

I. Early Societies of Mesoamerica

A. The Olmecs

1. Asian Migration to Mesoamerica
 - a. Humans traveled from Siberia to Alaska, 40,000 years ago, in search of big game
 - b. By 7000 B.C.E., reached the southern-most part of South America
 - c. As hunting became difficult, agriculture began, 7500 B.C.E.
2. Early agriculture in Mesoamerica
 - a. Beans, chili peppers, avocados, squashes, gourds were cultivated first
 - b. By 5000 B.C.E., discovered potential of **maize**, the staple food
 - c. Later, developed tomatoes
 - d. Agricultural villages appeared after 3000 B.C.E.
 - e. **No large animals, no wheeled vehicles**
3. Ceremonial centers, by the end of the 2nd millennium B.C.E.
4. Olmecs: The "rubber people"
 - a. Earliest center, on the coast of Mexico Gulf, 1400 B.C.E.
 - b. Built by Olmecs, the "rubber people"
 - c. Served as the capital for 400 years
 - d. The other two later centers: La Venta and Tres Zapotes
5. Olmec society
 - a. Authoritarian in nature
 - b. The colossal human heads - possibly likenesses of rulers (possibly African influence???)
 - c. Rulers' power as shown in construction of huge pyramids
6. Trade in **jade** and obsidian
7. Decline and fall of Olmec society
 - a. The cause remains a mystery
 - b. The Olmecs systematically destroyed their ceremonial centers
 - c. Most likely, civil conflict ruined their society
 - d. By 400 B.C.E., other societies eclipsed the Olmecs
8. Influence of Olmec traditions
 - a. **Maize, ceremonial centers** (closely tied) were common to later societies
 - b. Other legacies: Calendar, rituals of human sacrifice, ballgame
 - c. Olmec did not leave written records (WE DON'T THINK!!!)

B. Heirs of the Olmecs: **The Maya**

1. The Maya
 - a. Earliest heir of the Olmecs, lived in **highlands of Guatemala**
 - b. **Teotihuacan** became dominant city-state during the **4th century C.E.** (Maya were initially organized into city-states)
 - c. After the 4th century, society flourished in lowlands

- d. Besides maize, also cultivated **cotton** and **cacao** (chocolate)
 - 2. **Tikal**
 - a. Most important Maya political center, 300 to 900 C.E.
 - b. A bustling city of 40,000 people
 - c. Enormous plazas, scores of temples, pyramids, palaces
 - 3. Maya warfare
 - a. Victorious warriors won enormous prestige
 - b. War captives became slaves or sacrificial victims to gods
 - 4. **Chichén Itzá**
 - a. Rose as a power by the 9th century
 - b. Organized a **loose empire** in the northern Yucatan
 - 5. **Maya decline**
 - a. Began in 800 C.E., the Mayas (except in Chichén Itzá) deserted their cities (*But, Mayans did not disappear!*)
 - b. Causes of decline remain unclear
- C. Maya Society and Religion
- 1. Maya society
 - a. Kings, priests, and hereditary nobility at the top
 - b. Merchants were from the ruling class, served also as ambassadors
 - c. Professional architects and artisans were important
 - d. Peasants and slaves were majority of population
 - 2. The Maya calendar
 - a. Maya priests understood planetary cycles and could predict eclipses
 - b. Besides the solar year (365 days), also had a ritual year of 260 days and 20 months
 - c. Combined attributes of the two calendars determined the fortune of activities
 - 3. **Maya writing (one of only 5 independent written languages)**
 - 4. Contained both ideographic elements and symbols for syllables
 - a. Maya scribes used writing extensively
 - b. Only 4 books (**Codices**) survived the destruction by Spanish conquerors
 - 5. Religious thought
 - a. **Popol Vuh**, a Maya creation myth, taught that gods created humans out of maize and water
 - b. Gods maintained agricultural cycles in exchange for honors and sacrifices
 - 6. Bloodletting rituals
 - a. The most important rituals, to honor the gods for rains
 - b. Besides sacrificing captives, also voluntary bloodshedding
 - 7. The Maya ballgame *Pok-a-tok*
 - a. Played by two individuals or two teams
 - b. Very popular, every ceremonial center had stone-paved courts
- D. Other heirs of the Olmecs: **Teotihuacan**
- 1. The city of Teotihuacan
 - a. Built in the highlands of Mexico

