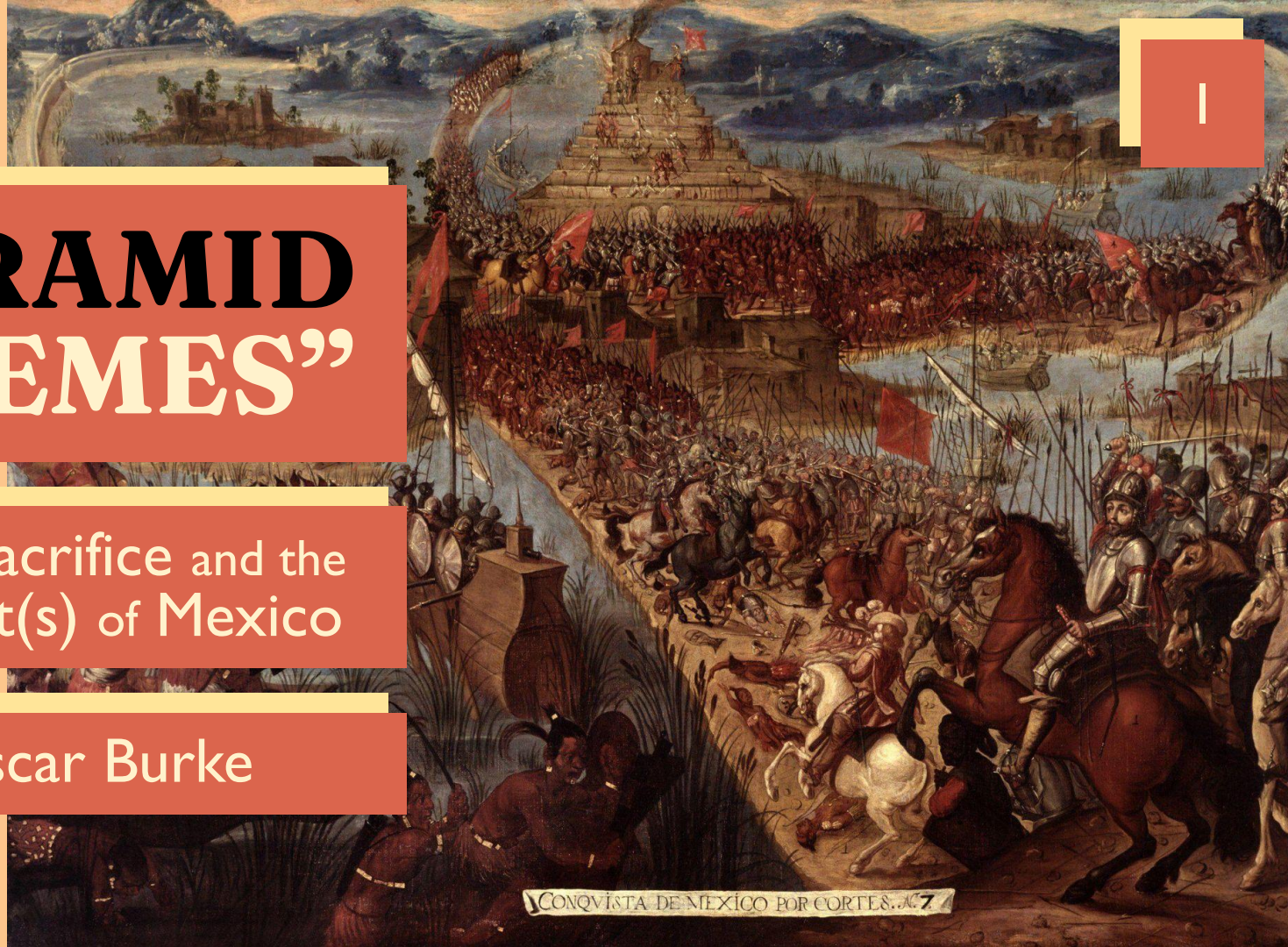


“PYRAMID SCHEMES”

Human Sacrifice and the Conquest(s) of Mexico

by Oscar Burke



What is our current understanding of human sacrifice in pre-Conquest Mexican society?

