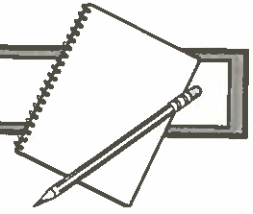


Daily Lecture and Discussion Notes

Chapter 11, Section 1



Did You Know? Maize, or corn, which originated in the Americas, is now one of the most widely distributed of the world's food plants. Only wheat exceeds it in acreage. Although the United States produces about half the world's total output of corn, a corn crop matures somewhere in the world every month of the year.

I. The Lands of the Americas and The First Americans (pages 347–348)

- A. The Americas stretch about nine thousand miles from the Arctic Ocean to Cape Horn at the tip of South America. Ice-covered lands, dense forests, river valleys ideal for hunting and farming, coastlines, tropical forests, and deserts are all part of the Americas.
- B. Two major mountain ranges—the Rocky Mountains and Andes—run along the western side of the Americas. Broad valleys with fertile farmland run between these ranges and eastern mountains. Two great rivers are the Mississippi and the Amazon.
- C. Between 100,000 and 8,000 years ago, the last Ice Age left a land bridge between Asia and North America in the **Bering Strait**. Hunters and gatherers, probably pursuing herds of bison and caribou, crossed the bridge as the glaciers receded.

Discussion Question

How do we know about the early peoples of North America? (*Archaeologists and anthropologists developed theories about them based on finding artifacts, fossils, and other remnants of the past.*)

II. The Peoples of North America (pages 348–350)

- A. About 4000 B.C. the **Inuit** moved into North America from Asia. Most settled into the cold, harsh, treeless tundra on the coasts south of the Arctic. They became skilled hunters and fishers, using harpoons and spears of antler or narwhal tusk. Homes were made of stones and turf.
- B. Igloos, made of snow, were only temporary shelters for travelers.
- C. Around 1000 B.C. farming villages appeared in the Eastern Woodlands—the North American land stretching in the east, from the Great Lakes to the **Gulf of Mexico**. The **Hopewell** peoples of the Ohio River valley are the best known. They are also known as the **Mound Builders**. Elaborate earth mounds, some built in the shapes of animals, were used by them as tombs or for ceremonies.



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- D. A shift to full-time farming around A.D. 700 created a prosperous culture in the Mississippi River valley from present-day Ohio to the Gulf of Mexico. Corn, squash, and beans were grown together so as to provide plants with nutrients and shade.
- E. Cities began to appear. At the site of **Cahokia**, near modern-day East St. Louis, Illinois, archaeologists found a burial mound with a base larger than that of the Great Pyramid of Egypt. Cahokia was the seat of government for much of the Mississippian culture, which collapsed in the thirteenth century for unknown reasons.
- F. The **Iroquois** lived northeast of the Mississippi culture. They lived in **longhouses** built of wooden poles covered with bark. Each was 150 to 200 feet long and housed about a dozen families.
- G. The men were hunters and warriors. The women owned the longhouses, gathered wild plants, planted the seeds, cared for the children, and harvested the crops—most importantly, corn, beans, and squash, called the “three sisters.”
- H. Wars and blood feuds were common among the Iroquois. Legend says that sometime in the 1400s the Iroquois people were torn apart by warfare. A leader named Deganawida preached the need for peace, and one who listened was Hiawatha. From their combined efforts came the Great Peace, which created the Iroquois League of five major groups that banded together. One of the laws of the Great Peace made its principles clear: do not act on self-interest, act for the welfare of the whole, act with the good of future generations in mind.
- I. A group of 50 representatives met in the Grand Council to settle differences among league members. Iroquois society was organized into **clans** of related families. The clan mothers, who were chosen by the women of the clan, chose the members of the Grand Council. Council representatives were instructed to be firm but tender, not to act from anger, and to deliberate judiciously. Some scholars believe that Benjamin Franklin used the Iroquois League as a model when he drew up his Plan of Union for the British colonies.
- J. West of the Mississippi River basin, **Plains Indians** cultivated the “three sisters” and hunted buffalo, often by driving a frightened herd over a cliff. The Plains Indians ate the meat, used the skins for clothing, and made tools from the bones. They also made their circular **tepees** from buffalo skins stretched over wooden poles.
- K. The **Anasazi** established an extensive farming society in the Southwest, a dry part of North America covering present-day New Mexico, Arizona, Utah, and Colorado. Between A.D. 500 and 1200 they used canals and earthen dams to turn parts of the desert into fertile gardens. They were known for their pottery, and used stone and **adobe** (sun-dried bricks) to build multi-storied **pueblos** that could house many people.



