

Archaeology of the American South
Anthropology 550
Spring 2024

Week 10: Mississippian Origins and Cahokia

The origins of Mississippian culture and the nature of the Cahokia site have long been debated by archaeologists. Here we will consider how views on these topics have changed over the years. In reading the articles from the past decade, focus especially on current ideas regarding the role of Cahokia in the spread of Mississippian culture, and also on the role of migration in Cahokia's formation.

General Readings:

Anderson, David G., and Kenneth E. Sassaman (2012). *Recent Developments in Southeastern Archaeology: From Colonization to Complexity*, pp. 152-190. SAA Press, Washington, D.C.

Smith, Bruce D. (1984). Mississippian Expansion: Tracing the Historical Development of an Explanatory Model. *Southeastern Archaeology* 3(1): 13-32.

Pauketat, Timothy (2004). Early Cahokia. In *Ancient Cahokia and the Mississippians*, pp. 67-95 (chapter 4). Cambridge University Press.

Pauketat, Timothy (2004). Mississippianization. In *Ancient Cahokia and the Mississippians*, pp. 119-144 (chapter 6). Cambridge University Press.

Alt, Susan M. (2006). The Power of Diversity: Settlement in the Cahokian Uplands. In *Leadership and Polity in Mississippian Society*, edited by Brian M. Butler and Paul D. Welch, pp. 289-308. Occasional Paper 33. Center for Archaeological Investigations, Southern Illinois University, Carbondale.

Gregory D. Wilson, Dana N. Bardolph, Duane Esarey, and Jeremy J. Wilson (2020). Transregional Social Fields of the Early Mississippian Midcontinent. *Journal of Archaeological Method and Theory* 27:90-110.

Benson, Larry, Timothy R. Pauketat, Edward R. Cook (2009). Cahokia's Boom and Bust in the Context of Climate Change. *American Antiquity* 74(3): 467-483.

Optional Readings:

Melvin L. Fowler (1975). A Pre-Columbian Urban Center on the Mississippi. *Scientific American* 233(2): 92-101.

Cobb Charles R. (2003). Mississippian Chiefdoms: How Complex? *Annual Review of Anthropology* 32: 63-84.

Milner, George R. (1990). The Late Prehistoric Cahokia Cultural System of the Mississippi River Valley: Foundations, Florescence, and Fragmentation. *Journal of World Prehistory* 4(1): 1-43.

Betzenhauser, Alleen (2017). Mobility, Urbanization, and the Cahokian Political Landscape. In *Mississippian Beginnings*, edited by Gregory D. Wilson, pp. 71- 96 (chapter 3). University of Florida Press.