

## BOOK REVIEW

### **Farmers, Hunters and Colonists: Interaction between the Southwest and**

**Southern Plains.** Katherine A. Spielmann, editor. Tucson: The University of Arizona Press (Conference Proceedings), 1991. Pp. xii, 220. 16 figures; 10 tables. \$35.00 U.S. (clothbound). ISBN 0-8165-1224-8.

The papers in this book were presented at a conference on Pueblo-Plains relationships, held at Rancho de Taos, New Mexico, in 1987. The basis for these discussions is the archaeology and history of modern New Mexico, western Texas, and southern Oklahoma during the period from A.D. 1200 to 1600, with one contribution (by F. Levine) taking the topic into the mid-nineteenth century. The authors wrestle with economic and ecological relations between ethnic groups which had strikingly different, though interrelated subsistence and settlement systems. Simply put, Puebloan farmers traded surplus maize and some manufactured goods to more mobile Plains groups for dried bison meat, hides, and other goods. The ecological differences between these neighboring areas would make such trade attractive and possible. The authors go beyond this, however, to examine whether one of these groups had a social or economic advantage over the other, whether the need for food was more important than the need for social relationships and exotic goods, and how deeply the availability of traded food and goods affected local economic and social strategies. Some recent work in this area emphasizes climatic, ecological, and nutritional factors in weighing the differences between the two areas, and these arguments are dealt with here in articles by J. Speth, Spielmann, and D. Snow. Ecological frameworks used to describe interspecies relationships (mutualism, parasitism) are often invoked here, showing the extent to which the authors perceive sharp edges between these groups.

Other authors (J. Habicht-Mauche, C. Lintz, T. Baugh, D. Wilcox), emphasize the impact of social and historical influences on the region, noting the formation of supraregional trade networks, the migration of Athapaskan groups into the

area, the social meaning of exotic goods for ritual and status displays, and even the potential for world systems-style core and buffer zones to explain the dynamics of these relationships.

These approaches are not exclusive, as seen particularly in the Speth and Wilcox papers. The internal references within this set of papers demonstrate the productive possibilities of continuing dialogue between cultural ecologists and postprocessualists, who place less emphasis on environmental variables in explaining cultural change. The focus on nonmarket, nonhierarchical economic systems in this book provides an important contribution to economic anthropology beyond the Plains and Southwest. Individual chapters, the summary chapter (by Spielmann), index, and bibliography were all carefully prepared, making this book much more than a typical volume of conference proceedings.

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