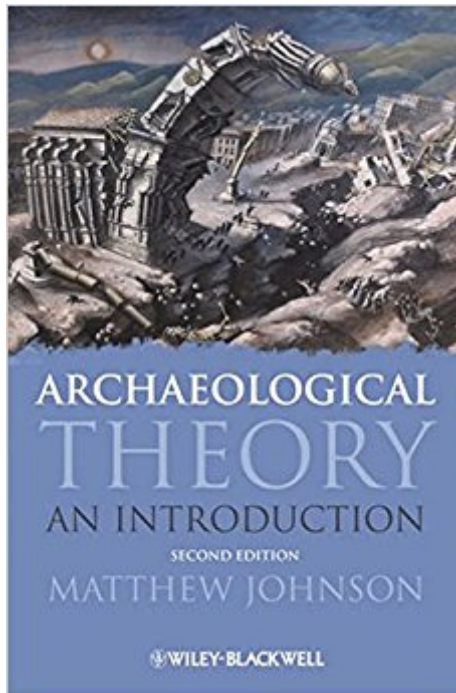




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Archaeological Theory: An Introduction



Synopsis

Archaeological Theory, 2nd Edition is the most current and comprehensive introduction to the field available. Thoroughly revised and updated, this engaging text offers students an ideal entry point to the major concepts and ongoing debates in archaeological research. New edition of a popular introductory text that explores the increasing diversity of approaches to archaeological theory. Features more extended coverage of 'traditional' or culture-historical archaeology. Examines theory across the English-speaking world and beyond. Offers greatly expanded coverage of evolutionary theory, divided into sociocultural and Darwinist approaches. Includes an expanded glossary, bibliography, and useful suggestions for further readings.

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Customer Reviews

"This is not just a thought-provoking up-to-date account of archaeological theory; it is also a helpful and engaging introduction for all those interested in the full array of archaeological perspectives in use today." Ian Hodder, Stanford University "With disarming wit and inspiring clarity, Matthew Johnson's Archaeological Theory provides an engaging history of archaeological thinking that illuminates the discipline's past and charts new pathways for its future." Adam Smith, University of Chicago "This is the key text for understanding archaeological theory. Matthew Johnson explains concepts and terms clearly and succinctly and makes complex theoretical ideas easily accessible." Claire Smith, Flinders University "In its coverage even better than the first edition, and as refreshingly written. An excellent guide through the changing landscape of archaeological theory. A 'must read'!" Graeme Barker, University of Cambridge

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An easy-to-read, comprehensive consideration of major traditions in archaeological theory. Johnson is succinct and explicit, incorporating major scholars, historical influences, issues, critiques, and responses to critiques in each thematic chapter. In the first chapter he does the discipline (indeed, all disciplines) a favor by emphasizing both the importance and inevitability of theory in scientific research in a comprehensible manner. He also incorporates trends from both the American and British archaeological disciplines, considering historical influences that led to the academic divisions, as well as how each has influenced the other. His consideration begins with early trends in cultural history and includes evolutionary, behavioral, processual, and post-processual trends. I especially appreciate his attention to the differences between post-processual and post-modern, and evolution and neo-evolutionary approaches. He includes the work of scholars such as Childe, Binford, Tilley, Marx, Sahlins, and Hodder, and each chapter's case study provides a clear example of the chapter's theme. As a socio-cultural anthropology student, this is going to become my go-to reference book for basic information and reminders on archaeology and the scholars of each tradition. It would also make an excellent book for an introduction to theory for any student of archaeology, and would be accessible to general-level college classes. It was used in my upper-level graduate course as the groundwork for the dense academic articles assigned in tandem with the chapters (yes, we read the entire book). I would also recommend this book for any history enthusiast, dig volunteer, or curious person who desires a better understanding of how our viewpoints, social situations, and bias affect our research. Thank you, Dr. Johnson, for this exceptional textbook! This no-longer confused anthropologist is grateful :)

To any student of of archaeology, from 101 to the professional, Johnson's coverage of archaeological theory is both palatable and engaging. Written in a conversational tone, consider this publication a breath of fresh air after reading some of the more dry and dense literature of theoretical overviews. In addition to being a great first introduction to archaeological theory for undergraduates or advocationalists, it is nonetheless a fantastic read for post-grads and professionals simply looking to review and reflect.

Clearly written with a strong thread of commonality that discusses the transformation of archaeology and the theoretical underpinnings.

I was having some difficulty in an Archaeology course and this REALLY helped me understand Theory and application. My grade reflected this!

Recommend this to anyone teaching or taking an archaeological theory course and who is looking for well presented introductory material. .

The book is awesome, but I can't find PAGE NUMBERS in the Kindle version. I'm pretty ticked off. You have to know that's how professors assign readings for textbooks, and this is obviously a textbook. Fix your issues .

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