

AMERICAS

People first migrated \approx 15,000 years ago

- Reached Cape Horn by \approx 10,000 BCE
- First Americans
 - Hunter/Gatherers
 - Small Nomadic Communities
 - Agriculture \approx 5000 BCE

OLMEC CIVILIZATION

1200-400 BCE

Olmec Culture

- 1st Civilization in MesoAmerica
- Agricultural Community
- Built huge stone monuments
- Built 30 ft. ceremonial pyramid
 - Largest of the time in Mesoamerica
- Forefathers of Teot., Mayan and Aztec
- Religious Rituals
- (Undeciphered) Hieroglyphics
 - Predecessor of Mayan Hieroglyphics
 - (Possibly) 1st writing system in New World
- Played ceremonial game on a stone ball court
- Declined and collapsed in 4th Cent. BCE

ZAPOTEC CIVILIZATION

500 BCE-1500s CE

- Created flourishing Civilization
- Like Olmec, contained temples and pyramids
- More impressive
- Built on 1200 ft. mountain overlooking Oaxaca Valley
- Population= 20,000
 - Lived on terraces cut into the mountain side



Megalithic **Olmec** head from La Venta

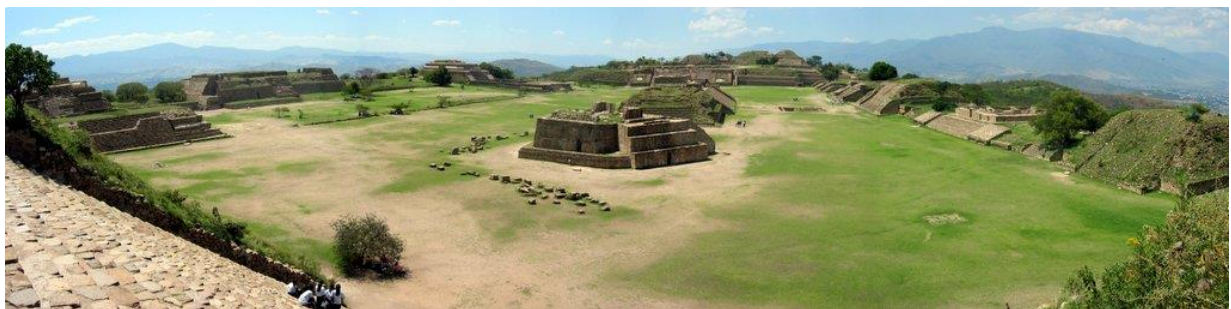


Teotihuacán: Pyramid of the Moon as seen from the Pyramid of the Sun

TEOTIHUACAN

300s BCE-800 CE

- 1st major city in New World
- ← Dominated by Pyramid of the Sun
- Located near Obsidian mine
 - Volcanic glass used for tools, mirrors, and blades
- Most buildings were one-story apartments



Monte Alban: Panoramic View from the south platform



- Separated by large streets on a rectangular grid
- Obtained wealth through Agriculture
- Richest farmlands in Mesoamerica
- 800 CE: Wealth and power declined
 - Ruling class departed
 - Led to infighting for farmland
- More & More people migrate to the area by the promise of land

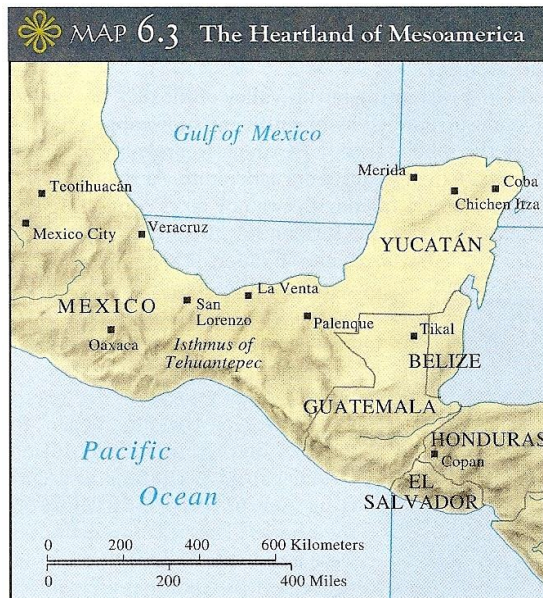
Pyramid of the Sun, Teotihuacán: 4 tier pyramid that dominated the skyline and rose over 200 feet

THE MAYA

11, 000BCE - 800s CE

Located in the Yucatan

- Older and equally as sophisticated as the Teotihuacán
- Trace roots to the Olmec
- Began to the south of the Peninsula on the Pacific Coast
- Cacao Trees
 - Chocolate
 - Beverage by the elite
 - Used the beans as currency



Population increased...