...compared with historical accounts provided by the Spanish?

PART ONE: Aztec Human Sacrifice

3



Game 2 (easy): Old-World Landmarks

4



Game 3: ???

5



Game 3: ???

6

A.

Pyramid B at Tollan
(Toltec)



B.

Main temple, Tlatelolco
(Tlatelolca is Aztec!)



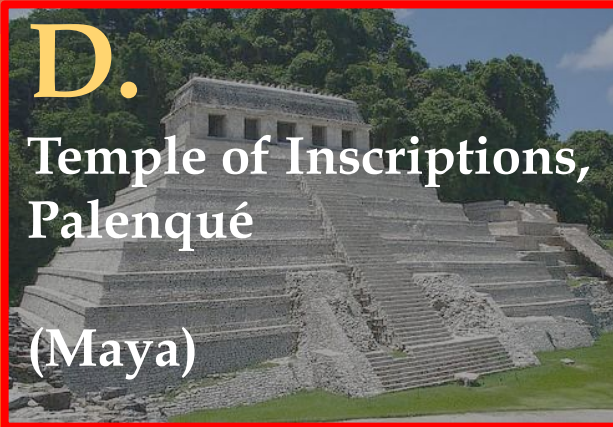
C.

Brihadeeswarar temple
in Thanjavur, India
(Tamil)



D.

Temple of Inscriptions,
Palenqué
(Maya)





