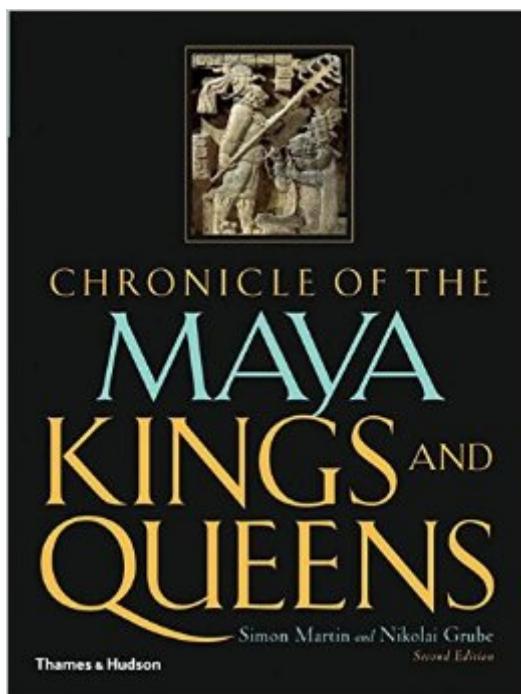


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Chronicle Of The Maya Kings And Queens: Deciphering The Dynasties Of The Ancient Maya



Synopsis

"The ideal reference on Maya archaeology." "Science News Behind the ancient cities of the Maya and their abandoned artworks lie the turbulent stories of their ruling dynasties. One of the world's greatest and most powerful civilizations, the Maya experienced constant conflict in a landscape divided among numerous kingdoms. Intense rivalries, rapacious conquerors, and repeated dynastic defeat and breakdown are common themes in many tales of this mighty civilization. The ancient Maya remain one of the most vibrant areas of study in world archaeology. Fresh discoveries in the field, together with the ongoing process of hieroglyphic decipherment, mean that information is constantly coming to light. This new version of the only comprehensive, kingdom-by-kingdom history of the ancient Maya brings the story fully up to date with previously unknown rulers and new glyphic readings, as well as additional information on diplomacy and warfare. 366 illustrations, 86 in color

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

It's really extraordinary how epigraphers have been able to read the Maya names of the rulers (male and female) in the Maya area over the last several decades. This is a terrific summation of much of what has been done with the inscriptions over the last fifty years starting with the work of Tatiana Proskouriakoff in the early 1960s and Heinrich Berlin just before that when the first breakthroughs were made in glyphic decipherment. Others who followed are David Kelley, George Kubler, Linda Schele, and many others. Martin and Grube are the best of the younger generation in the field along with the work of their colleague David Stuart. This is a wonderful presentation of the material. Too

often texts are aimed at specialists and students. This book reaches them as well as a general audience. A must read for all those interested in the Maya and other groups in Mesoamerica.

The First Edition Chronicle has become the standard reference text for students, professionals and enthusiasts of Maya history and epigraphy. Of course I immediately ordered the revised edition since the authors are esteemed contributors to the rapidly evolving field of Maya studies. In reading the revised edition I am re-discovering the exceptional readability of what could be a dry, historical account.

I have been studying the Maya for over 30 years and it is such a delight to find a book that puts together so much information, is well-written and has so many valuable illustrations. There's a lot to absorb here and it is not light reading, but for anyone interested in the dynastic and political history of the Classic Maya, this is a treasure trove. Not to be missed.

Site plans, color photos of artifacts, and ruler biographies, along with an overall map and a brief introduction, make this a highly readable documentation. Also, expert interpretations of engraved glyphs found on stelae, lintels, altars, and stairs reveal fascinating royal lineages and deadly conflicts between kingdoms. X-rays of nested temples, such as Palenque's Temple of Inscriptions built over the tomb of Pakal I, and Bonampak's magnificent murals are examples of instructive graphics. There's a political landscape map of color coded lines showing alliances, family ties, and wars between city-states. The only downside is that the authors named rulers with Maya names. Of course, these were their real names, but they are hard for non-Maya speakers to follow and remember. For example, now archaeologists call the thirteenth Copan king "Waxaklajuun Ubaah K'awil", instead of the previous "18-Rabbit", which was based on the glyptic representation in English.

Three stars only as this "second" edition appears little changed from the first issued eight years earlier. If you have the first edition, take a pass on this. That said, the book remains one of the best illustrated and most clearly written of any recent books about the ancient Maya with excellent charts and great paintings recreating the classic era.

This book is excellent! You are learning and at the same time enjoying a good book. It teaches you about the Classic Maya hierarchy in a completely understanding way and is not dry or boring. I would

recommend it to anyone who is interested in the wonderful, alive, vibrant Maya culture.

Excellent! Very concise and dense information. A must for every student of Maya history. The first steps of a real history of the Maya kingdoms.

Like all the Thames & Hudson Chronicles, this beautifully illustrated, informative, and authoritative book is a gem! A world of intriguing information, wonderful pictures, and a pleasure to read.

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