

Abstract

The aim of this study is to describe the changes at the end of the Aeneolithic period and at the beginning of the Bronze Age, on the basis of the analysis of graves with weapons and the possibilities (limits) of identifying the warrior graves in Bohemia. The end of the Aeneolithic is characterized by two cultural complexes, the Corded Ware Culture and the Bell Beaker Culture, on which the Early Bronze civilization evolved, characterized by the Únětice Culture in our context. It is in this transitional period, that graves with specific goods appear increasingly, and we can finally call these as true weapons. Weapons are associated with warfare attributes that, according to the latest theories, played an active role in prehistoric society. The identification of the warfare in archaeological sources is, however, often not without problems. Several types of evidence can be consulted: graves of warriors with specialized weapons, typical fortifications (ramparts), remains of battlefields, iconographic and written sources. In our conditions, the focus is on graves with weapons, due to the lack of other mentioned entities.

Keywords: Late Aeneolithic, Early Bronze Age, graves, weapons, tools, symbols