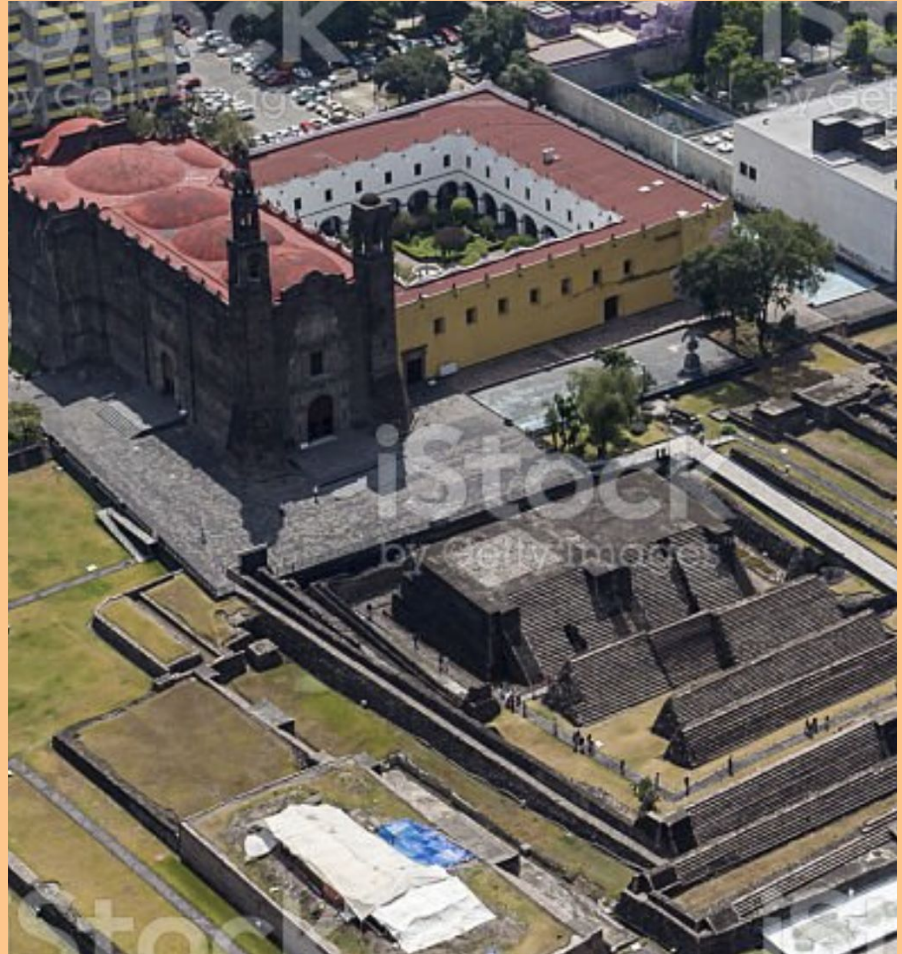
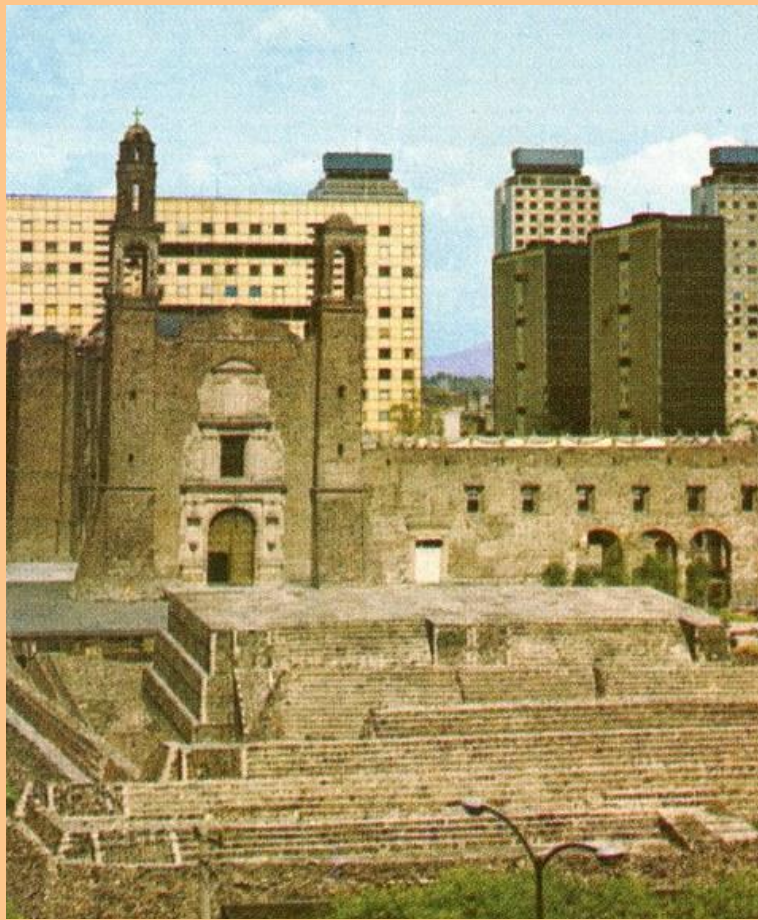
Wahhh waaaaahhhhhh

8



But Oscar! That building
literally has a bell tower with
a cross on it!





Sorry! (Not sorry!)

But isn't it weird that we've heard so little about pre-contact Mexican civilizations?

!! The Aztecs and the Aztecs !!

(M...ka)



Monaco

12



“Proud of itself

Is the city of Mexico-Tenochtitlan

Here no one fears to die in war

This is our glory

This is Your Command

Oh Giver of Life

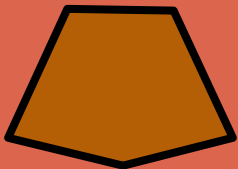
Have this in mind, oh princes

Who would conquer Tenochtitlan?

Who could shake the foundation of heaven?” (Carrasco 32)

Founding of Tenochtitlan; Rise of the Mexica

- In 1325: Tenochtitlan established
- Legend: Group of elders arrive at Lake Texcoco and witness an omen →
- Build an altar to **Huitzilopochtli**



NO WHEELS???

(NO HORSES!!!)

