

MESOAMERICA

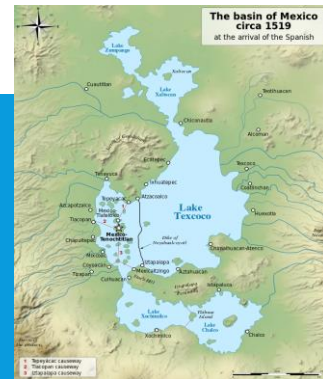
Period 3

THE AZTECS



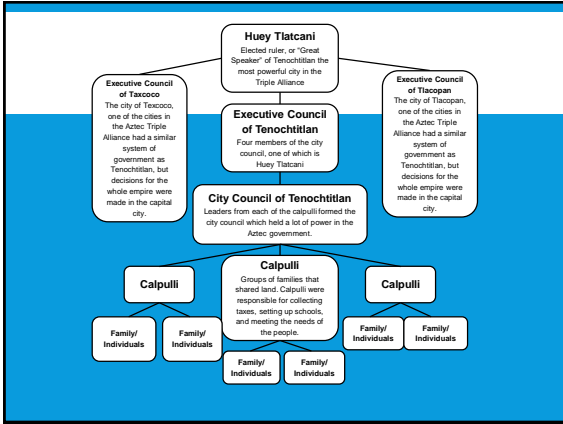
RISE OF THE AZTECS

- Aztecs (Mexica) migrate to Lake Texcoco in central Mexico c. 1325
- Founded city of Tenochtitlan in 1325
- Empire started in 1434
- role of king
 - symbol of civic power
 - representative of the gods

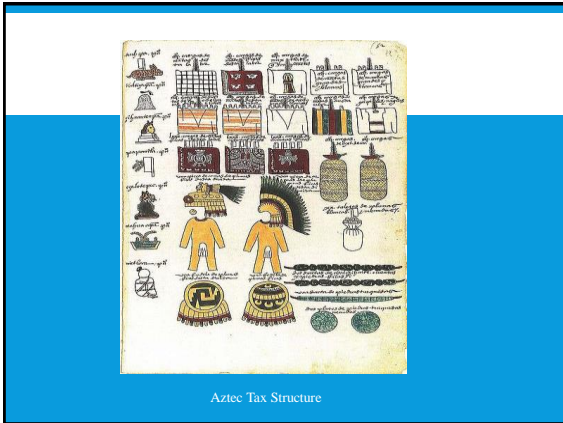


AZTEC GOVERNMENT

- city-states
- The Great Speaker
 - ruler of Tenochtitlan (emperor)
 - increasingly considered a living god
- conquered peoples maintained some autonomy if they paid tribute



- Aztec City States**
Areas conquered and governed by the Aztecs
- **Land Tax:** Calpulli paid taxes in the form of cotton mantas, cacao beans, firework, and foodstuffs based on the amount of land they farmed. Farmers kept most of their crop but had to send some of it to the king
 - **Rotational Labor:** Calpulli members were required to work for the king or nobles. Women spun and wove textiles while men often supplied firewood, swept, and carried water.
 - **Public Works Corvée:** Calpulli gave the labor of their members up to assist with building projects directed by the Aztec government like building aqueducts or temples.
 - **Military Corvée:** All young males had to serve in the military.
 - **Market Tax:** Government officials waited in guard huts at the market and took a portion of the goods as tax for being allowed to sell goods in the market.
- | Conquest States | Unconquered States |
|--|---|
| States that were conquered by the Aztecs | States that were unconquered by the Aztecs |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Allowed to be ruled themselves as they had before in exchange for military loyalty and taxes | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • received military support from the Aztecs in return for gifts |



- ## AZTEC RELIGION
- maintained traditional deities of Mesoamerica
 - 128 major deities
 - Huitzilopochtli
 - patron deity of the cult of warfare and sacrifice
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- ## HUMAN SACRIFICE
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- Human sacrifice
 - typical part of Mesoamerican religion
 - mainly war captives
 - Why?
 - Political purposes
 - Population control
 - Cannibal kingdom

