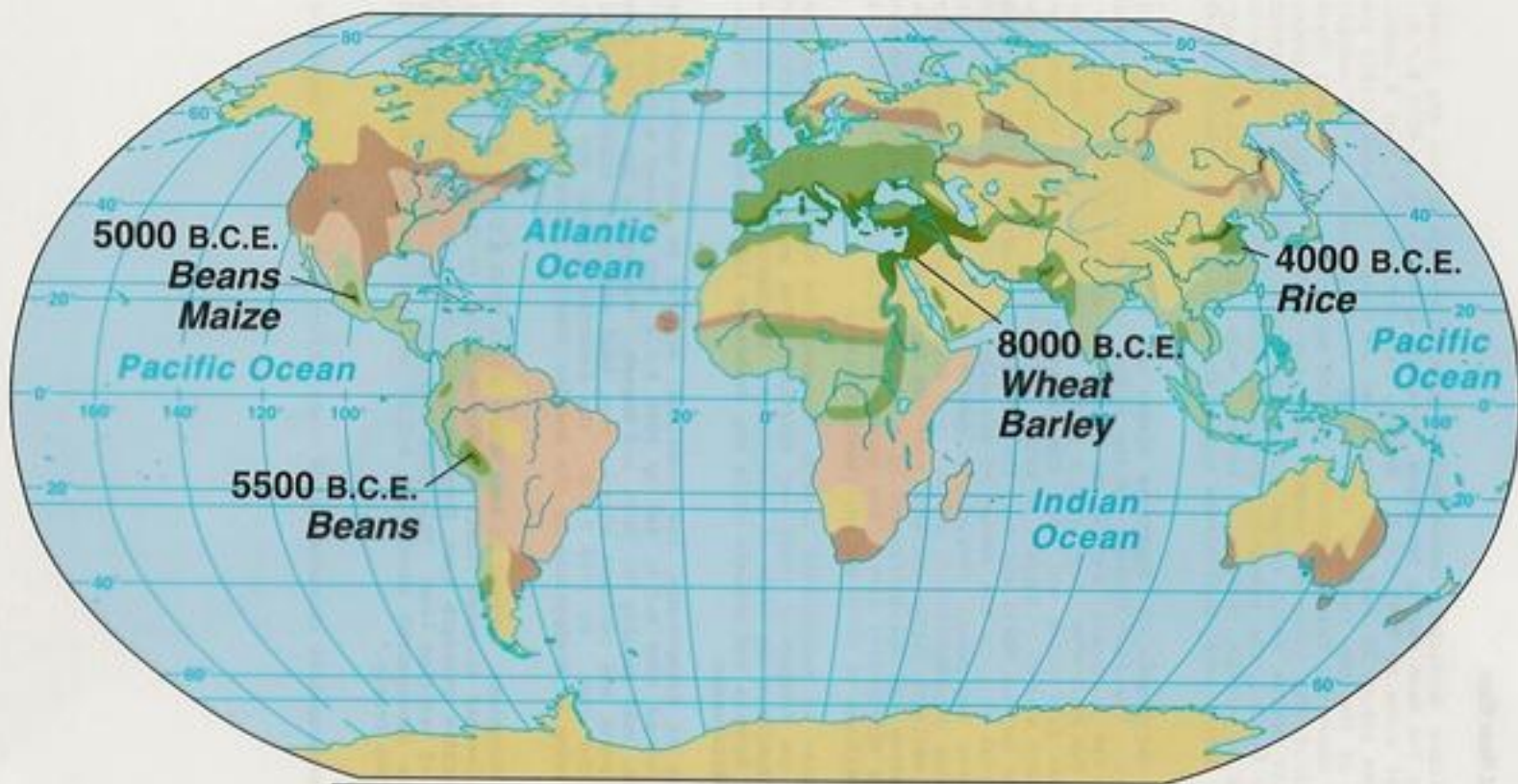
Think for a moment and let's take them in chronological order.



Size of the Continents



Plants and animals available for domestication





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Giant armadillo



Saber-toothed tiger



Cave bear



Giant paleo bison



Toxodon, rhinoceros-like mammal



American mastodon

Few animals available for domestication in Americas because of Pleistocene die off



What does it take to domesticate an animal?

See Diamond, page 4.

Domestic Animals

What do domestic animals contribute to human societies?

TABLE II.I Deadly Gifts from Our Animal Friends

<i>Human Disease</i>	<i>Animal with Most Closely Related Pathogen</i>
Measles	cattle (rinderpest)
Tuberculosis	cattle
Smallpox	cattle (cowpox) or other livestock with related pox viruses
Flu	pigs and ducks
Pertussis	pigs, dogs
Falciparum malaria	birds (chickens and ducks?)

