



Smithsonian
National Museum of Natural History

**SELECTED REFERENCES ON THE ARCHAEOLOGY
OF THE CARIBBEAN, SOUTH AMERICA, AND
CENTRAL AMERICA AND MEXICO**

This bibliography provides a selected list of current English language literature on the prehistory of Mesoamerica, South America, and the Caribbean Culture Area (the Caribbean Islands and Central America east of the Maya). Leads for further research can be found in Section I and in the bibliographies of the books in this reading list.

Publications listed are not available from the Smithsonian Institution. Copies may be seen in larger libraries or obtained through inter-library loan.

** Denotes items suitable for secondary school students.

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Section I: Handbooks and Bibliographic Guides

Handbook of Middle American Indians, Robert Wauchope, general editor. Univ. of Texas Press, 1964-1976.

A 16-volume set covering in detail all aspects of Mesoamerican anthropology, including archaeology.

- vol. 1. *Natural Environmental and Early Cultures*, Robert L. West, editor.
- vol. 2. *Archaeology of Southern Mesoamerica, part I*. Gordon R. Willey, editor.
- vol. 3. *Archaeology of Southern Mesoamerica, part II*. Gordon R. Willey, editor.
- vol. 4. *Archaeological Frontiers and External Connections*. Gordon F. Ekholm and Gordon R. Willey, editors.
- vol. 5. *Linguistics*. Norman A. McQuown, editor.
- vol. 6. *Social Anthropology*. Manning Nash, editor.
- vol. 7. *Ethnology, part I*. Evon Z. Vogt, editor.
- vol. 8. *Ethnology, part II*. Evon Z. Vogt, editor.
- vol. 9. *Physical Anthropology*, T. Dale Stewart, editor.
- vol. 10. *Archaeology of Northern Mesoamerica, part I*. Gordon F. Ekholm and Ignacio Bernal, editors.
- vol. 11. *Archeology of Northern Mesoamerica, part II*. Gordon F. Ekholm and Ignacio Bernal, editors.
- vol. 12. *Guide to Ethnohistorical Sources, part I*. Howard F. Cline, editor.
- vol. 13. *Guide to Ethnohistorical Sources, part II*. Howard F. Cline, editor and John B. Glass, associate editor.
- vol. 14. *Guide to Ethnohistorical Sources, part III*. Howard F. Cline, editor and Charles Gibson and H. B. Nicholson, associate editors.
- vol. 15. *Guide to Ethnohistorical Sources, part IV*. Howard F. Cline, editor and Charles Gibson and H. B. Nicholson, associate editors.
- vol. 16. *Sources Cited and Artifacts Illustrated*. Margaret A.L. Harrison, ed.

There are also five supplements to the *Handbook*, supplying up-to-date information. Victoria Reifler Bricker, general editor. Austin, TX: Univ. of Texas Press, 1981-1992.

- Supplement vol. 1. *Archaeology*. Jeremy A. Sabloff, editor, with Patricia A. Andrews, assistant editor.
- Supplement vol. 2. *Linguistics*. Munro S. Edmonson, editor, with Patricia A. Andrews, asst. editor.
- Supplement vol. 3. *Literatures*. Munro S. Edmonson, editor, with Patricia A. Andrews, asst. editor.
- Supplement vol. 4. *Ethnohistory*. Ron Spores, editor, with Patricia A. Andrews, asst. editor.
- Supplement vol. 5. *Epigraphy*. Victoria Reifler Bricker, editor, with Patricia A. Andrews, asst. editor.

Steward, Julian, editor, *Handbook of South American Indians*. Bureau of American Ethnology Bulletin 143. Smithsonian Institution, 1946-1959.

Summary of all aspects of South American anthropology, including archaeology, with good illustrations and bibliography. Sections now out of date.

