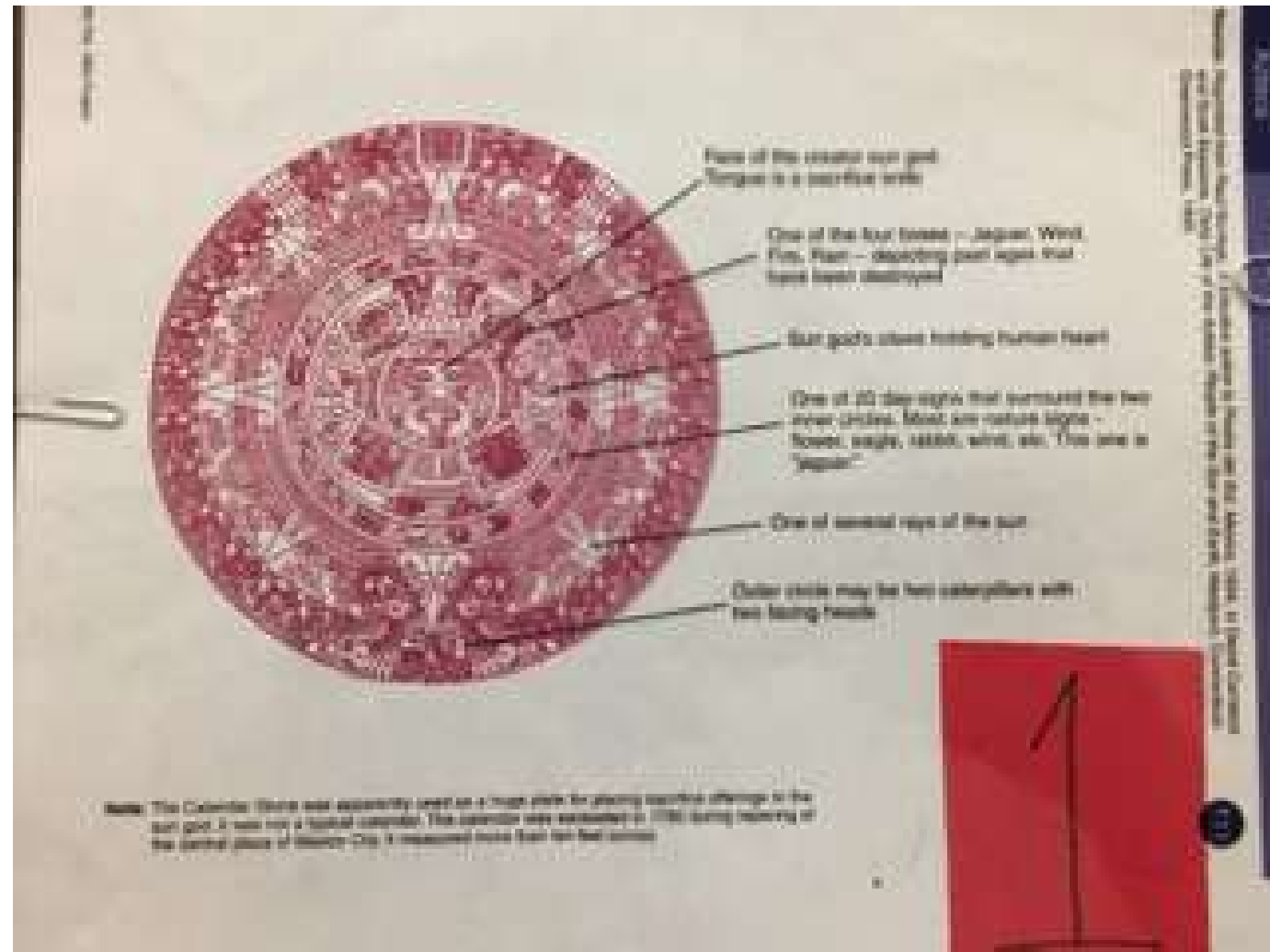


AZTECS: WHAT SHOULD HISTORY SAY?

Document Review

Document 1



DOCUMENT 1 – DRAWING: AZTEC CALENDAR STONE

What does this image reveal about the relationship between time and religion?

