Mayans Had a Middle Class, Too, Emerging Burial Artifacts Indicate

A complex social structure emerges from the ruins.

By JOHN NOLWEN WILFORD

DIGGING deeper, clearing away thickets of misconception and finally deciphering obscure glyphs, archaeologists are developing striking new images of the ancient Maya people. This is not a people with a more tightly structured society than previously imagined. No longer are they depicted as an essentially nomadic people, their kings made up of a bloody war of conquest. Their art and architecture was not as isolated as previously thought.

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