What the Americans knew
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Bibliography: Alvin Josephy: 500 Nations (1
Bibliography

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...
What the Americans knew

• 21,000 B.C.: First humans arrive in Alaska (Pedro Furada in Brazil and Monte Verde in Chile claim to be older)
• 11,000: Clovis culture spreads from Mexico to South America
• 7,000: Farming in Mesoamerica
• 2,000 B.C.: First towns in Mesoamerica
### Chronology for Ancient America

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Time</th>
<th>Mesoamerica</th>
<th>Andean Region</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1250 BC</td>
<td></td>
<td>CHAVÍN</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1000 BC</td>
<td>OLMECS</td>
<td>Early Intermediate</td>
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<tr>
<td>500 BC</td>
<td>FPI-OLMEC (400)</td>
<td>Middle Horizon (600)</td>
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<tr>
<td>1 AD</td>
<td>CLASSIC MAYA (400)</td>
<td>(900)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>500 AD</td>
<td>TOLTECS (960) (11th century)</td>
<td>(1200) CHIMU EMPIRE</td>
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<tr>
<td>1000 AD</td>
<td>TEOTIHUACÁN (750)</td>
<td>(1400) AZTEC EMPIRE</td>
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<tr>
<td>1500 AD</td>
<td></td>
<td>(1438) INCA EMPIRE</td>
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<tr>
<td>1500 AD</td>
<td>SPANISH CONQUEST</td>
<td>Cortés conquers Aztecs (1519-21)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Pizarro conquers Incas (1532-5)</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
What the Americas knew

• Corn/maize
  – Asian societies built on rice
  – European societies built on wheat
  – American societies built on corn
What the Americas knew

• Characters shared by all American cultures
  – Communal ownership of agricultural land within a tribe
  – No purchase or trade of land
  – No sale of crops for profit
# LOST CITIES OF ANCIENT PERU

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>MODERN NAME</th>
<th>NEAREST AIRPORT</th>
<th>AGE</th>
<th>CULTURE</th>
<th>WHAT IS LEFT</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>BATAN</td>
<td>CHICLAYO</td>
<td>850-1250 A.D.</td>
<td>LAMBAYEQUE</td>
<td>PYRAMIDS</td>
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<tr>
<td>BRUJO</td>
<td>TRUJILLO</td>
<td>?</td>
<td>MOCHÉ?</td>
<td>?</td>
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<td>CHAN CHAN</td>
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<td>1100-1400 A.D.</td>
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<td>PIURA</td>
<td>1500?</td>
<td>INKA?</td>
<td>CITY</td>
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<td>PAJATEN (ABISEO)</td>
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<td>AYMARA</td>
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<td>MOCHÉ</td>
<td>TOMBS</td>
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<td>LAPAZ</td>
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<td>TUCUMÉ</td>
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</tbody>
</table>
Ancient Peru

• Chinchorros: the first people in the world to practice mummification (5000 BC)
• Sechin (1500 BC)
• Chavin (600 BC)
• Nazca (600 AD)
• Tucume (1000 AD)
• Tiwanaku (1000 AD)
• Kuelap (1100 AD)
• Machu Picchu (1500 AD)
Ancient Peru

Sechin (1500 BC)

Nazca (600 AD)

Chan Chan (1000 AD)

Machu Picchu (1500 AD)
Ancient Peru

Carpet: Paracas of Peru 1st AD
(Boston Museum of Fine Arts)

Tomb of Sipan (Moche, 3rd c AD)
(Sipan Museum)

Nazca culture (1st c BC - 6th c AD)
(DeYoung Museum, San Francisco)
Ancient Peru

- Add monument/museums/larco
Ancient Peru

Chimu civilization (near Chan Chan): 140 children sacrificed (15th c), the largest child sacrifice in history.
Ancient Peru

Chimu civilization (near Chan Chan): 200+ children sacrificed (15th c), the largest child sacrifice in history.

Peru child sacrifice discovery may be largest in history

28 April 2018

2018
Ancient Peru

Chimu civilization (near Chan Chan): 220+ children sacrificed (15th c), the largest child sacrifice in history.

