

1. Record Nr.	UNINA9910815162603321
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Titolo	Why did ancient states collapse? : the dysfunctional state / / Malcolm Levitt
Pubbl/distr/stampa	Oxford, England : , : Archaeopress Publishing Limited, , [2019] ©2019
ISBN	1-78969-303-9
Descrizione fisica	1 online resource (54 pages)
Collana	Access archaeology
Disciplina	930
Soggetti	Failed states - History - To 1500 Civilization, Ancient
Lingua di pubblicazione	Inglese
Formato	Materiale a stampa
Livello bibliografico	Monografia
Nota di bibliografia	Includes bibliographical references.
Nota di contenuto	Cover -- Title Page -- Copyright Information -- Contents -- Abstract -- Preface -- Acknowledgments -- I. Introduction: meaning, origins, fragility, cyclicity and collapse of ancient states, -- Meaning -- Increasing complexity -- Farming -- Population growth -- Chiefdoms and pathways to states -- Competition, coercion, consensus -- Fragility -- Cyclicity -- Meaning of collapse -- Evidence of collapse -- Explanations of collapse -- II. The dysfunctional state -- The state's core functions -- Conditions necessary for fulfilling the state's functions -- Collapse as dysfunction -- III. Egyptian Old Kingdom -- Collapse -- Explanations of collapse -- IV. Mycenaean Palace States -- Collapse -- Explanations of collapse: Earthquakes -- Climate change -- Decline in foreign trade -- Warfare techniques -- Sea Peoples -- Interstate Mycenaean warfare -- Internal strife -- Rural collapse -- Systems collapse -- Conclusions -- V. The Western Roman Empire -- What Collapsed? -- What caused collapse? -- Christianity -- Barbarians -- Failure of the Eastern Empire to help -- Internal strife -- Economic factors -- Natural Disasters -- Conclusions -- VI. Classic Mayan collapse -- Collapse -- Causes of collapse -- Climate Change, Drought -- Internal and external strife and violence -- VII. Inequality -- Inequality and state collapse -- Inequality and violence in ancient states. -- Evidence of popular resentment -- Conclusions -- VIII. Summary and Conclusions -- Bibliography.

Sommario/riassunto

Rooted in agriculture, sedentism and population growth, ancient states were fragile and prone to collapse. There is an ongoing debate about the importance, nature and even existence of state-wide collapse. This book investigates why ancient states collapsed and examines to what extent inequality contributed to their downfall.
