

Archaeology at the Frontiers: The Preclassic Site of Noh K'uh

The Institute for Mesoamerican Studies presents:

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Courtesy by the author

The site of Noh K'uh in Chiapas, Mexico is a Late Preclassic (400 B.C.- A.D. 250) community that reveals the presence of a nucleated population within a heavily modified landscape. Regularly referred to as a "peripheral zone", the ancient site of Noh K'uh is located within the last remnants of the Lacandon rainforest, near the small Maya village of Puerto Bello Metzabok. Recent discoveries from the site of Noh K'uh also provide new insight towards the study of emerging civilizations within the frontiers of several contemporary societies. These investigations have provided evidence of the construction techniques utilized in different areas of the site, ranging from the ceremonial core to the humblest occupations. Combined with previous data, the community of Noh K'uh reveals a construction program that was responsible for forever altering the surrounding landscape. Survey and excavations indicate a relationship with cosmological symbolism, and possible shifts in ceremonial practice through time.



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