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Settlement Archaeology and Political Economy at Tres Zapotes, Veracruz, Mexico

By Christopher A. Pool

Cotsen Institute of Archaeology at UCLA. Paperback. Book Condition: new. BRAND NEW, Settlement Archaeology and Political Economy at Tres Zapotes, Veracruz, Mexico, Christopher A. Pool, This volume presents new information from a program of intensive archaeological survey and surface collection at an important Olmec and Epi-Olmec centre. A dual strategy of systematic interval transect sampling and full-coverage survey of architectural features and artefact concentrations permits an evaluation of the relative effectiveness of these commonly employed methods. Auger testing in floodplain areas yielded evidence of extensive buried deposits. Distributional analysis of the surface and subsurface data documents the site's growth and decline from 900 BC to AD 900 in radiocarbon years and confirm that Tres Zapotes achieved its apogee during the Late and Terminal Formative periods (400 BC--AD 300). An attribute analysis of burned earthen artefacts discriminates between daub and probable kiln remains, helping to define ceramic production loci. Interpretive chapters discuss the organisation of ceramic and obsidian craft production, concluding that craft activities were mainly household based with little elite control over production. The concluding synthesis argues for weak centralisation of authority of Tres Zapotes and highlights variability in the political and economic processes affecting forms of urbanism in the...



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