

Beyond Collapse

ARCHAEOLOGICAL PERSPECTIVES ON RESILIENCE,
REVITALIZATION, AND TRANSFORMATION IN
COMPLEX SOCIETIES

Edited by Ronald K. Faulseit

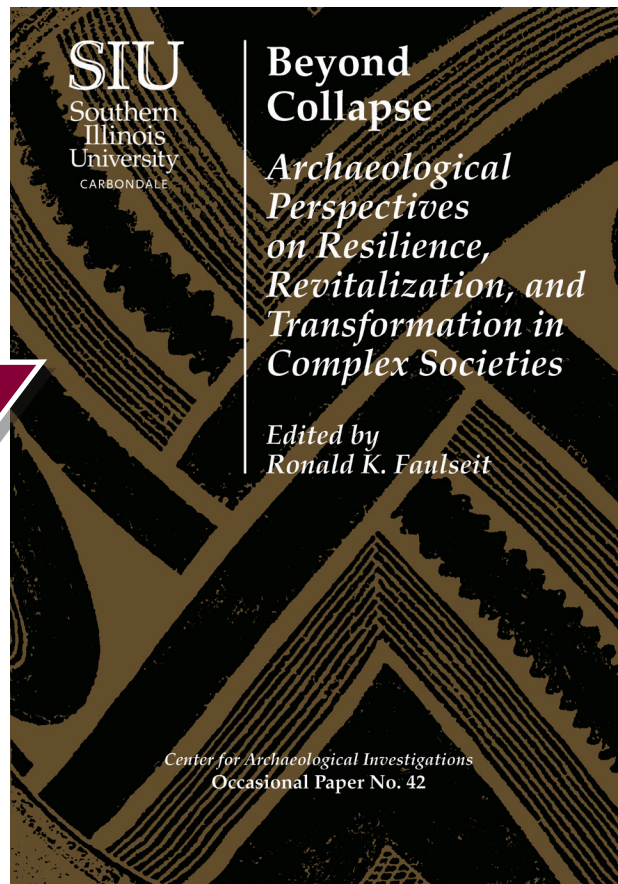
“A masterful volume that synthesizes the most recent research on the role of societal resilience in the face of political collapse. Faulseit and colleagues pull together examples through time from across the world to create a rich mosaic of what archaeology has to teach us about social transformation in an ever-changing world.”

—Patrick Ryan Williams, curator of archaeological science, the Field Museum, Chicago

New approaches to collapsed complex societies

The Maya. The Romans. The great dynasties of ancient China. It is generally believed that these once mighty empires eventually crumbled and disappeared. A recent trend in archaeology, however, focusing on what happened during and after the decline of once powerful societies has found social resilience and transformation instead of collapse. In *Beyond Collapse*, editor Ronald K. Faulseit gathers scholars with diverse theoretical perspectives to present innovative approaches to understanding the decline and reorganization of complex societies.

Contributors consider collapse and reorganization not as unrelated phenomena but as integral components in the evolution of complex societies. Using archaeological data to interpret how ancient civilizations responded to various stresses, contributors discuss not only what leads societies to collapse but also why some societies are resilient and others are not, as well as how societies reorganize after collapse. The implications of the fate of these societies for modern nations cannot be underestimated. Putting in context issues we face today, such as climate change, lack of social diversity, and the failure of modern states, this is an essential volume for readers interested in human-environment interaction and in the collapse—and subsequent reorganization—of human societies.



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Archaeological
Perspectives
on Resilience,
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Transformation in
Complex Societies

Edited by
Ronald K. Faulseit

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