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**Maya History**-Captivating History 2020-01-18 In the past decade or two, there has been an upsurge of interest in Maya history. This was partly fueled by the mythical Maya prediction of the end of the world in 2012, which for a short period of time put this civilization under the media spotlight. But there is much more to their culture than the common misconception about their calendar.

**Maya History and Religion**-John Eric Sidney Thompson 1990 In this volume, a distinguished Maya scholar seeks to correlate data from colonial writings and observations of the modern Indian with archaeological information in order to extend and clarify the panorama of Maya culture.

**Mayan Civilization**-Henry Freeman 2020-04-16 Making sense of our universe...It's an age-old practice that transcends cultures and generations. From our vantage point, the larger than life Maya civilization grappled with the urge in a grand scale. Join us as we take a voyage to understand the ways of the Maya. Inside you will read about...[] Who Made Contact? Early Explorers and their Impact [] How the Maya Wanted to Be Represented - History Written by the Victors [] Different Periods of Maya History [] Larger Than Life [] New Findings We'll learn what they held as sacred, how the sacred manifested itself in their lives, and about efforts to accurately portray them, despite romanticized versions. This eBook provides a deeper look at their pre-Columbian battling dynasties and their highly-structured approach to religion, science and society, as we explore their glories and misfortunes.

**Ancient Maya**-Arthur Demarest 2004-12-09 Ancient Maya comes to life in this new holistic and theoretical study.

**Classic Maya Political History**-T. Patrick Culbert 1996-03-29 This volume presents the first history of the Classic Maya based on a combination of the Maya's own dynastic records and archaeological data.

**Maya History**-Tatiana Proskouriakoff 2011-01-19 Tatiana Proskouriakoff, a preeminent student of the Maya, made many breakthroughs in deciphering Maya writing, particularly in demonstrating that the glyphs record the deeds of actual human beings, not gods or priests. This discovery opened the way for a history of the Maya, a monumental task that Proskouriakoff was engaged in before her death in 1985. Her work, Maya History, has been made ready for press by the able editorship of Rosemary Joyce. Maya History reconstructs the Classic Maya period (roughly A.D. 250-900) from the glyphic record on stelae at numerous sites, including Altar de Sacrificios, Copan, Dos Pilas, Naranjo, Piedras Negras, Quirigua, Tikal, and Yaxchilan. Proskouriakoff traces the spread of governmental institutions from the central Peten, especially from Tikal, to other city-states by conquest and intermarriage. Thirteen line drawings of monuments and over three hundred original drawings of glyphs amplify the text.

**The Ancient Maya**-Jackie Maloy 2010 Describes the history, geography, and culture of the ancient Maya, including information on their beliefs and achievements.

**History of the Maya**-Njord Kane 2016-11-01 Describes the history, geography, and culture of the ancient Maya, including information on their beliefs and achievements.
Definitively tracing the evolution and history of the Maya civilization from the arrival of migrating ‘first peoples’ to the end of the Pre-Columbian Mesoamerican World with the Spanish Conquest in the 16th century. A span of some thousands of years are concisely covered in one volume in a thorough study of the evolution of a complex Maya society. A new world of understanding about the ancient Maya civilization has been opened up from new archaeological discoveries and studies. Easy to read and very interesting, providing first an overview, then a chapter by chapter journey through major events in Maya history.

