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Postclassic Maya Society: Social versus Economic Class Constructs (Marilyn A. Masson and Carlos Peraza Lope) ""

""Chapter 10. Methods for Understanding Classic Maya Commoners: Structure Function, Energetics, and More (Nancy Gonlin) """"Chapter 11. Maya Commoners: The Stereotype and the Reality (Joyce Marcus) """; ""Contributors ""; ""Index ""

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Sommario/riassunto

Much of what we currently know about the ancient Maya concerns the activities of the elites who ruled the societies and left records of their deeds carved on the monumental buildings and sculptures that remain as silent testimony to their power and status. But what do we know of the common folk who labored to build the temple complexes and palaces and grew the food that fed all of Maya society? This pathfinding book marshals a wide array of archaeological, ethnohistorical, and ethnographic evidence to offer the fullest understanding to date of the lifeways of ancient Maya commoners. Senior and emerging scholars contribute case studies that examine such aspects of commoner life as settlement patterns, household organization, and subsistence practices. Their reports cover most of the Maya area and the entire time span from Preclassic to Postclassic. This broad range of data helps resolve Maya commoners from a faceless mass into individual actors who successfully adapted to their social environment and who also held primary responsibility for producing the food and many other goods on which the whole Maya society depended.

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