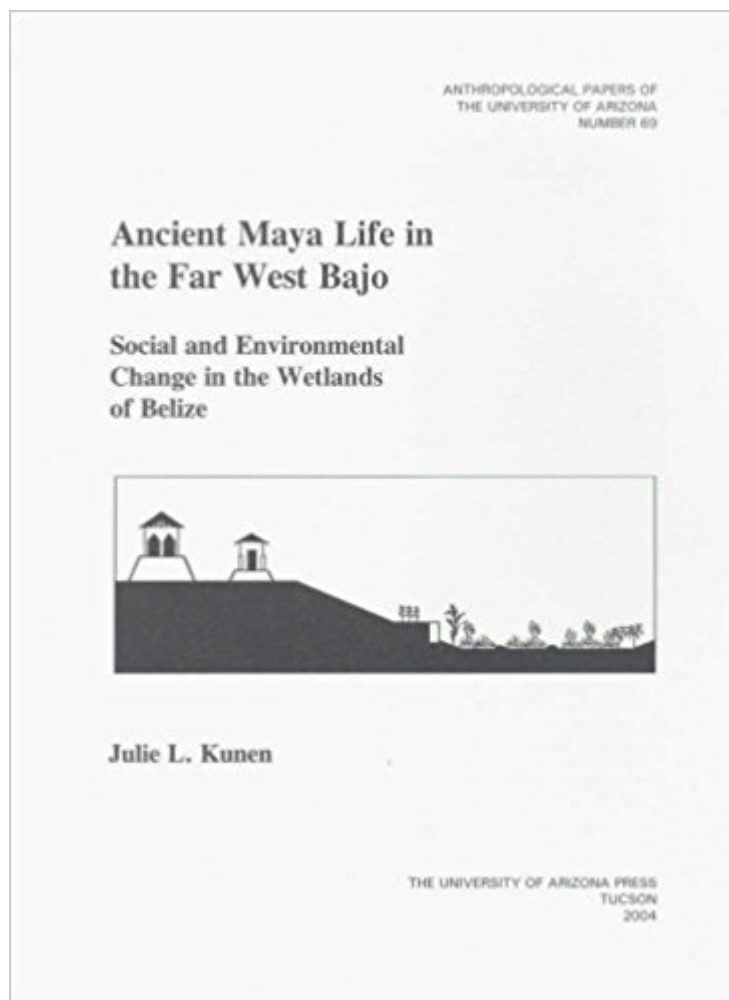


The book was found

Ancient Maya Life In The Far West Bajo: Social And Environmental Change In The Wetlands Of Belize (Anthropological Papers)



Synopsis

Human activity during centuries of occupation significantly altered the landscape inhabited by the ancient Maya of northwestern Belize. In response, the Maya developed new techniques to harvest the natural resources of their surroundings, investing increased labor and raw materials into maintaining and even improving their ways of life. In this lively story of life in the wetlands on the outskirts of the major site of La Milpa, Julie Kunen documents a hitherto unrecognized form of intensive agriculture in the Maya lowlandsâ ”one that relied on the construction of terraces and berms to trap soil and moisture around the margins of low-lying depressions called bajos. She traces the intertwined histories of residential settlements on nearby hills and ridges and agricultural terraces and other farming-related features around the margins of the bajo as they developed from the Late Preclassic period (400 BC-AD 250) until the area's abandonment in the Terminal Classic period (about AD 850). Kunen examines the organization of three bajo communities with respect to the use and management of resources critical to agricultural production. She argues that differences in access to spatially variable natural resources resulted in highly patterned settlement remains and that community founders and their descendants who had acquired the best quality and most diverse set of resources maintained an elevated status in the society. The thorough integration of three lines of evidenceâ ”the settlement system, the agricultural system, and the ancient environmentâ ”breaks new ground in landscape research and in the study of Maya non-elite domestic organization. Kunen reports on the history of settlement and farming in a small corner of the Maya world but demonstrates that for any study of human-environment interactions, landscape history consists equally of ecological and cultural strands of influence.

Book Information

Series: Anthropological Papers (Book 69)

Paperback: 173 pages

Publisher: University of Arizona Press (January 1, 2004)

Language: English

ISBN-10: 0816522359

ISBN-13: 978-0816522354

Product Dimensions: 8.5 x 0.5 x 11 inches

Shipping Weight: 1.2 pounds

Average Customer Review: Be the first to review this item

Best Sellers Rank: #2,731,588 in Books (See Top 100 in Books) #30 inÂ Books > History >

