

Timeline of The Aztec Civilization

1150 AD- The arrival of the Nahuatl-speaking people to central Mexico. (Smith, 1996, p.32).



1150-1350 AD- Most towns, cities and dynasties were established (Smith, 1996, p.33), each having kings known as *Talatoani*. During this time, the Aztec Culture was developed (Smith, 1996, p.42). A vital component of this culture was Religious Ritual. Each of the different areas had different gods and rituals although the use of religion brought them together. Through religion new temple pyramids were built which differed to earlier Mesoamerican ones. Rather than having a single stairway up to the top, the new Aztec pyramids had a double stairway (Smith, 1996, p.43).



1200 AD- The introduction of bronze. The Aztecs became skilled working with bronze. By the Late Aztec period they had perfected a whole host of techniques for fashioning their bronze and copper objects (Smith, 1996, p.97).



1325 AD- Tenochtitlan and Tlaltelolco became dynasties. Tenochtitlan received a chief from the Culhuacan and Tlaltelolco received a chief from the Tepanecs (Vaillant, 1950, p.100).



1325 AD- The Great Pyramid at Tenochtitlan was built becoming the social geographical centre for Aztecs. It was built in the middle of the sacred enclosure, work continued for many years (Townsend, 1992, p.144). This pyramid and others were used as a place of sacrifice which included humans (Townsend, 1992, p.22).

The 15th Century AD- The creation of the Aztec Calendar and the Sun Stone. The Sun Stone is not a fully functioning calendar. One of its main purposes was to commemorate the five mythic world creations known as the "Suns" (Townsend, 1992, p.118). The Aztecs used two methods to count the days, each having a different use. These were called Tonalpohualli (counting the days) and Xiuhpohualli (counting of the years). Tonalpohualli was a 260-day cycle that had the purpose of divination. Xiuhpohualli was a 365-day solar count which the purpose of it was to keep track of the recurring seasonal festivals. Every 52 years both systems would align together making a Mesoamerican century. This was always an occasion for a religious festival (Townsend, 1992, p.123).



1426-1428 AD- The Tepanec War. Hostilities between the Mexica and Tepanecs intensified leading to the eruption of war. Eventually the combined forces of Tenochtitlan, Texcoco, Tlacopan, and Huexotzinco managed to defeat the Tepanecs of Azcapotzalco (Smith, 1996, p.50).



1428 AD- The foundation of the Triple Alliance Empire. Itzcoatl had to re-secure his control over the Valley of Mexico after the war. He accomplished this and went on to expand his empire (Smith, 1996, p.49,50).

1450-1454 AD- Drought hit the Valley of Mexico. Crops failed to grow, famine was extensive, and thousands died. It did not end until 1455 when the rain came, and crops were eventually able to be successful (Smith, 1996, p.52,53).



1507 AD- The final New Fire ceremony took place under the rule of Motecuhzoma II. The greatest number of humans that he sacrificed at one time to the War God was 12,000 which were captives from a rebel provenance in Oaxaca (Vaillant, 1950, p.112).



1520 AD- The end of the Aztec Empire. There was a war between the natives and the Europeans in the Valley of Mexico during the summer. Cortés and his Spanish army achieved what they set out to do and overthrew the Aztec Empire (Vaillant, 1950, p.23.24).

Key:

- 1150-1350 D- Early Aztec Period
- 1350- 1430 AD- Late Aztec Period A
- 1430- 1520 AD- Late Aztec Period B

Bibliography

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- Vaillant, G, C. (1950) *The Aztecs of Mexico*. 2nd edn. Great Britain: Penguin Books Ltd.