

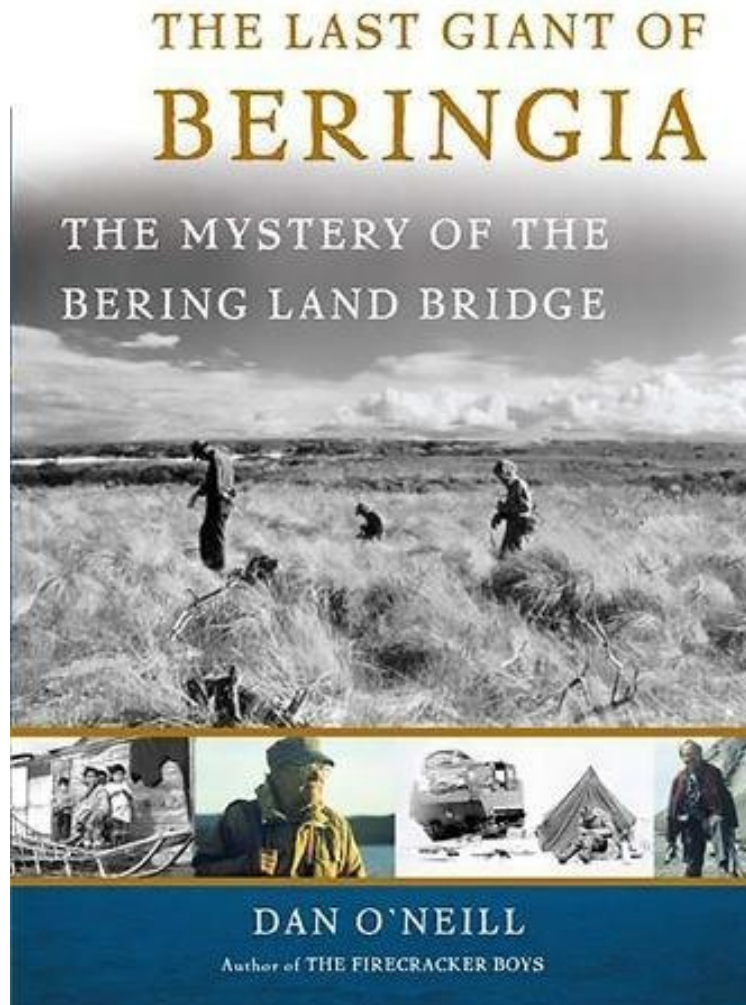
[Free pdf] The Last Giant of Beringia: The Mystery of the Bering Land Bridge

The Last Giant of Beringia: The Mystery of the Bering Land Bridge

Dan O'Neill

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"A fascinating look at the long-rumored land bridge between Alaska and Siberia and the unlikely geologist who devoted his life to proving its existence." —*Seattle Post-Intelligencer*



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#1759382 in Books Dan O Neill 2005-09-07 2005-09-07Original language:EnglishPDF # 1 8.13 x .63 x 5.251, .56 #File Name: 046505157X240 pagesThe Last Giant of Beringia The Mystery of the Bering Land Bridge | File size: 75.Mb

Dan O'Neill : The Last Giant of Beringia: The Mystery of the Bering Land Bridge before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised The Last Giant of Beringia: The Mystery of the Bering Land Bridge:

2 of 2 people found the following review helpful. An excellent tribute to Dave Hopkins, giant of Beringia science, and love of Natural HistoryBy Pegasus148Dave Hopkins well understood the necessity of inter-disciplinary contributions

to natural history research. Through paleobotany, vulcanology, soil science, biology, etc, Beringia emerges from the mist-veiled past. More importantly, Dave Hopkins models pure love of the natural world, natural history, and scientific research, stripped of ego, ambition, and prejudice. This excellent, well-written biography/adventure to Beringia gently instructs us in research and living. If your heart has led you to Annie Dillard, Henry David Thoreau, the strata of road cuts, quartz crystals under waterfalls, crinoids and frogs of creek beds, Queen-Ann's-Lace and dandelion cotton, you will love this book. You will come to love Dave Hopkins, too. And, you may hear the call to scientific research. For me, an amateur naturalist with a neverending hodgepodge of science courses, few places elicit as much promise and excitement as Beringia and Sundaland. Buy this book; you won't regret it.

