New approaches to collapsed complex societies

The Maya. The Romans. The great dynasties of ancient China. It is generally believed that these once mighty empires eventually crumbled and disappeared. A recent trend in archaeology, however, focusing on what happened during and after the decline of once powerful societies has found social resilience and transformation instead of collapse. In Beyond Collapse, editor Ronald K. Faulseit gathers scholars with diverse theoretical perspectives to present innovative approaches to understanding the decline and reorganization of complex societies.

Contributors consider collapse and reorganization not as unrelated phenomena but as integral components in the evolution of complex societies. Using archaeological data to interpret how ancient civilizations responded to various stresses, contributors discuss not only what leads societies to collapse but also why some societies are resilient and others are not, as well as how societies reorganize after collapse. The implications of the fate of these societies for modern nations cannot be underestimated. Putting in context issues we face today, such as climate change, lack of social diversity, and the failure of modern states, this is an essential volume for readers interested in human-environment interaction and in the collapse—and subsequent reorganization—of human societies.
## Table of Contents

### I. Setting the Stage

   Ronald K. Faulseit

2. Why Collapse Is So Difficult to Understand  
   Joseph A. Tainter

### II. Reframing Narratives of Societal Transformation

3. After Monte Albán in the Central Valleys of Oaxaca: A Reassessment  
   Gary M. Feinman and Linda M. Nicholas

4. New Perspectives on the Collapse and Regeneration of the Han Dynasty  
   Tristram R. Kidder, Liu Haiwang, Michael J. Storozum, and Qin Zhen

5. Requestioning the Classic Maya Collapse and the Fall of the Roman Empire: Slow Collapse  
   Rebecca Storey and Glenn R. Storey

6. A Historical Processual Approach to Continuity and Change in Classic and Postclassic Yucatan  
   Scott Hutson, Iliana Ancona Aragón, Miguel Covarrubias Reyna, Zachary Larsen, Katie Lukach, Shannon E. Plank, Richard E. Terry, and Willem Vanessen deilf

7. The Dangers of Diversity: The Consolidation and Dissolution of Cahokia, Native North America’s First Urban Polity  
   Thomas E. Emerson and Kristin M. Hedman

### III. Resilience Theory and Societal Transformation

8. Release and Reorganization in the Tropics: A Comparative Perspective from Southeast Asia  
   Gyles Iannone

9. Reestablishment of Complex Societies following Collapse and Abandonment in Nasca, Peru  
   Christina A. Conlee

10. The Decline and Reorganization of Southwestern Complexity: Using Resilience Theory to Examine the Collapse of Chaco Canyon  
    Jakob W. Sedig

11. Transformation without Collapse: Two Cases from the U.S. Southwest  
    Andrea Torvien, Michelle Hegmon, Ann P. Kinzig, Margaret C. Nelson, Matthew A. Peeples, Colleen Strawhacker, Karen G. Schollmeyer, and Laura Swantek

12. Tres Zapotes: The Evolution of a Resilient Polity in the Olmec Heartland of Mexico  
    Christopher A. Pool and Michael L. Loughlin

### IV. Long-Term Resilience and Adaptive Strategies

13. Finding Resilience in Ritual and History in the Lake Okeechobee Basin  
    Victor D. Thompson

14. Resilience and Persistent Places in the Mississippi River Delta of Southeastern Louisiana  
    Christopher B. Rodning and Jayur M. Mehta

15. Political Economy and Craft Production before and after the Collapse of Mississippian Chiefdoms  
    Maureen Meyers

### V. Postcollapse Resilience and Reorganization

16. Crafting a Response to Collapse: Ceramic and Textile Production in the Wake of Tiwanaku State Breakdown  
    Nicola Sharratt

17. Collapse, Regeneration, and the Origins of Tula and the Toltec State  
    J. Heath Anderson, Dan M. Healan, and Robert H. Cobean

    Katie Lantzas

19. A Tale of Two Cities: Continuity and Change following the Moche Collapse in the Jequetepeque Valley, Peru  
    Kari A. Zobler and Richard C. Sutter

20. Household Adaptation and Reorganization in the Aftermath of the Classic Maya Collapse at Baking Pot, Belize  
    Julie A. Hoggarth and Jaime J. Awe