- People moved into the Yucatan
- Many City states
- Largest city - state(Tikal)=100,000 people
- None large enough to control the area
- 18 Rabbit
 - Monarch
 - Ordered construction of palace that took 30,000 hours to complete
- Artisans/traders formed small Middle Class

Majority of 3 million on Peninsula were FARMERS

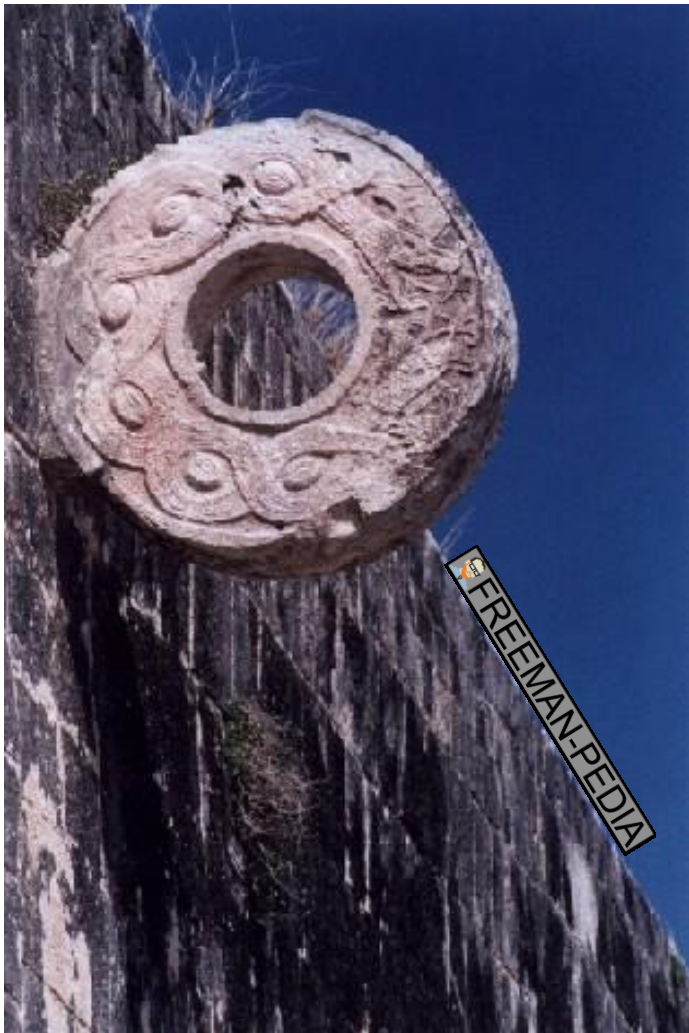
- CHINAMPAS
 - Swampy islands surrounded by water
- Houses built of Adobe and Thatch
- **Men**= Fighting/Hunting
- **Women**=Homemaking/Preparation of Food
- Noble Women
 - Played important Pol & Rel. Roles
 - Some kings took power via Maternal line
 - Lady Zac-kuk→
 - Ruled for 3 years and was the power behind the throne for 25 years until Pacal (the Great) reached maturity
 - Pacal later made her into a divine goddess



Lady Zac-kuk: Took the throne after her husband left no male heir

Mayan Religion

- Polytheistic
- Shared similar gods of nearby cultures
- CHIEF GOD: Itzamna
- Ranked; in order of importance
 - Some deities were evil



Hoop placed on the wall of the ball court. The goal was to get the ball through this hoop.

Mayan Religion (Cont'd)

- Human Sacrifice (Decapitation)
 - Practiced to appease the gods
 - Used POWs for sacrifice

Mayan Cities

- Built around central pyramid
 - Shrine to Gods
- Surrounded by temples, palaces, and a ball court
 - Rectangular court surrounded by vertical walls with metal rings
 - Attempt to drive rubber ball through hole by hitting ball with their hips
 - Losers= Sacrificed

Mayan Hieroglyphs

- More advanced than later Aztec
- Spanish made no attempt to decipher

“We found a large number of books in these characters and , as they contained nothing in which there were not to be seen superstition and lies of the devil, we burned them all, which they regretted to an amazing degree, and which caused them much affliction”

Spanish Bishop Diego de Landa

- Later deciphered when other documents were found
- Similar to Sumerian and Egyptian writing
- Much of this found under the Temple of Inscriptions
 - Found tomb and deciphered it script
 - Tomb of Pacal (Lady Zac-kuk’s son)
- Sophisticated understanding of Astronomy
 - Temple aligned with the setting of the sun during different seasons

DECLINE OF THE MAYA

- Around 8th or 9th Century, began to decline
- Unknown reasons
 - Increase in war between the states
 - Powerful Nobles rose up
 - Overuse of the Land
- Cities abandoned
- Toltecs took control of the upper peninsula
 - Arrived from Central Mexico
 - Quetzalcoatl???
- Area completely divided by the arrival of the Spaniards



