

## Megaliths of Europe

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The south-eastern expansion of Asiatic people into the Pacific has been discussed in the previous chapter. The megalithic culture is found not only on the islands of Oceania, but also in the Middle-East and Europe. In 1967 the first calibrated radiocarbon dates showed that our knowledge of early civilizations should be revised towards a much earlier time period. In an article entitled "**Ancient Europe is Older Than We Thought**" it is said (1):

**We now know through radiocarbon dating that temples were under construction in Malta before 3000 BC, before the Pyramids of Egypt.**

We find a clear correlation between the megaliths of Anatolia and the ones of Western Europe. **Dolmens** are upright stones (orthostats) with one or more large flat capstones forming a roof and **Menhirs** are single and upright monolithic structures. Such man made formations found in Europe are similar to the ones found in eastern Anatolia. Most of them, though not all, contain human remains and are accepted to be graves of a chieftain or of an important leader of the tribe. Some important sites in Europe are: at **Tarxien** and **Hal Saflieni** in Malta built about 5100 before present (BP), on the islands of **Carn** and **Gavrinis** in western France built about 5300 BP, in **Los Millardes** in Spain built about 5000 BP, at **New Grange** in Ireland and **Stonehenge** in England built about 4000 BP.



**Dolmen from Eastern Anatolia**

A total of 110 dolmens have been investigated in a large region covering from Ankara to Kars, in Turkey (2). On the left we see such a dolmen which dates from several thousand years BC. It is difficult to give an exact date for these structures, because no organic remains were found within the dolmens, but the article claims that they are older than the Egyptian pyramids. From the size and weight of these granite slabs we can guess that a lot of energy was spent to build these structures.

Their pyramidal form is a clear

symbol representing the memory of Asiatic mountains on which kurgans were built, as mentioned in article **27-From Kurgans to Pyramids**. This culture of building circular graves and cult centers has been recently discovered in **Göbeklitepe** – Southern Turkey, which dates from 11.000 BP and is known to be the oldest megalithic structure on earth (see article **12-The Anatolian Expansion**). Below we see on the left a dolmen from **Brittany – France** and on the right from **Cornwall – England**. The dolmens have a striking similarity to the Anatolian dolmen shown above. They have the same architectural structure indicating a diffusion and expansion from central Asia towards the west and south-west.



Dolmen from Locmariaquer (France)



Treventhy, Cornwall - England

**Marija Gimbutas** (1921 – 1994) was an archeologist known for her research of ancient European cultures. She claimed that the **Kurgan Culture** of Asia was the first to colonize Europe. Her book (3) ***Bronze Age Cultures of Central and Eastern Europe*** (1965) reinterpreted European prehistory and challenged many traditional assumptions about the beginnings of the European civilization. Below we see a map from her book.



The people belonging to the Asiatic **Kurgan Culture** were sun-worshippers who kept the habit of building circular cult centers and drawing spirals symbolizing the circular form of the sun. We also find large circular structures which show that in time the dolmens were replaced by large cult centers. It is still believed that these cult centers were special places for sun-worshipping. Stonehenge, for example, is a location where thousands of people gather each year for celebrating the rising sun during the summer solstice (4).



Side and top view of Stonehenge (England)

Similar cult centers are also found on Mediterranean islands. The circular structures on the Gozo Island in Malta are typical examples of this ancient culture. The **Brochtorff Circle** is bounded by a stone circle 45 meters in diameter, similar to the ones surrounding the kurgans found on the high peaks of the Altai Mountains (see article **26-The Issyk Kurgan**).



On the left we see the ancient structures of **Tarxien – Malta**. Above a stone block carved with figures of mountain goats (ibexes) from the same site. These mountain goats were sacred animals for the people of central Asia. See article **3-The Hidden Meaning of Petroglyphs**. Here is another clue pointing to

a common culture originating from the Altai Mountains of central Asia.

## References

- (1) **National Geographic**, Adam Woolfitt, Nov. 1977, Vol. 152, No: 5, page 615.
- (2) **The Megaliths of Anatolia**, Bakiye Yükmén, Arkeoloji ve Sanat, 2003, Istanbul, Turkey.
- (3) Presently out of print.
- (4) **Die Grossen Ratsel und Mythen der Menschheit**, Friedrich Naab, Weltbild Verlag, page 55, Augsburg, 1995, Germany.