PROJECT 5: CHACO CANYON DATA

Due: Tuesday, November 2

This project involves the manipulation of architectural and settlement data from Chaco Canyon Great Houses. Your goal is to detect significant patterns as well as change through time in the development of the Chacoan system.

First, you will need a good map, and plans of the sites. I suggest you use the map on page 86 of the Plog textbook as your base map. Three of the sites you will be considering in this exercise are not on the map, but you can locate them on the included map (see the inset), and draw them onto your base map. Also included is a diagram with plans of most of the sites, drawn to scale.

Part I. Settlement Patterns

Using the data in Table 1, draw three maps of Chaco Canyon, one for each period, and locate on each one the sites occupied at that time. Write a short summary of the diachronic changes you see. In your discussion consider the overall numbers of sites and the sizes of individual sites as well as any other relevant patterns you observe.

Part II. Patterns in Great House Architecture

This part of the assignment is designed to detect structural, spatial and temporal patterns using architectural data from the Great Houses. (To see spatial patterns it will be useful to create more maps.)

First, using the data presented in Table 2, calculate the total number of rooms at each site. You might use the ratio of ground floor rooms to total rooms at Pueblo Bonito, and assume it is the same at all the sites. Or you might do additional library research and try to locate actual estimates of the total numbers of rooms at each site. Divide the sites into size categories, and plot them on a map. What patterns do you see with regard to site sizes? Is there some clear spatial pattern? What about change through time?

Second, look at the distribution of Great Kivas. Why are they found at some sites and not others? Is there any clear spatial or temporal patterning going on?

Third, look at the distribution of Tower Kivas. Why are they located at some sites, but not others? Is there any clear spatial or temporal patterning going on?

Finally, calculate the ratio of rooms to kivas. You will have to decide whether to add all the different kinds of kivas together, or deal with each kind separately; just be sure to justify the approach you take. What patterns do you see? Are some sites very different from others? If so, why do you think this is the case?