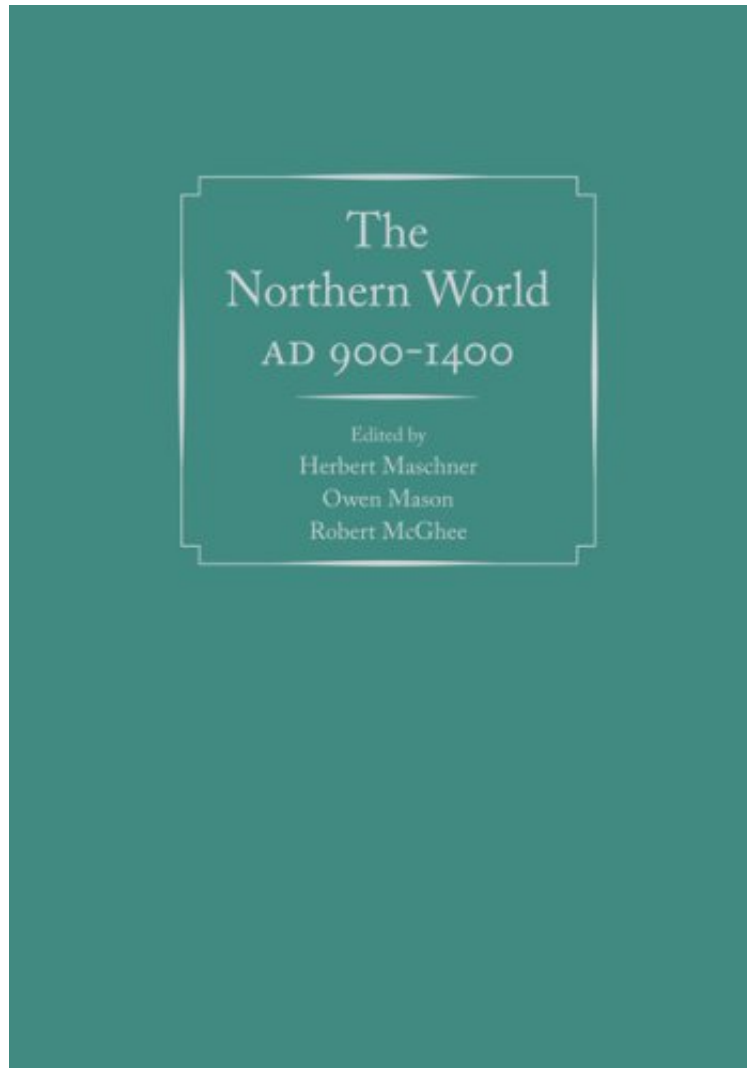


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The Northern World, AD 900-1400 (Anthropology of Pacific North America)

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From University of Utah Press : The Northern World, AD 900-1400 (Anthropology of Pacific North America)
before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised The Northern World,
AD 900-1400 (Anthropology of Pacific North America):

0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. Following the evidence...By HMS Warspite"The Northern World
AD 900-1400" is a superb collection of scholarly essays exploring population changes in the North American Arctic
during the last period of major climate disruption before the present, in which the Arctic ice cap is said to be melting

away. As an anthropology textbook, this collection is excellent, diligently exploring the multiple aspects and thin evidence of a difficult question. The general reader may find it tough sledding without some background knowledge on the topic. The essays follow three competing populations: the Dorset Paleo-Eskimo culture, present across the North American Arctic at the start of the period; the Norse explorers, traders, and settlers who entered the region from the North Atlantic; and the Thule Inuit who apparently came from Siberia and ended migrating all the way to the eastern Arctic. The rough thesis is that climate change and cultural competition triggered population movements and changed the human geography of the region. To give away the ending, the Dorset culture apparently disappeared, although the reasons remain contentious. The Thule took their place in the Arctic, although again the reasons for their success are not entirely clear. Finally, the Norse may have come earlier to the Arctic, stayed longer, and interacted more vigorously than the Icelandic sagas might lead us to believe. The work of multiple authors is represented in the book, including collaboration within the same essay. The general state of anthropology for the Arctic is still underdeveloped compared to more temperate zones; this field of academic endeavor figures to be a growth industry in future, given its tie-in to climate change. Highly recommended.

The region stretching across the Arctic from the Bering Straits to Greenland is one of the most critical for understating modern global climate change, especially as it affects keystone species and indigenous peoples. However, substantial changes in the arctic environment are not solely modern phenomena. The period between AD 900 and 1400 witnessed some of the most dynamic and variable arctic climates since the last Ice Age. Throughout the period from the Medieval Climatic Anomaly (an unusually warm period) to the Little Ice Age, this region also saw two of the greatest migrations in human history, an unprecedented level of warfare among hunters, the rise and fall of widespread cultures, hemispheric trade networks, and the beginnings of today's indigenous northern peoples.

About the Author Herbert Maschner is research professor of anthropology at Idaho State University; director of the Center for Archaeology, Materials, and Applied Spectroscopy (CAMAS); senior scientist at the Idaho Accelerator Center (IAC); associate editor of the Journal of World Prehistory; and an executive director of the Foundation for Archaeological Research and Environmental Studies (FARES).