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Abstract of the Doctoral Thesis

Organization of the distribution of obsidian raw material and obsidian artifacts in Polish territories in Neolithic among the cultures of Danubian origin

The primary objective of this study is to recreate the mechanisms governing the distribution of obsidian resources and artifacts in Polish territories during the early Neolithic era. The chronological scope of the research includes cultures of Danubian origin – ranging from the incised Linear Pottery culture, through the Linear Pottery Corded Ware culture, to the groups of the Lengyel-Polgár cycle, including, among others, the Malice culture. The analyses conducted in the work were primarily based on observing the diversity of forms in which obsidian occurs at given sites. Based on this, three groups representing different functions (individual stages) in the obsidian distribution process were distinguished.

Chapter one ("Introduction") serves as an introduction to the topics discussed in the work, covering chronology, territorial scope, research problems, and methods of analysis.

Chapter two ("Obsidian") provides an insight into the nature of obsidian as a raw material, along with discussions on the primary European deposits found in the Mediterranean and Carpathian regions. Additionally, there is a brief discussion on the use of volcanic glass during the Paleolithic and Mesolithic periods in Poland.

Part three ("Archaeological sources for research on obsidian distribution within the sphere of cultures of Danubian origin") serves as a catalog of sources; within it, you will find descriptions of sites analyzed in the study, containing information such as chronology, quantity and typological forms of obsidian artifacts, and the occurrence (or absence) of Transcarpathian imports.

Chapter four ("Potential models of obsidian distribution within the sphere of cultures of Danubian origin in Poland - introduction") attempts to reconstruct potential models of volcanic glass distribution in the various developmental phases of the discussed cultures.

The fifth chapter ("Interpretations") addresses matters concerning the theme of exchange in prehistoric times. In this section, a brief overview of the history of research on issues related to the exchange process is provided, along with the significance of other

disciplines helpful in creating models and hypotheses related to it. Additionally, the economic and social aspects of obsidian exchange are addressed.