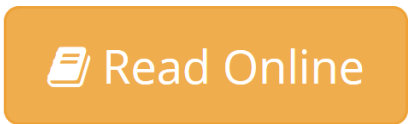


After Collapse: The Regeneration of Complex Societies

From Glenn M Schwartz



After Collapse: The Regeneration of Complex Societies From Glenn M Schwartz

From the Euphrates Valley to the southern Peruvian Andes, early complex societies have risen and fallen, but in some cases they have also been reborn. Prior archaeological investigation of these societies has focused primarily on emergence and collapse. This is the first book-length work to examine the question of how and why early complex urban societies have reappeared after periods of decentralization and collapse.

Ranging widely across the Near East, the Aegean, East Asia, Mesoamerica, and the Andes, these cross-cultural studies expand our understanding of social evolution by examining how societies were transformed during the period of radical change now termed “collapse.” They seek to discover how societal complexity reemerged, how second-generation states formed, and how these re-emergent states resembled or differed from the complex societies that preceded them.

The contributors draw on material culture as well as textual and ethnohistoric data to consider such factors as preexistent institutions, structures, and ideologies that are influential in regeneration; economic and political resilience; the role of social mobility, marginal groups, and peripheries; and ethnic change. In addition to presenting a number of theoretical viewpoints, the contributors also propose reasons why regeneration sometimes does not occur after collapse. A concluding contribution by Norman Yoffee provides a critical exegesis of “collapse” and highlights important patterns found in the case histories related to peripheral regions and secondary elites, and to the ideology of statecraft.

After Collapse blazes new research trails in both archaeology and the study of social change, demonstrating that the archaeological record often offers more clues to the “dark ages” that precede regeneration than do text-based studies. It opens up a new window on the past by shifting the focus away from the rise and fall of ancient civilizations to their often more telling fall and rise.

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Editorial Review

Review

“The impact of this book will be long-lasting, as each of the studies are quite impressive new analyses of recent archaeological studies.”—Jonathan Kenoyer, University of Wisconsin, Madison

From the Inside Flap

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About the Author

Glenn M. Schwartz is Whiting Professor of Archaeology at the Johns Hopkins University and coauthor of *The Archaeology of Syria: From Complex Hunter-Gatherers to Early Urban Societies*. John J. Nichols received his Ph.D. in Near Eastern archaeology from Johns Hopkins University in 2004.

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