

Collapse

“A society has collapsed when it displays a rapid, significant loss of an established level of sociopolitical complexity.” (Tainter 1988, p. 4)

“...the overarching structure that provides services to the population loses capability or disappears entirely.” (Tainter 1988, p. 20)

Tainter, Joseph. *The Collapse of Complex Societies*. New Studies in Archaeology Series. New York, NY: Cambridge University Press, 1988. ISBN: 0521340926.