Ball Game (Insanely Swag)

16



← Great Ball Court
(Maya) at Chichén
Itzá

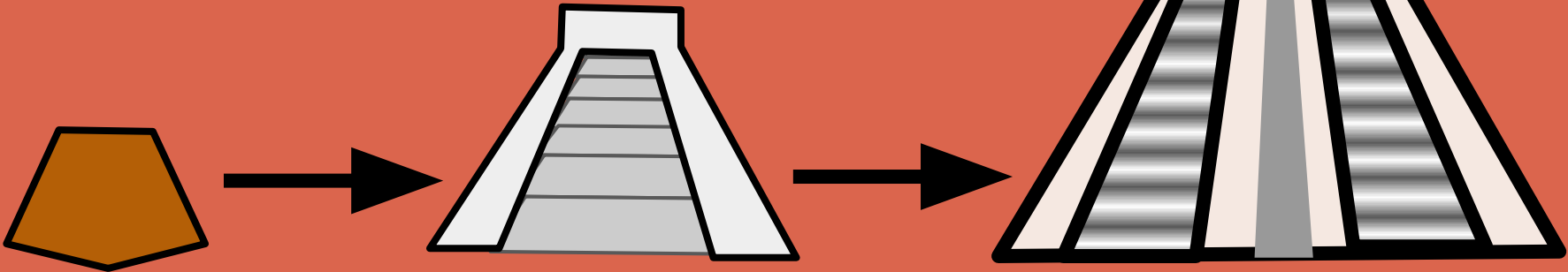
“Players were often badly
bruised, and sometimes
fatally injured, by the
impact of the ball”

(Berdan 79)



Religion = at the top

Temple rebuilt with every
successful conquest





- Okay, so what about sacrifice?
- If they're so advanced, then why would they do something as....
- “Barbaric” as human sacrifice?



Es complicado.
Ten paciencia.



Mexica Empire 1430-1521

Mexica Empire

Mexica commoners

Wants:
Material goods

Wants: Capture and sacrifice!
Save the sun!

other territories

Expansion =
SUCCESS



United States 1950-present

United
States

U.S.
Citizens



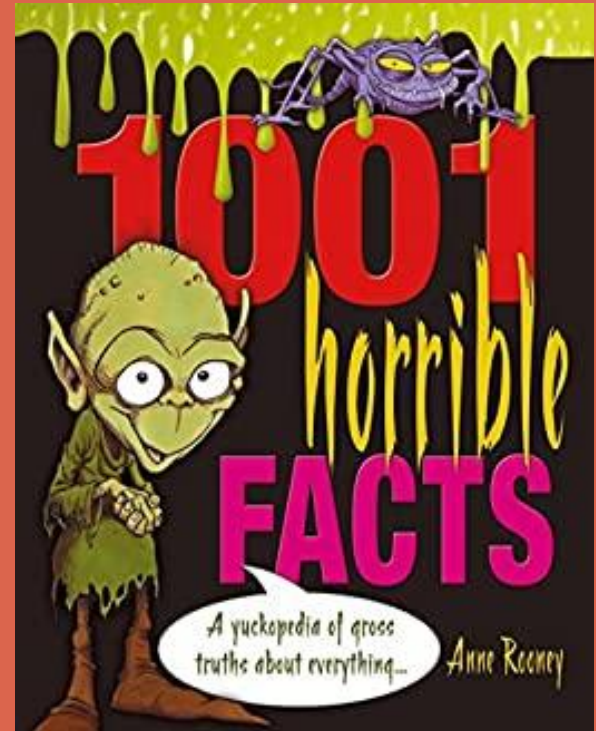
Spanish Empire 1492-1899 (more or less)



Spanish = “corrupt”

Mexica = “savage”

- Shock value
- Gruesome details
- No nuance (obviously)
- No context



- We LIKE shock value - nuance can wait
- But where does misinformation come from?