- ## HUMAN SACRIFICE
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TENOCHTITLAN



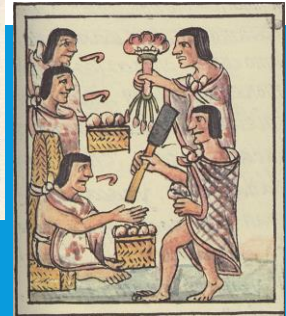
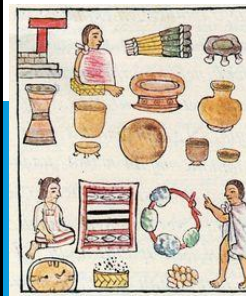
- "foundation of Heaven"
- population of 150,000
- causeways and canals

TENOCHTITLAN "THE VENICE OF THE AMERICAS"

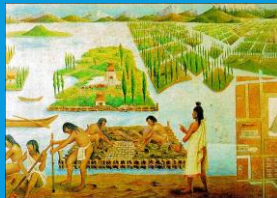
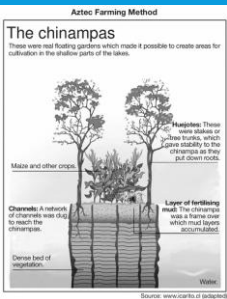


AZTEC ECONOMY

- Agriculture
 - Food often provided as tribute
 - Built chinampas
- Pochteca
 - special merchant class which specialized in long-distance luxury trade
- Cacao beans and gold dust
 - used as currency
 - bartering most common transaction



CHINAMPAS

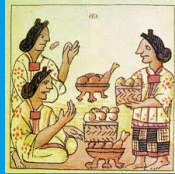


AZTEC SOCIETY

- calpuli
 - clans
 - redistributed land
 - organized labor gangs & military units
 - maintained temples & schools
- Eventually a class of nobility emerged
 - Nobility controlled the priesthood & military

AZTEC SOCIETY

- Women's primary role
 - household
 - six hours a day grinding corn
 - restricted women's rights
- arranged marriage
- Polygamy (nobility)
- could inherit property



THE INCA



RISE OF INCA



- Quechua-speaking clans
 - ayllus
- Pachacuti
 - expanded the empire from 1438-1471
 - Built Machu Picchu

CONQUEST & RELIGION



- split inheritance
 - means of expansion
- polytheistic
 - Sun God was the primary god
- animism
 - mountains, rivers, etc. were considered holy shrines

INCA GOVERNMENT

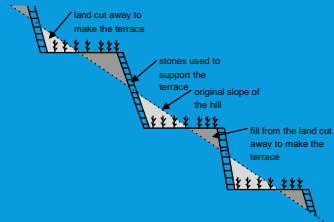
- Inca (leader)
 - considered almost a god
- Developed a bureaucracy run by nobles
 - Nobility drawn from the ten ayllus
- Local rulers maintained their positions
- split inheritance
 - means of expansion
- Colonized conquered areas
 - Relocated some conquered peoples



INCA ECONOMY

- self sufficient because of location
- agricultural
 - terrace farming & complex irrigation
 - over 200 types of potatoes
- forced labor for massive projects
 - Mita

TERRACE FARMING



INCA SOCIETY

- emphasis on military reinforced gender inequality
- Women
 - worked in the fields
 - wove cloth
 - cared for the household
 - worshipped fertility deities
- parallel descent
 - Women passed rights and property to their daughters

INCA TECHNOLOGY

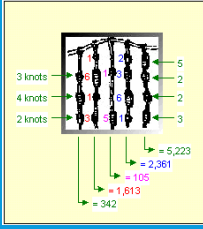
- complex system of roads and bridges
 - 2500 miles of roads
 - Used a system of runners to carry messages throughout the empire
- Quipu
- Masonry



BRIDGES AND ROADS



QUIPU



MACHU PICCHU