TABLE 18.1 Historical Trajectories of Eurasia and the Americas

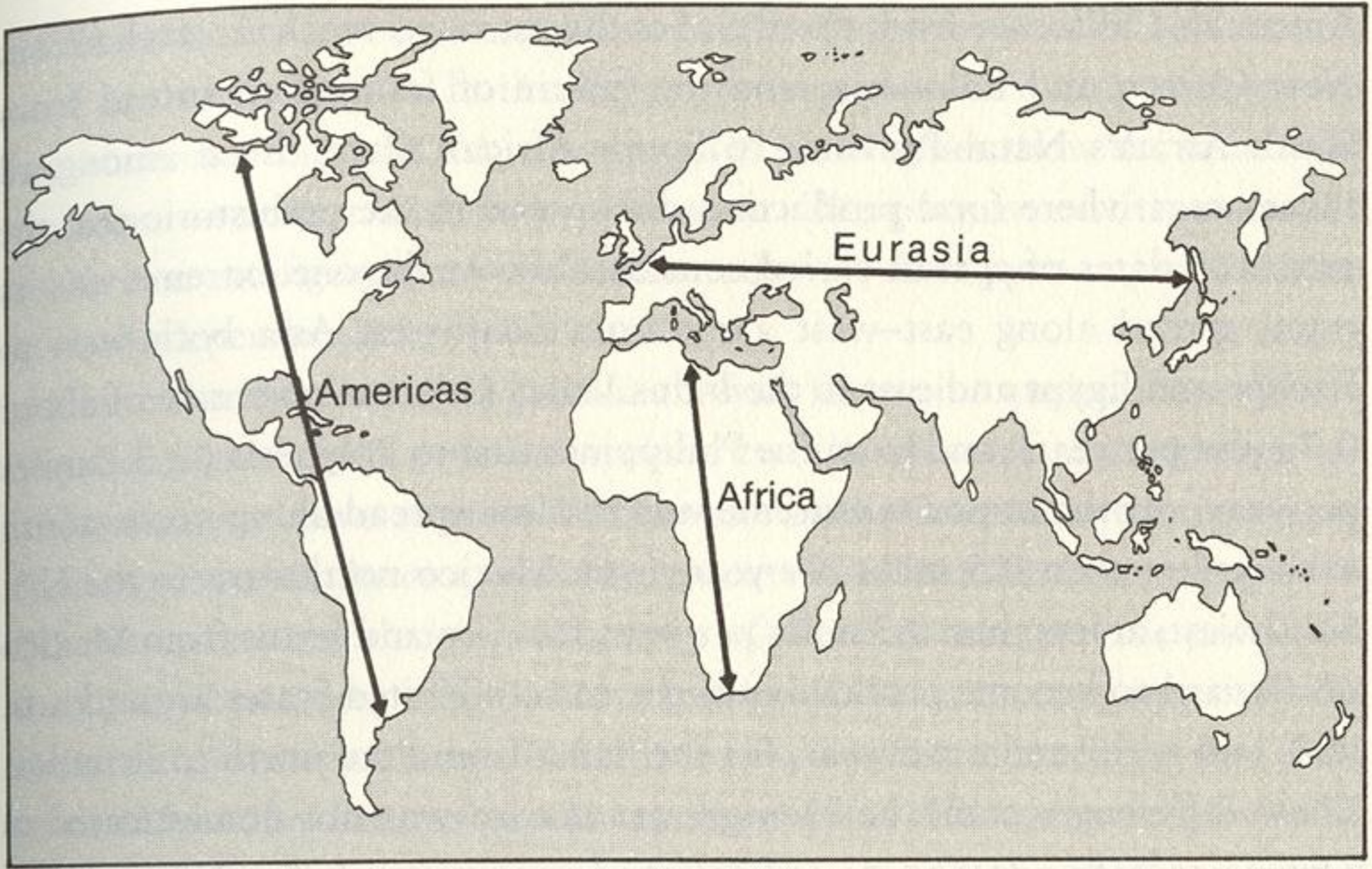
Approximate Date of Adoption	Eurasia		
	Fertile Crescent	China	England
Plant domestication	8500 B.C.	by 7500 B.C.	3500 B.C.
Animal domestication	8000 B.C.	by 7500 B.C.	3500 B.C.
Pottery	7000 B.C.	by 7500 B.C.	3500 B.C.
Villages	9000 B.C.	by 7500 B.C.	3000 B.C.
Chiefdoms	5500 B.C.	4000 B.C.	2500 B.C.
Widespread metal tools or artifacts (copper and/or bronze)	4000 B.C.	2000 B.C.	2000 B.C.
States	3700 B.C.	2000 B.C.	500 A.D.
Writing	3200 B.C.	by 1300 B.C.	A.D. 43
Widespread iron tools	900 B.C.	500 B.C.	650 B.C.