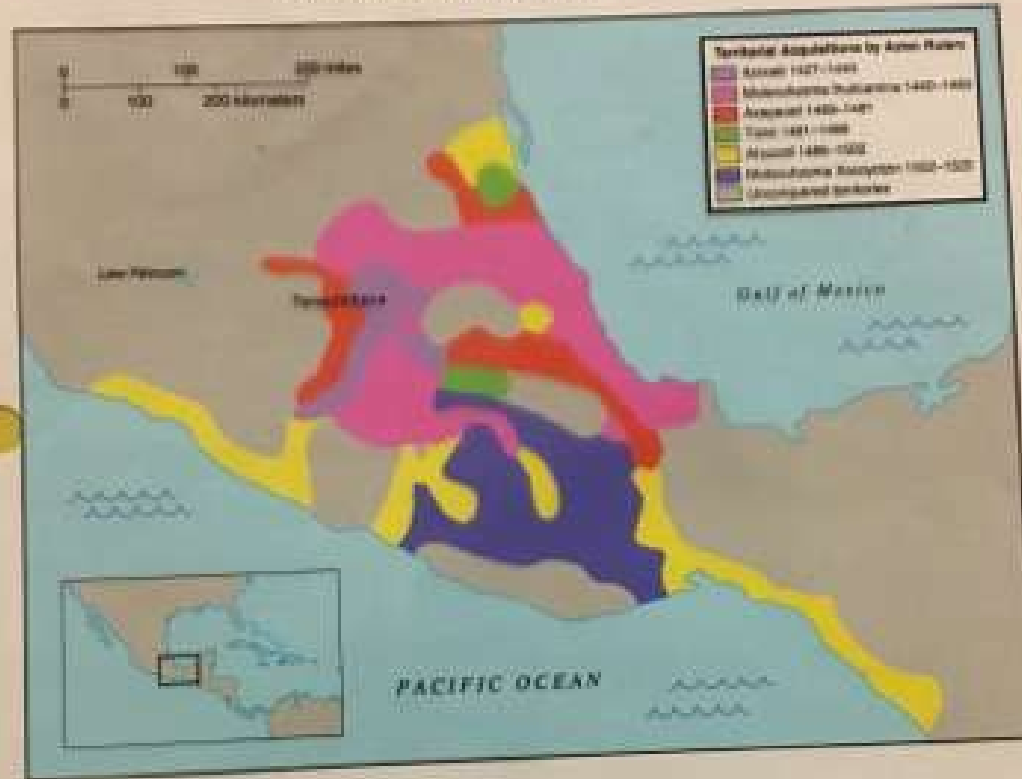
Where do you see this in the documents?

*Calendar was a 'plate' for
sacrificial offerings

→ sun god holding human heart

Document 2

Territorial Acquisitions by Aztec Rulers



- Notes:**
- This map illustrates the major Aztec conquests from the reign of Itzcoatl in 1427 to the reign of Motecuhzoma in 1520.
 - Aztec warriors had the reputation of being fierce fighters, and most territories shown on the map were acquired by force. Independent territories on the map were sometimes the result of a deliberate policy of leaving unoccupied lands available for future "flower wars." "Flower wars" were waged to provide an ongoing supply of captured sacrifice victims.

2

DOCUMENT 2 – MAP: AZTEC EMPIRE

Which direction did the Aztecs expand first? Last?

What happened to end it in 1520?


* N, S, & E (1st)

* S (last)

+

* Conquistadors arrived.

Document 3



31 boxes of your signs contained large central squares. Together they made up the 30-year Acton calendar.

Four signs were every four years taken, from the birds, and trees.

'Merry House' where business are made

One of the men demonstrating was taken from the four quarters of Tennessee

Eight or nine squares were Acton should have their city

Place of enemy staff

Large square represents Tennessee. The city is crossed by the diagonal lines

Enemy forces faced over and on the

Large Acton square showing the enemy

Note: The large square with the eagle into the area of settlement. The bottom panel into the body of transport.

