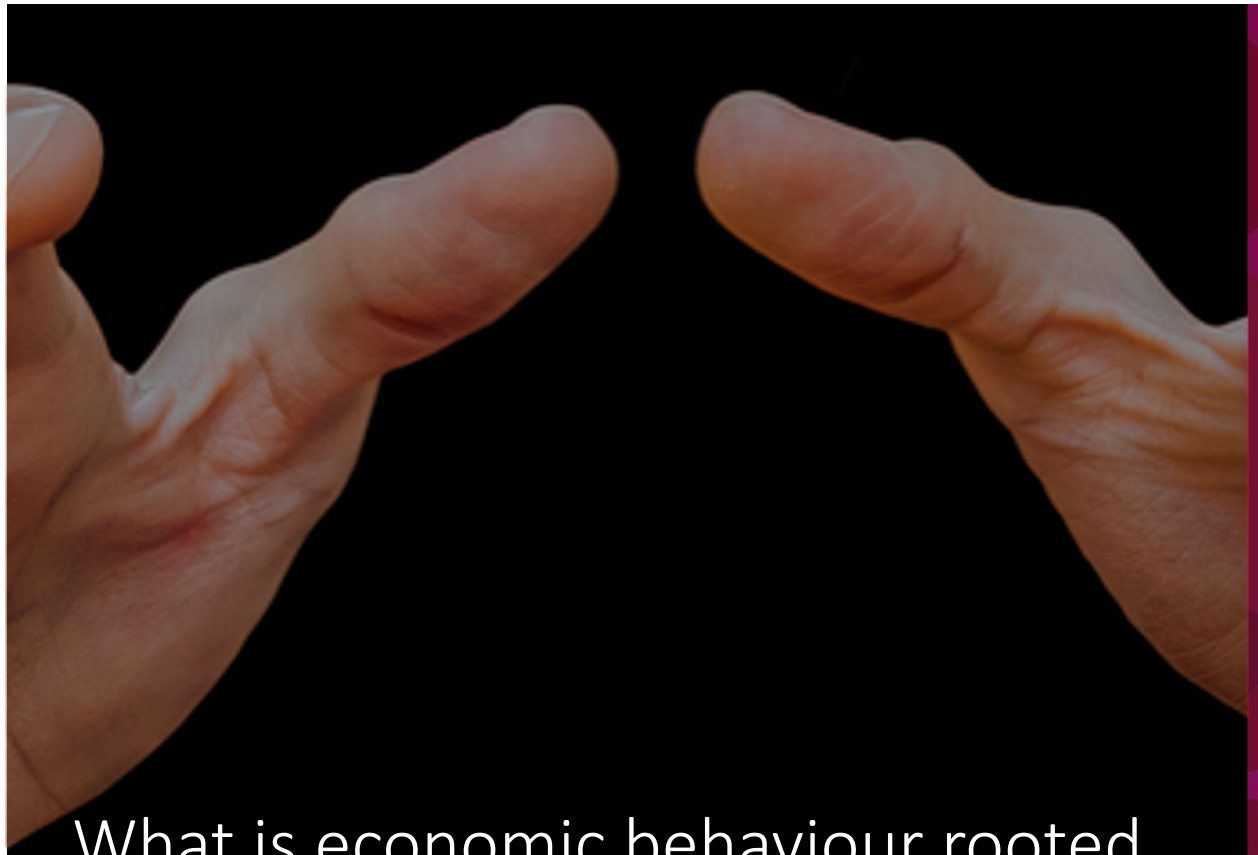


Subsistence, relationships, landscape

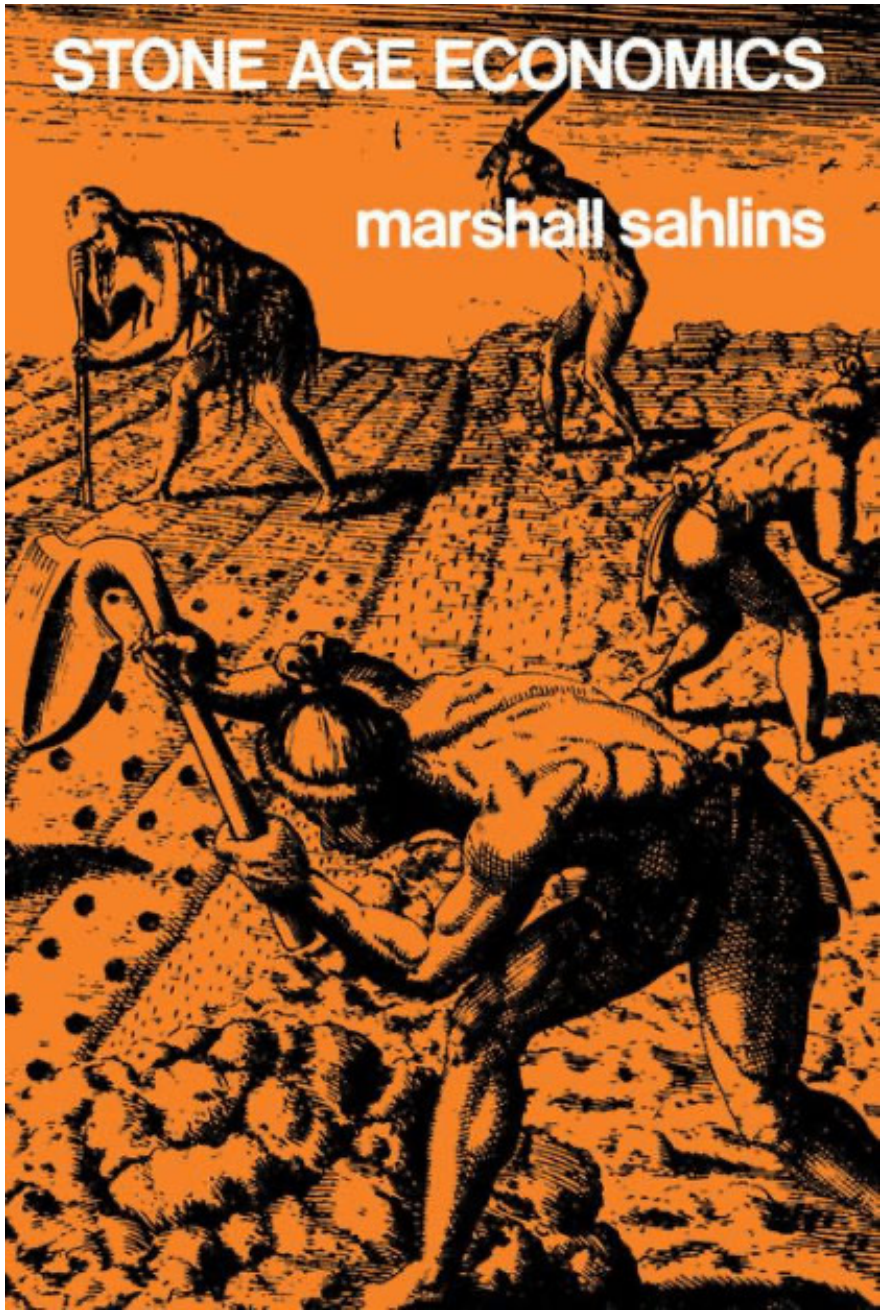
The Giving Environment and the Original Affluent Societies

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What is economic behaviour rooted in?

Is it in self-interest and maximization or relationships and redistribution? (Formalist or Substantivist).



‘Money is to the West what kinship is to the rest’ (Sahlins 1974)



“Almost universally committed to the proposition that life was hard in the paleolithic, our textbooks compete to convey a sense of impending doom, leaving one to wonder not only how hunters managed to live, but whether, after all, this was living. The specter of starvation stalks the stalker through these pages. His technical incompetence is said to enjoin continuous work just to survive, affording him neither respite nor surplus, hence not even the ‘leisure’ to ‘build culture’…
(Sahlins 1974:1).



Sahlins' described hunter gatherers as 'the original affluent societies'... why?

What does he mean by 'affluent'?

