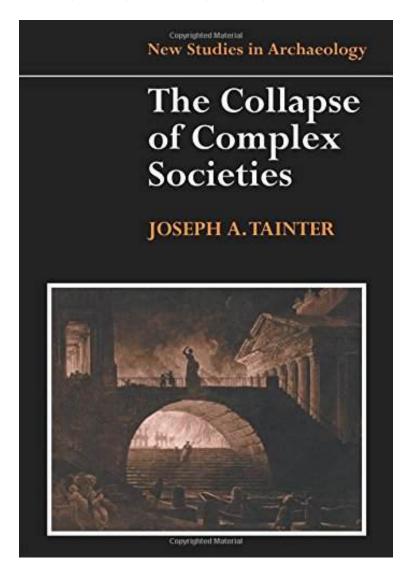
The Collapse of Complex Societies (New Studies in Archaeology)

By Joseph A. Tainter
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4 of 4 review helpful It s an interesting study on complexity its meaning and By Jorge Efra iacute n Dardon It s an interesting study on complexity its meaning and nature The author makes a review of different theories of breakdown of societies and then he tried to build his own proposal with interesting outcomes The theory is believable in relation to Western Roman Empire and Mayan States but not with Chacoans Political disintegration is a persistent feature of world history The Collapse of Complex Societies though written by an archaeologist will therefore strike a chord throughout the social sciences Any explanation of societal collapse carries lessons not just for the study of ancient societies but for the members of all such societies in both the present and future Dr Tainter describes nearly two dozen cases of collapse and reviews more than 2000 years of explanati While the theoretical part of the book is quite remarkable and based on exceptional erudition I also found the accumulation of the supporting data to be interesting reading The merit of the book is that it is interesting It modifies some of our views

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