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Mesoamerican Archaeology: Theory And Practice



Synopsis

Offering an alternative to traditional textbooks, *Mesoamerican Archaeology: Theory and Practice* places the reader in the middle of contemporary debates by top archaeologists actively exploring the major prehispanic societies of Central America. Offers a comprehensive introduction to the archaeology of Mesoamerica by focusing on key time periods, sites, and the issues these times and places require us to confront. Examines key moments in the Mesoamerican historical tradition, from the earliest villages where Olmec art flourished, to the Aztec and Maya City-states that Spanish invaders described in the 16th century. Engages the chronological benchmarks of precolumbian social development in Mesoamerica, such as the transition to village life, emergence of political stratification, and formation of Mesoamerican urban centers. Includes an extensive introduction by the editors that situates contemporary Mesoamerican archaeology in the broader terms of the social politics of archaeology. For further resources to use with this book - including study questions, maps and photographs - visit the website at www.blackwellpublishing.com/BSGA/mesoam

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Customer Reviews

"This is not the same old culture history but a respectable compilation of recent fieldwork and analysis within a framework of innovative problem-oriented research. Joyce's introductory chapter is a synthetic tour de force." *Journal of the Royal Anthropological Institute* "With specially commissioned essays by leading scholars, this is an excellent up-to-date introduction to Mesoamerican archaeology." *Oxbow Books* "In this volume archaeologists have, at last, a textbook on Mesoamerica that combines recent data with current social thought. The chapters are beautifully

written and provocative, giving deeper insight into Mesoamerican cultural diversity without simplifying 5000 years into a single story. Hendon and Joyce have chosen contributors who are not just specialists, but who are some of the most exciting thinkers of our generation." K. Anne Pyburn, Indiana University "Mesoamerican Archaeology: Theory and Practice is an outstanding book. It is exactly what we've needed in the field for a very long time and should be used by everyone teaching a course in Mesoamerican archaeology. Hendon and Joyce have done an outstanding job of integrating fresh essays by leading scholars into a text that is both theoretically informed and empirically up to date. The combination of theory and data make it an indispensable work." Michael Love, California State University, Northridge

Mesoamerican Archaeology: Theory and Practice provides a nuanced introduction to the archaeology of Mesoamerica. Offering an alternative to traditional textbooks, this volume places the reader in the middle of contemporary debates among top archaeologists actively exploring the major prehispanic societies of Mexico and Central America. Rather than attempt a single synthesis of current archaeology from the region, the text focuses on key time periods, sites, and the issues these times and places require us to confront. Mesoamerican Archaeology examines key moments in the Mesoamerican historical tradition, from the earliest villages where Olmec art flourished, to the Aztec and Maya City-states that Spanish invaders described in the sixteenth century. Taken together, these writings engage the chronological benchmarks of Pre-Columbian social development in Mesoamerica, such as the transition to village life, emergence of political stratification, and formation of Mesoamerican urban centers. The book is further enriched by an extensive editorial introduction, which situates contemporary Mesoamerican archaeology in the broader terms of the social politics of archaeology. For further resources to use with this book - including study questions, maps and photographs - visit the website at www.blackwellpublishing.com/BSGA/mesoam

I loved this book. Ok, it was for a class but I really liked the subject. I found there was all sorts of information beyond just what we covered in class that made this really interesting. The downside for me was that there were not a lot of maps. It will depend on the class and what they provide, but I don't feel that the maps of the critical time periods should be so elusive. They were mostly not included at all and made for a lot of back and forth for study guides. And sometimes Google just to make it easier. I feel you shouldn't have to do that. A map section in the back would have been fantastic! I would also have liked a more inclusive glossary or appendix, that helped pick out key

areas and some characteristics of those. It was okay for class, but makes it seem a little disorganized as you have to go back through the material again. It's harder to feel you have an over-view, especially with the lack of maps. But I guess you study more.

There are dozens of ways to lay out a Mesoamerican Archaeology book. This one does a fair job, though I do wish they had additional maps and visual aids, as well as a better layout of temporal space.

This is a great introductory text for people interested in the archaeology of Mexico and Central America. Julia Hendon is an author that covers a wealth of theory while still making the information accessible to non-scholars and students just beginning to dive into the subject.

just cover some aspects about archaeological research but the essays are from scholars with great background I said it's ok but just for the item book as itself my copy have heavy marks and heavy highlines

Pretty interesting for a text book.

Got this book for a class at ucsc. I read it n stuff and learned. I don't know what to say

Nice pictures.

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