

THE MESOAMERICAN WORLD SYSTEM, 200–1200 CE

Between 200 and 1200 CE, central Mexico was the setting for the formation and disintegration of two states, Teotihuacan and Tula. At their peaks, both urban centers established distant ties throughout Mesoamerica. The nature of their relations has been the focus of analysis and debate for decades. In this study, Peter Jimenez uses the latest advances in world-systems analysis to study interaction networks in West Mexico from the Early Classic to the Postclassic period. He demonstrates how the archaeological record contains empirical evidence for the impact of global processes on local developments, in detail, in realms, and at spatial scales, which are revealed here for the first time. His examination of West Mexico's relations to the core states of Central Mexico also underscores the critical role that the semiperiphery played in overall world-systems configuration and operation in ancient Mesoamerica.

Peter Jimenez is Senior Research Archaeologist at the Regional Center of Zacatecas of the Instituto Nacional de Antropología e Historia of Mexico.

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THE MESOAMERICAN
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A COMPARATIVE APPROACH ANALYSIS OF
WEST MEXICO

PETER F. JIMENEZ

National Institute of Anthropology and History of Mexico

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Dedicated to Kristian Kristiansen

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As a study of social processes over broad areas in ancient Mesoamerica, this book integrates two strands of inquiry: one generated by the pundits of world-systems analysis (WSA), the other by the precursors of the archaeology of West and Central Mexico. The advances achieved in these fields by researchers at the turn of the millennium made this analysis possible. The origins of this book were amid many hours of discussion with the late J. Charles Kelley during the 1980s and 1990s.

When his wife, the ceramicist Ellen Abbott Kelley, insisted I visit his study some years after his passing, the entrance into this sanctum was a somber event; made more so upon pondering notes addressed to me regarding the subject of Teotihuacan and Alta Vista, Chalchihuites. From the Post-it stuck to the folder “Your turn to run with this,” this book is my response to two of the research problems that enthralled Kelley and many colleagues of West Mexico for decades. Before the 1990s, the subject of Teotihuacan outside of Teotihuacan was a topic of discussion I had with John Paddock as an undergraduate student at the University of the Americas in the late 1970s. His insights on this fascinating issue, as will be seen further, have always been present.

Around the turn of the millennium, three monographs and their authors transformed my understanding of WSA. *Europe Before History* by Kristian Kristiansen provided an epiphany through the interlace of empirical/theoretical realms and the cyclical patterns observed in WSA through an ancient *longue durée*. It was within the pages of his monograph that it became clear how to close in on Mesoamerica from the vantage of West Mexico through WSA. Since then Kristian has regularly shared his intellectual insight and enthusiasm. He has been an inspiration and mentor in the formation and undertaking of this book.

Rise and Demise by Christopher Chase-Dunn and Thomas D. Hall opened an entirely new vantage point through their innovative comparative approach to WSA. Till recently, archaeology had only generally applied their nested network approach for which a full-scale regional application in an ancient setting was imperative, a petition Chase-Dunn and Hall have repeatedly

voiced. I have been most fortunate in having constant guidance and profound insight from Tom Hall in all things WSA.

Lengthy discussions on WSA with Andre Gunder Frank between 1997 and the time of his passing in 2005 had significant impact on this study. Frank had gone out of his way to point out to archaeologists who criticized world-systems theory (WST) the shortsightedness of their views and the repercussions this entailed for their studies (Frank 1999). It was his suggestion that led me to read, dissect, and reflect on the works of Kristiansen and Chase-Dunn and Hall, while his insistence on horizontally integrative macrohistory, finely presented in *ReOrient*, enhanced the way I perceive both the past and the present. Early constructive feedback on WST by John Bintliff sharply enhanced focus on the needs required for its application in archaeology as WSA. The minute review and thorough discussion of this study by Michael Rowlands, one of the earliest and leading figures of WSA in archaeology, was a rare privilege.

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It was in the course of what quickly evolved into the habit of the daily walk with Narah in a *Baby Bjorn* carrier that it became clear walking was good for mental focus. It was during those months carrying and later walking Narah through the slumbering afternoon streets of El Teul, while she slowly and silently became aware of rural animals in a village setting and the many sounds of this world came to her attention, that the most focused and satisfying sections of this study came to me. These ideas were discussed with my companion Laura Solar. Her experience as researcher and editor made for intense feedback over dinner. Thus, both Laura and Narah were muses in their different ways: the elder with her abundant and enlightened dialogue and an excellent eye for detail, and the younger through her serenity and appreciation for long walks.

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ABBREVIATIONS

ATCNA	Archivo Técnico de la Coordinación Nacional de Arqueología, INAH
CEMCA	Centre d'Études Mexicaines et Centraméricaines
CIESAS	Centro de Investigaciones y Estudios Superiores en Antropología Social
COLMICH	El Colegio de Michoacán
ENAH	Escuela Nacional de Antropología e Historia
<i>HMAI</i>	<i>Handbook of Middle American Indians</i>
IIA/UNAM	Instituto de Investigaciones Antropológicas/Universidad Nacional Autónoma de México
INAH	Instituto Nacional de Antropología e Historia
MLQ	Museo La Quemada
MNA	Museo Nacional de Antropología, INAH
ORSTOM	Instituto de Investigación Científica para el Desarrollo en Cooperación
<i>PNAS</i>	<i>Proceedings of the National Academy of Science</i>
SEP	Secretaría de Educación Pública
SMA	Sociedad Mexicana de Antropología
UdG	Universidad de Guadalajara

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