

BOOK REVIEW



The Archaeology of Regional Interaction: Religion, Warfare and Exchange across the American Southwest and Beyond, edited by Michelle Hegmon. 467 pp., 22 maps, 34 figures, 18 tables, Foreword, Preface, Index. The University Press of Colorado, 2008. \$34.95 (Paper). ISBN 978-0-87081-904-9.

Reviewed by Catherine M. Cameron, University of Colorado, Boulder.



This volume was the product of the 1996 Southwest Symposium held in Tempe, Arizona. As Linda Cordell points out in her foreword to the book, this was the fifth biennial Southwest Symposium, but the book represents the first volume in the Southwest Symposium series published by the University Press of Colorado. *The Archaeology of Regional Interaction*, edited by Michelle Hegmon, was first published in 2000, and this review is prompted by its 2008 republication in paperback. The fact that the book merited republication is a demonstration that it has been well received by Southwestern archaeologists and continues to be used. Only occasionally is the reader reminded of the considerable research that Southwest archaeologists have accomplished since these papers were first presented.

This is a well-integrated volume. Unlike many edited volumes, the focus on regional interaction is clear and well set up in the first chapter. Virtually all the chapters address the theme, although some more directly than others. The book consists of an introductory chapter and four Parts containing nineteen other chapters. It is well produced with generally clear illustrations and good layout. The focus is primarily on the northern Southwest; surprisingly few papers address the Hohokam. This may be because the volume was conceived only at the beginning of the flood of contract work that has swept the southern Southwest in the past two decades.

The introductory chapter by Hegmon and her colleagues provides a short history of the study of regional interaction in the Southwest, which developed largely in the 1970s. Following Hegmon and Plog (1996) they identify four dimensions of regional interaction which they asked authors of the volume to consider: the exchange of information, the exchange of material goods, sociopolitical relations, and the movement of people. They note that this volume focuses primarily on the first two. However, in identifying migration as an important component

of regional interaction, they helped set the stage for the vast flow of Southwestern migration studies that have been produced since the mid-1990s. Their consideration of the meaning of "region" and "regional" is especially valuable as these are terms that are still misused to the detriment of our understanding of larger archaeological processes. The other point at which this chapter presages archaeological trends is the plea to archaeologists to consider *place* or *landscape* as social constructions. Southwest archaeologists responded. A decade later, our Southwestern libraries are now full of such studies.

"Regional Issues and Regional Systems" (Part 1) is an excellent set of papers to open this volume on regional interaction. It begins with Jill Neitzel's consideration of the concept of "regional system," which skillfully sets the agenda for the other four papers in the section. Andrew Duff and Winifred Creamer, in two chapters, examine the potential for regional systems in, respectively, the Western Pueblo and Northern Rio Grande regions and conclude that these areas did not form regional systems—at least not prehistorically. Steven LeBlanc's reintroduction of warfare into the study of regional interaction in the Southwest was somewhat novel when he first presented it in 1996, but with the publication of his book (LeBlanc 1999) and considerable study of warfare by other scholars, this article is less surprising, but still an important take on the place of warfare in Southwestern regional interaction. Daniel Amick's article steps far back from the Pueblo world to demonstrate variability in regional land use during the Folsom period contrasting the Southwest and adjacent Southern Plains—an intriguing look at this early time period.

Most of the papers in "Interregional Economies and Exchange" (Part 2) involve critiques of familiar economic interaction models. Some of these models have been largely abandoned in the twenty-first century (world systems theory), while others continue as explanations for developments in the Southwest (prestige-goods exchange), yet the data and analyses presented by the papers in this section remain valuable. Dean Saitta critiques the prestige-goods exchange model and offers an alternative theory, demonstrating its utility using data from Chaco Canyon. In contrast, Ronna Bradley examines shell exchange and determines that Paquime might have been the center of a prestige-goods economy, at least for a time. John Douglas evaluates major exchange models through study of mortuary data from the pre-Paquime Convento site. Judith Habicht-Mauché's paper differs significantly from the rest in taking a detailed look at the sorts of contexts in which labor, production, and exchange (including exchange of women) were negotiated between Pueblo and Plains groups. This chapter would have fit equally well in Part 3 as it addresses interaction beyond the Southwest.

"Beyond the Borders of the Traditional Southwest" (Part 3) includes five papers. Three (Nelson, Upham, Sutton) assess the effects of external areas on internal Southwestern development. Ben Nelson suggests that aggregation and violence in the Southwest may have been a response to political upheaval in Mesoamerica while Steadman Upham argues that the Southwest is part of the larger "Desert

West" and that there were extensive social connections across this larger region. Taken together, these papers highlight the constant ebb and flow of information, ideas, goods, and people at continental scales. Mark Sutton's examination of the spread of Hopic and Numic languages into the Southwest brings linguistic data to bear on extra-Southwestern connections and population flows. The other two papers by Margaret Lyneis and Richard Talbot look at the effects of Southwestern cultures on, respectively, the Virgin area of southern Nevada and the Fremont area of Utah. Both are valuable examinations of much-discussed Southwestern influences on these areas.

The five papers in "The Spread of Religious Systems" (Part 4) are more diverse, but each makes a valuable contribution to our understanding of Southwestern religious systems. John Ware and Eric Blinman propose that the spread of ritual organizations and practices across the Pueblo world was the result of ritual exchange among pueblos, similar to exchange processes documented ethnographically. Two papers look at widespread traditions that over time have regionally variable expressions: Kelley Hayes-Gilpin and Jane Hill suggest that "Flower World" imagery was once part of a widespread Uto-Aztec concept that was used in both the Southwest and Mesoamerica, while Lynn Teague's study suggests a common ritual textile tradition in Western Pueblo and O'odham regions prior to A.D. 1100 that broke down in later centuries as socioreligious systems in these two regions differentiated. The two other papers explore archaeological indicators of ritual practices. David Brugge and Dennis Gilpin point to the construction of specialized sites for large-scale ritual as a useful model for the construction of Chacoan great houses, while William Walker and his colleagues use object life-histories to identify ritual deposits. The approach to ritual deposits used by Walker and his colleagues has continued to be valuable since this paper was published.

The Archaeology of Regional Interaction: Religion, Warfare and Exchange Across the American Southwest and Beyond has a wealth of valuable papers that are well organized and thematically united. Regional interaction continues to be a topic of considerable interest in the Southwest today, although recently the emphasis has been on population movement rather than exchange. The majority of these papers continue to be important studies of regional interaction today and should be for some time to come.

REFERENCES

- Hegmon, Michelle, and Stephen Plog
 1996 Regional Social Interaction in the Northern Southwest: Evidence and Issues. In *Interpreting Southwestern Diversity: Underlying Principles and Overarching Patterns*, edited by Paul R. Fish and J. Jefferson Reid, pp. 23–34. Anthropological Research Papers No. 48. Arizona State University, Tempe.
- LeBlanc, Steven A.
 1999 *Prehistoric Warfare in the American Southwest*. University of Utah Press, Salt Lake City.