20

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DOCUMENT 3 – EAGLE AND THE CACTUS

Based on analysis of this document, what should a historian emphasize about Aztec political life? (at least two things)

- * Men dominated politics; warfare; connected to environment; conquest/power

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Document 4

Unit 4
Aztecs

Tenochtitlan (Two Images)

Doc F.4

Source: (Top) National Museum of Anthropology (Museo Nacional de Antropología e Historia), Mexico City. Courtesy of Salvador Gualtero, Arroyo, INAH, in David Carrasco and Scott Sessions, *Day of the Aztec: People of the Sun and Earth*, Westport, Connecticut: Greenwood Press, 1998.
(Bottom) Peter N. Stearns et al., *World Civilizations: The Global Experience*, 6th Edition, New York: Addison-Wesley Educational Publishers, Inc., Longman, 2005.



Artist's reconstruction of the urban island settlement of Tenochtitlan and its smaller water city (left) Tlatelolco in 1519; the Aztec capital had an estimated population of 500,000, five times the size of London at that time.



Reconstruction of the ceremonial precinct of Tenochtitlan.

DOCUMENT 4 – TENOCHITLAN

Looking at the images, what can you infer about Aztec culture?

Where did they get the labor?

How did they have enough food to feed 300,000 people?

* Advanced architecture/
engineering; organized;
powerful

* Surrounding, conquered
areas

* Huge territory, farming,
tributes

Document 5

Source: *Slave Merchants*, 1989. Reprinted by permission of the Bodleian Library, University of Oxford, in *World Expressions and Social Structures*, 2000. Use of the African People of the Past and Present, Second Edition, 1999.

Document Note: The *Slave Merchants* was commissioned by the Journal Society of Miami in 1987 to provide King University with a visual view of the slave markets. The artwork in the center was drawn by Africa across approximately 1000 artists by Spanish artists.



Source: *From Slavery to Freedom*, The history of the negro in New Spain, 1680. Eric Foner, *From Slavery to Freedom*, University of Chicago Press, 1988.

The prisoners taken at Tenochtitlan were brought out. Men and women and children began to cavilize them, showing open their chests and entrancing their hearts. First they raised the hearts to the sun, then they threw them into the streets before the gods. This cavilize began at sunrise and ended at night fall. Two thousand three hundred men were killed and their blood watered the streets, temple and roadway. Each day the priest cut out a heart, they rolled the body down the stairs.



DOCUMENT 5 – SCALE OF SACRIFICE

Considering the sheer size of the Aztec Empire and looking at the numbers, should sacrifice really be the centerpiece of Aztec culture when studying history? Explain.

Are there any similar practices in modern society?

* Probably not, 2,300 out of 10,000,000 is a small %, but our civilization views it as wrong so it's hard to ignore it.

* Suicide bombers, military

Document 6

Chinampas Agriculture

Primary canal

Canal's water is brought from a spring water

Space of plot, about 10m x 10m

Water flow will keep the soil fertile

Chinampas are artificial islands in the shallow waters of the Gulf of Mexico. They are made of mud and silt, and are used for growing crops such as corn, beans, and tomatoes. The chinampas are connected to the mainland by a network of canals, and the water in the canals is used to irrigate the crops. The chinampas are a unique and important part of the agricultural system in the region.

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DOCUMENT 6 – CHINAMPUS AGRICULTURE

Looking at this model, what can you infer about Aztec society?

How do you feel about a culture that practiced both human sacrifice and chinampus farming?

* They were advanced farmers & always thought of the greater good.

* Interesting - so focused on the success of everyone, but still practice sacrifice. They must have truly believed it was best for all.

Document 7

Source: National Palace, Mexico City, courtesy of Scott Brinkman. Mural painted by Diego Rivera, c. 1930.

Diego Rivera Mural



The mural shows agriculture and food production in the Basin of Mexico. The men on the right plant and harvest the maize plants, while the women on the left grind and roll the product into tortillas. Behind them is a person dressed as a corn god. Rows of chinampas stretch across the lake as far as the eye can see. The great volcanoes can be seen at the top.

7

DOCUMENT 7 - MURAL: DIEGO RIVERA

What three things did Rivera want to emphasize about Aztec agriculture?

Do you think a historian would be justified to agree with Rivera's emphasis on agriculture over sacrifice in describing Aztec life?

* 1) Chinampas agriculture

2) Men plant & harvest;
women make food/process

3) Corn very important

* Absolutely! Aztec agriculture influenced everyone; sacrifice did not.