- b. Colossal pyramids of sun and moon dominated the skyline
 - c. High point between 400 and 600 C.E., the city had **200,000 inhabitants** (a nation within itself)
 - d. Paintings and murals reflect the importance of priests
- 2. Teotihuacan society
 - a. Rulers and priests dominated society
 - b. Two-thirds of the city inhabitants worked in fields during daytime
 - c. Artisans were famous for their obsidian tools and orange pottery
 - d. Professional merchants traded extensively throughout Mesoamerica
 - e. No sign of military organization or conquest (outside protection?)
- 3. Cultural traditions
 - a. Inherited Olmecs' culture: ballgame, calendar, writing, human sacrifices
 - b. Honored an earth god and a rain god
- 4. **Decline of Teotihuacan**
 - a. Faced military pressure from other peoples since 500 C.E.
 - b. Began to **decline about 650 C.E.**
 - c. Invaders sacked and ruined the city, mid-8th century

E. Early Societies of South America

- F. Early **Andean** Society and the **Chavín** cult
 - 1. Early migration
 - a. By 12,000 B.C.E. hunting and gathering peoples reached South America
 - b. By 8000 B.C.E. began to experiment with agriculture
 - c. Complex societies appeared in central Andean region after 1000 B.C.E.
 - d. Andean societies located in modern day Peru and Bolivia
 - e. Geography hindered communication between Andeans and Mesoamericans as well as within the Andean region
 - 2. Early agriculture in South America
 - a. Main crops: beans, peanuts, sweet potatoes, cotton
 - b. Fishing supplemented agricultural harvests
 - c. By 1800 B.C.E., produced pottery, built temples and pyramids
 - 3. The **Chavín** Cult
 - a. Very popular around 900 to 800 B.C.E, but vanished completely by about 300 B.C.E.
 - b. The rise of the cult was probably related to introduction of maize
 - c. The cult left large temple complexes and elaborate art works
 - 4. Complexity of Andean society
 - a. Devised techniques of producing cotton textiles and fishing nets
 - b. Discovered gold, silver, and copper metallurgy
 - c. Cities began to appear shortly after Chavín cult

- d. Early Andeans did not make use of writing

- G. Early Andean States: Mochica (300-700 C.E.) **The Moche**
 - 1. The Mochica state - one of several early Andean states, located in northern Peru
 - 2. Mochica ceramics: lives of different social classes
 - 3. Like other Andean states, Mochica did not integrate the whole Andean region

II. Early Society of Oceania

- A. Early Societies in Australia and New Guinea
 - 1. Early migrations
 - a. Human migrants arrived in **Australia** and **New Guinea** at least **60,000 years ago**
 - b. By the mid-centuries of the first millennium C.E., human communities in all habitable islands of the Pacific Ocean
 - c. About 10,000 years ago, rising seas separated Australia and New Guinea
 - d. Australia: hunting and gathering until the 19th and 20th centuries C.E.
 - e. New Guinea: Turned to agriculture about 3000 B.C.E.
 - 2. Early hunting and gathering societies in Australia
 - a. Small communities, seasonal migrations for food
 - b. Plant-based diet of the Australian peoples
 - c. Animals and fish were also in their diet
 - 3. **Austronesian peoples**
 - a. From southeast Asia, spoke Austronesian languages
 - b. Processed remarkable seafaring skills
 - c. Settled in north New Guinea, 3000 B.C.E.
 - 4. Early agriculture in New Guinea
 - a. Austronesians introduced root crops and herding animals
 - b. Indigenous peoples soon began to cultivate crops and keep animals
 - c. Agriculture brought population growth and specialization
- B. The Peopling of the Pacific Islands
 - 1. **Austronesian** migration to **Polynesia (Polynesian People)**
 - a. Outrigger canoes enabled them to sail safely
 - b. Agriculture and domesticated animals helped them to settle in new-found islands
 - 2. Austronesian migrations to **Micronesia** and **Madagascar**
 - a. Early agriculture in the resource-poor Pacific islands
 - b. Chiefly political organization
 - 1. Strong chiefly societies found on large islands - **Tonga, Samoa, Hawaii**
 - 2. Chiefs and their retainers claimed a portion of agricultural surplus
 - 3. Oversaw irrigation systems, public rituals
 - 4. Chiefs and aristocrats regarded themselves as divine or semidivine

