

2020-10-07 - Lecture 19

10.3 Pre-Contact America :: Empires of the Sun

- 1) North American tribes and nations
 - **Hunters-Gatherers** - tribes in east had non-permanent villages; tribes in western plains were nomadic; some tribes in mountainous high plains created permanent villages which now exist as ruins.
 - Did not have the invention of the wheel
 - Did not have metallurgy
 - Limited or no written language
 - Eastern woodlands: **wigwam** and **longhouse**
 - Western plains: **tipi** (moveable house)

- 2) **Mississippian Cultures** pre-contact, **800-1400CE**. Disappeared about 1400.
 - **Serpent Mound** in southern Ohio built by the **Fort Ancient culture** (c 1000)
 - **Cahokia Mounds** and **Monk's Mound** in Illinois built by **Middle Mississippian culture** (c 1200)

- 3) The **Anasazi** Indians - a subset of the **Pueblo**
 - **Chaco Canyon** in northwest portion of modern-day New Mexico
 - Capital City: **Pueblo Bonito** (800-1200CE) Then Abandoned.
 - Hunting, gathering, subsistence farming, trade, building with sandstone
 - The **Kiva**
 - 120 miles north of Chaco was The **Cliff Palaces of Mesa Verde**
 - Mesa Verde indians began building the pueblo structures about 650CE though 1200CE and possibly afterwards.
 - Also: Hunting, gathering, subsistence farming, trade, building with sandstone

- 4) **Tenochtitlan** - The ancient **Aztec** (or **Aztek**) capital city founded 1325CE
 - Tenochtitlan dominated nearby cities, due to its strategic location in Lake Texaco
 - Founded there due to sighting of an eagle eating a serpent - a Mexican symbol still used today
 - From about **1500-1520** Aztec ruled by **Moctezuma** a.k.a. **Montezuma**.
 - **Montezuma's Palace**
 - **Great Temple (Coatepetli)** focus of a large and sophisticated city that included aqueducts, bridges, means of production, means of defense and other accommodations. Aztecs conducted brutal human sacrifices of living people and engaged in cannibalism of these enemies after the sacrifice
 - **Pyramid of the Sun in Teotihuacan** (c 200CE)

- 5) **Inca** :: Inca actually means son of the solar deity **Inti**
 - Incan culture and empire ranged from **13th century to about 1532**. The Inca were defeated by Atahualpa in 1532 at the Battle of Quipaipan, but in 1533 the Spaniards arrived and killed him.
 - Incan culture looked back to: **Nazca Lines** in Peru
 - Incan culture looked back to: **Chavin de Huantar** in Peru
 - **Cuzco, Peru** the Incan capital city - shaped like a puma
 - Centralized town square called **Huacaypata Square** with ritualistic significance
 - Head of Cuzco was the important ritualistic, sacred place called **Sacsayhuaman Temple** of robust and refined masonry
 - **Cancha** block construction
 - **Sophisticated public works of the Inca**

- ***Machu Picchu*** (Peru) an isolated mountain estate or citadel for the Incan emperor Pachacuti, possibly beginning about **1450**. Machu Picchu possibly abandoned by **1533** at the time of the Spanish conquest. It must have slowly degraded and slowly fell into ruin - and not "rediscovered" until 1911.
- Very sophisticated terracing, structures, and other architectural and infrastructural works using dry laid stone
- Possibly of sacred or ritualistic significance, to wit: Hitching Post.