

## **North America**

Robert L. KELLY<sup>1</sup>

American archaeology is healthy: we use a variety of theoretical perspectives, and have largely resolved the debates over theory (with many agreeing to disagree). In this essay I review some new findings in North American prehistory, focusing on the last five years. Although all areas and time periods have seen considerable research, I focus on those issues that I think might be of greatest interest to Japanese archaeologists: paleoindian archaeology, demography, Southwestern prehistory, the mound-building cultures of the eastern United States, and the link between archaeology and living Native Americans. Since there are many similarities with the prehistory of Japan—questions over the first colonization, the evolution of complex hunter-gatherer societies, the origins of agriculture and warfare, and the relationship between population and climate change, it is my hope that this review makes some of its readers enthusiastic about learning more about the prehistory of North America.

<sup>1</sup>*Dept. of Anthropology, University of Wyoming, 1000 E. University Ave Dept. 3431, University of Wyoming, Laramie, WY 82071, USA  
(RLKELLY@uwyo.edu)*