

Preface

This volume results from a session at the 2008 *Society for Historical Archaeology* meeting in Albuquerque, New Mexico. Our motivation was feeling that at the time that there was little discussion in postcolonial directions in histories of capitalism occurring within historical archaeology. Yet, we were both inspired to analyze our archaeological materials by these same postcolonial histories, and were animated by the direction they offered in fracturing the often teleological discussions of the development of capitalism offered by historical archaeologists. As a result of these conversations, we organized a session which produced an exciting grouping of papers and conversations on the topic. We seem to have been timely in our desire to integrate insights from postcolonial theory more thoroughly into the discipline, since this has occurred more frequently since our original session. Notably Liebmann and Rizvi's *Archaeology and the Postcolonial Critique* (2008) and Lydon and Rizvi's *Handbook of Postcolonial Archaeology* (2010) have been directed at more forcefully integrating postcolonial theory within archaeology, albeit into the field more generally and not simply within historical archaeology which is the target of the papers included in this volume. The plenary session at the American Theoretical Archaeology Group conference in 2010 was also notable for bringing the noted theorist Homi Bhabha into a conversation with archaeologists (<http://www.proteus.brown.edu/tag2010/7261>). Discussions within historical archaeology itself, particularly in the nontraditional areas of the field, are also pushing forward explicit discussions as to the problems of applying the usual discussions of the progression of capitalism into new contexts, as we discuss in our introduction.

Nevertheless, the grouping of these papers at the time of the 2008 meeting seemed a novel one, and we felt that a volume resulting from this session would produce a timely contribution to the field, and it is with this premise we pursued the publication of the papers within the session. Since then, the chapters have been swollen with the introduction of Alistair Paterson's work adding a segment of the discussion from an Australasian perspective. Several of the original participants who were vital to the original discussions are also not included in this volume, and we would like to acknowledge their input (Heather Atherton, Jenna Coplin, Chris Matthews, and Kathryn Sikes).

Several people have been particularly instrumental in bringing this volume to actuality. We are indebted to the support of Martin Hall, who provided insightful commentary to our original session (Hall 2008) which he has updated to the commentary chapter included in this volume. Nan Rothschild also kindly read the original commentary at the SHA session. Charles Orser has also been a continual supporter of the project, particularly in shepherding us through inclusion in the *Global Directions in Historical Archaeology* series. Teresa Krauss at Springer has also been generous in her support of our volume, and she has been instrumental in bringing this project to fruition. We would also like to thank the two anonymous reviewers of our book proposal, whose comments ensured a tightening of the direction of the volume, our arguments in the introduction, and ensured that we had as great a global spread as has been possible. Many others have also inspired us with ideas and comments for our chapters, and are acknowledged in individual chapters. All errors and admissions are, of course, our own.

This book is also the product of the early years of our career, spanning the first years of the tenure track for Sarah Croucher, and the completion of the dissertation and a move to a postdoctoral position for Lindsay Weiss. Many of our ideas have been provoked by our advisors, and it is to them we would like to dedicate this volume, for their continual mentoring and support.

Middletown, CT
Palo Alto, CA

Sarah K. Croucher
Lindsay Weiss

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Postcolonial Historical Archaeologies

Croucher, S.K.; Weiss, L. (Eds.)

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