Archaeologists in Peru have unearthed what is believed to be the largest single mass child sacrifice in history.
Meso-America

- Olmec (San Lorenzo) 1400BC - 700 BC
- Zapotec (Monte Alban) 600 BC - 700 AD
- Teotihuacan (Teotihuacan) 150 BC - 750 AD
- Nayarit 100 BC - 300 AD
- Maya (Yaxchilán) 600-850 AD
- Maya (Tikal) 100-900 AD
- Totonac (El Tajín) 300-1200
- Maya (Palenque) 550 AD - 800
- Toltec (Tula) 950 AD - 1174
- Maya (Chichen Itzá) 1000-1250
- Maya (Uxmal) 1100-1450
- Aztec (Tenochtitlan) 1370-1520
Meso-America
Tlatilco

Terracotta figurine of a contorsionist (1100-500 BC)
(Museo Nacional de Antropologia, Mexico City)

Pottery mask of life and death (1100-500 BC)
(Museo Nacional de Antropologia, Mexico City)
Olmec

- San Lorenzo (1,400-1,300 BC)
- La Venta (1,100 BC)
- Farming
- No cows, pigs, sheep
- No beasts of burden (horse, donkey, oxen, llamas)
- No wheeled vehicles
- Cult of the jaguar (same as Chavin in Peru…)
- Peak: 1,400-400 BC
Olmec

- Colossal heads

Olmec (1200–900 BC)
(DeYoung Museum, San Francisco)
Olmec

- Sculptures

(Museo Nacional de Antropologia, Mexico City)
Olmec

- Jade figurines

Jade figurines (850-450 BC)
(Museo Nacional de Antropologia, Mexico City)
Olmec

- Earliest writing in the Americas
- One of the three inventors of writing with Mesopotamia and China
- No Olmec writing found before 2006

Cascajal, Veracruz, Mexico (950 BC) (discovered in 2006)
Olmec

• Successors of the Olmecs in the Mexican Gulf Coast:
  – Maya
  – Teotihuacan (Mexico City, pyramids of 100)
  – Totonac (El Tajin, 600-1200)
  – Toltecs (Tula, 950)
  – Zapotec
Zapotec

- Pre-Zapotec ceremonial center at San Jose Mogote (1,350 BC)
- Monte Alban (500 BC) first known city of Mesoamerica, with a population of 5,000 in 200 BC and 30,000 at the peak (San Lorenzo was just a 1,000 people village)
- Writing by 600 BC (earliest writing found in the Americas before 2006)
- Peak: 200BC - 200AD
Zapotec

- Monte Alban
Zapotec
600 BC - 700 AD

• Art

Jalisco, Mexico (0-300 AD)
(DeYoung Museum, San Francisco)

Deity or ruler (200 BC - 600 AD)
(Museo Nacional de Antropologia, Mexico)
Nayarit

- Art

Nayarit house (200 AD) (Art Institute of Chicago)

Nayarit (300BC - 300 AD) (DeYoung Museum, San Francisco)

Nayarit miniature ritual (200 AD) (Art Institute of Chicago)

Nayarit chief (500 AD) (Art Institute of Chicago)
Meso-America

- Teotihuacan (150 BC - 750 AD) one of the largest cities in the world in 550 AD (125,000 people)
- Pyramid of the Sun (150 AD)
- Trade
- Warfare
- Quetzalcoatl (plumed serpent god)
Meso-America

- Teotihuacan
Meso-America

• Teotihuacan

Jade figurines (Zapotec, 300-200 BC) (Oaxaca)
Maya

- First major ceremonial center: Nakbe (400 BC)
- First metropolis: Tikal (300 BC)
- Earliest writing: 292 AD
- Concept of zero, and a base 20 numbering system
- Farming
- City states
- Constant warfare
- Sophisticated calendar
- Pyramids
- Cenotes (water a scarce resource)
- Peak: 250 AD - 900 AD
Maya

• Writing
  – Similar to the principles of Sumerian writing (combination of non-phonetic logograms and phonetic signs)
  – Derived from Olmec writing
  – 400 characters
  – Zero
  – Earliest dated artifact: 31 BC
Maya

