
CONTENTS

List of figures ix

List of tables xi

Preface xiii

- 1 Studying ancient complex polities 1**
- 2 Thinking about Maya political structure 11**
- Societal typologies 11
- Bundled continua of variation 16
- Segmentary and unitary polities 19
- Pyramidal and hierarchical regimes 22
- Variation in political stratification 23
- Mechanical and organic solidarity 25
- Segmenting and non-segmenting organizations 27
- Research questions 29
- Models, analogies, and contexts of discovery 32
- 3 The Rosario polity 40**
- 4 Linking Maya politics and settlement 50**
- Bridging arguments for ancient complex polities 50
- Survey setting and fieldwork methods 54
- Contemporaneity 55
- Equifinality 67
- Scale of coverage 70
- Preservation and visibility 71
- Form to function 74
- 5 Centralization 76**
- Analytical tools 76
- Territorial subdivisions 76
- Functional classifications of buildings 76
- Site classification 77
- Political settlement hierarchy 78
- Site size classifications 82
- Settlement size and political importance 85

Contents

viii

- Forced settlement and centralization 87
- Paramount and cross-level forced settlement 96
- Tribute flow and centralization 102
- Tribute drawing and tribute imposition 104

- 6 Differentiation and integration 116**
 - Differentiation 116
 - Area 118
 - Population density and environmental composition 120
 - Tributary Base Size (TBS) 128
 - Forced settlement centralization 129
 - Tribute drawing centralization 130
 - Tribute imposition centralization 131
 - Integration 134
 - Segmentary versus unitary structure 138

- 7 Political regimes and microcosms 140**
 - Pyramidal versus hierarchical regimes 140
 - Information-processing efficiency 153
 - Horizontal political specialization 161
 - Tenam Rosario as a political microcosm 162

- 8 Political stratification patterns 173**
 - Detecting political stratification 173
 - Group versus individual stratification 176
 - Ascription versus achievement 184
 - Contenders for office 188
 - Elite forced settlement 191

- 9 Mechanical versus organic solidarity 197**

- 10 Segmenting versus non-segmenting organization 206**
 - Social statics and dynamics 206
 - Development cycles 209
 - The Rosario polity and the Maya collapse 212

- 11 Archaeological study of Maya polities 217**
 - Conceptualizing an ancient polity 217
 - A political portrait of the Rosario polity 218
 - Middle range studies 234
 - The web of research 240
 - Scales of analysis 244
 - Conclusions 249
 - Notes 254
 - References 266
 - Index 284