- vol. I. *The Marginal Tribes*. 1946.
- vol. II. *The Andean Civilization*. 1946.
- vol. III. *The Tropical Forest Tribes*. 1948.
- vol. IV. *The Circum-Caribbean Tribes*. 1948.
- vol. V. *The Comparative Ethnology of South American American Indians*. 1949.
- vol. VI. *Physical Anthropology, Linguistics, and Cultural Geography of South American Indians*. 1950.
- vol. VII. *Index* (to the 6 volumes), 1959.

Section II: General Works

- Anton, Ferdinand. *Woman in Pre-Columbian America*. Abner Schram, 1973. Translated from the German by Marianne Herzfeld. **
A comprehensive look at the roles of women in everyday life in Pre-Columbian Central and South America. Includes bibliography and timeline. Entire second half of the book is dedicated to photographs of artifacts, many in color.
- Brundage, Burr Cartwright. *Two Earths, Two Heavens: An Essay Contrasting the Aztecs and the Incas*. Univ. of New Mexico Press, 1975.
This essay seeks to compare the Aztec and Inca, two great contemporaneous civilizations, showing their similarities and differences. A bibliography and a chart of comparable traits about each nation are included.
- Coe, Michael D., Dean Snow, and Elizabeth P. Benson. *Atlas of Ancient America*. Rev. ed. Facts On File, 2001. **
This cultural atlas covers North, South, and Meso- America and the Caribbean. Includes many color maps and photographs, and a "Living Heritage" section of Native American cultures present today.
- Coe, Sophie D. *America's First Cuisines*. Univ. of Texas Press, 1994.
Fascinating look at Pre-Columbian Latin America's culinary history. Extensive bibliography, but no recipes.
- Cotterell, Arthur. *The MacMillan Illustrated Encyclopedia of Myths and Legends*. MacMillan Publishing Co., 1989. ** Also, Hungry Minds, Inc., A Marshall Educ. Ed., 1995.
A basic overview of the mythologies, legends, folktales, and major present-day religions from all over the world. Includes an A to Z macropedia, in which major figures are touched upon, followed by a micropedia with many more, minor figures, also A to Z. Also has sections throughout the macropedia comparing common themes found in ancient and modern religions and folktales from around the world. Only useful as a secondary reference material, however.
- Fagan, Brian. *Kingdoms Of Gold, Kingdoms of Jade: The Americas Before Columbus*. Thames & Hudson, 1991.
Picks up where Great Journey (see below) left off, covering the history of several American cultures before Columbus. Explores the prehistoric settlers of the Americas, followed by several great cultures of Mesoamerica, South America, and North America. Replete with photos and a list of books for further reading.
- Fagan, Brian. *Great Journey: The Peopling Of Ancient America*. University Press of Florida, 2004.
Covers the prehistory of humanity, starting with its genesis in Africa and its spread to all parts of the world, including the Americas. A comprehensive list of books for further reading and several illustrations and photographs also included.
- Fingerhut, Eugene R. *Explorers of Pre-Columbian America? The Diffusionist-Inventionist Controversy*. Regina Books, 1994.
A balanced appraisal of evidence for Pre-Columbian transoceanic contacts emanating from Europe, Africa, and Asia.
- Kubler, George. *The Art and Architecture of Ancient America: The Mexican, Mayan, and Andean Peoples*. Yale Univ. Press, 1992. 3rd edition. **
An introduction to the lands of these ancient people is followed by a detailed discussion of their various art forms. Contains more than 200 pictures.
- Mangelsdorf, Paul C. *Corn: Its Origin, Evolution, and Improvements*. Harvard Univ. Press, 1974.

An extensive technical investigation of the plant that allowed the rise and development of many New World cultures. Emphasis on man's role in the changing genetic nature of corn.

Meggers, Betty J. *Prehistoric America*. Aldine-Atherton, Inc., 1980. 2nd edition. **

General introduction to the prehistoric cultures of North and South America from an ecological perspective, utilizing the culture area approach. Includes basic maps and bibliography. Good introduction for the non-specialist.

Parsons, Lee A., John B. Carlson, and Peter David Joralemon, editors. *The Face of Ancient America: The Wally and Brenda Zollman Collection of Precolumbian Art*, foreword by Michael D. Coe; photographs by Justin Kerr. Indiana University Press, 1988.