Maya Civilization-Hourly History 2020-01-06
Discover the remarkable history of the Maya Civilization...For more than one thousand years, the Maya people dominated areas of Central America and modern-day Mexico and made important advances in architecture, astronomy, mathematics, and medicine. Then, after the Spanish occupation in the sixteenth century, Maya culture and thinking were deliberately suppressed. Only in the twentieth century did scientists appreciate just how advanced these people had been and how important they were in the history of Mesoamerica. The excavation and investigation of several large Maya cities in the second half of the twentieth century completely changed how we view these people. We now know that the Maya were capable of building large stone structures that were precisely aligned with astronomical features, though we do not know how this was done. We are still learning about Maya cities-as recently as 2018, the use of new technology uncovered more than 60,000 previously undiscovered Maya ruins in the jungles of Guatemala. Many scholars now believe that the Maya were one of the most important of all the ancient Mesoamerican cultures. There are still many mysteries about the Maya. At one point in their history, several major Maya cities were abandoned and left to the encroaching jungle while their people relocated to more inhospitable areas in the Yucatán. There are many theories, but no one is entirely certain why this happened. We also don't know why the Maya made important advances in the fields of mathematics and medicine and yet failed to develop, for example, the wheel or metalworking. What we do know is that these people created a sophisticated culture which they recorded via one of the first complex writing systems. Unlike other contemporary Mesoamerican peoples, the Maya survived the Spanish occupation, and Maya language, religion, and culture continue to survive today in parts of Central America and Mexico. This is the story of the mysterious and frequently misunderstood Maya civilization. Discover a plethora of topics such as Origins Maya Religion and Medicine The Classic Period Weapons and Warfare The Spanish Conquest Maya Writing And much more! So if you want a concise and informative book on the Maya Civilization, simply scroll up and click the "Buy now" button for instant access!

The History of the Maya-Mary Ann Hoffman 2010-01-01
Presents an introduction to the concept of using computational skills in problem solving, and contains an overview of the history of the Mayan people of Mexico, including information on their society, economy, architecture, mathematics, and writing.

Time Among the Maya-Ronald Wright 2000
The Maya created one of the world’s most brilliant civilizations, famous for its art, astronomy, and deep fascination with the mystery of time. Despite collapse in the ninth century, Spanish invasion in the sixteenth, and civil war in the twentieth, eight million people in Guatemala, Belize, and southern Mexico speak Mayan languages and maintain their resilient culture to this day. Traveling through Central America’s jungles and mountains, Ronald Wright explores the ancient roots of the Maya, their recent troubles, and prospects for survival. Embracing history, anthropology, politics, and literature, Time Among the Maya is a riveting journey through past magnificence and the study of an enduring civilization with much to teach the present. "Wright's unpretentious narrative blends anthropology, archaeology, history, and politics with his own entertaining excursions and encounters." -- The New Yorker; "Time Among the Maya shows Wright to be far more than a mere storyteller or descriptive writer. He is an historical philosopher with a profound understanding of other cultures." -- Jan Morris, The Independent (London).

The Ancient Maya-Robert J. Sharer 2006
The rich findings of recent exploration and research are incorporated in this completely revised and greatly expanded sixth edition of this standard
work on the Maya people. New field discoveries, new technical advances, new successes in the decipherment of Maya writing, and new theoretical perspectives on the Maya past have made this new edition necessary.

The Popol Vuh - Lewis Spence 1908

The Popol Vuh - Charles River Editors 2017-07-19 *Includes pictures *Includes excerpts of the Popol Vuh *Includes online resources and a bibliography for further reading

