

RESEARCH

**Gil J. Stein**

**Gil J. Stein's** edited volume, *The Archaeology of Colonial Encounters: Comparative Perspectives* (Santa Fe, 2005), was published this year by the School of American Research Press. This book presents the results of a week-long seminar held at the School of American Research in Santa Fe, New Mexico, in which ten participants examined archaeological cases of colonial encounters. The seminar attempted to recognize that not all episodes of colonization operated in the same manner as the European colonization of Africa, the Americas, and large parts of Asia during the "Age of Discovery." To avoid the automatic assumption that the colonizing groups always dominate the communities among whom they settle, the seminar focused its analyses on "colonial encounters" rather than the politically charged concept of "colonialism." The seminar's focus was explicitly comparative in seeking to understand cross-cultural similarities in the colonial encounters occurring in Mesopotamia, Phoenicia, Carthage, Greece, Rome, Wari, the land of the Inkas, Teotihuacán, Russia, and Spain in the Americas. The book is the first to include the colonies established by the pre-contact Native American states of Wari, Teotihuacán, and the Inka in comparative discussions of colonization. Stein wrote the introduction to the book and a separate chapter on "The Political Economy of Mesopotamian Colonial Encounters."

In addition Stein completed a co-authored paper with Rana Özbal (Northwestern University Anthropology Department) entitled "A Tale of Two *Oikumenai*: Variation in the Expansionary Dynamics of 'Ubaid and Uruk Mesopotamia.'" This paper will appear as a chapter in an edited volume by Elizabeth Stone on Mesopotamian ecology and society.

Finally, Stein has been continuing with the ongoing analysis of the stratigraphy and artifacts from the Hacinebi excavations. Aided by research assistant Dr. Belinda Monahan and volunteer Mari Terman, they have been scanning drawings of small finds from Hacinebi for inclusion in a FileMaker database. Stein continued with the statistical analysis of the ceramics from Hacinebi and presented a paper titled "The (Archaeological) Joy of Cooking: Food Preparation, Social Context, and Ethnicity in a Prehistoric Mesopotamian Colony" at the Annual Meeting of the Society for American Archaeology (SAA), held in Salt Lake City.

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