(this is opinion)

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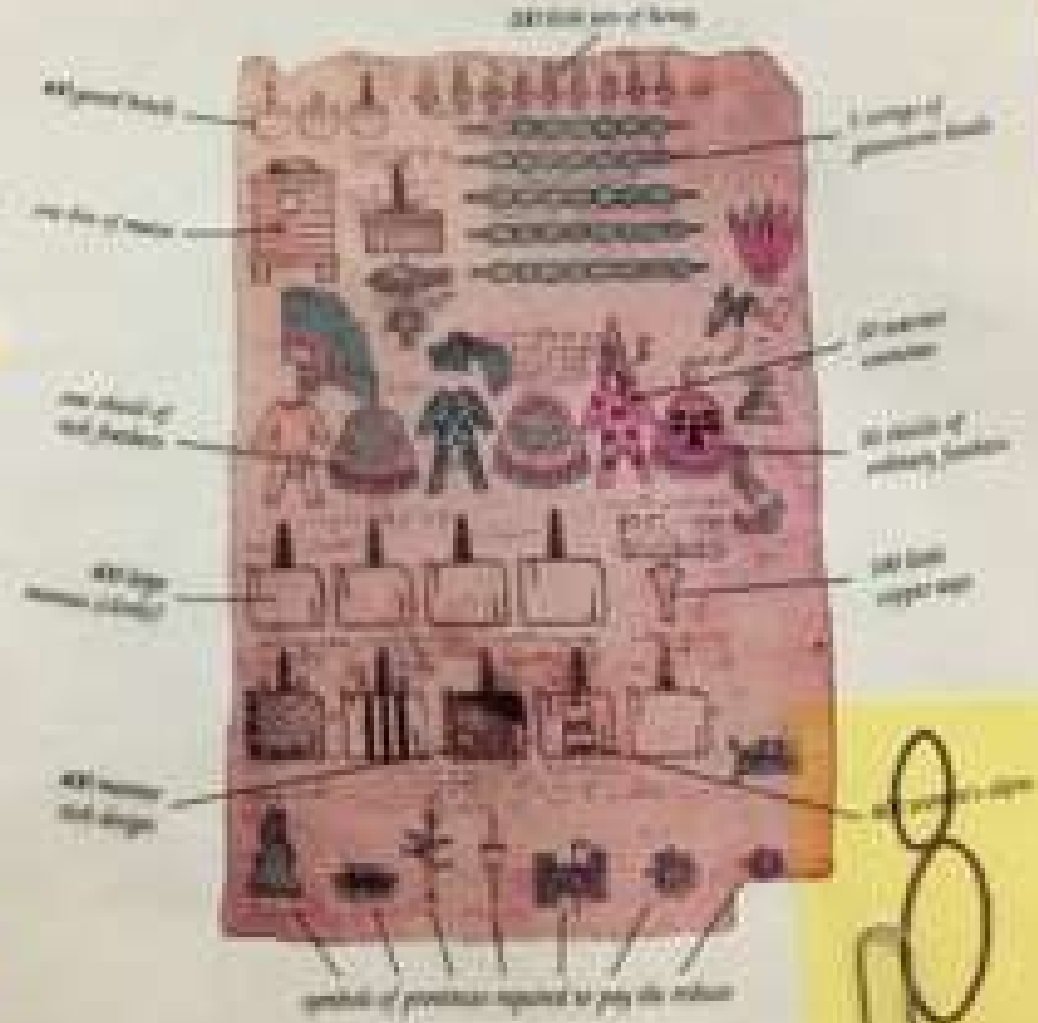
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Document 8

Watch the video and read the text to understand the meaning of the word 'document' and the importance of the document in the history of the world.

Read the text and answer the questions. The text is divided into three parts. The first part is about the importance of the document in the history of the world. The second part is about the importance of the document in the history of the world. The third part is about the importance of the document in the history of the world.



DOCUMENT 8 – DRAWING: TRIBUTE DEMANDS

What modern day practice is similar to this tribute?

What does this document tell us about the relationship between the Aztecs and their neighbors?

* taxes - collecting something of value in exchange for protection

* Aztecs were much more powerful & were intimidating/threatening