Many ancient civilizations have influenced and inspired people in the 21st century. The Greeks and Romans continue to fascinate the West today. But of all the world’s civilizations, none have intrigued people more than the Mayans, whose culture, astronomy, language, and mysterious disappearance all continue to captivate people. In 2012 especially, there was a renewed focus on the Mayans, whose advanced calendar led many to speculate the world would end on the same date the Mayan calendar ends. The focus on the “doomsday” scenario, however, overshadowed the Mayans’ true contribution to astronomy, language, sports, and art. Unlike most of the world’s sacred books - the Quran, the Bible or the I-Ching for example - nobody knows the universal name, if there ever was one, for the Maya’s collection of myths. Instead, the title that has been passed down, the “Popol Vuh,” appears to be the specific title given to a particular copy of these tales. Its meaning, roughly translated as the Council Book, refers to the special role of this text: it was the shared property of the council of lords that ruled the Quiché kingdom and was apparently regularly consulted by that body for advice to guide their rule. However, in the opening sections, the scribes who penned the text also give it several other names, including "the Light That Came from Beside the Sea," "Our Place in the Shadows" and "The Dawn of Life" (pg 63). All of these names were originally in K’ichean Maya, the language spoken by the Maya of the Quiché Kingdom and its neighboring regions. The first of these names refers to a pilgrimage by the second generation of Quiché lords in Part V to the Yucatan coast to acquire a copy of at least a portion of the original text. The second refers to Part IV, the period before the first Dawn (the “Shadows”) when the ancestral Quiché earned their particular right to rule. The final name refers to Part I, when the first gods created all of the various parts of life. This multiplicity of names and titles for sacred works is not uncommon, and perhaps comparable to the Bible being referred to as "the Good Book" or (in reference to the New Testament)” the Good News" or the "Gospel." The name Popol Vuh is itself controversial as the original text actually spells the name three different ways: "Popol Vuh", of course, but also "Pop Wuj" and "Popol Wuj." In general, the most correct form in contemporary Quiche spelling is probably "Popol Wuj", but as the text is best known in English with the word "Vuh", this convention will be maintained here (Enriik 2014). There are a number of translations and editions of the Popol Vuh, which vary considerably in quality. Many early editions were not informed by the latest scholarship in Maya linguistics and sometimes the ways they translate names in particular can vary. This text will use the Second Edition (1996), translated by Dennis Tedlock and published by Simon and Schuster, for all of its quotations and page citations. The Popol Vuh: The History and Legacy of the Maya's Creation Myth and Epic Legends examines what's contained within and how the Popol Vuh survived to the present day. Along with pictures depicting important people, places, and events, you will learn about the Popol Vuh like never before.

Maya Civilization - Captivating History 2020-02-13

Maya Civilization - Captivating History 2017-09-09 Explore the Captivating History and Mythology of the Maya! In this captivating guide, you will discover why Maya have gained such worldwide admiration over the many other civilizations that existed in Mesoamerica at the time. You will learn how the Maya civilization developed, the major turning points in their 3,000-year-long history, the mysteries surrounding their demise, and some of the unique places where Maya exist to this day. In the first part of this book, you will discover the origins of the Maya civilization and the Mesoamerican cultures that may have influenced them. You will find out why Maya (out of all the different tribes that existed in the region at the time) have captured the imagination of the West so much. The book will reveal how they lived, ate, slept, whom they worshipped, and how they used herbal medicines and hallucinogenic plants to treat the sick. You learn about their trading routes and rivalries with another famous
Mesoamerican tribe-the Aztecs. The book will go into the decline of the Maya civilization and how their rivalries with the Aztecs aided the victory of the Spanish conquistadors in the 16th century, led by the famous Spaniard Hernán Cortés. You will also learn about the heroic efforts of the Maya to fend off the Spaniards, and why they were able to succeed at this task for much longer than the Aztecs. The book will also track down the Maya living today, a population that is still six million strong and adhere to many of the traditions that their ancestors once held. In among the battle tales and gore of human sacrifice, you will get some delicious cocoa recipes, Maya-style, that you can make at home. After you have discovered all about the Maya origins, their cuisine, and their most notable events to present day, the book will go into the aspect that’s often the reason why so many people have been fascinated by the Maya civilization throughout the ages. You will learn about their mythology, cosmology, and the solar calendar that resulted in the infamous doomsday scare back in 2012. Some of the topics and questions covered in this book include: Maya Timeline Glossary of Important Maya Terms The Origins of the Mesoamerican Civilizations The Archaic period: 7000 - 2000 BC The Olmecs: 1,200 - 300 BC The Preclassic Period and the Magnificent Zapotec Early Preclassic period: 2000 to 1000 BC Cuello and early Maya architecture Middle Preclassic period: 1000 to 300 BC The Zapotec: 600 BC to AD 800 Late Preclassic period: 300 BC to AD 250 The Classic Period, Doomsday Calendar, and the Mystery of the Red Queen Early Classic - AD 250 to 600 How Maya measured the time Late Classic - AD 600 to 900 The mystery of the Red Queen Terminal Classic - AD 900 to 1000 Food, Rites, and Gruesome Tales How to make Maya hot chocolate at home How did the Maya grow their food? The Maize god The Maya beauty standards The sacred Ball Game The Decline of the Maya Civilization and Human Sacrifice Early Postclassic - AD 1000 to 1250 Inside Chichen Itza - features of Maya cities The Maya Observatory (El Caracol) Human sacrifice and the methods The Kukulkan pyramid Late Postclassic Period and the Spanish Conquest Maya Today Maya Creation Story The Maya Cosmology And a Great Deal More that You don't Want to Miss out on! Get the book now and learn more about the Maya Civilization!