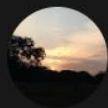




“[...]The Road of Progress Must Be Cut” –Keppeler, 1902
(Different context, similar idea— Mission of Civilization + savior complex)

Quote: Camilla Townsend - "Fifth Sun"

27



Yasin I. 2 months ago (edited)

I'm not even Christian myself but thank the Lord the Spanish Conquistadors came to Mexico



Worm 3 years ago

Thank god for Spain

Massachusetts

Precincts reporting: 99.6% (2165 / 2173)



Fluffy Boi 3 years ago

Damn, that's pretty crazy. Now I can definitely see why the Spaniards looked down upon them.



John Doe 11 months ago

I'm glad Cortes destroyed the Aztecs



Noob Saibot 1 year ago (edited)

As a Turk we clashed with the Spanish many times. We were rivals and competitors to each other.

Spanish did a good job in putting an end to the worst civilisation in the face of the planet.

Colonialism whether you agree or disagree with it the Europeans faced a lot of screwed up cultures around the world. Hence why its hard to feel sorry for them when they got colonised.



Pineapple Orange 11 months ago

Man these guys have nothing on Killua

Spain Activities I

28



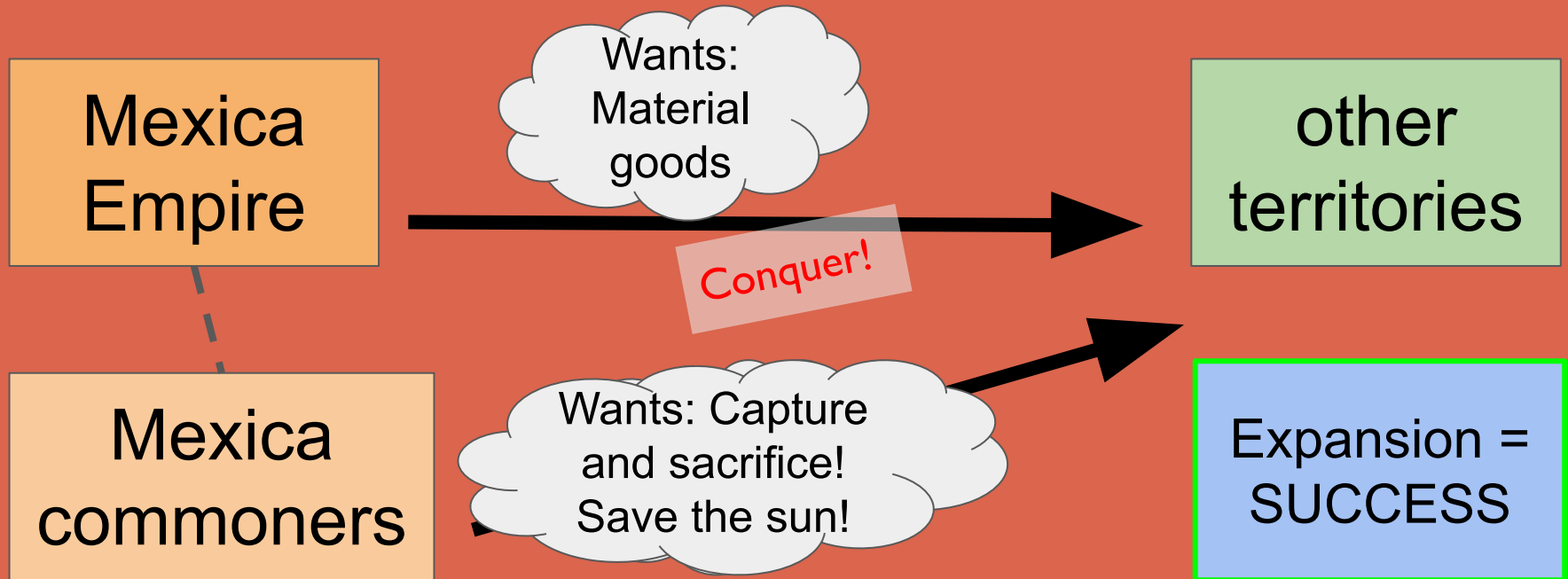




“The technical elevation of Huitzilopochtli to divine and celestial status, as a feat and an event, was intimately connected with the burning of Aztec tribal records demanded by Tlacaelel when it all began.