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- L. Two of the most important Anasazi centers were Chaco Canyon and Mesa Verde. Chaco Canyon's Pueblo Bonito was a large pueblo complex with six hundred rooms that could hold over a thousand people. A 50-year series of droughts caused the site to be abandoned. Mesa Verde, now a national park, is in Colorado. It is a remarkable complex of buildings in the recesses of the cliff walls. Prolonged drought also caused the abandonment of Mesa Verde.

Discussion Question

Are the three principles cited from the Great Peace good principles to live by? Why or why not? (*Answers will vary. Make sure students reason out their responses. Accept relevant, thoughtful answers.*)

end

Daily Lecture and Discussion Notes

Chapter 11, Section 2



Did You Know? All of La Venta's major structures are set on an axis 8° west of north, probably in alignment with some star or constellation. A 100-foot-high clay mound shaped like a pyramid or fluted cone, perhaps to represent a volcano, dominates the site.

I. The Olmec and Teotihuacán (pages 352–353)

- A. Mesoamerica is the name for areas of Mexico and Central America that were civilized before the Spaniards arrived. The **Olmec** civilization began around 1200 B.C. in the hot, swampy lowlands on the coast south of Veracruz, Mexico. Olmec peoples farmed along the area's muddy riverbanks.
- B. The Olmec had large cities, such as La Venta, that were centers of religious festivals. The Olmec carved colossal stone heads, probably to represent the gods. Around 400 B.C. the Olmec civilization declined, then collapsed.
- C. Teotihuacán ("Place of the Gods") was Mesoamerica's first major city. It was the capital of a kingdom that arose around 250 B.C. and collapsed about A.D. 800. Most inhabitants were farmers, but the city was a trade center as well. Tools, weapons, pottery, and jewelry were traded as far as North America. Built near modern Mexico City, Teotihuacán had as many as 150,000 residents. Temples and palaces were located along the Avenue of the Dead. The massive Pyramid of the Sun dominated the city.

Discussion Question

The main thoroughfare in Teotihuacán was known as the Avenue of the Dead. Remembering that the street had many temples, why might it have had that name? (The most likely possibility is that human sacrifice was performed in the temples.)

II. The Maya and Toltec (pages 353–355)

- A. On the **Yucatán Peninsula** east of Teotihuacán, the highly sophisticated **Mayan** civilization flourished between A.D. 300 and 900. It covered much of Central America and southern Mexico. The Maya built splendid temples and pyramids, and developed a complicated calendar.
- B. Mayan cities were built around a central pyramid topped with a temple to the gods. Nearby were temples, palaces, and a sacred ball court. Urban centers such as **Tikal** (in present-day Guatemala) may have had a hundred thousand inhabitants.
- C. Mayan civilization was composed of city-states governed by a hereditary ruling class. The states warred on each other. Captured nobles and war leaders were used for human sacrifice. Other war captives were enslaved.



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- D.** Mayan rulers claimed to be descended from the gods. A class of scribes helped the rulers. Mayan society also had townspeople who were artisans, officials, and merchants. Most Mayans were farmers, however. Labor divided along traditional gender lines.
- E.** The belief that all life is in the hands of divine powers was crucial to Mayan civilization. Itzamna was the supreme god, and some gods, like the jaguar god of the night, were evil. Like other ancient peoples in Central America, one way the Maya appeased the gods was through human sacrifice. Human sacrifice was also performed on certain ceremonial occasions.
- F.** The walls of the ball courts were covered with images of war and sacrifice. The exact rules of the game that was played are unknown, but we do know that small teams tried to send a ball through a hoop using their hips. The game had a religious meaning because the court symbolized the world, and the ball represented the sun and the moon. The defeated team was sacrificed.
- G.** The Mayans created a writing system using **hieroglyphs**, or pictures. Unfortunately, the Spaniards assumed the writings were evil because they were not Christian, and they destroyed many Mayan books, a pattern the Spanish would repeat throughout their conquest in the Americas. They would apply their own religious view to the native civilizations. This practice helped to bring an end to these civilizations.
- H.** Many of the writings recorded dates in the Mayan calendar called the Long Count. The Long Count was based on a belief in cycles of creation and destruction. The Maya believed our present world was created in 3114 B.C. and would end on December 23, A.D. 2012. Many other hieroglyphs recorded important events in Mayan history, especially events in the lives of Mayan rulers.
- I.** Priests used a sacred calendar of 260 days to foretell the future and know the omens associated with each day. Only priests could read and use the calendar.
- J.** The **Toltec** were a fierce and warlike people who conquered the Mayan lands of Guatemala and the northern Yucatán. They also built great palaces and pyramids, controlling the upper Yucatán Peninsula from **Chichén Itzá**. They came to power around A.D. 900 and declined around 1200.

