Contents

Acknowledgments  ix
Introduction  3

1 Concepts and Issues in Social Evolution  12

2 Equality and Autonomy among Hunter-gatherers  42

3 From Immediate- to Delayed Return Systems:
   The Emergence of Middle-Range Societies  60

4 Structures of Order at the Domestic Level  88

5 Societies with Increased Socio-economic Differentiation  149

6 Emergent Properties of Complex Middle-Range Societies  188

7 The Process of Social Evolution  224
   Conclusion  238

Glossary  247
Notes  253
References  267
Index  287
Tables and figures

Tables

1.1 Hunter-gatherers vs. states 31
2.1 Variations in autonomy among hunter-gatherers 59
3.1 Immediate- and delayed-return systems 70
3.2 Economic systems 71
4.1 Some differences between groups of the Malay Peninsula 91
4.2 Western and Eastern Highlands of Papua New Guinea 118
4.3 Exchange systems in the Western New Guinea Highlands 121
4.4 Exchanges among the Mae Enga, Melpa, and Maring 124
4.5 Population density and land conquest in New Guinea 137
6.1 Stratification and the economic role of leaders 195

Figures

1.1 Social consequences of biological transformations 39
3.1 Evolution of reciprocity 61
3.2 Consequences of delayed-return systems  75
4.1 Evolution of the New Guinea Highlands  132
6.1 Explanations of Polynesian stratification  196
6.2 Causal factors of stratification  200
6.3 Alternative responses to land pressure  204
6.4 Economy and stratification on the Northwest Coast  205
6.5 Production and consumption  210
7.1 Deviation-amplifying in the Northwest Coast  233
7.2 Multilinear trajectories of prestige goods systems (Melanesia and Polynesia)  237

MAP

Ethnographic examples  x