Book features photographs of Mesoamerican and (to a lesser extent) Andean artifacts, all in full color. Each photograph has an extensive note accompanying it.

Prescott, William H. *The History of the Conquest of Mexico and the History of the Conquest of Peru*. Cooper Square Pub., 2000.

Classic account of the Spanish conquests by a 19th century historian detailing military maneuvers and battles. Historically very interesting.

Rarenhult, Göran, general editor, and David Hurst Thomas, U.S. editor. *New World and Pacific Civilizations: Cultures of America, Asia, and the Pacific*. HarperCollins, 1994.

Thick book, filled with many color photographs and illustrations, looks at the cultures of the Americas (North, Middle, and South), the Pacific Islands, and Japan from their distinct origins at least 10 to 12,000 BP to the time of European contact. Also has bibliography and chapter-by-chapter timelines.

Salmoral, Manuel Lucena. *America 1492: Portrait Of A Continent 500 Years Ago*. Facts On File, 1990. **

A good, thorough introduction to the many cultures of North, Meso-, and South America and the Caribbean before the Conquest. Also included are a bibliography and many color photographs and pictures.

Scarre, Chris, ed. *Timelines of the Ancient World*. Smithsonian Institution, 1993. **

Excellent overview of the prehistory and anthropology of the human race from the very beginnings of life on earth to the end of the 15th century AD. Puts the events of the Pre-Columbian Americas into context with the events that were taking place all over the world at the same time. Many photographs and illustrations, all in vivid color.

Shein, Max. *Precolumbian Child*. Translated from the Spanish by Maria Castañeda. Labyrinthos, 1992. **

This book focuses on Aztec, Maya, and Inca children from the womb to adolescence. It discusses toys & games, childhood diseases, children's role in human sacrifice, and Aztec fathers' advice to their sons and daughters. Several pictures and an extensive bibliography.

Stuart, Gene S. *America's Ancient Cities*. National Geographic Society, 1995.**

Looks at the ancient cities of North and Mesoamerica, including Chaco Canyon in Southwestern U.S., the mounds east of the Mississippi, and various Maya sites in the Yucatán.

Section III: The Caribbean

Keegan, William F. *The People Who Discovered Columbus: The Prehistory of the Bahamas*. Univ. of Florida Press, 1992.

Covers the cultures of the Bahamas--the Tainos, or more appropriately the Lucayan, from 2100 BC to AD 1520. Discusses prehistoric climate, colonization, sociopolitical structures, and life at the time of European contact. Maps, illustrations, and a 40-page bibliography.

Keegan, William F. *Bahamian Archaeology : Life in the Bahamas and Turks and Caicos before Columbus*. Nassau: Media Pub., 1997.

Lange, Fred W., and Doris Z. Stone. *The Archaeology of Lower Central America*. Univ. of New Mexico Press, 1984.**

Various authors give an in-depth look into the archaeology of present-day Nicaragua, Costa Rica, El Salvador, Panama, and extreme northeastern Colombia. An extensive bibliography and photographs, black & white and color.

Rouse, Irving. *The Tainos: Rise & Decline of the People Who Greeted Columbus*. Yale Univ. Press, 1993.

The author uses all the information available to him to give as detailed a history as possible of the Tainos, the first Native American culture to come into contact with the Europeans (they were, literally, the people who greeted Columbus). The book goes from 4000 BC to the years following Columbus' legendary voyage. Bibliography and glossary.

Stevens-Arroyo, Antonio M. *Cave of the Jagua: The Mythological World of the Taínos*. Univ. of New Mexico Press, 1988.**

A study of Taíno religion and its interrelationship with religions from around the world. He makes every effort to be reader-friendly. Bibliography included.

Taylor, S. Lyman. *Two Worlds: The Indian Encounter with the European 1492-1509*. Univ. of Utah Press, 1988.**

The author masses together many first-hand accounts of the first contact between Spaniard and Taíno, followed by what happened in the years that followed. Documents included are Las Casas' *Relación*, Columbus' journal, Queen Isabela's will, among others, all weaved together by the author's own narratives.

