The Chaco Canyon area dominated the region during the Pueblo II period (900-1150 AD). However, the arrival of the Pueblo III period (1150-1300) was marked by violence in the Ancestral Pueblo communities. This pushed the people to switch from exposed pit-houses and great houses to carved cliff dwellings. Mesa Verde, located on the Colorado side of the Four Corners, the Mesa Verde National Park was home to many of the Ancestral Pueblo’s ancient cliff dwellings. As much as twenty-four cliff dwellings the size of a village (as well as more than 500 houses nestled in alcoves) were carved on the side Analysis of cases from the Mesa Verde region indicates a sharp increase in cannibalism around A.D. 1150, a time of drought and the collapse of the Chaco system. The causes, consequences, and nature of this apparent outbreak of cannibalism are examined in light of 5MT10010 and other recent finds. El debate sobre la existencia del canibalismo se cuenta entre las cuestiones más controversiales en la arqueología del suroeste norteamericano. Wills, W. H., and Windes, T. C. 1989 Evidence for Aggregation and Dispersal during the Basketmaker III Period in Chaco Canyon. American Antiquity 54: 347–369. Wilshusen, R. H. 1988 Abandonment of Structures. Mesa Verde is Spanish for “green table” and is the largest archaeological preserve in the US, protecting some 4,500 sites. Nearly 600 of those sites are cliff dwellings: villages built into the giant alcoves of the mesa walls. In public school during the 1970s, North America’s deep Native American history was a remarkably thin slice of the educational pie. Mesa Verde was an exception. “It was the only archaeological area we read about, and I was genuinely surprised to discover that it was right there in my own state,” Atencio said. View image of Mesa Verde is the largest archaeological preserve in the US (Credit: Credit: Hemis/Alamy). Later, as an anthropology student at the University of New Mexico, Atencio led a group of school children on a trip to Mesa Verde. What Mesa Verde National Park is known for are the famous cliff dwellings, which are a Pueblo III settlement. Pueblo III sites are known for having much more condensed
urban centers, walls around the cities and up to 3 story high towers. Many people think the towers were meant for religious ceremonies, not for military needs, because many towers are connected directly, by underground passages, to neighboring kivas. Another interesting part is that towns were built around water sources, while during all previous times water sources were never guarded or settled on. This settlement change happen