GLOSSARY

Austronesians) - Seafaring peoples from southeast Asia who first entered New Guinea and surrounding islands about 5,000 years ago. Their skills of navigation, agriculture, and raising domestic animals helped them to people most islands of the Pacific.

bloodletting rituals - Rituals practiced by Mayans with the belief that such sacrifices would please the gods who, in turn, would send rain to sustain agriculture.

cacao - Large beans first cultivated by the Mayans, which were the source of chocolate. Cacao was a precious commodity consumed mostly by nobles in Mayan society, and cacao beans were also used as money.

Chavín cult - Popular religious cult of the Andeans, centered at the modern location of Chavín de Huantar in northern Peru.

Chichén Itzá - A city-kingdom of the Maya, located in the northern Yucatan peninsula. Between the ninth and eleventh centuries C.E., Chichén Itzá organized a loose empire that brought a measure of political stability to the Maya.

Kaminaljuyú - One of the most prominent ceremonial centers of the Maya, located on the site of modern Guatemala.

maize - Most important staple food crop of the early societies of the Americas.

Maya - Complex society of Mesoamerica; inherited the Olmec cultural traditions; had agricultural settlements and grand ceremonial centers in southern Mexico (including the Yucatan peninsula), Guatemala, Belize, Honduras, and El Salvador.

Maya calendar - Most elaborate calendar of the ancient Americas. It combined two kinds of years into one system: a solar year of 365 days governed the agricultural cycle, and a ritual year of 260 days governed daily affairs by organizing time into twenty "months" of thirteen days apiece.

Maya ballgame - Popular game of the Mayans who inherited it from the Olmecs; served not only sporting purpose but also figured in Maya political and religious rituals.

Mesoamerica - Region from the central portion of modern Mexico to Honduras and El Salvador.

Mochica Ceramics - Painted pottery vessels of the Mochican people of the Andean region; contained detailed and expressive depictions of early Andean society in all its variety.

Mochica - One of the Andean states, located in the valley of the Moche River; dominated the coasts and valleys of northern Peru during the period from about 300 to 700 C.E.

Oceania - Designation refers to most of the islands in the Pacific Ocean; subdivisions include Melanesia, Micronesia, Polynesia, Australia and New Zealand.

Olmecs - First complex society of the Americas, with its center located on the coast of the Gulf of Mexico, near the modern Mexican city of Veracruz; cultural traditions influenced all complex societies of Mesoamerica until the arrival of European peoples in the 16th century C.E.

outrigger canoes - Large canoes equipped with beams and sails; used by Austronesian peoples in their sailing to stabilize their crafts and reduce the risks of long voyages.

Popol Vuh - A Maya creation myth; taught that the gods had created human beings out of maize and water, the ingredients that became human flesh and blood.

pyramid of the sun - Largest building in Mesoamerica, occupying nearly as much space as the pyramid of Khufu in Egypt, though it stands only half as tall. It was built by 100 C.E., in the city of Teotihuacan.

San Lorenzo, La Aventa, Tres Zapotes - Three early Olmec ceremonial centers, dating from 1200 to 800 B.C.E., 800 to 400 B.C.E., and 400 to 100 B.C.E., respectively.

Teotihuacan - Mesoamerican city northeast of modern Mexico city; inherited Olmec cultural traditions; flourished from 200 B.C.E. to 750 C.E.

Tikal - Most important Maya city kingdom between the fourth and ninth centuries C.E.; located in the lowland area of modern day Mexico City.