Itzcoatl's incendiarism is recorded clearly enough by Sahagún's Informants. And so are the motives for it: that the paintings [...] could undermine authority. That is, the sons of an oppressed tribe wandering towards and around the Valley of Mexico, poorly clad and insignificant, had **become conscious now of their new status** after the political and military successes of the 1430s” (Brotherston 160).

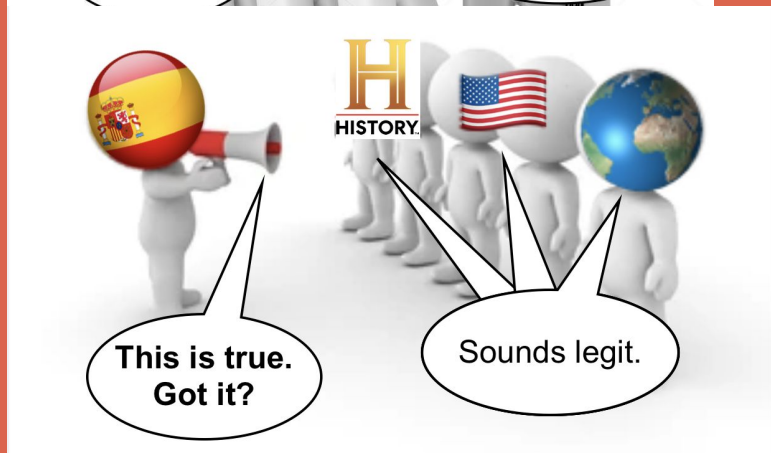
Mexica Empire 1430-1521



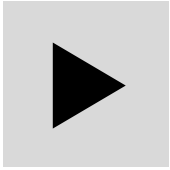
Recap:

- 1325: Tenochtitlan founded (probably)
- 1430: Mexica Empire (Triple Alliance) established
 - Records burnt, national identity invented
 - Emphasis on war, Huitzilopochtli = number 1
- 1519: Spanish arrive
- 1521: Spanish take Tenochtitlan
 - Mexica empire falls (RIP to a real one)
 - **New Spain** established

PART THREE: Project



- Use what I had learned
- Make something creative

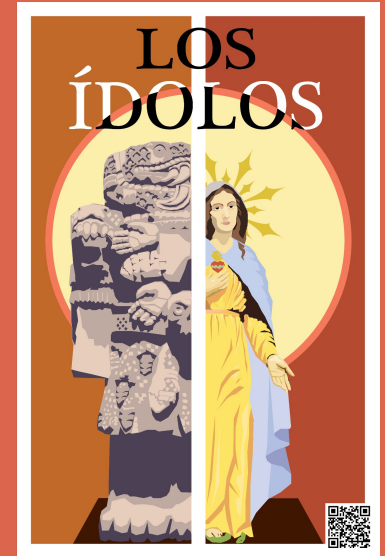
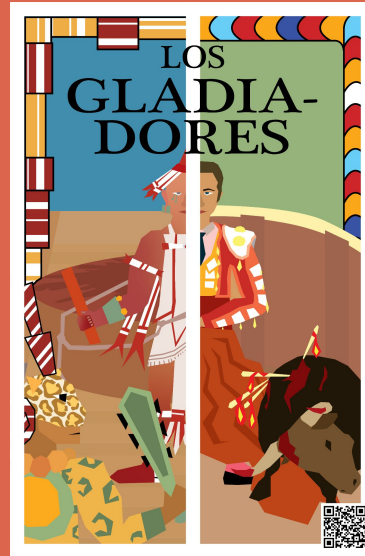