0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. Fantastic work. A good read

By Customer

Fantastic work. A good read, giving a wonderful picture of the life of a scientist as well as the birth and development of a discipline and area of research. A must for anyone with an interest in the land bridge.

10 of 10 people found the following review helpful. The Last Giant of Beringia

By Bob Andrews

This book is a "must read". While the existence of a prehistoric land bridge connecting Alaska and Asia has been surmised for hundreds of years, it was David Hopkins with his multi-discipline approach who pulled the evidence all together. The book, while giving a detailed yet easy to understand explanation of the reasoning involved, pays tribute to a tremendous individual and his work.

While many branches of science are discussed, the writing is concise, easy to understand and never gets bogged down with scientific jargon. O'Neill has a firm handle on the English language, and presents a very readable work.

Whether you are researching or reading for pleasure, this book is a very worthwhile endeavor. Don't miss it.

The intriguing theory of a land bridge linking Siberia and Alaska during the coldest pulsations of the Ice Ages had been much debated since the idea was first proposed in 1589. But proof of the land bridge--now named Beringia after eighteenth-century Danish explorer Vitus Bering--eluded scientists until an inquiring geologist named Dave Hopkins emerged from rural New England and set himself to the task of solving the mystery. This compelling blend of science, biography, and history follows the life story of the eclectic Hopkins as he solves this mystery--and creates an international stir that solidified his place in history. An account that is both thrilling and accessible, *The Last Giant of Beringia* is popular science writing at its best.

From Publishers Weekly

This is a short but compelling history of a major event in recent geological studies: the final proof in the early 1970s of the onetime existence of the Bering Land Bridge, a long-surmised strip of land that connected North America and Asia in the Ice Age, possibly as early as 14,000 years ago. Starting with the work of a Jesuit missionary in 1589, but focusing on natural historian Dave Hopkins, Alaskan historian O'Neill (*The Firecracker Boys*) gives an impressive presentation of the 400-year-old debate over Beringia, the name now commonly given to the land bridge over which early humans would have crossed eastward. But O'Neill is equally interested--perhaps more so--in paying tribute to Hopkins, the scientist whose pioneering archeological and geological studies defined Beringia as a distinctive area and ecosystem and who shaped the direction of modern Arctic studies. Starting with the influence of Hopkins's nature-loving New England mother, O'Neill charts what became a life of "searching for clues of ancient landscapes." He gives clear and compelling summaries of Hopkins's most important work, from his early discovery that deep spots in the Bering Strait were actually canyons and fragments of ancient river valleys, to his final landmark studies indicating that the ecological conditions of the land bridge would have been able to support herds of grazing animals, conditions that also would have permitted the land bridge to be inhabited by humans. This is an impressive portrait of Hopkins, a scientific "giant" whose legacy is as huge as the woolly mammoths that he showed to have ranged throughout Beringia. Copyright Reed Business Information, a division of Reed Elsevier Inc. All rights reserved.

From Booklist

When vast glaciers grew in the north and extended into the Great Plains during the ice ages that have regularly visited this planet, today's subarctic was bizarrely left mostly unglaciated. Because so much of the earth's water was trapped in the glaciers then, the sea level was considerably lower than today, and a great land bridge stretched from Siberia to Alaska. On it massive animals--mammoth, saber-toothed tigers--ranged, and humans migrated together with the game. This land bridge, named Beringia after the arctic explorer Vitus Bering, was the great discovery of New England geologist Dave Hopkins. In this finely researched, elegantly written book, Alaskan historian O'Neill relates a dual story, that of Hopkins, the last giant of the title, and the converging discoveries that led to the articulation of the now-accepted land-bridge theory. With global climate change threatening another ice age in our future, the story of ancient Beringia should interest more readers than just those passionate about Alaska, who will, of course, be enthralled by O'Neill's work. Patricia Monaghan

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"A modest tale, but a satisfying one, an instructive record of an inquiring mind and a life well lived." -- *Natural History*

"An engaging scientific detective story." -- Gregg Easterbrook, *New Republic*