

Cambridge Elements

Elements in Ancient Egypt in Context

Gianluca Miniaci

University of Pisa

Juan Carlos Moreno García

CNRS, Paris

Anna Stevens

University of Cambridge and Monash University

POWER AND REGIONS IN ANCIENT STATES

*An Egyptian and Mesoamerican
Perspective*

Gary M. Feinman

Field Museum of Natural History, Chicago

Juan Carlos Moreno García

CNRS, Paris



CAMBRIDGE
UNIVERSITY PRESS

Cambridge University Press
978-1-108-81622-9 — Power and Regions in Ancient States
Gary M. Feinman , Juan Carlos Moreno García
Frontmatter
[More Information](#)

CAMBRIDGE
UNIVERSITY PRESS

University Printing House, Cambridge CB2 8BS, United Kingdom
One Liberty Plaza, 20th Floor, New York, NY 10006, USA
477 Williamstown Road, Port Melbourne, VIC 3207, Australia
314–321, 3rd Floor, Plot 3, Splendor Forum, Jasola District Centre,
New Delhi – 110025, India
103 Penang Road, #05–06/07, Visioncrest Commercial, Singapore 238467

Cambridge University Press is part of the University of Cambridge.

It furthers the University's mission by disseminating knowledge in the pursuit of education, learning, and research at the highest international levels of excellence.

www.cambridge.org
Information on this title: www.cambridge.org/9781108816229
DOI: 10.1017/9781108907361

© Gary M. Feinman and Juan Carlos Moreno García 2022

This publication 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 2022

A catalogue record for this publication is available from the British Library.

ISBN 978-1-108-81622-9 Paperback
ISSN 2516-4813 (online)
ISSN 2516-4805 (print)

Cambridge University Press has no responsibility for the persistence or accuracy of URLs for external or third-party internet websites referred to in this publication and does not guarantee that any content on such websites is, or will remain, accurate or appropriate.

Cambridge University Press
978-1-108-81622-9 — Power and Regions in Ancient States
Gary M. Feinman, Juan Carlos Moreno García
Frontmatter
[More Information](#)

Power and Regions in Ancient States

An Egyptian and Mesoamerican Perspective

Elements in Ancient Egypt in Context

DOI: 10.1017/9781108907361
First published online: February 2022

Gary M. Feinman
Field Museum of Natural History, Chicago

Juan Carlos Moreno García
CNRS, Paris

Author for correspondence: Gary M. Feinman, gfeinman@fieldmuseum.org

Abstract: The aim of this Element is to provide a comprehensive comparison of the basic organization of power in Mesoamerica and Egypt. How power emerged and was exercised, how it reproduced itself, how social units (from households to cities) became integrated into political formation, and how these articulations of power expanded and collapsed over time. The resilience of particular areas (Oaxaca, Middle Egypt), to the point that they preserved a highly distinctive cultural personality when they were or were not included within states, may provide a useful guideline about the basics of integration, negotiation and autonomy in the organization of political formations.

Keywords: ancient Egypt, ancient Mesoamerica, ancient economy, ancient states, geography of power

© Gary M. Feinman and Juan Carlos Moreno García 2022

ISBNs: 9781108816229 (PB), 9781108907361 (OC)
ISSNs: 2516-4813 (online), 2516-4805 (print)

Contents

1 Comparing Ancient Societies: Prehispanic Mesoamerica and the Nilotic World	1
2 Regional Background	7
3 The Economic Basis: Agriculture, Sedentary Life and Productive Complexity	18
4 The Beginnings of Complexity: Households, Cities and States	26
5 Polity and Governance: The Basis of Power and Leadership	36
6 State Power and Its Local Implementation	49
7 Monumentality and Society	58
8 Conclusions	67
References	74