



Provenance study of ceramic in northwest Tibetan Plateau and west Loess Plateau

Yifu Cui

MOE Key Laboratory of West China's Environmental System College of Earth & Environmental Sciences, Lanzhou University, Lanzhou, China (cuiyif09@lzu.edu.cn)

Scholarly interest in the long-distance exchange of materials, animals and plants across Eurasia during the third and second millennium BC has grown in recent decades. Numbers of disciplines including ceramics, bronze vessels, faunal and plant remains have made valuable contributions to the understanding of Tran-Eurasian exchange in prehistory. Northwest Tibetan Plateau and west Loess Plateau are one of the most important areas to study cultural communication across the extensive Eurasian Steppe areas. Here we review the elemental comparisons of ceramics in this area, to reconstruct provenance results of ceramic in late Neolithic. The results show that most potsherds were made from local clay which contains distinct regional elemental signals before Longshan period, and tran-regional early ceramic trade happened during Longshan period. We argue that intercontinental culture communication was the most important factor contributing to subsistence exchange in late prehistory.