Wilson, Samuel M., ed. *The Indigenous People of the Caribbean*. University Press of Florida, 1997.

Section IV: South America

Alva, Walter, and Chris B. Donnan. *Royal Tombs of Sipán*. Fowler Museum of Cultural History, 1994.**

A thorough look at the tombs of this ancient Moche site in Peru, starting with a basic overview of Mochica civilization, followed by in-depth looks at archaeological excavations of several tombs in the Sipán, Peru area. Using the evidence from these tombs, Mochica burial practices and aspects of culture are investigated. Many full-color photographs and illustrations.

Andrien, Kenneth, and Rolena Adorno, eds. *Transatlantic Encounters: Europeans and Andeans in the 16th Century*. Univ. of California Press, 1992.

Collection of essays about the conquest of the Andes and the cultures of Spain and the Andes of the day. Essays included are by James Lockhart, R. Tom Zuidema, and the editors, among several others. Pictures and bibliography.

Andrien, Kenneth J. 2001. *Andean Worlds : Indigenous History, Culture, and Consciousness Under Spanish Rule, 1532-1825*. 1st ed. University of New Mexico Press, c2001.

Interdisciplinary perspectives on the Andean past under colonial rule. Covers the colonial socioeconomic order, religious conversion, resistance, rebellion, and consciousness.

- Arriaza, Bernardo T. *Beyond Death: The Chinchorro Mummies of Ancient Chile*. Smithsonian Institution Press, 2000.
Description of artificial mummification practiced by inhabitants of the north coast of Chile, beginning 8000 BC.
- Bonavia, Duccio. *Mural Paintings in Ancient Peru*. Translated from the Spanish by Patricia J. Lyon. Indiana Univ. Press, 1985.
General overview of mural painting in Pre-Columbian Peru, from the "Initial" period at Kotosh to the Conquest of the Incas. Includes many photographs, diagrams and tables, and an extensive bibliography.
- Bourget, Steve. *Sex, Death, and Sacrifice in Moche Religion and Visual Culture*. University of Texas Press, 2006.
- Brundage, Burr Cartwright. *Lords of Cuzco: A History and Description of the Inca People*. Univ. of Oklahoma, 1985.
Relates the history of the Inca people in the final days of the empire, looking at many aspects of their society. Includes illustrations and maps.
- Burger, Richard L. *Chavín & the Origins of Andean Civilization*. Thames & Hudson, 1995.
Describes the earliest complex culture of South America and its dispersal throughout the Central Andes. Included are many photographs and diagrams, a chronological chart, and an extensive bibliography.
- Cobo, Fr. Bernabe. *Inca Religion and Customs*, 1997, c. 1990; and *History of the Inca Empire*, 1983, translated and edited by Roland Hamilton. Univ. of Texas Press.
Together, these books offer a full recounting of Inca history, society, religion and custom by a Jesuit priest who lived a century after the fact. Each book has maps and glossary of native words.
- Garcilaso de la Vega, el Inca. *The Royal Commentaries of the Inca and General History of Peru*. Translated from the annotated French edition of Alain Gheerbrant. University of Texas Press, 1966. **
The son of an Inca princess and a Spanish conqueror relates a fascinating history of the Inca people-- their governments, laws, and life patterns-- based on his personal experiences and research carried out with older informants and native documents.
- Hadingham, Evan. *Lines to the Mountain Gods: Nazca and the Mysteries of Peru*. Random House, 1987.
Looks at the Nazca lines and many facts and controversial opinions regarding their significance— astronomical, religious, or extraterrestrial, for instance. Includes an extensive bibliography, photographs, drawings, and maps.
- Léry, Jean de. *History of a Voyage to the Land of Brazil, Otherwise Called America*, translated from the French by Janet Whatley. Univ. of California Press, 1990.
Little known in English-speaking countries, this first-hand account of contact between a group of Huguenots, among them the Burgundian author, sent to Brazil as missionaries and colonists, and the indigenous Tupinamba of Brazil, is a classic of French literature relating to the Conquest. This translation is based on Léry's 1580 2nd edition. Extensive notes and bibliography containing works both contemporary with Léry's (in several languages) and modern.
- Lapiner, Alan. *Pre-Columbian Art of South America*. Harry N. Abrams, Inc., 1976.**
A large book containing photographs of many artifacts from all over South America, including sections on the various time periods in Pre-Columbian Peru, as well as Ecuador, Colombia, Venezuela, Bolivia, Argentina, Chile, and Brazil. Short historical passages come before each section. Many notes, maps, and a chronological chart.