THE AZTECS

1100s - 1521 CE

Moved into the Valley of Mexico after the fall of Teotihuacán

- Legend states they came from an island called Aztlan
 - Called the Mexica
- Less sophisticated than neighbors
 - Allied with stronger city-states
- Excellent Warriors
 - Established capital at Tenochtitlan
- By the 15th Century, they had consolidated their power over Mexico
- Not a centralized state, but a collection of territories
- Promoted their patron God:
 - Huitzilopochtli
 - Guiding God for the entire region

POLITICS & SOCIETY

- Authoritarian
- Monarch= Divine & Secular
 - Descendent of the Gods
 - Intermediary
 - Not gained via succession
 - Selected from Royal Family by a group of senior officials
 - Prime Minister served as Chief council and Executive
- Outside of capital, most powerful men were TAX COLLECTORS
 - Gov't power was limited here
 - Left outlying areas with great autonomy in return for tribute



Huitzilopochtli



- Bureaucratic jobs were reserved for hereditary nobility
- Noble Males went to schools; later choosing their career in the gov't
- Everyone else were commoners, indentured servants & slaves
- Slavery not hereditary; Slaves' children were free
- Calpullis
 - Large kinship group that all commoners were in
 - Each Calipulli was headed by an elected Chief
 - Each had to pay taxes
 - Maintained own schools and temples
 - Occupied separate neighborhoods
- Male children trained for war; expected to serve
- Women worked @ home (were permitted to join priesthood)
 - Women presided over weddings
- Women had more rights than most societies
 - NOT EQUAL
 - Parents selected spouse
- Classes were strict
 - Commoners could not become Nobility
 - Could intermarry



QUETZALCOATL: Legendary leader of the Toltecs



FREEMAN-PEDIA

TLALOC: Rain/Storm God



CENTEOTL: Corn God

AZTEC RELIGION

Polytheistic

- 100+ Deities

Quetzalcoatl

- Represented creation, virtue, learning, etc.
- Similar to Siva (Hindu)
- Left in 10th century claiming to return

Two worlds: **MATERIAL & DIVINE**

- **Earth** was material
 - Flat disk surrounded by water
- **Divine** was where the Gods lived
 - Heaven and Hell
 - People could get there after passing through a transitional stage

Study at temple schools as a youth to prepare you for the afterlife

Devout people went into the priesthood

- Served in temples
- From the Callipuli level up to the great shrines in Tenochtitlan

World was destined to end

- Struggle between good and evil had led to the creation and later destruction of four worlds (suns).
- The time the Aztecs lived was the 5th sun
 - Destined to end as well
 - Destruction of Earth and all in it

Postpone the end of the world via **SACRIFICE**

- Human Sacrifice to **Huitzilopochtli** delayed the final destruction of their world
- Hearts ripped out through Chest
- Presented to Gods as an offering
 - Honor to be chosen for sacrifice

Art, Sculpture, & Architecture had religious meaning

- Central Tenochtitlan was a sacred precinct
 - Dominated by massive pyramid
 - Covered in paintings & Sculptures
- Little Painting survives
 - Spaniards compared it to Michelangelo
- No knowledge of Bronze or Iron
- Impressive stonework (Next page)

Aztec Writing

- based on hieroglyphs that represent an object/concept
- Not a writing system
 - Gave a sense of the message stated
 - Probably used as note taking of orations
 - Much lost
- Spanish destroyed much of the writing



Stone of the 5th Sun: 12 ft. in diameter and weighs 24 tons

DESTRUCTION OF THE AZTECS

- Dominated Mexico for 100 years
- 1519: Hernando Cortes landed in Gulf Of Mexico
- Cortes was welcomed by Montezuma
 - Initially thought Cortes was Quetzalcoatl
 - Cortes demanded conversion to Christianity
 - Montezuma taken hostage; Shrines destroyed
 - Population revolted; drove out invaders
 - Cortes received assistance from tribes who dislike Aztec rule
 - Disease takes hold; Battle; 5th sun falls



