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Unknown to most of the world, the prehistory of the Tibetan plateau stretches deep into the past. In this presentation, an overview of this prehistory will be provided, and such topics as the peopling of the plateau, the independent domestication of plants and animals by its later inhabitants, and the origins of complexity that resulted in the emergence of the Tibetan empire that once dominated much of Central Asia will be examined. Some remarks on the challenges facing the development of Tibetan archaeology as it moves into the 21st Century will conclude the presentation.