I. States and Empires in Mesoamerica and North America

A. The Toltecs and the Mexica

1. Toltecs
 - a. Collapse of Teotihuacan in central Mexico, 9th and early 10th century
 - b. Toltecs migrated to central Mexico about the 8th century
 - c. Established a large state and powerful army from the mid-10th to the mid-12th century
2. Tula
 - a. Capital city of Toltecs, center of weaving, pottery, and obsidian work
 - b. Maintained close relations with societies of the Gulf coast and the Maya
3. Toltec decline
 - a. Civil strife at Tula, beginning in 1125
 - b. Nomadic incursion of 1175
 - c. By the end of the 12th century, no longer dominating Mesoamerica
4. The Mexica
 - a. Also known as Aztecs, arrived in central Mexico about the mid-13th century
 - b. Rough-tough people, wandering and fighting for a century in central Mexico
 - c. Settled at Tenochtitlan (modern Mexico City) about 1345
 - d. Plentiful food supplies and *chinampas* by Lake Texcoco
5. The Aztec empire
 - a. Military campaigns against neighboring societies, mid-15th century
 - b. Conquered and colonized Oaxaco in southwestern Mexico
 - c. Made alliance with Texcoco and Tlacopan
 - d. Empire ruled 12 million people and most of Mesoamerica

6. Tribute and trade
 - a. Tribute obligations were very oppressive
 - b. Empire had no bureaucracy or administration
 - c. Allies did not have standing army
 - d. Tribute of 489 subject territories flowed into Tenochtitlan

B. Mexica Society

1. Warriors
 - a. Military elite at top of rigid social hierarchy
 - b. Mostly from the Mexica aristocracy
 - c. Enjoyed great wealth, honor, and privileges
2. Mexica women
 - a. No public role, but enjoyed high honor as mothers of warriors
 - b. Honor of bearing children was equal to that of capturing enemies in battle
3. Priests
 - a. Ranked among the Mexica elite
 - b. Specialized in calendrical and ritual lore
 - c. Advisers to Mexica rulers, occasionally, became supreme rulers themselves
4. Cultivators and slaves
 - a. Cultivators worked on *chinampas* (small plots of reclaimed land) or on aristocrats' land
 - b. Paid tribute and provided labor service for public works
 - c. Large number of slaves, worked as domestic servants
5. Craftsmen and merchants
 - a. Skilled craftsmen enjoyed some prestige
 - b. Tenuous position of merchants:
 1. supplied exotic goods and military intelligence
 2. but under suspicion as greedy profiteers

C. Mexica Religion

1. Mexica gods

- a. Tezcatlipoca: giver and taker of life, patron deity of warriors
 - b. Quetzalcóatl: supporter of arts, crafts, and agriculture
 - 2. Ritual bloodletting: common to all Mesoamericans
 - 3. Huitzilopochtli: the war god
 - a. Human sacrifice was encouraged by devotion to Huitzilopochtli
 - b. Honored Huitzilopochtli with a large temple at the center of Tenochtitlan
 - c. Hundreds of thousands of skulls in temples sacrificed to this war god
- D. Peoples and Societies of the North
 - 1. Pueblo and Navajo societies
 - a. Two large settled societies in the contemporary American southwest
 - b. By about 700 C.E., began to build stone and adobe buildings
 - 2. Iroquois peoples
 - a. Agricultural society in the woodlands east of the Mississippi River
 - b. Five Iroquois nations emerged from Swasco society, 1400 C.E.
 - c. Women were in charge of Iroquois villages and longhouses
 - 3. Mound-building peoples
 - a. Built enormous earthen mounds throughout eastern half of North America
 - b. Mounds served as stages of ceremonies and rituals, dwelling, or burial sites
 - 4. Cahokia
 - a. The largest mound at Cahokia, Illinois
 - b. Fifteen to 38 thousand people lived in Cahokia society during the 12th century
 - c. Burial sites reveal existence of social classes and trade

