Ranked societies are characterized by disparities in personal status that are often accompanied by the concentration of power and authority in the hands of a few dominant individuals. They stand between the sophistication of developed, states and the relative simplicity of most hunter-gatherer groups and early agriculturalists. In some places and times they represented relatively brief phases of transition to more complex forms of organization; in others they existed as stable forms of adaptation for thousands of years. Ranking, Resource and Exchange: Aspects of the Archaeology of Early European Society (New Directions in Archaeology) Hardcover – September 2, 1982. by Colin Renfrew (Editor), Steven Shennan (Editor). See all formats and editions Hide other formats and editions. Ranked societies are characterized by disparities in personal status which are often accompanied by the concentration of power and authority in the hands of a few dominant individuals. Book Description. Ranked societies are characterized by disparities in personal status that are often accompanied by the concentration of power and authority in the hands of a few dominant individuals. Review of: Ranking, resource and exchange: aspects of the archaeology of early european society. Edited by Renfrew Colin and Shennan Stephen. 167 pp., 59 figs, 2 tables. NATIONALISM AND ARCHAEOLOGY IN EUROPE, edited by Margarita Dáaz-Andreu and. Timothy Champion. If there is one general lesson to emerge from this European survey, it is that most of the. ideologically and politically useful distortion seems to have originated outside professional and. academic archaeology. Arnold, C., 1982, Stress as a stimulus for socio-economic change: Anglo-Saxon England in the seventh century, in: Ranking, Resource and Exchange: Aspects of the Archaeology of Early European Society (C. Renfrew and S. Shennan, eds.), Cambridge University Press, Cambridge, pp. 124â€”131. Google Scholar. Arnold, C., 1984, Social evolution in post-Roman western Europe, in: European Social Evolution: Archaeological Perspectives (John Bintliff, ed.), University of Bradford, Bradford, pp. 277â€”294. Google Scholar. Davies, W., and H. Vienck, 1974, The contexts of the Tribal Hidage: Social aggregates and settlement patterns, Frühmittelalterliche Studien 8:223â€”293 Google Scholar.