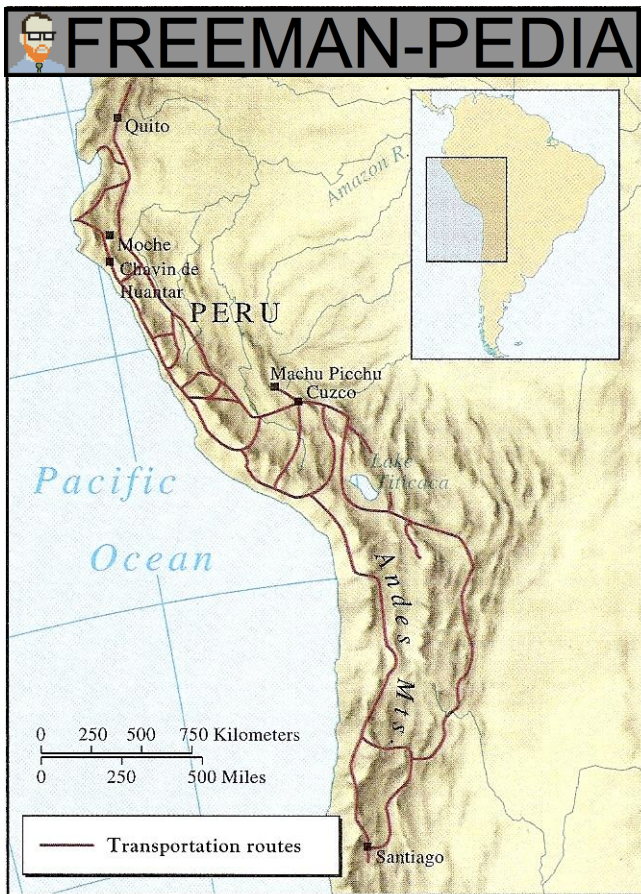
SOUTH AMERICAN CIVILIZATIONS

Inhabited for (at least) 1200 years

- Early, Hunter-Gatherers
- Farming began around 2000 BCE
- Complex societies evolved in the Andes region
 - 6000 BCE
 - Height during 1000 BCE
 - Chavin style
 - Impressive stone temple with underground canals
 - Surrounded by stone figures & two pyramids (Sun and Moon)

Moche (150-800 CE)

- Another civilization of the same time
- High quality artisans
- Great authority (covered 400 miles)
- Preoccupied with Warfare
 - Paintings/Pottery show images of battle
- Fascinated by the Heavens
 - Art showed constellations etc.
- Received less than 1 in. of rain annually
 - Developed irrigation system
- Collapsed due to the envior. Around 700s CE



Chimor (1100-1450)

- Capital=Chan Chan
 - Held 30,000 people (adobe houses)
- Became regional power 300 years later
- Disappeared for similar reasons as the Moche in the

INCA

(1300s-1532)

Originally a small community based in Cuzco

- Succeeded the Chimor in 1440s as the dominant power in the region
 - Led by Pachakuti/Pachacutec
- Inca= "Ruler"

POLITICS & SOCIETY

- Pachakuti created very CENTRALIZED state
- Incan Empire= Tahuantinsuyu
 - "the world of the four quarters"
 - Each province held 10k people
 - Ruled by Gov. related to royal family

LABOR

- State built on forced labor
- Entire comm. would be moved from one area to another
 - Transformed Cuzco from mud huts to stone
- Machu Picchu
 - Built on a hill top
 - Pictured next page
- Built 25k miles of highway
 - From Colombia to Chile
 - Information could travel 140 miles in one day
- Rural Areas=FARMING
 - Terraced
 - Irrigated
 - Maize, potatoes, etc.
- Tilled by collective labor organized by the state



Pachakuti: began the era of conquest that, within three generations, expanded the Inca dominion from the valley of Cuzco to nearly the whole of civilized South America.

MARRIAGE

- Strictly regulated
- Select marriage partner from within tribal group
- Women could become "Chosen Virgins"
 - Served in Temples

CULTURE

- Built around war
- Universal Male Conscription
 - 200,000 in the army
 - Largest in area
 - Used highways to move fast
 - Supplies carried by llama
- Conquered areas:
 - Forced to speak Quechua
 - Introduced to state religion

■ No writing, but still diverse culture

CONQUEST

- Conquered by Pizarro
- GGS (pp.. 71-75)

STATELESS SOCIETIES IN THE NEW WORLD

Outside of Central Mexico and the Andes

- 3000 BCE
- Began to cultivate crops
 - Wild game and food became scarce
 - Turned to Agriculture
- Happened first in Miss. Valley
- Population increased
 - People lived in villages
- Village councils were used to settle disputes
- Urban centers appeared
 - Up to 10k people
- Cahokia
 - Near E. St. Louis, MO
 - 98 ft. high burial mound
 - Base larger than the Great pyramid
 - Capital city
 - Extensive trade
 - C. Amer. Ball Courts
 - Joined with Iroquois for protection (League of Iroquois)
- Anasazi
 - SW USA
 - Built roads, traded, irrigated
 - Abandoned settlements
 - Unknown reasons
 - Descendents occupy Pueblos (Hopi, Zuni)
- Arawak
 - Near Venezuela
 - Sacrifice, ball courts, equality betw. M & W



Ruins of Machu Pichu in the Andes Mountains



Cahokia burial mound near E. St. Louis

