

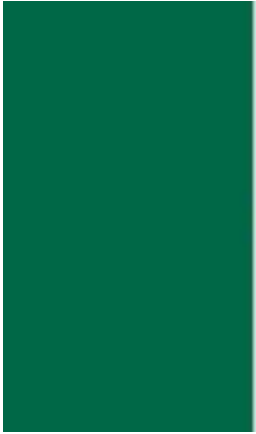
# The Aztecs



- The **Aztec** people were certain ethnic groups of central Mexico, who spoke the Nahuatl language and who dominated large parts of Mesoamerica in the 14th, 15th and 16th centuries.



- In the native language of the Aztec Nahuatl word "Aztec" literally means "someone from Aztlan", a mythical place located somewhere in the north.



**The true origin of the Mexicas is uncertain. According to their legends, the Mexica tribe place of origin was Aztlán. It is generally thought that Aztlán was somewhere to the north of the Valley of Mexico; some experts have placed it as far north as the Southwestern United States.**



- The empire reached its height during Ahuitzotl reign in 1486–1502. His successor, Montezuma, has been Hueyi Tlatoani for 17 years .In 1521, Hernán Cortés, along with a large number of Nahuatl speaking indigenous allies, conquered Tenochtitlan and defeated the Aztecs.



# Cultural patterns

## Government

The Aztec Empire was an example of an empire that ruled by indirect means.

Although the form of government is often referred to as an empire, in fact most areas within the empire were organized as city-states, known as altepetl in Nahuatl.

## Economy

The Aztec economy can be divided into a political sector, under the control of nobles and kings, and a commercial sector that operated independently of the political sector. The political sector of the economy centered on the control of land and labor by kings and nobles.

In the commercial sector of the economy several types of money were in regular use.

## Transportation

The main contribution of the Aztec rule was a system of communications between the conquered cities. In Mesoamerica, without draft animals for transport the roads were designed for travel on foot.

## Mythology and religion

Veneration of Huitzilopochtli, the personification of the sun and of war, was central to the religious, social and political practices of the Mexicas.

According to myth, Huitzilopochtli directed the wanderers to found a city on the site where they would see an eagle devouring a snake perched on a fruit-bearing nopal cactus.



The **Aztec calendar** is the calendar system that was used by the Aztecs as well as other Pre-Columbian peoples of central Mexico. It is one of the Mesoamerican calendars, sharing the basic structure of calendars from throughout ancient Mesoamerica.

The calendar consisted of a 365-day calendar cycle (year count) and a 260-day ritual cycle.

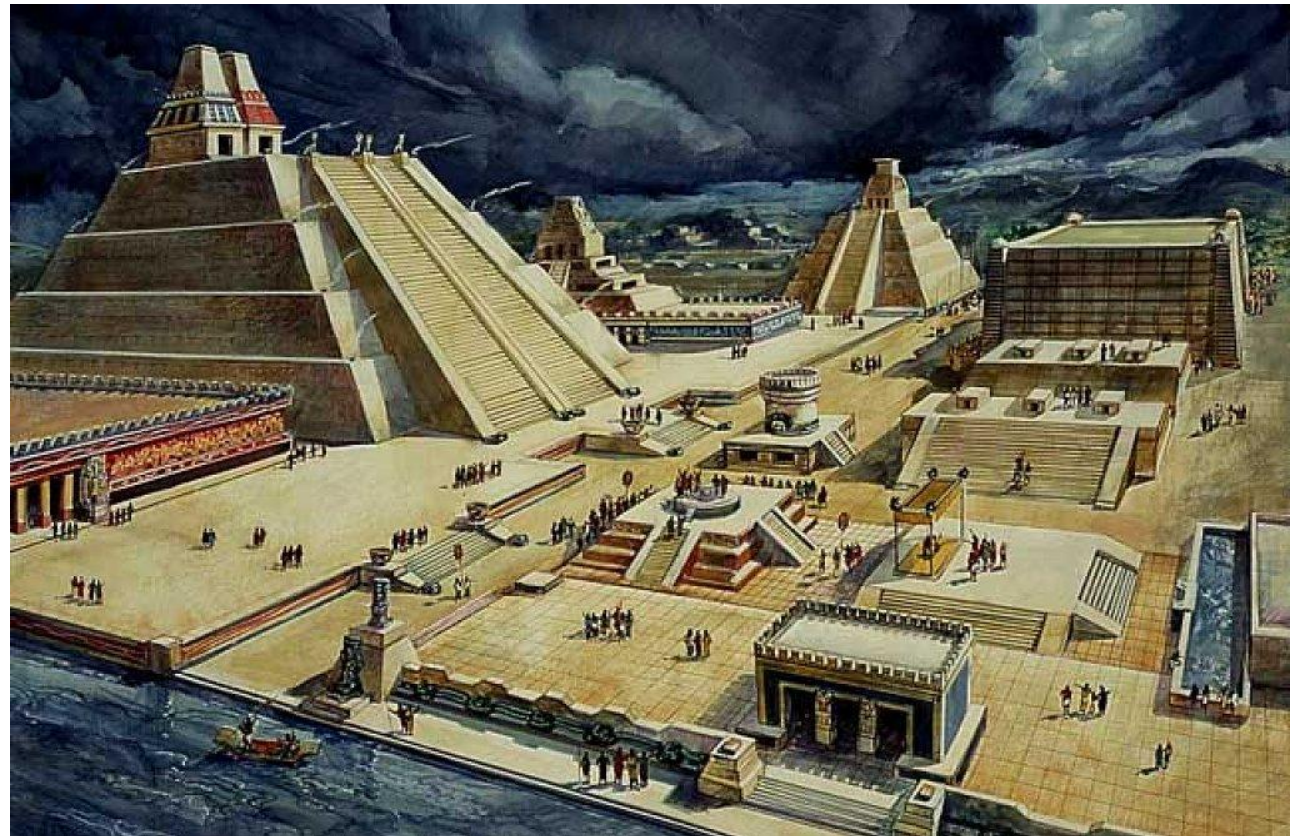
- Men's clothing and women's clothing adorned ornaments . There are sun; geometric shapes, precious stones, shells; animal motifs (rabbits, snakes, butterflies, fish); plants ; falling snow. Men's clothing: the main attribute - loincloth. The main outer garment – cloak Women's clothing: a mandatory attribute - a long skirt, blouse.





# City-building and architecture

- Tenochtitlan was built according to a fixed plan and centered on the ritual precinct, where the Great Pyramid of Tenochtitlan rose 50 m above the city. Houses were made of wood and loam, roofs were made of reed, although pyramids, temples and palaces were generally made of stone.



The Aztecs created artificial islands or chinampa on Lake Texcoco; on these islands grown crops and horticultural crops. The main products of the Aztec food were corn (maize), beans and cucurbits.

The Aztecs made extensive use of agave; agave used for food, sugar, fiber drinks and for ropes and clothing. Cotton and valuables were available only for the elite. cocoa nibs used as money. Subordinates city paid annual tribute in form of luxury.



# Sources of information

1. <https://ru.wikipedia.org>
2. <http://mexicolore.co.uk/aztecs/>
3. <https://yandex.ru/images/>
4. <https://www.azteccalendar.com>