Longhena, María, and Walter Alva. *Incas and other Andean Civilizations*. Thunder Bay Press, 2000.

Meggers, Betty J. *Ecuador*. Praeger Publishers, 1966. **

Good overview of Ecuadorian prehistory from the pre-ceramic periods through the Inca conquests. Special emphasis paid to technical refinements in pottery.

Morris, Craig, and Adriana von Hagen. *The Inka Empire and its Andean Origins*. Abbeville Press, 1993.

Good overview of the known history of the Inca (or Inka) empire, starting about 12,000 years before the present and finishing with the Conquest.

Moseley, Michael E. *Incas and their Ancestors: The Archaeology of Peru*. Rev. ed. 2001. Thames & Hudson.

A study of the peoples of Andean South America, from prehistory to the Inca Empire, with several photographs and extensive bibliography.

Labbé, Armand J. *Colombia Before Columbus: The People, Culture, and Ceramic Art of Prehispanic Colombia*, forward by William B. Lee, Ph.D. Rizzoli International Publications, 1986.**

Explores the history of the Indians of Colombia up to 1600 AD. Many full-color photographs, maps, a glossary, and a bibliography.

Rouse, Irving and Jose M. Crucent. *Venezuelan Archeology*. Yale Univ. Press, 1963.

Explores the state of Venezuelan archeology as of 1963, tracing the developments of the various prehistoric cultures to the Indo-Hispanic era. Many illustrations.

Smith, Michael E. *The Aztecs*. Blackwell, 1996.

Urton, Gary. *Inca Myths*. Univ. of Texas Press, 1999.

Von Hagen, Victor W., and Cieza de León, Pedro de. *The Incas of Pedro de Cieza de León*. Translated by Harriet de Onis, edited with introduction by Victor Wolfgang Von Hagen. Univ. of Oklahoma Press, 1970. **

A Spanish adventurer's interesting account of the Inca. The work is divided into two chronicles, the first describing the geography of Inca land, its roads and villages, the second focusing on Inca institutions and customs.

Wilson, David J. *Indigenous South Americans of the Past and Present: An Ecological Perspective*. Westview Press, 1999.

Section V: Central America and Mexico

Andrews, J. Richard. *Introduction to Classical Nahuatl*. Rev. ed. Univ. of Oklahoma Press, 2003.

A comprehensive grammar of the Aztec language, Nahuatl. Includes a workbook in a separate volume. See also Frances Karttunen's *Analytical Dictionary of Nahuatl*, Univ. of Texas Press, 1983.

Aveni, Anthony F. *Skywatchers of Ancient Mexico*. Rev. ed. Univ. of Texas Press, 2001.

A thorough introduction to the astronomy of ancient Mesoamerican civilizations. A glossary defining the many technical terms in the text will prove very useful to the reader. Many photographs, tables, and diagrams, as well as a bibliography for each chapter and a lengthy list of works cited at end of book.

Benson, Elizabeth P., and Beatriz De La Fuente, eds. *Olmec Art of Ancient Mexico*. Harry N. Abrams, 1996

A catalog of an exhibition on Olmec Art at the National Gallery of Art, Washington, D.C.

