

## Archaeology Of Ancient Mexico And Central America

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this reference is devoted to the pre columbian archaeology of the mesoamerican culture area one of the six cradles of early civilization it features in depth articles on the major cultural areas of ancient mexico and central america coverage of important sites including the world renowned discoveries as well as many lesser known locations articles on day to day life of ancient peoples in these regions and several bandw regional and site maps and photographs entries are arranged alphabetically and cover introductory archaeological facts flora fauna human growth and development nonorganic resources chronologies of various periods paleoindian archaic formative classic and postclassic and colonial cultural features maya regional summaries research methods and resources ethnohistorical methods and sources and scholars and research history edited by archaeologists evans and webster both of whom are associated with pennsylvania state university c book news inc

the traveler en route to mexico for the first time or the beginning student of mesoamerican archaeology dazzled by the varied reminders of exotic extinct cultures that dot the map will welcome this engaging introduction to mexico before the spanish conquest the author a leading mexican archaeologist guides the novice reader from the arrival of man in the new world through the thousands of years during which society evolved from small groups of hunter gatherers to the advanced civilization that the first european visitors encountered in the sixteenth century in addition to showing us the fascinating religious art and architecture that are the most spectacular remains of the ancient civilizations of mesoamerica litvak king focuses on the importance of trade in the development of civilization by the olmec and to its role in the decline of the aztec empire throughout he shares with the reader the intellectual excitement of modern archaeology with examples from excavations completed as recently as the 1980s

classic study of pre columbian civilizations in the new world maya olmecs toltecs aztecs many others history gods calendars religions ceremonies more 47 black and white plates 86 text figures

chocolate bouncy rubber balls and the three sisters agricultural system the people of ancient mexico invented them all 3 600 years ago

they also built the world's largest pyramid by volume and the sixth most populated city without the wheel and without pack animals ancient mexico introduced the first city calendar writing system and aqueduct to north america this book unwraps the interrelated histories of ancient mexico's key civilizations learn about their mythology warfare art architecture and religion how did they develop writing what happened when the spaniards showed up this book will keep you turning pages as it unwraps the stories of ancient mexico's colorful and fascinating history a glimpse at the questions this overview answers includes who built north america's first city and invented chocolate and rubber balls which culture developed mexico's first logo syllabic writing by 500 bce who ruled an empire of six million people and worshiped a hummingbird god what was the valley of mexico's first city state which was later buried under volcanic lava how did aztec soldiers reach the rank of jaguar warriors what tactics did cortés use to defeat the aztecs what did mexico's ancient people believe about creation heaven and the underworld how has ancient mexico impacted modern mexico and the world

late in the 15th century the discovery of the new world revealed to the europeans the existence of peoples and cultures whose forms of artistic and intellectual expression were totally different to their own but of immense appeal while at that time the white conquistadores had no interest in and were perhaps incapable of appreciating and respecting this cultural heritage for some considerable time now the so called pre columbian civilisations have been rediscovered and archaeologists are attempting to reconstruct their marvellous cultural mosaic the roots of which lie in an historical substrata predating the christian era by some thousands of years the aim of this book is to trace the development of some of the civilisations that emerged in the mesoamerican region and gave rise to surprisingly advanced and sophisticated cities the olmecs maya aztecs and other less well known groups have in fact left extraordinary evidence of their passing in the form of great architectural complexes monumental sculptures ceramics jewellery and surprising written records that have only recently given up their secrets this volume also intends to underline the importance of the so called minor cultures that have until now been unknown to the public at large but which nonetheless contributed to the economic and cultural development of pre columbian mesoamerica the work is characterised by a dual scientific and generalist approach to provide all readers with in depth information that is both stimulating and comprehensible concerning a world that is still far from contemporary models concise but exhaustive captions comprehensive iconographical references numerous colour plates line drawings and black and white maps complement the text and contextualise the cultural parallels and ideologies of the various civilisations in question within the chronological sequence in the most reliable and attractive manner possible

in recent decades archaeologists have made enormous progress in revealing the prehistory of the rich and varied civilizations of ancient mesoamerica this textbook captures the excitement and rich details of these ancient peoples surveying every aspect of pre columbian mesoamerica from paleoindian times c 1800 bc to the european intrusion in 1519 it provides up to date over views of the best known regional cultures such as those of the olmecs maya zapotecs and aztecs including exciting new discoveries but it also offers balanced coverage of other areas of mesoamerica where important discoveries have been made in recent years encompassing the developmental trajectory of such regions as west mexico guerrero the gulf lowlands and the northern and southern frontiers of mesoamerica

