

Northern Altaians: affinities with Siberian and Turkic populations.

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Altaian peoples are the descendants of ancient (non-Turkic) inhabitants of this mountainous area who mixed with various waves of Turkic speaking nomads, beginning about 2,000 years ago. They are divided into northern and southern groups that are known to be physically, culturally and linguistically distinctive. Morphologically, the Southern Altai-kizhi generally exhibit stronger affinities with Mongolian and East Asian groups, whereas Northern Altaians, including Tubalars, Chelkans and Kumandinians, show some affinities with West Eurasian and Uralic groups. Initial genetic studies involving Altai-kizhi tribes have also revealed them to have considerable genetic diversity with influences from both West and East Eurasian populations. However, Northern Altaian groups as a whole are less well genetically characterized. To clarify this pattern of biological diversity in the Altai region, we surveyed mtDNA variation in several Northern Altaians population from the Altai Republic, and compared the resulting data with the Altai-kizhi and other Siberian and Turkic speaking groups from the region. In addition, we combined the extensive genealogical and demographic data with the mtDNA data from these populations to more accurately reconstruct the prehistory of the Altai Mountain region, including the assessment of Altaian population structure as reckoned by oral histories and tribal clan (seok) membership.

Skeletal pathologies in wild chimpanzees from Tai National Forest, Côte d'Ivoire.

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Wild primates contract injuries and diseases throughout life, yet often recover and survive, as AH Schultz documented in his research on adult wild apes. We report on pathologies reflected in the skeletons of immature and adult chimpanzees from the Tai National Forest, where individuals were known during life. Pathologies were found more frequently in females than in males, and in some cases can be

ruled out as the cause of death. For example, a 26-year-old female who had died of ebola had an extremely remodeled and shortened femur; her deformed limb affected the shape and orientation of the hip and knee joints, though the affected lower limb was similar in overall length to the unaffected side. During life, she was able to accommodate her quadrupedal gait and retain effective climbing skills. A 10-year-old female right upper limb and sternoclavicular joints were substantially altered; the epiphysis of the distal humerus was fused whereas the normal side was not. These and other examples from Tai, along with examples from Gombe chimpanzees, add to our understanding of the connections between injuries during life, subsequent growth and remodeling, and the reflection of life events in the skeleton after death.

A variety of morbid symptoms: subadult death and ill health from a turn of the century potter's field (MCIG I).

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The Milwaukee County Institutional Grounds cemetery was the final resting place for the impoverished of late 19th century Milwaukee County. Residents of the asylum, sanitarium, poorhouse, and orphanage were interred here, as were the residents of the city who could not afford a private burial. Excavated in 1992 through 1994, 588 subadult burials were found. Dental enamel defects are present in 74% of observable dentitions, whereas osseous lesions are less prevalent. The lack of observable post-cranial pathology, in light of the high rates of mortality among the young, institutional population, alludes to the presence of acute illness and poor conditions within the institutions. This suggests that while the institutions attempted to buffer the children from the ill effects of poverty, they instead often served to buffer the children from good health.