- Earliest writing

Ruins at San Bartolo, Guatemala
300 BC, oldest known Maya writing
Maya

- Tikal
Maya

- Tikal
  - Only public buildings survive
  - No homes or shops ever discovered
Maya

- Tikal
  - Wood carving

Carved lintels of 741 from Tikal
Museum der Kulturen Basel, Switzerland
• Tikal

Carved lintels of 741 from Tikal
Museum der Kulturen Basel, Switzerland
Drawing by Wm R. Coe,
University of Pennsylvania, 1961
Maya

- El Mirador
Meso-America

- Palenque
- Uxmal
Meso-America

- Maya-Toltec Era (1000-1400)
  - Toltec influence on Mayan society, e.g. Quetzalcoatl
  - Chichen Itza
Meso-America

• Totonac (300AD - 1200 AD)

El Tajin
Maya

- Maya burial urn 650-800
- Maya vase 650-750
- Yoke for Maya ballgame 450-700

(Boston Museum of Fine Arts)
Maya

- Princeton Vase (9th c AD)

(Princeton Museum)
Maya

- Goddess O

(600-800 AD, Princeton Museum)
Maya

• Art

Maya woman (550-900 AD)
(Museo Nacional de Antropologia, Mexico City)
Maya

- Stelae

Stela of Queen (761 AD)
(DeYoung Museum, San Francisco)

Stela (864 AD)
(DeYoung Museum, San Francisco)
Maya

- Mayan flood myth (flood of blood)

Piedra Nigra, Stela XI

Palenque Temple XIX, South Side
Maya

- Bird deity Itzemye’

Figure 3. Starry Deer Crocodile. Cosmic Plate or K1609 (drawing by David Stuart).

Palenque Temple XIX, South Side
Maya

- Books

Dresden Codex

Madrid Codex
Maya

• **Creation Myth**
  – There are multiple universes
  – Ours is the fourth
  – There is an upper world and an underworld
Maya

• Creation Myth

Vessel K1226
Boston Museum of Fine Arts
Maya

- Apocalypse
  - The world will end on the 22nd of December 2012
Maya

• ?

Palenque Tablet from the Temple of the Cross
Toltec

- Tula (900 AD)
- Warriors
- Violent culture
- Quetzalcoatl (plumed serpent god)
Colombia

- Ciudad Perdida (Tayronas, 500 AD)
- Tierradentro (1st to 8th c. AD)
Colombia

- Tierradentro
USA/ Anasazi

- Mesa Verde (600 AD - 1300 AD)
USA/ Anasazi

- Chaco Canyon (850-1250)
Aztec

- Brutal society hated by subjects
- Human sacrifices on a vast scale
  - Ritual murder and interment of 42 children at Templo Mayor of Tenochtitlan
- Very primitive pictorial writing
- Never discovered iron
Aztec

- Calendar similar to Maya’s: 18 months of 20 days, four weeks of five days (starts in 1091)
Aztec

- Arts
  - Jade regarded as more precious than gold
  - Mosaics

Aztec map of the world (Codex Fejérváry-Mayer)
Aztec

- Sculpture
Aztec

- Sculpture

The goddess Tlazolteotl giving birth
( Dumbarton Oaks Museum, Washington, USA)
Incas

• Never invented writing
• Adopted Tiwanaku’s building techniques
• Greatest engineers of pre-Columbian America (terraced hills, fortified cities, aqueducts)
Decline and Fall

- The population of Mexico falls from 25 million (1490) to 1 million (1605), mostly due to diseases
Decline and Fall

• America’s lag
  – At their peak (900-1500) the civilizations of the Americas were as developed as the civilization of Egypt of 2,000 BC, a 3,000 lag
  – Much lower knowledge of the world (science, medicine, engineering) than contemporary China, India, Europe, Middle East
  – Much less sophisticated art (still hieroglyphic writing or no writing at all)
The Legacy

- Corn
- Potato
- Several kinds of beans
- Squash/ pumpkin
- Tomato
- Pineapple
- Avocado
- 60% of the world’s food in the 20th century comes from plants originally domesticated in the Americas
- Cotton
- Tobacco
- Cocaine