- Berdan, Frances F., and Patricia Reiff Anawalt. *The Codex Mendoza*. Four volumes. Univ. of California, 1992.
This mammoth undertaking is the definitive scholarly version of the Aztec manuscript known as the Codex Mendoza. In volume one, various authors give their own interpretations of the codex. In the second volume, the codex is put into context with other recorded history of the time. Volume three is a full color facsimile of the actual codex and volume four is a page-by-page translation of the codex, with identifications of the pictographs.
- Bernal, Ignacio. *A History of Mexican Archaeology*, translated from the Spanish by Ruth Malet. Thames & Hudson, 1983.
Starting with the Conquest, this book thoroughly examines each era of archaeology in Mexico, up to the time of printing. Includes several photographs and an extensive bibliography of books in Spanish, French, English and German.
- Bernal, Ignacio. *The Olmec World*. Translated from the Spanish by Doris Heyden and Fernando Horcasitas. Univ. of California Press, 1976. (Originally published in 1968.)
This book focuses on the history of the Olmec civilization from 1200 B.C. onward to its florescence and ultimate decline. Includes detailed descriptions of the important archaeological sites and art forms. 145 illustrations.
- Berrin, Kathleen, and Esther Pasztory, editors. *Teotihuacán: Art From the City of the Gods*. Thames & Hudson, 1994.
A broad range of topics are discussed, from art and architecture to life in the city and its relations with other cultures. Includes color illustrations of Teotihuacán objects, and a bibliography.
- Bierhorst, John. *Codex Chimalpopoca: The Text in Nahuatl with Glossary and Grammatical Notes, and History and Mythology of the Aztecs: Codex Chimalpopoca*, Translated from the Nahuatl by John Bierhorst. Univ. of Arizona Press, 1992.
Two companion volumes of the Codex Chimalpopoca, which, in two sections, gives a lengthy account of the history of the Aztec people through both history and legend, and mythology.
- Bierhorst, John, ed. *The Hungry Woman: Myths and Legends of the Aztecs*. 1st Quill ed., 1993. **
A collection of the myths, fables, and legends of the Aztec people, covering the creation of the world, the fall of Tula, the rise and fall of the Aztecs, and Our Lady of Guadalupe. Illustrations by Aztec artists of the conquest period. Also includes glossary, bibliography, and Nahuatl pronunciation guide.
- Boone, Elizabeth Hill. *Cycles of Time and Meaning in the Mexican Books of Fate*. (Joe R. and Teresa Lazano Long Series in American and Latino Art and Culture.) University of Texas Press, 2007.
- Boone, Elizabeth Hill. *The Aztec World*. (Exploring The Ancient World Ser.) Jeremy Sabloff, gen. ed. Smithsonian Institution, 1994.**
Good introductory book to the world of the Aztec empire examining the archaeology and what is known of this culture based on the latest research. Includes chapter-by-chapter bibliography and many photographs and illustrations, all but a few in color.
- Boone, Elizabeth Hill. *The Codex Magliabecchiano*. Univ. of California Press, 1983.
Commentary and notes on the Codex, complete with translation. Includes diagrams and tables.
Companion volume is Nuttall's *Book of the Life of the Ancient Mexicans*.
- Bourbon, Fabio. *The Lost Cities of the Mayas : The Life, Art, and Discoveries of Frederick Catherwood* . Abbeville, 2000, c1999.

