

Cambridge University Press
0521788803 - Ancient Puebloan Southwest
John Kantner
Frontmatter
[More information](#)

Ancient Puebloan Southwest

Ancient Puebloan Southwest traces the evolution of Puebloan society in the American Southwest from the emergence of the Chaco and Mimbres traditions in the AD 1000s through the early decades of contact with the Spanish in the sixteenth century. The book focuses on the social and political changes that shaped Puebloan people over the centuries, emphasizing how factors internal to society impacted cultural evolution, even in the face of the challenging environment that characterizes the American Southwest. The underlying argument is that while the physical environment both provides opportunities and sets limitations to social and political change, even more important evolutionary forces are the tensions between cooperation and competition for status and leadership. Although relying primarily on archaeological data, the book also includes oral histories, historical accounts, and ethnographic records as it introduces readers to the deep history of the Puebloan Southwest.

Cambridge University Press
0521788803 - Ancient Puebloan Southwest
John Kantner
Frontmatter
[More information](#)

Case Studies in Early Societies

Series Editor

Rita P. Wright, New York University

This series aims to introduce students to early societies that have been the subject of sustained archaeological research. Each study is also designed to demonstrate a contemporary method of archaeological analysis in action, and the authors are all specialists currently engaged in field research. The books have been planned to cover many of the same fundamental issues. Tracing long-term developments, and describing and analyzing a discrete segment in the prehistory or history of a region, they represent an invaluable tool for comparative analysis. Clear, well organized, authoritative, and succinct, the case studies are an important resource for students, and for scholars in related fields, such as anthropology, ethnohistory, history, and political science. They also offer the general reader accessible introductions to important archaeological sites.

Books in the series

1. *Ancient Mesopotamia*
Susan Pollock
2. *Ancient Oaxaca*
Richard E. Blanton, Gary M. Feinman, Stephen A. Kowalewski,
Linda M. Nicholas
3. *Ancient Maya*
Arthur Demarest
4. *Ancient Jomon of Japan*
Junko Habu

Cambridge University Press
0521788803 - Ancient Puebloan Southwest
John Kantner
Frontmatter
[More information](#)

Ancient Puebloan Southwest

John Kantner
Georgia State University



CAMBRIDGE
UNIVERSITY PRESS

Cambridge University Press
 0521788803 - Ancient Puebloan Southwest
 John Kantner
 Frontmatter
[More information](#)

PUBLISHED BY THE PRESS SYNDICATE OF THE UNIVERSITY OF CAMBRIDGE
 The Pitt Building, Trumpington Street, Cambridge, United Kingdom

CAMBRIDGE UNIVERSITY PRESS
 The Edinburgh Building, Cambridge, CB2 2RU, UK
 40 West 20th Street, New York, NY 10011-4211, USA
 477 Williamstown Road, Port Melbourne, VIC 3207, Australia
 Ruiz de Alarcón 13, 28014 Madrid, Spain
 Dock House, The Waterfront, Cape Town 8001, South Africa
<http://www.cambridge.org>

© John Kantner 2004

This book is in copyright. Subject to statutory exception
 and to the provisions of relevant collective licensing agreements,
 no reproduction of any part may take place without
 the written permission of Cambridge University Press.

First published 2004

Printed in the United Kingdom at the University Press, Cambridge

Typeface Plantin 10/12 pt. *System* L^AT_EX 2_ε [TB]

A catalogue record for this book is available from the British Library

Library of Congress Cataloguing in Publication data

Kantner, John, 1967–

Ancient Puebloan Southwest / John Kantner.

p. cm. – (Case studies in early societies)

Includes bibliographical references and index.

ISBN 0-521-78310-0 (hb) – ISBN 0-521-78880-3 (pb)

1. Pueblo Indians – Antiquities. 2. Southwest, New – Antiquities. I. Title.
 II. Series.

E78.S7K35 2004

978.9'01 – dc22 2004047300

ISBN 0 521 78310 0 hardback

ISBN 0 521 78880 3 paperback

Contents

<i>List of figures</i>	page vi
<i>List of boxes</i>	xi
<i>Acknowledgments</i>	xii
1 The ancient Puebloan Southwest: an introduction	1
2 “The Daylight World”: the paleoenvironmental context for Puebloan history	23
3 Return to <i>Ánosin Téhuli</i> ? The origins of Puebloan culture	52
4 The wrong Middle Places? Chaco Canyon and the Mimbres Mogollon	87
5 The migrations continue: the end of Chaco and Mimbres	126
6 The AD 1200s: the Great Pueblo period	159
7 The Great Abandonment	195
8 Finding <i>Posi</i> : the protohistoric Puebloan world	233
<i>References</i>	279
<i>Index</i>	314