Customer Reviews

Human activity during centuries of occupation significantly altered the landscape inhabited by the ancient Maya of northwestern Belize. In response, the Maya developed new techniques to harvest the natural resources of their surroundings, investing increased labor and raw materials into maintaining and even improving their ways of life. In this lively story of life in the wetlands on the outskirts of the major site of La Milpa, Julie Kunen documents a hitherto unrecognized form of intensive agriculture in the Maya lowlands--one that relied on the construction of terraces and berms to trap soil and moisture around the margins of low-lying depressions called "bajos," She traces the intertwined histories of residential settlements on nearby hills and ridges and agricultural terraces and other farming-related features around the margins of the bajo as they developed from the Late Preclassic period (400 BC-AD 250) until the area's abandonment in the Terminal Classic period (about AD 850). Kunen examines the organization of three bajo communities with respect to the use and management of resources critical to agricultural production. She argues that differences in access to spatially variable natural resources resulted in highly patterned settlement remains and that community founders and their descendents who had acquired the best quality and most diverse set of resources maintained an elevated status in the society. The thorough integration of three lines of evidence--the settlement system, the agricultural system, and the ancient environment--breaks new ground in landscape research and in the study of Maya non-elite domestic organization. Kunen reports on the history of settlement and farming in a small corner of the Maya world but demonstrates that for any study of human-environment interactions, landscape history consists equally of ecological and cultural strands of influence.

Human activity during centuries of occupation significantly altered the landscape inhabited by the ancient Maya of northwestern Belize. In response, the Maya developed new techniques to harvest the natural resources of their surroundings, investing increased labor and raw materials into maintaining and even improving their ways of life. In this lively story of life in the wetlands on the outskirts of the major site of La Milpa, Julie Kunen documents a hitherto unrecognized form of intensive agriculture in the Maya lowlands--one that relied on the construction of terraces and berms to trap soil and moisture around the margins of low-lying depressions called bajos. She traces the intertwined histories of residential settlements on nearby hills and ridges and agricultural terraces

and other farming-related features around the margins of the bajo as they developed from the Late Preclassic period (400 BC-AD 250) until the area's abandonment in the Terminal Classic period (about AD 850). Kunen examines the organization of three bajo communities with respect to the use and management of resources critical to agricultural production. She argues that differences in access to spatially variable natural resources resulted in highly patterned settlement remains and that community founders and their descendants who had acquired the best quality and most diverse set of resources maintained an elevated status in the society. The thorough integration of three lines of evidence--the settlement system, the agricultural system, and the ancient environment--breaks new ground in landscape research and in the study of Maya non-elite domestic organization. Kunen reports on the history of settlement and farming in a small corner of the Maya world but demonstrates that for any study of human-environment interactions, landscape history consists equally of ecological and cultural strands of influence.

[Download to continue reading...](#)

Ancient Maya Life in the Far West Bajo: Social and Environmental Change in the Wetlands of Belize (Anthropological Papers) Preclassic Maya Pottery at Cuello, Belize (Anthropological Papers) Top 10 Places to Visit in Belize - Top 10 Belize Travel Guide (Includes Ambergris Caye, Caye Caulker, Belize City, Belize Barrier Reef, Xunantunich, & More) The Ancient Maya of the Belize Valley: Half a Century of Archaeological Research (Maya Studies) The Ancient Maya City of Blue Creek, Belize: Wealth, Social Organization and Ritual (BAR International Series) Maya Christians and Their Churches in Sixteenth-Century Belize (Maya Studies) War Owl Falling: Innovation, Creativity, and Culture Change in Ancient Maya Society (Maya Studies) Maya Atlas: The Struggle to Preserve Maya Land in Southern Belize (Literature) Wetlands for Tropical Applications: Wastewater Treatment by Constructed Wetlands Maya Python for Games and Film: A Complete Reference for Maya Python and the Maya Python API Household Ecology: Economic Change and Domestic Life among the Kekchi Maya in Belize A Diverse Homonoid Fauna from the Late Middle Pleistocene Breccia Cave of the Tham Khwan Socialist Republic of Vietnam (Anthropological Papers of the) Classic Maya Political Ecology: Resource Management, Class Histories, and Political Change in Northwestern Belize (Ideas, Debates and Perspectives) Ancient Maya Daily Life (Spotlight on the Maya, Aztec, and Inca Civilizations) Hydrology and Global Environmental Change (Understanding Global Environmental Change) Hydrology and Global Environmental Change (Understanding Global Environmental Change) 1st (first) Edition by Arnell, Prof Nigel published by Prentice Hall (2002) The Nature of an Ancient Maya City: Resources, Interaction, and Power at Blue Creek, Belize (Caribbean Archaeology and Ethnohistory) Cahal Pech, the Ancient Maya, and Modern

Belize: The Story of an Archaeological Park (University Research Lecture ; 9th) Pulltrouser Swamp:
Ancient Maya Habitat, Agriculture, and Settlement in Northern Belize (Texas Pan American Series)
Pulltrouser Swamp: Ancient Maya Habitat, Agriculture, and Settlement in Northern Belize (Texas
Pan American)

[Contact Us](#)

[DMCA](#)

[Privacy](#)

[FAQ & Help](#)