- Brady, James E., and Keith M. Prufer, eds. *In The Maw Of The Earth Monster: Mesoamerican Ritual Cave Use*. (Linda Schele Series in Maya and Pre-Columbian Studies) Univ. of Texas Press, 2005.
- Braswell, Geoffrey E., ed. *The Maya and Teotihuacan: Reinterpreting Early Classic Interaction*. (The Linda Schele Series in Maya and Pre-Columbian Studies.) University of Texas Press, 2003.
- Brunhouse, Robert L. *In Search of the Maya*. Ballantine Books, 1990.
The story of eight Maya archaeologists--del Rfo, Dupaix, Galindo, Waldeck, Stephens, Brasseur de Bourbourg, Le Plongeon, and Edward H. Thompson—their important discoveries and theories.
- Carrasco, David, and Eduardo Matos Moctezuma. *Moctezuma's Mexico*. Rev. ed. Univ. Press of Colorado, 2003.
Explores Mesoamerican civilization as known to Moctezuma (or Montezuma), with essays by Carrasco, Matos, Anthony Aveni, and Elizabeth Hill Boone. Includes a bibliography, glossary of Nahuatl words, and many photographs, most in color.
- Caso, Alfonso. *The Aztecs: People of the Sun*. Translated from the Spanish by Lowell Dunham. Univ. of Oklahoma Press, 1970.
This text, with superb illustrations by Miguel Covarrubias, examines the Aztec religion, its importance to everyday life, and the Aztec view of history. Includes many descriptions of the gods' dress and its symbolism.
- Clandinnen, Inga. *Aztecs: An Interpretation*. Cambridge Univ. Press, 1991.
A general look at Aztec culture before and during the Conquest--the city of Tenochtitlán, the various roles of the Aztec citizens (including gender roles), the role of religion, and the invasion of Cortés and its impact. Also includes lists of holidays and gods and twenty pages of photographs.
- Coe, Michael D. *Mexico*. Thames & Hudson, 2002. 5th revised edition. **
A well-written, illustrated summary of the Mexican high cultures north of the Maya area, from the earliest Archaic period to the Spanish conquest. Good discussion of the domestication of corn and other plants vital to the growth of many New World civilizations.
- Coe, Michael D. *Breaking the Maya Code*. Rev. ed. Penguin, 2003. **
Detailed look at the decipherment of Mayan hieroglyphics, one of the great sagas in the history of archaeology, by one of the leading experts in the field. Includes thorough bibliography, many diagrams and tables, especially of the Mayan script itself, and glossary, plus sixteen plates of photographs, most of them of the major figures in the Maya decipherment saga.
- Coe, Michael D. *The Maya*. Thames & Hudson, 2005. 7th revised edition. **
An excellent summary of the rise of Mayan civilization from its early roots. Emphasizing the classic aspects of Mayan life and philosophy. Well illustrated.
- Culbert, T. Patrick. *Maya Civilization*. (Exploring The Ancient World Ser.) Jeremy Sabloff, gen. ed. Smithsonian Institution, 1993.**
Good introductory book to the world of the ancient Maya examining the archaeology and what is known of this culture based on the latest research. Includes chapter-by-chapter bibliography and many photographs and illustrations, all but a few in color.
- Daniien, Elin C., and Robert J. Sharer, editors. *New Theories on the Ancient Maya*. Univ. Museum of the University of Pennsylvania, 1992.
Series of essays on the most up-to-date discoveries and theories on the ancient Maya. Includes essays by George Stuart, Jeremy Sabloff and Gair Tourtellot, Stephen D. Houston, Barbara and Dennis Tedlock, and the editors, among others.