Discover The Maya History & How They Lived! Inside this book, you will find the following: The history of the Maya people and where their civilization began and expanded from How the name "Maya" came to be used for these people Insights on the Maya gods and what they stood for to the Maya people And much more!

New KS2 Discover & Learn: History - Mayan Civilisation Study- 2018-12-04

Daily Life in Maya Civilization- Robert J. Sharer 1996 “Popular overview of Maya civilization. Begins with basic observations about archaeology and the Maya, then presents a synthesis of Maya history to provide the context for a topically organized characterization of the Maya cultural tradition. Essentially a streamlined version of author's The ancient Maya, though less detailed and less extensively illustrated”-- Handbook of Latin American Studies, v. 57.

The Most Famous Cities of the Maya-Charles River Charles River Editors 2018-02-20 *Includes pictures* Describes the history and archaeology at each site *Includes a bibliography for further reading* Many ancient civilizations have influenced and inspired people in the 21st century, like the Greeks and the Romans, but of all the world’s civilizations, none have intrigued people more than the Mayans, whose culture, astronomy, language, and mysterious disappearance all continue to captivate people. At the heart of the fascination is the most visited and the most spectacular of Late Classic Maya cities: Chichén Itzá. Chichén Itzá was inhabited for hundreds of years and was a very influential center in the later years of Maya civilization. At its height, Chichén Itzá may have had over 30,000 inhabitants, and with a spectacular pyramid, enormous ball court, observatory and several temples, the builders of this city exceeded even those at Uxmal in developing the use of columns and exterior relief decoration. Of particular interest at Chichén Itzá is the sacred cenote, a sinkhole was a focus for Maya rituals around water. Because adequate supplies of water, which rarely collected on the surface of the limestone based Yucatan, were essential for adequate agricultural production, the Maya here considered it of primary importance. Underwater archaeology carried out in the cenote at Chichén Itzá revealed that
offerings to the Maya rain deity Chaac (which may have included people) were tossed into the sinkhole. Early Mayapán was closely connected to the overshadowing power of the region at the time: the mighty trading city of Chichén Itzá. Mayapán emerged first as a minor settlement in the orbit of Chichén, but it slowly came to replace it after the larger city’s trade connections with the Toltecs of Tula crumbled and it suffered a staggering defeat by Mayapán’s armies. The building styles and art in their city show both admiring references to the great Chichén Itzá as well as an attempt to position Mayapán as a more orthodox heir of Maya tradition. At the same time, they emulated many features and could not escape the tremendous influences - especially in religion - of Chichén. This is seen in the fact that many of the most important buildings in the new city appear to be small-scale reproductions of ones in Chichén. The Maya maintained power in the Yucatan for over a thousand years, and at the height of its “Classical era” (3rd-9th centuries CE), the city of Tikal was one of the power centers of the empire. Archaeologists believe Tikal had been built as early as the 5th or 4th century BC, and eventually it became a political, economic and military capital that was an important part of a far-flung network across Mesoamerica, despite the fact it was seemingly conquered by Teotihuacan in the 4th century CE. It seems the foreign rulers came to assimilate Mayan culture, thus ensuring Tikal would continue to be a power base, and as a result, the city would not be abandoned until about the 10th century CE. During the Maya’s Classical era, the city of Uxmal was one of its most noteworthy places. While it was not as powerful as cities like Tikal, Uxmal was apparently at the forefront of Mayan culture, particularly when it came to architecture. However, while Uxmal used high ground to display its prominence, and the ruins are still among the most popular places for tourists in the region, the site is still shrouded in mystery. Even as scholars continue to work on the site to further interpret it, it’s still unclear when exactly Uxmal was founded, how many people called it home, and when it was abandoned, despite the existence of Mayan chronicles and oral legends. What is apparent, however, is the skills of Uxmal’s artisans, whether through constructing structures like the five-level Pyramid of Magicians and the expansive Governor’s Palace or adorning the structures with precisely detailed art and sculptures. In fact, the craftsmanship can be credited with helping to preserve Uxmal itself.