Discussion Question

What does it say about the Spanish that they destroyed so much of the native culture in the Americas they conquered? (*Answers will vary. Accept relevant, thoughtful answers. One possible good answer is their Catholicism made the Spanish believe they were helping the natives. Another is that dogmatism made them arrogant.*)



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III. The Aztec (pages 356–358)

- A.** Sometime during the twelfth century A.D., the Aztec began a long migration to the Valley of Mexico. They established their capital at **Tenochtitlán** on an island in the middle of **Lake Texcoco**, where Mexico City is now.
- B.** According to legend, the Aztec believed that a sign would come from the god of war and of the sun, Huitzilopochtli, telling them where to settle. In 1325 they were driven into the swamps and islands of Lake Texcoco, where they saw an eagle standing on a cactus growing out of a rock, the sign that had been foretold.
- C.** They built a magnificent city of temples, other public buildings, and roadways linking the islands and mainland. They also consolidated their rule over much of what is modern Mexico. The kingdom was a collection of semi-independent territories governed by lords. The Aztec ruler supported the lords in return for **tribute**—goods or money paid by conquered peoples to their conqueror.
- D.** By 1500 up to four million Aztec lived in the Valley of Mexico and its environs. Power was in the hands of the king, who claimed descent from the gods. A council assisted him. The population consisted of commoners, indentured servants, and slaves, who were war captives and worked in the houses of the wealthy. The indentured servants were landless laborers who worked the fields of the wealthy. Most people were commoners and farmers. Merchants also lived in the cities.
- E.** Boys and girls had different roles from birth. The midwife said to a newborn boy, “You must understand that your home is not here where you have been born, for you are a warrior.” She said to the newborn girl, “As the heart stays in the body, so you must stay in the house.”
- F.** Women were not equal to men, but could inherit property and enter into contracts, something not often allowed in other world cultures of the time. They were also allowed to be priestesses.
- G.** Huitzilopochtli was a particularly important god. Another was Quetzalcoatl, the feathered serpent. According to Aztec tradition, this being left his homeland and vowed to return in triumph. This became part of a legend about a prince whose return from exile would be preceded by a sign of an arrow through a sapling. When the Aztec saw the Spanish with a cross on their breastplates, they mistook the Spanish for Quetzalcoatl’s representatives because the cross looked like the sign they awaited.
- H.** Aztec religion was based on the belief in an unending struggle between the forces of good and evil, which led to the creation and destruction of a series of worlds. The Aztec practiced human sacrifice to postpone the day of destruction of their world, the fifth world.



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- I. Aztec culture featured monumental architecture. A massive pyramid at the center of the capital was topped with shrines to the gods and an altar for human sacrifice.
- J. The lords in the eastern provinces wanted greater independence from the Aztec king. Areas that had not been conquered wanted to remain free. In 1519 a Spanish force under the command of **Hernán Cortés** marched to Tenochtitlán. He had only 550 soldiers and 16 horses, but he made allies with the city-states that had tired of Aztec rule. Cortés was greeted warmly by the Aztec king, **Montezuma**, who believed his visitor represented Quetzalcoatl. Montezuma offered gifts of gold and a palace to use.
- K. Tensions arose between the Aztec and Spanish. In 1520 the local population revolted and drove the Spaniards from the city, killing many. Many Aztec also soon died from European diseases. They had no immunity to them. Cortés received troops from his local allies, and in four months the city surrendered to his forces. The use of gunpowder also aided the Spanish considerably in their battles with the Aztec. They leveled the Aztec buildings and used the stones to construct government buildings and churches.

Discussion Question

What do you think the Aztec midwives were saying when they compared a woman's life in the home to the heart in the body? (*Answers will vary. Answers should try to unpack the simile specifically by relating the woman to the heart and the home to the body.*)

end

Daily Lecture and Discussion Notes

Chapter 11, Section 3



Did You Know? Descendants of the Inca still live and farm in the Andean highlands from Ecuador to Bolivia. Known as the Quechua—after their language, adapted from the language of the Inca Empire—they have been the subjects of numerous studies about physiological adaptation to high-altitude living.

