

1. Record Nr.	UNINA9910827142103321
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Titolo	Death and the classic Maya kings // James L. Fitzsimmons
Pubbl/distr/stampa	Austin, : University of Texas Press, 2009
ISBN	0-292-79370-7
Edizione	[1st ed.]
Descrizione fisica	1 online resource (312 p.)
Collana	The Linda Schele series in Maya and pre-columbian studies
Disciplina	393.0972/0902
Soggetti	Mayas - Kings and rulers - Death and burial Mayas - Funeral customs and rites Mayan languages - Writing Tombs - Mexico Human remains (Archaeology) - Mexico Mexico Antiquities
Lingua di pubblicazione	Inglese
Formato	Materiale a stampa
Livello bibliografico	Monografia
Note generali	Bibliographic Level Mode of Issuance: Monograph
Nota di bibliografia	Includes bibliographical references (p. [209]-259) and index.
Nota di contenuto	Frontmatter -- Contents -- List of Figures and Tables -- A Note on Orthography -- Acknowledgments -- One. Celebrations for the Dead -- Two. Death and the Afterlife in the Lowlands -- Three. Royal Funerals -- Four. Death and Landscape -- Five. Entering the Tombs of the Classic Maya Kings -- Six. The Dead King and the Body Politic -- Guide to Appendixes -- Appendix 1. Burial Structures and Contexts -- Appendix 2. Body Preparations and Funerary Activities -- Appendix 3. Grave Goods -- Notes -- References -- Index
Sommario/riassunto	Like their regal counterparts in societies around the globe, ancient Maya rulers departed this world with elaborate burial ceremonies and lavish grave goods, which often included ceramics, red pigments, earflares, stingray spines, jades, pearls, obsidian blades, and mosaics. Archaeological investigation of these burials, as well as the decipherment of inscriptions that record Maya rulers' funerary rites, have opened a fascinating window on how the ancient Maya envisaged the ruler's passage from the world of the living to the realm of the ancestors. Focusing on the Classic Period (AD 250-900), James Fitzsimmons examines and compares textual and archaeological evidence for rites of death and burial in the Maya lowlands, from which

he creates models of royal Maya funerary behavior. Exploring ancient Maya attitudes toward death expressed at well-known sites such as Tikal, Guatemala, and Copan, Honduras, as well as less-explored archaeological locations, Fitzsimmons reconstructs royal mortuary rites and expands our understanding of key Maya concepts including the afterlife and ancestor veneration.