**Collapse** Jared Diamond 2013-03-21 From the author of Guns, Germs and Steel, Jared Diamond’s Collapse: How Societies Choose to Fail or Survive is a visionary study of the mysterious downfall of past civilizations. Now in a revised edition with a new afterword, Jared Diamond’s Collapse uncovers the secret behind why some societies flourish, while others founder - and what this means for our future. What happened to the people who made the forlorn long-abandoned statues of Easter Island? What happened to the architects of the crumbling Maya pyramids? Will we go the same way, our skyscrapers one day standing derelict and overgrown like the temples at Angkor Wat? Bringing together new evidence from a startling range of sources and piecing together the myriad influences, from climate to culture, that make societies self-destruct, Jared Diamond’s Collapse also shows how - unlike our ancestors - we can benefit from our knowledge of the past and learn to be survivors. ‘A grand sweep from a master storyteller of the human race’ - Daily Mail ‘Riveting, superb, terrifying’ - Observer ‘Gripping ... the book fulfils its huge ambition, and Diamond is the only man who could have written it’ - Economis ‘This book shines like all Diamond’s work’ - Sunday Times

**Handbook to Life in the Ancient Maya World** Lynn V. Foster 2005 This comprehensive and accessible reference explores the greatest and most mysterious of civilizations, hailed for its contributions to science, mathematics, and technology. Each chapter is supplemented by an extensive bibliography as well as photos, original line drawings, and maps.


**The Classic Maya** Stephen D. Houston 2009-09-14 In the first millennium AD, the Classic Maya created courtly societies in and around the Yucatan Peninsula that have left some of the most striking intellectual and aesthetic achievements of the ancient world, including large settlements like Tikal, Copan, and...
Palenque. This book is the first in-depth synthesis of the Classic Maya. It is richly informed by new decipherments of hieroglyphs and decades of intensive excavation and survey. Structured by categories of person in society, it reports on kings, queens, nobles, gods, and ancestors, as well as the many millions of farmers and other figures who lived in societies predicated on sacred kingship and varying political programs. The Classic Maya presents a tandem model of societies bound by moral covenants and convulsed by unavoidable tensions between groups, all affected by demographic trends and changing environments. Focusing on the Classic heartland but referring to other zones, it will serve as the basic source for all readers interested in the civilization of the Maya.

The Ancient Maya - Heather Irene McKillop 2004

Thanks to powerful innovations in archaeology and other types of historical research, we now have a picture of everyday life in the Mayan empire that turns the long-accepted conventional wisdom on its head. * Includes numerous illustrations and drawings plus depictions of important artifacts such as the murals of Bonampak and the hieroglyphic stairway of Copan * Provides detailed maps of major Maya cities as well as other research sites

Mayan Civilization - Hourly History 2016-09-26

Mayan History Making sense of our universe...It's an age-old practice that transcends cultures and generations. From our vantage point, the larger than life Maya civilization grappled with the urge in a grand scale. Join us as we take a voyage to understand the ways of the Maya. Inside you will read about... - Who Made Contact? Early Explorers and their Impact - How the Maya Wanted to Be Represented - History Written by the Victors - Different Periods of Maya History - Larger Than Life - New Findings We'll learn what they held as sacred, how the sacred manifested itself in their lives, and about efforts to accurately portray them, despite romanticized versions. This eBook provides a deeper look at their pre-Columbian battling dynasties and their highly-structured approach to religion, science and society, as we explore their glories and misfortunes.