II. **States and Empires in Andean South America**

- A. The Coming of the Incas
 - 1. Chucuito

- a. After Chavín and Moche, several regional states dominated Andean South America
 - b. Chucuito dominated highlands around Lake Titicaca
 - c. Cultivation of potatoes, herding llamas and alpacas
 - d. Traded with lower valleys, chewed coca leaves
- 2. Chimú
 - a. Powerful kingdom in the lowlands of Peru before the mid-15th century
 - b. Irrigation networks, cultivation of maize and sweet potatoes
 - c. Capital city at Chanchán, massive brick buildings
- 3. The Inca empire
 - a. Settled first around Lake Titicaca among other peoples
 - b. Ruler Pachacuti launched campaigns against neighbors, 1438
 - c. Built a huge empire stretching 4000 kilometers from north to south
 - d. Ruled the empire with military and administrative elite
 - e. Inca bureaucrats relied on *quipu* (a mnemonic aid made of an array of small cords) to keep track of information
- 4. Cuzco: capital of the Inca, might have had 300,000 people in the late 15th century
- 5. Inca roads
 - a. Two major roads linked the south and north
 - b. Paved with stone, shaded by trees
 - c. Supported the centralized government, facilitated spread of Quechua language
- B. Inca Society and Religion
 - 1. Trade
 - a. Without a large merchant class, Incas bartered agricultural surplus locally
 - b. Not much specialization

2. The chief ruler
 - a. Chief ruler was viewed as descended from the sun
 - b. In theory, the god-king owned everything on earth
 - c. After death, mummified rulers became intermediaries with gods
3. Aristocrats and priests
 - a. Aristocrats enjoyed fine food, embroidered clothes, and wore ear spools
 - b. Priests led celibate and ascetic lives, very influential figures
4. Peasants
 - a. Delivered portion of their products to bureaucrats
 - b. Besides supporting ruling classes, revenue also used for famine relief
 - c. Provided heavy labor for public works
5. Inca gods: Inti and Viracocha
 - a. Venerated sun god called Inti, considered some other natural forces divine
 - b. Also honored the creator god, Viracocha
 - c. Sacrifices of animals or agricultural products, not humans
6. Moral thought
 - a. Concept of sin: violation of established order
 - b. Concept of after-death punishment and reward
 - c. Rituals of absolving sins through confession and penance

III. The Societies of Oceania

A. The Nomadic Foragers of Australia

1. Trade

- a. Peoples of Australia maintained nomadic, foraging societies
- b. Exchanged surplus food and small items during their seasonal migrations

- c. Pearly oyster shells were most popular item
 - d. Peoples on north coast had limited trade with mariners of New Guinea
 - 2. Culture and religious traditions
 - a. Intense concern with immediate environments
 - b. Stories and myths related to geographical features
- B. The Development of Pacific Island Society
 - 1. Trade between island groups
 - a. Clusters of islands formed regional trade networks
 - b. Islands far apart from one another were rather isolated
 - 2. Population growth
 - a. Population growth on all larger Pacific islands
 - b. Hawaii had 500 thousand people in the late 18th century
 - 3. The development of social classes
 - a. Workers became more specialized and distinct classes emerged
 - b. Social classes: high chiefs, lesser chiefs, priests, commoners
 - 4. Chiefly states
 - a. A chiefly state could rule one or more islands
 - b. Chiefs allocated lands, organized men into military forces
 - c. Power of high chiefs as seen in commoners' *kapu* (taboos)
 - 5. Polynesian religion
 - a. Priests served as intermediaries between gods and humans
 - b. Gods of war and agriculture were common
 - c. The *marae* Mahaiatea on Tahiti, a huge step pyramid for religious rituals

GLOSSARY

Ali'i nui (p. 496) - High chiefs of Hawai'i; powerful rulers who commanded enormous respect within their societies.

Aztecs (pp. 479-86) - See Mexico.

Cahokia Mound (p. 487) - Enormous earthen mound at Cahokia near East St. Louis, Illinois; built by Iroquois people for ceremonies or ritual performance.

Chanchan (p. 489) - Capital city of Chimu, near the modern city of Trujillo; had 50,000 to 100,000 residents during the late 14th century.