this 1912 volume by lewis spence contains an engaging study of life in ancient mexico

this little book is intended as a general commentary and explanation of the more important phases of the ancient life and arts of the indians of mexico and central america and especially of their history the substance of it is drawn from many sources for the anthropologist must mould together and harmonize the gross results of several sciences archæology ethnology somatology and linguistics all make their special contributions and we are only on the threshold of our subject in the mexican and central american field we find the accumulated writings that result from four hundred years of european contact with the indians and in addition a mass of native documents and monumental inscriptions expressed in several hieroglyphic systems the general method of this book will be to take up in order the recognized horizons of pre columbian history beginning with the earliest of which we have knowledge in relation to each horizon we will examine the records and discuss the principal developments in arts beliefs and social structures the introductory chapter is designed to put before the reader such facts as may be necessary for a ready understanding of the discussions and explanations that will follow the mexican hall of the american museum of natural history furnishes illustrations of most of the facts given herewith this hall contains both originals and casts brought together by various expeditions of the museum and of other scientific institutions the principal patrons of science whose names should be mentioned in connection with the upbuilding of these collections are willard brown austin corbin r p doremus anson w hard archer m huntington morris k jesup james h jones minor c keith the duke of loubat william mack henry marquand doctor william pepper a d straus i mci strong cornelius vanderbilt henry

villard william c whitney but thanks are also due to innumerable persons who have contributed single specimens and small collections as well as those who have placed information at the disposal of the scientific staff the principal collectors have been george byron gordon aleš hrđlička carl lumboltz francis c nicholas marshall h saville eduard seler herbert j spinden and john l stephens

the question of the origin of the religions of ancient mexico and peru is unalterably associated with that of the origin of the native races of america themselves not that the two questions admit of simultaneous settlement but that in order to prove the indigenous nature of the american mythologies it is necessary to show the extreme improbability of asiatic or european influence upon them and therefore of relatively late foreign immigration into the western hemisphere as regards the vexed question of the origin of the american races it has been thought best to relegate all proof of a purely speculative or legendary character to a chapter at the end of the book and for the present to deal with data concerning the trustworthiness of which there is little division of opinion the controversy as to the manner in which the american continent was first peopled is as old as its discovery for four hundred years historians and antiquarians have disputed as to what race should have the honour of first colonising the new world to nearly every nation ancient and modern has been credited the glory of peopling the two americas and it is only within comparatively recent years that any reasonable theory has been advanced in connection with the subject it is now generally admitted that the peopling of the american continent must have taken place at a period little distant to the original settlement of man in europe the geological epoch generally assumed for the human settlement of america is the pleistocene quaternary in some of its interglacial conditions that is in some of the recurrent periods of mildness during the great ice age there is however a possibility that the continent may have been peopled in tertiary times the first inhabitants were however not of the red man type difficult as is this question an even more difficult one has to be faced when we come to consider the affinities of the races from whom the red man is descended it must be remembered that at this early epoch in the history of mankind in all likelihood the four great types of humanity were not yet fully specialised but were only differentiated from one another by more or less fundamental physiological characteristics that the indians of america are descended from more than one human type is proved by the variety of shapes exhibited in their crania and it is safe to assume that both europe and asia were responsible for these early progenitors of the red man at the period in question the american continent was united to europe by a land bridge which stretched by way of greenland iceland and the far<sup>2</sup> e islands to northern europe and from the latter area there probably migrated to the western continent a portion of that human type which has been designated the proto european precursors of that race from which was finally evolved the peoples of modern europe when we come to the question of the settlement of america from the asiatic side we can say with more certainty that immigration proceeded from that continent by way of bebring strait and was of a proto mongolian character though the fact should not be lost sight of that within a few hundred miles of the point of emigration there still exists the remains of an almost purely caucasian type in the ainu of saghalien and the kurile islands however immigration on any extensive scale must have been discontinued at a very early period as on the discovery of america the natives presented a highly specialised and distinctive type and bear such a resemblance one nation to another as to draw from all authorities the conclusion that they are of common origin

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