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#### The Localization of Foreign Material Culture: A Case Study of Taiwan Metal Age

This chapter focuses on the arrival and localization of foreign culture and people among the indigenous societies in Taiwan from the Late Neolithic period to the Metal Age. Current archaeological data suggest a continuous cultural evolution from the Neolithic period to the contemporary indigenous cultures. Human adaptation to the island's varied topography and diverse ecological environment gradually led to increasing complexity in the Late Neolithic societies, but the nephrite tools and ornaments produced in the Hualien area and circulated through various transportation and exchange systems maintained the long-lasting interactions between the different regions of Taiwan. The transition to the Metal Age was then marked by the arrival of foreign groups who introduced new material cultures (with glass, agate and metal) that replaced the nephrite objects, and gradually extended their influence from the eastern and northern coastal areas to the entire island. Three phases of arrival can be identified (2400–2100/2000 BP, 2100/2000–1600 BP, and 1600/1500–1000 BP), with the incoming population probably consisting of groups of craftsmen belonging to a trading diaspora. They may have sailed from the areas south of Taiwan to reach Orchid Island, Green Island, and the southeastern coast of Taiwan. This hypothesis of movement is not only supported by archaeological evidence but is also consistent with the Sanasai oral tradition of ancestral origins among the indigenous peoples of eastern and northern Taiwan. In summary, this chapter suggests that the arrival and localization of foreign culture were the catalysts of the transition from the Late Neolithic to the Metal Age.

**Keywords:** *localization; trade diaspora; craftsmen community; Taiwan; Metal Age.*