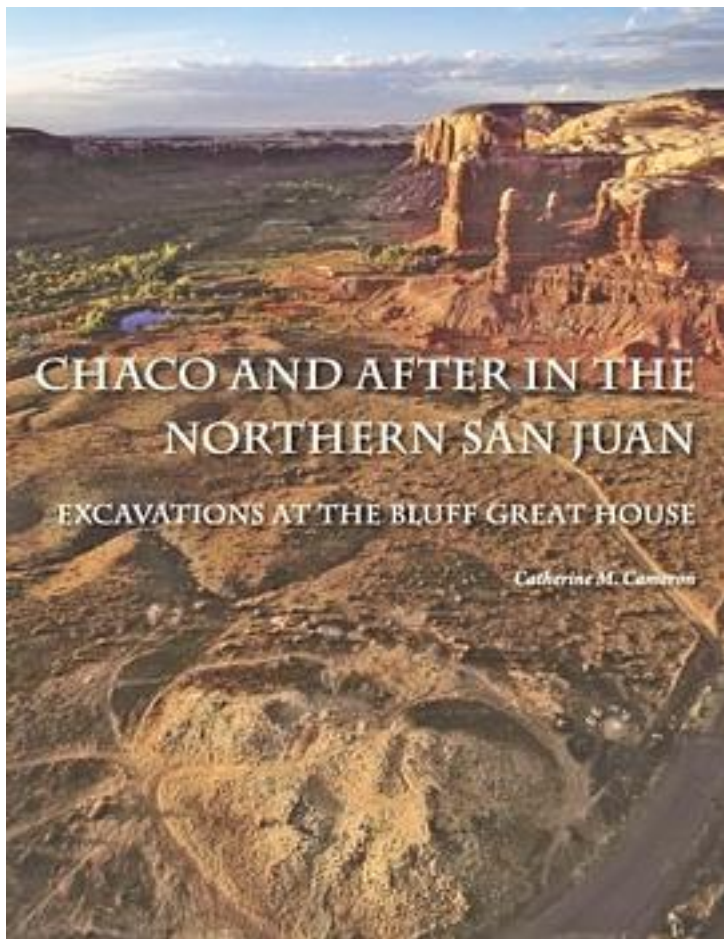


# Chaco and After in the Northern San Juan



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出版者:

出版时间:2009-1

装帧:

isbn:9780816526819

Chaco Canyon, the great Ancestral Pueblo site of the eleventh and twelfth centuries, remains a central problem of Southwestern archaeology. Chaco, with its monumental great houses, was the center of a vast region marked by outlying great houses. The

canyon itself has been investigated for over a century, but only a few of the more than 200 outlier great houses are key to understanding Chaco and its times. Only a few have been excavated. This volume explores the Chaco and post-Chaco eras in the northern San Juan area through extensive excavations at the Bluff Great House, a major Chaco outlier in Utah. Bluff's massive great house, great kiva, and earthen berms are described and compared to other great houses in the northern Chaco region. Those assessments support intriguing new ideas about the Chaco region and the effect of the collapse of Chaco Canyon on outlying great houses. New insights from the Bluff Great House clarify the construction and use of great houses during the Chaco era and trace the history of great houses in the generations after Chaco's decline. An innovative comparative study of the northern and southern portions of the Chaco world (the northern San Juan area around Bluff and the Cibola area around Zuni) leads to new ideas about population aggregation and regional abandonment in the Southwest. Appendixes on CD-ROM present details and descriptions of artifacts recovered from Bluff: ceramics, projectile points, pollen analyses, faunal remains, bone tools, ornaments, and more. The Bluff Great House is one of only a handful of reports on Chacoan great houses in the northern San Juan region. The book provides an in-depth study of the Chaco era and clarifies the relationship of outlying great houses to Chaco Canyon. Research at the Bluff Great House begins to answer key questions about the nature of Chaco and its region, and the history of the northern San Juan in the Chaco and post-Chaco worlds.

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