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Ancient Cahokia and the Mississippians

The ancient capital of Cahokia and a series of lesser population centers developed in the Mississippi valley in North America between the eighth and fifteenth centuries AD, leaving behind an extraordinarily rich archaeological record. Cahokia's gigantic pyramids, finely crafted artifacts, and dense population mark it as the founding city of the Mississippian civilization, formerly known as the 'mound builders'. As Cahokian ideas and objects were widely sought, a cultural and religious ripple effect spread across the mid-continent and into the South. In its wake, population migrations and social upheavals transformed social life along the ancient Mississippi River. In this important new survey, Timothy Pauketat outlines the development of Mississippian civilization, presenting a wealth of archaeological evidence and advancing our understanding of the American Indians whose influence extended into the founding moments of the United States and lives on today.

TIMOTHY R. PAUKETAT is Associate Professor of Anthropology at the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign. His publications include *The Archaeology of Traditions* (2001), *Cahokia: Domination and Ideology in the Mississippian World* (with T. Emerson, 1997), and *The Ascent of Chiefs* (1994).

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