

Romanticized Landscapes and Idealized People: Imperialist, Colonialist, and Nationalist Narratives in European/Eurasian Stone Age Archaeology

Andrea PINTAR^{1*}, Alexandre MARTINEZ¹, Sjoerd KLUIVING¹

¹*Vrije Universiteit, The Netherlands*

* Corresponding author: Andrea Pintar. E-mail: a.pintar@vu.nl

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The Anthropocene considers the ways that humans alter landscapes and ecosystems from either recent times and/or deep past. Hence, palaeoclimatology, palaeoenvironmental studies, palaeoecology, and archaeology are among the best tools to understand long-lasting processes impacting Earth. Debates among landscape archaeologists concerning global environmental change over time can contribute to shape future research agendas and policy frameworks. By doing so, careful examination of the social and cultural context in which research is conducted is too seldom, sometimes leading to a biased understanding of history. Colonialism has impacted cultures and environments globally, and one aspect that is currently being discussed is the (de)colonization of knowledge, especially within academic research. Elements of Western colonialist, imperialist, and nationalist ideology have manifested within (geo)archaeological, ethnographic, and historical interpretations of the past. Therefore, part of the Anthropocene is also analysing our own behaviour and how it impacts research and knowledge. We argue that identifying misconceptions about the deep past might change how we understand and conduct our research, and eventually lead to different approaches in dealing with global environmental changes. In this work, we provide examples of colonialism and imperialism in the interpretations of 1) the *H. sapiens* and *H. neanderthalensis* interactions in Western Europe during the Upper Paleolithic, and 2) the appropriation and interpretation of the Siberian (*H. sapiens*) Palaeolithic-Neolithic trajectory.