

CONTENTS

<i>List of illustrations</i>	<i>page</i> ix
<i>List of tables</i>	xiii
<i>Preface</i>	xv
1 Setting the scene	1
Constructing the Longshan culture in archaeology	1
Longshan culture and constructing national history	5
Evolutionary approaches to the study of Longshan culture	10
Alternative research strategies	13
The scope of the book	16
2 The changing environmental contexts of China's first complex societies	19
Geographic settings	20
Reconstruction of paleoenvironment and cultural development	22
Conclusion	31
3 Household subsistence and ritual	33
Introduction	33
Household activities: a general survey	34
A household at Kangjia	48
Implications of Kangjia archaeological remains	60
Conclusions	71
4 Spatial organization and social relations in communities	73
Introduction	73
Spatial orders of settlements in the Neolithic period	74
Settlement organization in the late Neolithic period	95
Discussion and conclusions	113
5 Community burial patterns	117
Introduction	117
Alternative approaches to Neolithic burial patterns	118
Regional variability in burial patterns	126
Discussion	151
Conclusion	157

<i>List of contents</i>	viii
6 Development and decline of complex societies in the Central Plains	159
Introduction	159
Methods	159
Data	161
Regional settlement patterns	162
Social complexity in the less-circumscribed regions	185
Settlement patterns and social organization	188
Discussion and conclusions	189
7 Development and decline of social complexity beyond the Central Plains	192
Introduction	192
Regional settlement patterns in Shandong	193
Regional settlement patterns in Central Shaanxi	208
Settlement patterns and social organization: a comparison	219
Discussion and conclusions	221
8 Trajectories toward early states	223
Introduction: from chiefdoms to states	223
The Erlitou culture – searching for the Xia dynasty	226
The Proto-Shang culture	236
Conclusions	238
9 Reconstructing social processes	239
Introduction	239
Development of social hierarchy and integration	239
Dynamics of social change	246
Conclusions and further research questions	251
<i>Notes</i>	254
<i>Appendixes</i>	256
<i>References</i>	275
<i>Index</i>	301