I. Early Civilizations (pages 359–360)

- A. Located in Peru, Caral is believed to be the oldest major city in the Western hemisphere, one thousand years older than those previously known. It had stone buildings for officials, grand residences, and apartments. Caral's inhabitants developed an irrigation system. Caral was abandoned between 2000 and 1500 B.C.
- B. After 1000 B.C. another advanced civilization appeared near the Pacific coast just south of the border of Ecuador. An urban center arose at Moche, amid irrigated fields. Farmers grew enough maize (corn), peanuts, potatoes, and cotton to supply much of the region.
- C. The Moche led lives centered on warfare. They had no written language, but we know about them from images on their pottery. The authority of the Moche rulers extended far along the coast.

Discussion Question

What kinds of images on the Moche's pottery do you think have taught us that their lives centered on warfare? (*The pottery has images of warriors, prisoners, and sacrificial victims.*)

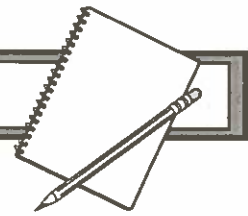
II. The Inca (pages 360–362)

- A. The Moche civilization collapsed around A.D. 700. A new power—the kingdom of Chimor—arose a few hundred years later. This was destroyed by people who created a more spectacular empire—the Inca.
- B. In the late 1300s the Inca were a small community in the area of Cuzco, a city high in the mountains of Peru. In the 1440s the Inca, under the leadership of the powerful Pachacuti, began to conquer the entire region. Eventually the Incan Empire went as far as Ecuador, central Chile, and the edge of the Amazon basin. It included twelve million people.



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- C. The Incan state was built on war. All young men had to serve in the army, which numbered two hundred thousand. Supplies were carried on the backs of llamas because like other cultures in the Americas the Inca did not use the wheel. Once the Inca controlled an area, the inhabitants learned **Quechua**—the Incan language.
- D. To instill organization and order, Pachacuti divided the empire into four quarters, which in turn were divided into provinces, each with about ten thousand residents. At the top of the entire system was the emperor, who was believed to be descended from Inti, the sun god.
- E. Forced labor was an integral part of the state. All subjects were responsible for labor service several weeks each year. Laborers were moved to other parts of the empire to take part in building projects. Sometimes whole communities were moved. The Inca built 24,800 miles of roads. Two major north-south highways had connecting routes between them. Rest houses located a day's walk apart and storage depots were placed along the roads. Bridges, including some of the finest pre-modern suspension bridges, spanned ravines and waterways.
- F. Incan society was highly regimented. Men and women had to marry someone from their own social group. Women either worked in the home or were priestesses. In rural areas the people farmed on terraced farms watered by irrigation systems.
- G. The Inca were great builders. The building in the capital of Cuzco dazzled European visitors. The ruins of the abandoned city **Machu Picchu** show their architectural genius. It was built on mountain peaks above the **Urubamba River**. In one part a long stairway leads to an elegant stone known to the Inca as the "hitching post of the sun." It may have been used as a solar observatory. During sun festivals, the people gathered there to chant to the sun god.
- H. Instead of a writing system, the Inca used a system of knotted strings called the *quipu* (see page 363). They had a highly developed tradition of court theater consisting of both tragic and comic works. Plays often recounted valiant deeds. Members of the nobility or senior officials were the actors. Poetry also was recited, accompanied by music.
- I. The first Spanish expedition arrived in the central Andes in 1530, under the command of **Francisco Pizarro**. Though he had only a small band of about 180 men, Pizarro had some things the Inca did not: steel weapons, gunpowder, and horses. The Incan Empire experienced a smallpox epidemic. Like the Aztec, the Inca were not immune to European diseases. The emperor died of smallpox.
- J. When the emperor died, his sons fought a civil war for control. Atahualpa defeated his brother, but Pizarro then captured and executed Atahualpa. Pizarro then captured the capital Cuzco with the help of Incan allies. By 1535 Pizarro had established a new capital at Lima for a new colony of the Spanish Empire.



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Discussion Question

Why would some Inca ally with Pizarro against the Incan Empire? *(Answers will vary. Accept relevant, thoughtful answers. Some possibilities are resentment against the rulers, promises of power, and promises of riches.)*

end