‘By the common understanding, ***an affluent society is one in which all the people’s material wants are easily satisfied***. To assert that the hunters are affluent is to deny then that the human condition is an ordained tragedy, with man [*sic*] the prisoner at hard labor of a perpetual disparity between his unlimited wants and his insufficient means’
(Sahlins 1974: 1 emphasis added)





Time, property, gender and procurement



Mobility is ‘a condition of success’
(Sahlins 1974: 12)



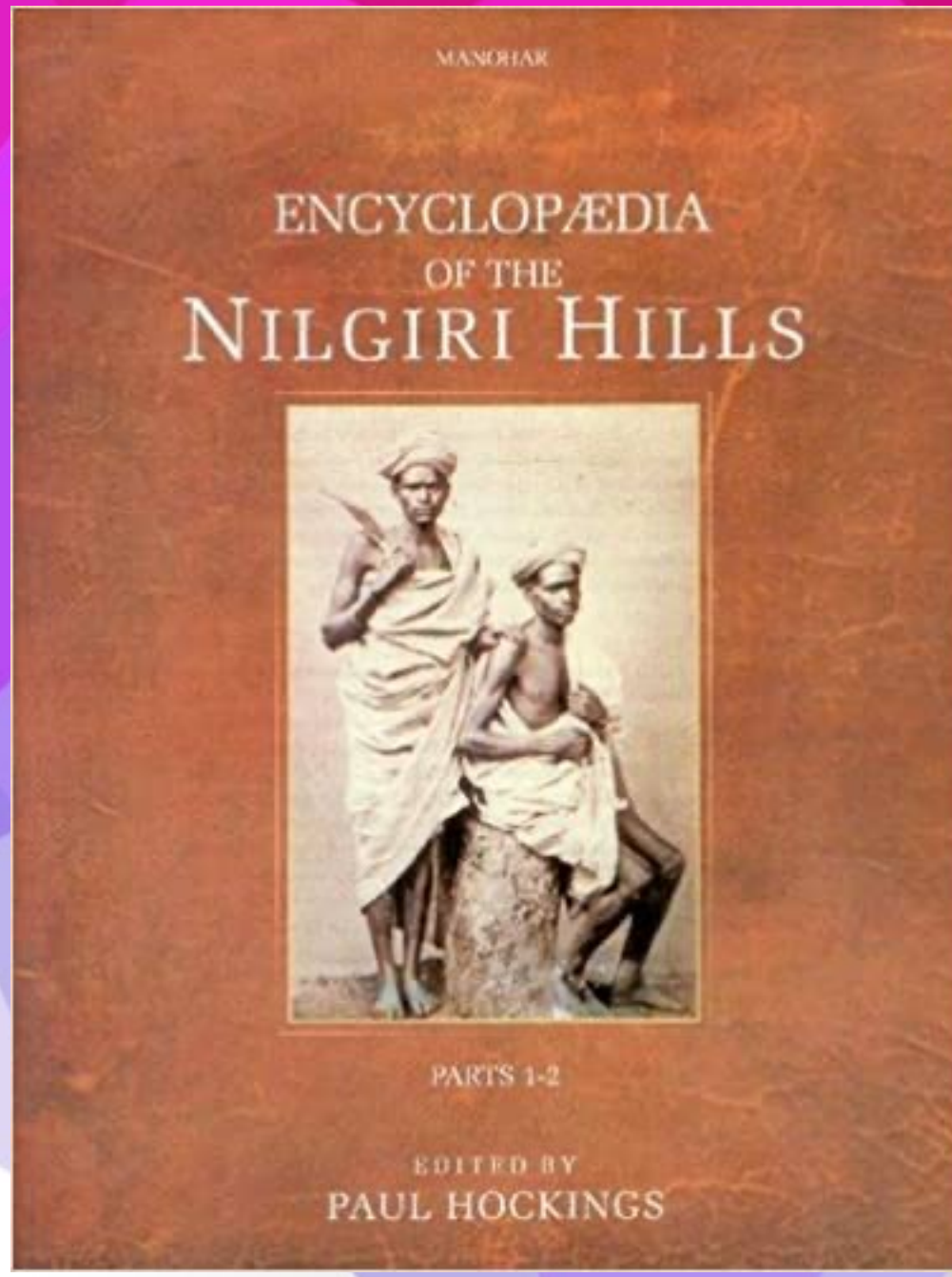
‘Those who work for a living, that’s their problem’
Ju/hoansi song (Lee 2003: 37)



‘The original affluent society’ suggests the foragers don’t struggle to get their needs met. Economics therefore is CULTURAL.

The Nayaka, Nigiri Hills,Tamil Nadu (South India)







What does she mean by a ‘giving’ environment?

Like babies take the breast of their mothers, adults feed from the forest.

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