This table gives approximate dates of widespread adoption of significant developments in three Eurasian and four Native American areas. Dates for animal domestication neglect dogs, which were domesticated earlier than food-producing animals in both Eurasia and

Native America	Native America		
	Andes	Amazonia	Mesoamerica
by 3000 B.C.	3000 B.C.	by 3000 B.C.	2500 B.C.
3500 B.C.	?	500 B.C.	—
3100–1800 B.C.	6000 B.C.	1500 B.C.	2500 B.C.
3100–1800 B.C.	6000 B.C.	1500 B.C.	500 B.C.
by 1500 B.C.	A.D. 1	1500 B.C.	200 B.C.
A.D. 1000	—	—	—
A.D. 1	—	300 B.C.	—
—	—	600 B.C.	—
—	—	—	—

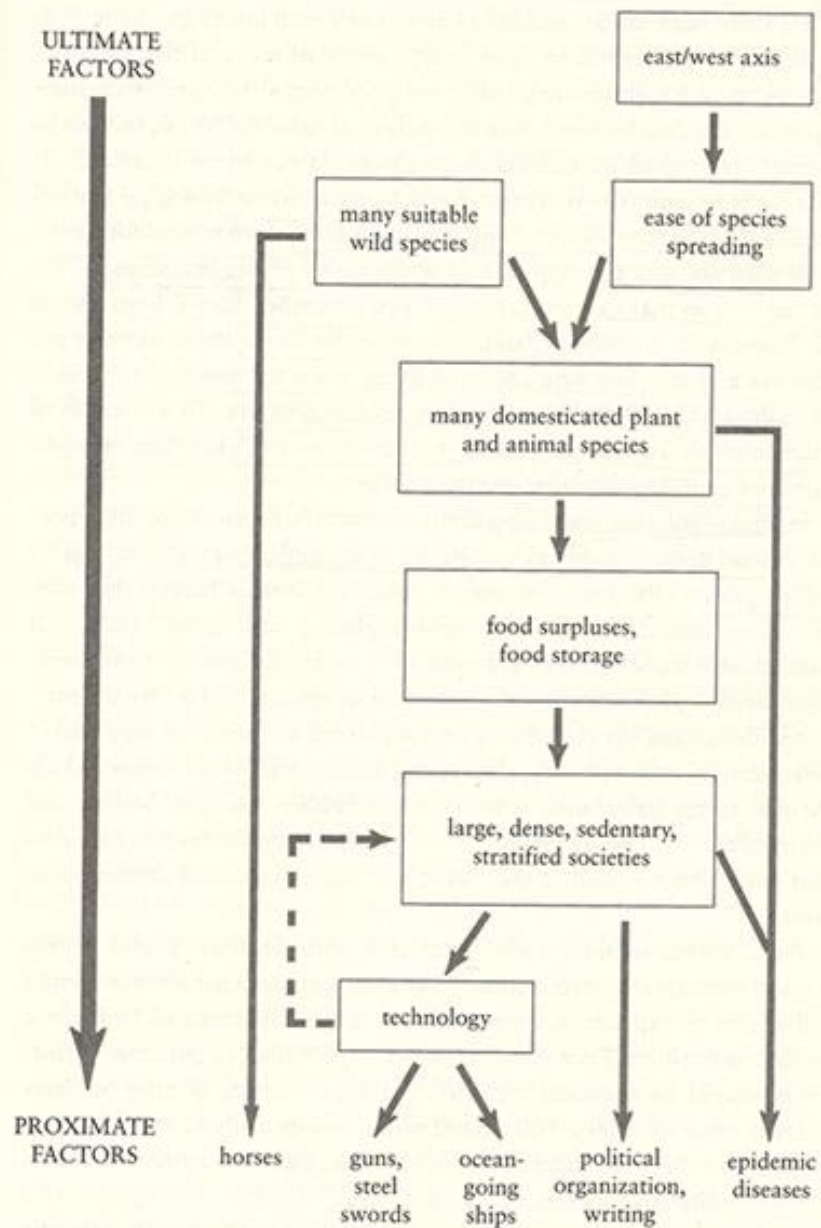
the Americas. Chiefdoms are inferred from archaeological evidence, such as ranked burials, architecture, and settlement patterns. The table greatly simplifies a complex mass of historical facts: see the text for some of the many important caveats.

Timeline of Domestication



Axis argument

Factors Underlying the Broadest Pattern of History



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V. Conclusions

Environment and Geography more important than any other factors in explaining the differences between Old World and New World populations

- Size of Continental Landmasses

- Number of wild plant and animal species available for domestication

- Axis argument

- Domestication of plants first happened where?

- Domestication of animals first happened where?

- How did plant and animal domestication contribute to the Proximate factors (guns, germs, and steel) we've discussed?