

September 9th, 2013

Introduction to ARTH 372

Check date of 2nd slide test.

Articles from moodle will be discussed in class.

Pre-Hispanic America and Conquest:

Migration to Latin America occurred from 35000-12000 BC.

Thousands of languages and cultures, from hunter-gatherers to city dwellers.

Inca language (Quechua) and Aztec language (Nahuatl) widely spoken.

In 1500 Pedro Álvares Cabral claims Brazil for Portugal.

In 1519-20 Hernán Cortes conquers Mexico and founds Mexico City.

In 1532 Francisco Pizarro begins the conquest of the Inca.

There were small pockets of culture and religion that survived the conquest.

Mesoamerica describes Mexico and Central America. It was very populous.

The Inca were a relatively late civilization. Before them the Andean high cultures were the Wari and the Tiwanaku. Theirs was the largest empire in Latin America.

Brazil was lightly populated by nomadic peoples.

Worship often took place outdoors in front of mountain-like structures. They imitated specific mountains in the area which were usually the focus of worship. The temples were built on top of springs and caves, which were thought to be the gateway between life and death, and the origins of humanity.

Teotihuacan was a massive pilgrimage center surrounded by mountains. It was later visited by the Aztecs. It eventually became a militaristic state, and the large population used up surrounding natural resources, leading to the fall of the civilization.

The Maya built taller pyramids, since they were built in jungles. These temples were both places of worship, and burial places for rulers.

Tiahuanaco was the most important empire before the Inca. It was located near a lake that played a role in the origin myth.

For the Inca, the most important things were mountains and stones. They wanted stones that were unusual. There was little figural art among the Inca. They believed that stones themselves were religious, and contained characters. The most important stones were the ones with multiple edges. They were called huaca.

Materials that were holy to indigenous peoples were used to make Christian, colonial art. Europeans did not understand this for a long time, as they were more interested in iconography and visual holiness.

All Andean deities had a male and female aspect.

Virgin of the Cerro Rico: Potosí was a place of indigenous labour and mining. The Inca worshiped the mountain they mined as Pacha Mama and claimed it was theirs. This image looked like a miraculous image of the Virgin, but here Mary is actually fused with the mountain. The natives are on the mountain, not the Europeans. The sun and moon represent legitimacy.