The Maya: A Very Short Introduction - Matthew Restall 2020-09-21

The Maya forged one of the greatest societies in the history of the ancient Americas and in all of human history. Long before contact with Europeans, Maya communities built spectacular cities with large, well-fed large populations. They mastered the visual arts, and developed a sophisticated writing system that recorded extraordinary knowledge in calendrics, mathematics, and astronomy. The Maya achieved all this without area-wide centralized control. There was never a single, unified Maya state or empire, but always numerous, evolving ethnic groups speaking dozens of distinct Mayan languages. The people we call "Maya" never thought of themselves as such; yet something definable, unique, and endlessly fascinating - what we call Maya culture - has clearly existed for millennia. So what was their self-identity and how did Maya civilization come to be "invented?" With the Maya historically subdivided and misunderstood in so many ways, the pursuit of what made them "the Maya" is all the more important. In this Very Short Introduction, Restall and Solari explore the themes of Maya identity, city-state political culture, art and architecture, the Maya concept of the cosmos, and the Maya experience of contact with including invasion by outsiders. Despite its brevity, this book is unique for its treatment of all periods of Maya civilization, from its origins to the present.

The Mayans - Jon Richards 2018-10-11

History in Infographics helps children to visualise facts and statistics using a clever and appealing mix of graphics and numbers. The colourful, high-impact design will appeal to a wide range of children, from visual learners to struggling readers, capturing and then holding their attention. Infographics are a really exciting, different way to learn about core historical topics, and are ideal for fact-hungry children, revision work, and to improve the quality of presentations. History in Infographics: The Mayans allows children to explore the Mayan civilisation like never before, finding out how people lived, what they ate, what they wore, how they were ruled, the games they played and how the civilisation died out. Children can discover that the Maya were the first people to make hot chocolate, and how they did it, that they went to war to capture prisoners they then sacrificed to their gods, and all about other South American civilisations, including the Aztecs and the Incas. Ideal for children of 9+, and fact and history lovers of all ages, the Mayans have never seemed
more exciting!

The Illustrated Encyclopedia of Aztec and Maya - Charles Phillips 2017-03-01 This book offers an examination of the history, myths and legends of the peoples of Mesoamerica spanning almost 3000 years. Stories of sun-gods and blood sacrifice, of pyramids and temples, and of the fabulous treasuries of gold raided by the Spaniards have enthralled generations of readers. Architectural and cultural achievements range from the temple-pyramids and stone carvings of the Olmecs to the cities, trading networks and religious societies and systems of the Aztecs and Maya. This book contains startling revelations about the ancient peoples of Central America, including histories of the lands they conquered, the cities they built and the world they developed.

The Complete Illustrated History of the Aztec & Maya - Charles Phillips 2015-06-01 This reference book covers almost 3000 years, offering insights into the art and architecture, myths and legends, and everyday life of Mesoamerica.

The Maya - Michael D. Coe 2015-05-01 Coe and Houston update this classic account of the New Worlds greatest ancient civilization, incorporating the most recent research in a fast-changing field. New discoveries of spectacular stucco sculptures at El Zotz and Holmul reveal surprising aspects of Maya royalty; the Classic Maya themselves can be understood as occupants of royal courts, full of Machiavellian intrigue yet operating in close communion with gods and cosmos. Just-discovered texts at Xultun show a strong concern with astronomy and numerology, as well as evidence of lost books. Other finds include the discovery in an underwater cavern of the earliest known occupant of the region, the Hoyo Negro girl, and new evidence for the first architecture at Ceibal. The Maya highlights the vitality of current scholarship into this brilliant civilization.