Figures

1.1	Monument Valley, American Southwest	<i>page 3</i>
1.2	Chaco Canyon's Pueblo Bonito and the modern Pueblo of Taos (bottom photo courtesy of Cliffdwelling.com)	5
1.3	The American Southwest region	6
1.4	American rainfall averages	7
1.5	Hohokam and Mogollon pottery vessel shapes	11
1.6	Anasazi and Mogollon pithouses (adapted from <i>Grasshopper Pueblo: a story of archaeology and ancient life</i> , by Jefferson Reid and Stephanie Whittlesey © 1999 The Arizona Board of Regents. Reprinted by permission of the University of Arizona Press)	12
1.7	Timelines for Anasazi, Hohokam, and Mogollon groups	14
2.1	The Hopi town of Oraibi (courtesy of the National Anthropological Archives, Smithsonian Institution)	24
2.2	Hopi towns of Black Mesa (adapted from Hack 1942:4; Levy 1992:23)	25
2.3	American Southwest precipitation patterns (adapted from Dean 1996a:40)	26
2.4	Physiographic zones of the American Southwest	28
2.5	Landscapes of the Colorado Plateau	30
2.6	Landscapes of the southern Rocky Mountains	33
2.7	Landscapes of the Mogollon Highlands	36
2.8	Landscapes of the Chihuahuan Desert	38
2.9	Paleoenvironmental reconstructions for the northern Southwest (courtesy of Jeffrey S. Dean)	42
2.10	Changes in boundaries separating precipitation zones (adapted from Dean 1996a:43–4)	45
2.11	The paleoclimate in the Mesa Verde region of southwestern Colorado (adapted from Petersen 1987b:68, 1987c:95)	47
2.12	The paleoclimate in the El Malpais area of west-central New Mexico (adapted from Grissino-Mayer 1996:199)	48
3.1	Paleoindian spear points (courtesy of W. James Judge)	54

List of figures	vii
3.2 The Pleistocene–Holocene transition (adapted from Adams and Faure 1997:637)	55
3.3 Kin Kahuna (adapted from Geib <i>et al.</i> 2003:fig. 5)	60
3.4 Rock art of the Colorado Plateau (adapted from Robins and Hays-Gilpin 2000:234)	62
3.5 Basketmaker pictograph from Canyon de Chelly (adapted from Robins and Hays-Gilpin 2000:241)	64
3.6 Shabik’eshchee Village (adapted from Roberts 1929:plate 1)	66
3.7 Eighth-century habitation in Chaco Canyon (adapted from Truell 1992:14–15)	68
3.8 The Duckfoot Site (from Lightfoot and Etzkorn 1993:16; courtesy of Crow Canyon Archaeological Center)	71
3.9 The San Juan Basin	77
3.10 Pueblo Bonito	78
3.11 The first great houses in Chaco Canyon	80
3.12 Pueblo Bonito c. early AD 800s–900s (adapted from Lekson 1984:114 and Windes and Ford 1996:296)	82
3.13 Upper reaches of the Mimbres River Valley	83
3.14 Old Town pothunting (photo courtesy of Steven A. LeBlanc)	85
4.1 Pueblo Bonito and Chetro Ketl architecture completed by c. AD 1040 (adapted from Lekson 1984 and Windes and Ford 1996)	89
4.2 Twelfth-century great houses of Chaco Canyon	90
4.3 Stylized features of a typical Chaco Anasazi great kiva (adapted from Lekson 1984:53)	91
4.4 Unusual artifacts recovered from Pueblo Bonito (reprinted, by permission, from <i>New light on Chaco Canyon</i> , edited by David Grant Noble. Photograph by Deborah Flynn © 1984 by the School of American Research, Santa Fe)	94
4.5 Great house construction activity in Chaco Canyon, the number of years’ worth of stored maize, and yearly precipitation in the San Juan Basin (adapted from Sebastian 1992:110 and Windes and Ford 1996:307)	98
4.6 Digital reconstruction of Edge of the Cedars	102
4.7 Great house and great kiva architecture of the northern Southwest	103
4.8 Architecture of great houses outside of Chaco Canyon (adapted from Van Dyke 2003)	105
4.9 “Cylinder jars” found in Pueblo Bonito (reprinted, by permission, from <i>New light on Chaco Canyon</i> , edited by	