Drake_Passionfruit_Instrumental.mp3

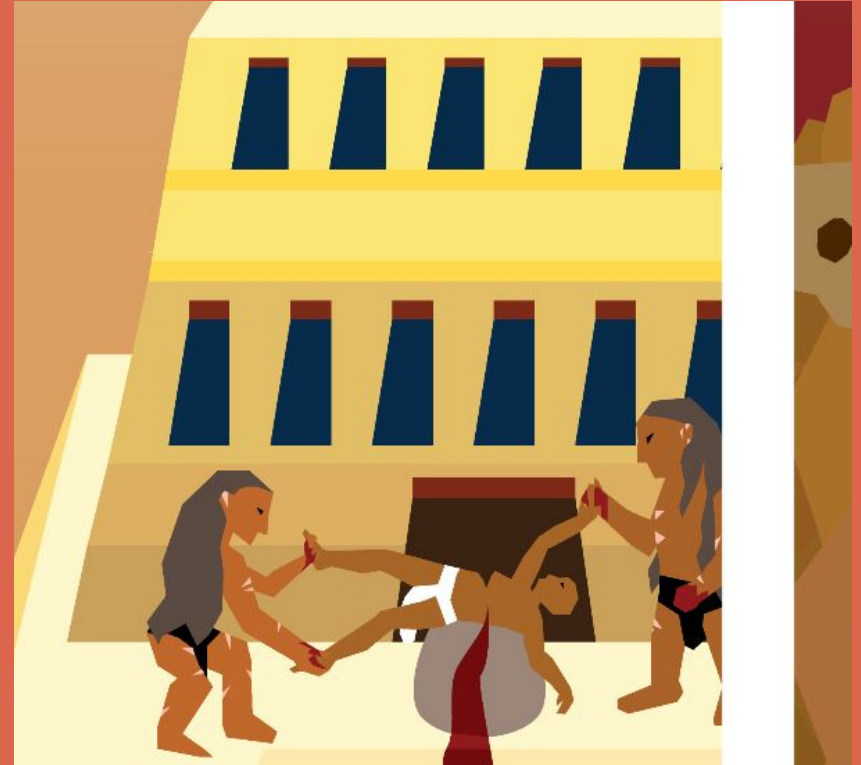
Listen

Aztec sacrifice was ritualistic
It was political, they didn't think
That the world would end
Yeah, murder
They would kill a whole lot of warriors
Because they wanted to scare off the kings
Of other *altepeme*

Sacrifice, in Tenochtitlan
Sacred fights with Tlaxcala
Capturing the warriors
I can't blame them, no, no
Sacrifice in front of all
Playing Aztec game of ball
They would risk it all
I can't blame them, no, no



- Spanish propaganda
- Unlikely parallels between Mexico + Spain



Poster 2: Los Gladiadores

39



Poster 3: Los Ídolos

40



Schedule2022-05-23.pdf Edsby: Inicio Oscar presentation script - G Folder shared with you: "La v Mesoamerican archaeology : Aztec Human Sacrifice x +

https://oscarburke.neocities.org Update

Aztec Sacrifice and the Spanish Conquest

Parallels and Disparities

Oscar Burke


Welcome! My name is Oscar Burke and I created this website during April and May of 2022 as part of a year-long research project on the [Aztecs](#).

My junior year research project was guided by the following question: How did the Aztec and Spanish empires clash specifically regarding the practice of Aztec human sacrifice?

From September to March, I worked on a 36-page literature review of the scholarly writing on the subject, and on May 26 I am set to give a presentation ([click here to look at my slides](#)) where I discuss what I have found during my research.

In addition to the lit review and presentation, I made three posters representing what I felt were key concepts in this field of study, specifically ones that related to the idea of duality and subtle parallels between the Spanish and the Aztecs. Each poster is split in two, representing an aspect of Aztec culture (on the left) and an aspect of Spanish culture (on the right) which mirror one another in unexpected

Click any of the 3 icons below to view the posters!



There is a comment section on every page— please share your thoughts!

Comments

Name

Enter your comment here

Not using [Html Comment Box](#) yet?

Marucs · 4 days ago
Great work Oscar, love the cursor
[Like](#) · [Reply](#) · [Flag](#)

Thank you!

42



Any Questions?