Lost Kingdoms of the Maya - Gene S. Stuart 1993 Includes index.

Mesoamerican History - Captivating History

2020-01-03 Four captivating manuscripts in one book: Olmecs Zapotec Civilization Maya History Aztec History

Encyclopedia of the Ancient Maya - Walter R. T. Witschey 2015-12-24 Encyclopedia of the Ancient Maya provides an A-to-Z overview of the ancient Maya culture from its inception to the Spanish Conquest. Exploring Maya society, celebrations, and achievements, as well as new insights into Maya culture and collapse, this is a sophisticated yet accessible introduction suitable for students and general readers.

The History of the Mayan Empire - History Books for Kids | Children's History Books - Baby Professor 2017-06-15 The Mayan Empire was a civilization rich in stories. Some of these stories you can learn about today, thanks to the writings of historians. Learning about ancient history has been made more enjoyable with the help of cool resources like this one. We say it’s cool because it’s been created with young learners in mind. Enjoy reading this copy today!

Ancient Maya Politics - Simon Martin 2020-04-30 With new readings of ancient texts, Ancient Maya Politics unlocks the long-enigmatic political system of the Classic Maya.

The History of the Maya - Thomas William Francis Gann 1937

Aztec and Maya: an Illustrated History - Charles Phillips 2019-08-06 An enthralling reference to the architecture, art, religion, myths and everyday life of the Aztec and Maya civilizations, in a new edition with 1000 images.

The First Maya Civilization - Francisco Estrada-Belli 2010-11-08 When the Maya kings of Tikal dedicated their first carved monuments in the third century A.D., inaugurating the Classic period of Maya history that lasted for six centuries and saw the rise of such famous cities as Palenque, Copan and Yaxchilan, Maya civilization was already nearly a millennium old. Its first cities, such as Nakbe and El Mirador, had some of the largest temples ever raised in Prehispanic America, while others such as Cival
showed even earlier evidence of complex rituals. The reality of this Preclassic Maya civilization has been documented by scholars over the past three decades: what had been seen as an age of simple village farming, belatedly responding to the stimulus of more advanced peoples in highland Mesoamerica, is now known to have been the period when the Maya made themselves into one of the New World’s most innovative societies. This book discusses the most recent advances in our knowledge of the Preclassic Maya and the emergence of their rainforest civilization, with new data on settlement, political organization, architecture, iconography and epigraphy supporting a contemporary theoretical perspective that challenges prior assumptions.

**Ancient Mexico**-Maria Longhena 2006-02-09

Late in the 15th century the discovery of the New World revealed to the Europeans the existence of peoples and cultures whose forms of artistic and intellectual expression were totally different to their own but of immense appeal. While at that time the white Conquistadores had no interest in and were perhaps incapable of appreciating and respecting this cultural heritage, for some considerable time now the so-called “pre-Columbian civilisations” have been rediscovered and archaeologists are attempting to reconstruct their marvellous cultural mosaic, the roots of which lie in an historical substrata predating the Christian era by some thousands of years. The aim of this book is to trace the development of some of the civilisations that emerged in the Mesoamerican region and gave rise to surprisingly advanced and sophisticated cities. The Olmecs, Maya, Aztecs and other less well known groups have in fact left extraordinary evidence of their passing in the form of great architectural complexes, monumental sculptures, ceramics, jewellery and surprising written records that have only recently given up their secrets. This volume also intends to underline the importance of the so-called minor cultures that have until now been unknown to the public at large but which nonetheless contributed to the economic and cultural development of pre-Columbian Mesoamerica. The work is characterised by a dual scientific and generalist approach to provide all readers with in-depth information - that is both stimulating and comprehensible - concerning a world that is still far from contemporary models. Concise but exhaustive captions, comprehensive iconographical references, numerous colour plates, line drawings and black and white maps complement the text and contextualise the cultural parallels and ideologies of the various civilisations in question within the chronological sequence in the most reliable and attractive manner possible.