

THE AZTECS

Culture and way of life



The Aztec empire, like most of the Euro-Asian empires, was very diverse ethnically. Being a very young state entity, in its structure it resembled the classical military despotism of the ancient Near East - it was more a single system of collecting tribute than a single system of government, which even gave Arnold Toynbee a reason for analogy with the Assyrian Empire





Religious views of the Aztecs were based on the identification of celestial bodies with supernatural beings, which responded simultaneously for the good, and for the evil of human actions. The pantheon of the gods of the Aztecs included 63 deities. Among them were three great gods, four creators, 15 fertility gods, six rain gods, three fire gods, four gods of pulque, 12 gods of planets and stars, six gods of death and earth, four polyfunctional deities.





The art of the Aztecs was utilitarian and realistic in form, permeated with religious symbols. In the Aztec world there was a special group of people - "connoisseurs of things", which included painters, sculptors, philosophers, musicians, astrologers, etc. Their purpose was to lead a righteous way of life, to pray, perform sacrifices, harden Spirit and body. Most of all, this applied to the artists of the word - writers, who occupied a special position among other "connoisseurs of things".

