



NORTHERN ARIZONA
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College of Social & Behavioral Sciences

Complex Societies Interest Group 2005

Second thoughts about social complexity developments in Western Mediterranean valleys.

The paper focuses in recent discoveries at some valleys of Spanish Central Mediterranean Coast where new data allows us to propose different ways towards social complexity. Several monumental ditches dating back to ca. 5500 cal BP in different sites but particularly at the site of Mas D'Is have opened new questions about how

archaeological literature have presented social complexity in the Iberian Peninsula. Traditionally, complex societies have been associated with the development of metallurgy and monumental sites such as Los Millares or Zambujal were the center of the debate.

However, recent theoretical developments outside the discipline have put the emphasis in the importance of non-linear systems, the so-called chaos theory. In archaeological terms non-linear systems allow to explain cycles of power and complexity in richer ways that classical Braudelian theories about cycles giving more relevance to concepts like conjuncture and historical contingency. This paper is an attempt to explain why with the arrival of agriculturalist pioneers to the West Mediterranean a complex society rapidly emerges and how is maintained, but also about why it collapses.



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Verónica Pérez Rodríguez, profesora de Northern Arizona University, como organizadora de la conferencia del Complex Societies Interest Group 2005.

Hago constar: que el Dr. Agustín Díez Castillo ha participado en la conferencia sobre complejidad social realizado en Northern Arizona University durante los días 30 de septiembre y 1 de octubre, 2005.

Y para que así conste a los efectos que el interesado considere oportuno firmo el presente.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Verónica Pérez Rodríguez'.

Fdo. Verónica Pérez Rodríguez