viii	List of figures	
	David Grant Noble; photograph by Deborah Flynn © 1984 by the School of American Research, Santa Fe)	107
4.10	Pictograph near Peñasco Blanco	111
4.11	The Mogollon Highlands (adapted from Brody 1977:44; Hegmon <i>et al.</i> 1999; LeBlanc 1983:13)	114
4.12	The Swarts Site (adapted from Brody 1977:44 and LeBlanc 1983:109)	115
4.13	Room 12 in NAN Ranch (adapted from Shafer 1999b:127)	116
4.14	A Mimbres vessel with stylized fish (Photograph by Mary Peck © 1990 Museum of New Mexico Press; Museum of New Mexico/Laboratory of Anthropology 20407/11)	117
4.15	A Mimbres bowl depicting processional or dance (adapted from Shafer 1999b:129)	119
4.16	Roomblocks at NAN Ranch (adapted from Shafer and Drollinger 1998:381)	121
5.1	Kin Kletso	128
5.2	The Salmon great house	130
5.3	The Navajo North small great house (adapted from sketch map courtesy of Dennis Gilpin)	132
5.4	The great kiva at Tla Kii Pueblo (adapted from Haury 1985:48)	133
5.5	The tower kiva at Kin Ya'a	134
5.6	The architecture of Aztec West	136
5.7	The Hubbard tri-wall kiva	138
5.8	Artist's reconstruction of Classic Mimbres fieldhouses (From <i>Mimbres during the twelfth century: abandonment, continuity, and reorganization</i> , by Margaret C. Nelson © 1999 The Arizona Board of Regents; reprinted by permission of the University of Arizona Press)	145
5.9	A Mimbres bowl showing a woman wearing a cotton tunic (figure courtesy of Lynn Teague)	147
5.10	The Guadalupe great house (adapted from Pippin 1987:102, 109)	150
5.11	Chaco-era great houses, Manuelito Canyon (adapted from Fowler and Stein 1992:113)	151
5.12	The architecture of Wupatki	152
5.13	The ballcourt at Wupatki	155
6.1	The Aztec West great house (adapted from Stein and McKenna 1988)	160
6.2	Mug House (adapted from Rohn 1971:28–9)	164

List of figures	ix
6.3 Sand Canyon Pueblo (adapted from Lipe and Varien 1999:314; courtesy of Crow Canyon Archaeological Center)	165
6.4 Site 1398 on Mesa Verde (adapted from Hayes 1964:79)	168
6.5 A rock art panel above Castle Rock Pueblo (from Kuckelman 2000:Rock Art Figure 1; courtesy of Crow Canyon Archaeological Center)	172
6.6 Sun Temple	174
6.7 The Scribe S community (adapted from Kintigh 1985)	176
6.8 Kiet Siel (adapted from Dean 1970:162)	177
6.9 LA 3852, Pajarito Plateau (adapted from Root 1992: fig. 2.1)	179
6.10 The Chihuahuan Desert around Casas Grandes	181
6.11 The West Wing of Casas Grandes (adapted from Walker 2002:169 and Wilcox 1999b:97)	182
6.12 Adobe “cages” for keeping macaws at Casas Grandes	186
6.13 Site 242, located about 26 km from Casas Grandes (from Whalen and Minnis 2001a:662)	187
6.14 The T-shaped door at Casas Grandes	191
7.1 Farming populations of the American Southwest in the early AD 1200s (adapted from Dean <i>et al.</i> 1994:81)	197
7.2 Farming populations of the American Southwest at the end of the AD 1200s (adapted from Dean <i>et al.</i> 1994:82)	198
7.3 Mesa Verde (photograph © George H. H. Huey)	202
7.4 Homol’ovi III and Homol’ovi II (figures courtesy of E. C. Adams and D. W. Gann)	208
7.5 Chodistaas Pueblo (adapted from <i>Grasshopper Pueblo: A Story of Archaeology and Ancient Life</i> , by Jefferson Reid and Stephanie Whittlesey © 1999 The Arizona Board of Regents. Reprinted by permission of the University of Arizona Press)	210
7.6 Grasshopper Pueblo (adapted from <i>Grasshopper Pueblo: A Story of Archaeology and Ancient Life</i> , by Jefferson Reid and Stephanie Whittlesey © 1999 The Arizona Board of Regents; reprinted by permission of the University of Arizona Press)	212
7.7 Pueblo de los Muertos (adapted from Potter and Perry 2000:69)	213
7.8 Atsinna Pueblo	214
7.9 The Rio Grande with the Sandia Mountains in the background (photograph © George H. H. Huey)	215