Chimu (pp. 488-89) - Powerful kingdom of Andean South America in the lowlands; dominated the Peruvian coast for about a century before the arrival of the Incas in the mid-15th century.

chinampas (p. 479) - Small plots of land made by the Mexica by dredging the rich and fertile mulch from the bottom of Lake Texcoco.

Chucuito (p. 488) - Kingdom of Andean America, dominated highlands region around Lake Titicaca (the broad region of modern Peru and Bolivia) between the 13th and early 15th centuries.

Cuzco (p. 490) - Capital city of Inca empire, served as administrative, religious, and ceremonial center; population might have reached 300,000 in the late 15th century.

Huitzilopochtli (p. 485) - War god of Aztecs; responsible for Aztecs' growing enthusiasm with human sacrifice.

Inca empire (pp. 489-90) - Largest empire ever built in South America; territory extended 2,500 miles from north to south and embraced almost all of modern Peru, most of Ecuador, much of Bolivia, and parts of Chile and Argentina; maintained effective control from the early 15th century until the coming of Europeans in the early 16th century.

Incas (pp. 489-90) - Most powerful people of Andean America; established Inca empire in the early 15th century that dominated Andean society until the coming of Europeans; spoke Quechua language.

Inti and Viracocha (p. 492) - Inca gods; Inti was the sun god while Viracocha was the creator god; cult of sun or Inti was the most popular among Incas.

Iroquois (pp. 486-87) - Woodlands people east of the Mississippi River; lived in settled communities dominated by women; also known for their buildings of enormous earthen mounds.

kapu (p. 496) - Taboos of Hawaiian people, which included such restrictions on common people as approaching or casting a shadow on the *ali'i nui* (high chiefs), and eating good food or wearing magnificent cloaks preserved for *ali'i nui*.

marae (p. 496) - Ceremonial precinct and temple structure of early Pacific societies; often had several terraced floors with a rock or coral wall designating the boundaries of the sacred space; largest one was *marae* Mahaiatea on Tahiti, which was constructed in the form of a step pyramid.

Mexica (pp. 479-86) - Also known as Aztecs; people of central Mexico; spoke Nahuatl language; built powerful Aztec empire that dominated Mesoamerica during the period from the mid-14th through the early 16th centuries.

Owascos (p. 486) - Woodlands people who lived in what is now up-state New York; five groups of Iroquois peoples emerged from Owasco society by about 1400 C.E.

Pueblo and Navajo (p. 486) - Peoples of southwestern North America; lived in settled societies with large populations.

Quetzalcóatl (pp. 484-85) - A god of Mesoamerica, honored for his support of arts, crafts, and agriculture.

quipu (p. 490) - Mnemonic device used by Inca bureaucrats to keep track of their responsibilities; consisted of an array of small cords of various colors and lengths, all suspended from one large, thick cord; knots and marks on cords could record statistical information or historical events.

Tenochtitlan (pp. 477, 479) - Capital city of the Aztec empire, sitting on an island in Lake Texcoco; at its high point in the early 16th century, tribute from some 489 subject territories flowed into the city, and its population reached to about two hundred thousand.

Tezcatlipoca (pp. 484-85) - "The Smoking Mirror;" a god of Mesoamericans; honored for his power of giving and taking lives of people.

Toltecs (pp. 478-79) - People of central Mexico; spoke Nahuatl language; became dominant power of the region between 950 and 1150 C.E.

Tula (p. 479) - Capital city of Toltec empire, about thirty miles northwest of modern Mexico City; important center of weaving, pottery, and obsidian work.

SIGNIFICANT INDIVIDUALS

Itzcóatl (p. 480) - "The Obsidian Serpent," founder of Aztec empire; launched successful campaigns of imperial expansion from 1428 to 1440.

Moteczuma I (p. 480) - Also known as Moctezuma or Montezuma; successor of Itzcóatl; powerful ruler of the Aztec empire; successful conquests from 1440 to 1469 laid down territorial foundation for the Aztec empire.

Pachacuti (p. 489) - Inca ruler, responsible for military conquests that laid foundation of Inca empire; reigned from 1438 to 1471.