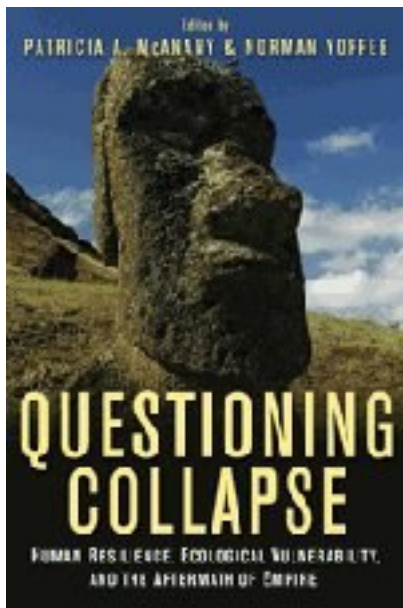


# Questioning Collapse



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Questioning Collapse challenges those scholars and popular writers who advance the thesis that societies - past and present - collapse because of behavior that destroyed their environments or because of overpopulation. In a series of highly accessible and closely argued essays, a team of internationally recognized scholars bring history and context to bear in their radically different analyses of iconic events, such as the deforestation of Easter Island, the cessation of the Norse colony in Greenland, the faltering of nineteenth-century China, the migration of ancestral peoples away from Chaco Canyon in the American southwest, the crisis and resilience of Lowland Maya kingship, and other societies that purportedly 'collapsed'. Collectively, these essays demonstrate that resilience in the face of societal crises, rather than collapse, is the leitmotif of the human story from the earliest civilizations to the present. Scrutinizing the notion that Euro-American colonial triumphs were an accident of geography,

Questioning Collapse also critically examines the complex historical relationship between race and political labels of societal 'success' and 'failure'.

作者介绍:

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标签

of  
collapse  
archaeology  
Yoffee  
McAnany

评论

全方位批判Diamond的Gem, Gun and Wheel和Collapse，有理有据，可惜大众不甚了解此书，Diamond那种肤浅的environmentalist论述依然盛行。但此书最重要的贡献是，作者们关注到了人类社会resilience的一面，编者在前言中甚至说，历史上几乎没有发生过真正的collapse（社会秩序的崩坏、族群的消失），更多的是survival和reintegration，从而突出了人的能动性，改变了Tainter以来对collapse系统论理解。

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