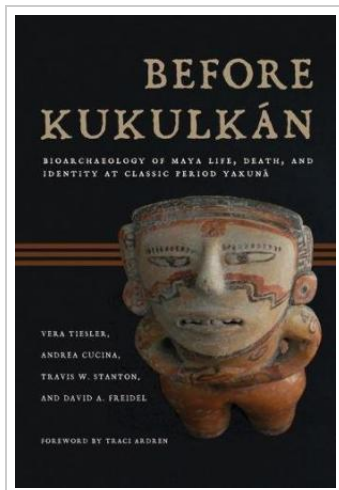




Before Kukulkan: Bioarchaeology of Maya Life, Death, and Identity at Classic Period Yaxuna (Hardback)

By Vera Tiesler, Andrea Cucina, Travis W. Stanton

University of Arizona Press, United States, 2017. Hardback. Condition: New. Language: English . Brand New Book. This volume illuminates human lifeways in the northern Maya lowlands prior to the rise of Chichen Itza. This period and area have been poorly understood on their own terms, obscured by scholarly focus on the central lowland Maya kingdoms. Before Kukulkan is anchored in three decades of interdisciplinary research at the Classic Maya capital of Yaxuna, located at a contentious crossroads of the northern Maya lowlands. Using bioarchaeology, mortuary archaeology, and culturally sensitive mainstream archaeology, the authors create an in-depth regional understanding while also laying out broader ways of learning about the Maya past. Part one examines ancient lifeways among the Maya at Yaxuna, while part two explores different meanings of dying and cycling at the settlement and beyond-ancestral practices, royal entombment and desecration, and human sacrifice. The authors close with a discussion of the last years of occupation at Yaxuna and the role of Chichen Itza in the abandonment of this urban center. Before Kukulkan provides a cohesive synthesis of the evolving roles and collective identities of locals and foreigners at the settlement and their involvement in the region's trajectory. Theoretically informed and contextualized...



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