- Davies, Nigel. *Toltecs, Until the Fall of Tula*, Repr. Ed., 1987; *Toltec Heritage: From the Fall of Tula to the Rise of Tenochtitlán*, 1980; and *The Aztec Empire: The Toltec Resurgence*, 1987. Univ. of Oklahoma Press.
The "trilogy" of the history of civilization in the Valley of Mexico from the dawn of the Toltecs (Toltecs) through the fall of Tula and the dawn of the Aztecs (Toltec Heritage) to the Conquest (Aztec Empire).
- Díaz, Gisele, and Alan Rodgers. *The Codex Borgia: A Full Color Restoration of the Ancient Mexican Manuscript, with new introduction and commentary by Bruce E. Byland*. Dover Publications, 1993.**
A full-color restoration of the Aztec codex, with full notes referring to each page of the codex.
- Díaz del Castillo, Bernal. *The Discovery and Conquest of Mexico, 1517-1521*. Repr. Ed. De Capo Press & Routledge, 2004.**
A soldier's dramatic account of Cortés' conquest of Mexico. Contains colorful descriptions of the native life patterns and religious customs. Good background introduction by Irving Leonard.
- Diehl, Richard A. *The Olmecs: America's First Civilization*. (Ancient Peoples and Places ser.) Thames & Hudson, 2004.
- Durán, Fray Diego. *The Aztecs: The History of the Indians of New Spain*. Translated by Doris Hayden and Fernando Horcasitas. Orlon Press, 1964.
A Dominican Friar's panoramic view of Aztec life and history based on his personal experience with the Indians. Many references to written documents and oral traditions.
- Evans, Susan Toby. *Ancient Mexico and Central America: Archaeology and Culture History*. Thames & Hudson, 2004.
- Fash, William L., and W. Wyllys Andrews, eds. *Copan: The History of an Ancient Maya Kingdom*. (School of American Research Seminar Series) School of American Research Press, 2005.
- Ferguson, William M., and Richard E. W. Adams. *Mesoamerica's Ancient Cities*. Rev. ed. University of New Mexico Press, 2002. **
An excellent photographic essay of many major and minor ancient sites in Mesoamerica. Includes maps and bibliography. Most of the photographs are in color.
- Foxx, Jeffrey J. *The Maya Textile Tradition*. Photographs by Jeffrey Jay Foxx; edited by Margot Blum Schevill; foreword by Linda Schele. Harry N. Abrams, 1997.
- Freidel, David, Linda Schele, and Joy Parker. *Maya Cosmos*. William Morrow & Co., 1993.
The authors use translations of the ancient Mayan hieroglyphs to tell the history of the Maya. Includes extensive endnotes, thorough bibliography, and many illustrations, including several plates of color photographs.
- Harrison, Peter D'arcy. *The Royal Court at Tikal*. Westview, 2003.
- Hassig, Ross. *War and Society in Ancient Mesoamerica*. Univ. of California Press, 1992.
This book examines warfare in Pre-Columbian Mesoamerica and how it shaped the history of the region. Included are sixteen plates of photographs and an extensive bibliography.
- Healan, Dan M., editor. *Tula of the Toltecs: Excavations and Survey*. Univ. of Iowa Press, 1989.
A thorough study by various scholars of the possible history of "Tula, Tollan, and the Toltecs". Many diagrams, and an Urban Survey Data Diskette which comes with the book.
- Henderson, John S. *The World of the Ancient Maya*. 2nd ed. Cornell Univ. Press, 1997.

- Houston, Stephen, David Stuart, and Karl Taube. *The Memory of Bones: Body, Being, and Experience among the Maya*. (Joe R. and Teresa Lazano Long Series in American and Latino Art and Culture.) University of Texas Press, 2006.
- Houston, S. D. *Reading the Past: Maya Glyphs*. Univ. of California Press, 1990.**
Touches on the history of decipherment. Most of the book is dedicated to actual glyphs with a sample text, some grammatical rules, and a list of sites and museums that have glyphs.
- Inomata, Takeshi, and Stephen D. Houston, eds. *Royal Courts of the Ancient Maya: Volume I: History, Comparison, and Synthesis*. Westview Press, 2000. *Royal Courts of the Ancient Maya: Volume 2: Case Studies*, 2001.
- Keber, Eloise Quiñones. *Codex Telleriano-Remensis: Ritual, Divination, and History in Pictorial Aztec Manuscript*, forward by Emmanuel Le Roy Ladurie, illustrated by Michael Besson. Univ. of Texas Press, 1995.**
This oversize book contains a complete color facsimile of the Aztec codex in question, plus extensive notes and background information on the history and meanings of the codex. It is in English, but has forwards in French and Spanish, as well as English translations of all words written in Nahuatl and Spanish on the codex. Bibliography, guide to pictoglyphs, and various other tables included.
- Labbé, Armand J. *Guardians of the Life Stream : Shamans, Art and Power in Prehispanic Central Panamá*. Foreword by Peter Keller; Joseph Kramer, illus.; Aleida Rodríguez, editor. Cultural Arts Press, The Bowers Museum of Cultural Art; Distributed by the University of Washington Press, c1995.
- Landa, Diego de, *Yucatan Before and After the Conquest*, translated from the Spanish by William Gates. Dover, 1978.
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