x	List of figures	
7.10	Tsiping Pueblo (photo courtesy of Dennis R. Holloway, Architect, http://www.dennisrhollowayarchitect.com)	216
7.11	Growth of Pot Creek Pueblo (adapted from Crown and Kohler 1994:107–109)	218
7.12	Bailey Ruin (figure courtesy of E. C. Adams and D. W. Gann)	221
7.13	Homol’ovi I (figure courtesy of E. C. Adams and D. W. Gann)	226
7.14	The “Great Kiva” at Grasshopper Pueblo (figure courtesy of C. R. Riggs)	227
7.15	Salado Polychrome jar (photograph © George H. H. Huey)	229
8.1	Location of Pueblo populations today	236
8.2	Changes in concentration of Puebloan towns in the AD 1300s (adapted from Crown <i>et al.</i> 1996:188; Duff 2000:41; LeBlanc 1999:201–3; Spielmann 1996:178)	237
8.3	Hawikku (adapted from Kintigh and Howell 1996:540)	240
8.4	Rock art illustration of Kachina, Petroglyph National Monument	242
8.5	Kechiba:wa (adapted from Kintigh 1985)	244
8.6	Gran Quivira	248
8.7	Glazeware bowl from Pecos Pueblo (photograph © George H. H. Huey)	249
8.8	San Marcos Pueblo (adapted from Eddy <i>et al.</i> 1996:2)	250
8.9	Rock art panel of a macaw, Petroglyph National Monument	252
8.10	Pecos Pueblo (adapted from Kidder 1958:60, 64)	256
8.11	Spanish expeditions of the sixteenth century	269
8.12	Sixteenth-century Puebloan towns (adapted from Schroeder 1979:238–9)	272
8.13	Kivas at Acoma Pueblo (photo courtesy of Cliffdwelling.com)	273

Boxes

1.1	Naming archaeological cultures of the Southwest	<i>page</i> 9
2.1	Why is farming so difficult in the Southwest?	31
3.1	Mesoamerica's domesticated plants	58
3.2	Domesticated animals in the Southwest	73
3.3	Lake-front property in Chaco Canyon?	81
4.1	Where did the beams come from?	92
4.2	The Sun Dagger	96
4.3	What's so great about Chuska pottery?	108
4.4	Mimbres irrigation and sociopolitical inequity	124
5.1	What is a "tri-wall structure"?	137
5.2	Cannibalism and Chaco Canyon	140
5.3	Dental evidence and the fate of the Mimbres	143
5.4	Who were the Sinagua?	153
6.1	The Chaco Meridian and the fate of Aztec	162
6.2	Violence in the thirteenth century	170
6.3	How were ballcourts used?	185
6.4	The Animas tradition	189
7.1	The Dan Canyon child	205
7.2	Burial 140, the leader of Grasshopper Pueblo?	223
7.3	Sodalities at Grasshopper Pueblo	230
8.1	Introducing the Pueblo people of the ethnographic present	234
8.2	Pueblo social organization in the ethnographic present	257
8.3	Pueblo religious practice in the ethnographic present	262
8.4	Traditional Puebloan leadership in the ethnographic present	266

Acknowledgments

This book includes contributions from many friends and colleagues. Michelle Hegmon, Cathy Cameron, Gwinn Vivian, Keith Kintigh, Mark Varien, Paul Minnis, Kathy Roler Durand, Ron Towner, Russ Bodner, Steve Lekson, Tim Kohler, Tom Windes, Sarah Herr, Todd VanPool, Christine VanPool, and Rita Wright provided invaluable comments on sections and chapters of the book. Barbara Mills, Bill Walker, Catherine Baudoin, Catherine Cocks, Chuck Adams, Doug Gann, Dave Phillips, David Noble, David Wilcox, Dennis Gilpin, Dennis Holloway, George Huey, Harry Shafer, Jeff Dean, Jerry McElroy, Jim Potter, Joan Mathien, John Neikirk, Keith Kintigh, Kelley Hays-Gilpin, Kim Spurr, Lynn Teague, Peggy Nelson, Mark Varien, Mary Etkorn, Mick Robins, Paul Minnis, Mitch Allen, Chuck Riggs, Ruth Van Dyke, Steven LeBlanc, Tim Kohler, Mary Wachs, and Wes Bernardini helped to identify and/or provide permission to use figures that appear on these pages. I am especially indebted to Lynne Sebastian, whose vision is responsible for this book and who assisted and encouraged me throughout its production. Thanks also to Rita Wright and Simon Whitmore, who provided support, encouragement, and flexibility while this book was being assembled. A special thanks to Chris Kantner, who not only assisted in creating the figures, but who also has stood by me through the years.