

Chapter 1 : Handbook to Life in the Aztec World by Manuel Aguilar-Moreno

Handbook to Life in the Aztec World provides all the essential information required by anyone interested in Aztec history or culture. Give the gift of reading, now.

Oakes on Aug 16, The book is, as other reviewers have observed, a goldmine of information. I have yet to find any source that cuts quite so broad a swath through the material, giving the reader insights into numerous topics: Moreover, the text is richly illustrated with diagrams, photographs, and maps. Each section also ends with helpful, reasonably well-organized, suggestions for further reading. That said, the work is a bit too textbook-y for my tastes. The organizational categories seem forced at times, applying an overly traditional, European model of how to divide indigenous cultural elements. The book, like a textbook, frequently repeats basic information. I presume this was intended to allow the reader to dip into a section without having to cross-reference many others. But that effort seems too haphazard to achieve that end and many times I had to flip through many different sections in order to form even a partial picture of what was going on. Topics of obvious concern for a modern reader like the degree to which women could participate in organized religious rituals or in society in general were often ignored or treated so lightly as to be ambiguous. Still, all that said, the book is a treasure chest of information and a wonderful place to begin studying about Aztec and Mesoamerican culture, even if it is very clearly not the place to stop. A fine reference By Midwest Book Review on Sep 23, High school to college-level students will find Handbook to Life in The Aztec World a fine reference, providing a thematic approach to the Aztec world which surveys geography, civilization development, Aztec arts and architecture, daily life, and customs and beliefs. Each chapter pairs an article with an extensive bibliography and the books also packs in over a hundred line drawings, photos and maps. The book is organized by topic, with separate chapters on Aztec history, government, religion, trade, architecture, and so on. The book includes a good bibliography with inline citations, and an extensive index. There is quite a bit of repetition in the book, although this does help to make the chapters more self-contained; each one is almost a little mini-book in its own right. Although not quite for beginners, the book is approachable by general readers, and its writing is blessedly free of academic jargon. Be prepared to learn an amazing number of Nahuatl words, though. All illustrations and photos are in black and white only. This is especially a problem in the chapter on Aztec art. This chapter mostly discusses individual objects in the Mexico City museum, but its black-and-white photos are so small and blurry that it is impossible to follow along with the text. In fact, several objects discussed in the text are not even illustrated at all. If you mostly want to look at Aztec art, then this is not the book for you. Otherwise, it is a good resource - especially at its bargain paperback price - for university-level students, professionals, and other interested readers. I learned quite a bit that I did not know before, from the small but interesting details the Aztecs poisoned their arrows with the juice of decayed pineapples to larger questions about meaning, purpose, and sacrifice that still resonate today. Mostly a wealth of info but speckled with a few factual errors By Chadster on Sep 11, I would recommend this book to anyone wanting a comprehensive and albeit at times redundant overview of Aztec life from the founding of the Empire to details regarding military rank and even mythology. One must first be a tlaceteccatl. The tlaceteccatl was a position on the supreme council made up of four brothers or relatives of the tlatoani. The tlaceteccatl, together with the tlacochealcacatl were the highest military commanders While he is correct that this council consisted of four persons and that the tlaceteccatl and tlacochealcacatl positions were two of the highest commanding positions militarily after the Cihuacoatl he is completely wrong about the requirement of an Emperor to be a Tlaceteccatl as an eligibility prerequisite. Such a notion is completely and utterly inconsistent with the fact that the Tlacochealcacatl position was in fact higher than the Tlaceteccatl -- Even the Mendoza illustration shows very clearly the Tlacochealcacatl as being the largest of the four portrayed, denoting his importance and hence seniority. What is more probably true is that the tlacochealcacatl position was esteemed as a prerequisite to becoming huey tlatoani. Even the wikipedia entry on Tlacochealcacatl confirms that it was in fact the highest of the 4 positions meaning "high general" , at least in terms of military command. Tlaceteccatl being the equivalent of a "general", although obviously an extremely prestigious position. What

we do know for sure is that several Emperors, including Ahuitzotl and Motecuhzoma II had both served as Tlacohtlcatl prior to becoming Emperor some served as Tlaceteccatl as well before being promoted to Tlacohtlcatl before finally getting elected Emperor. Another error is that when describing the xiuhuitzolli royal turquoise diadem of the emperor he calls it a "copilli" which is incorrect. A copilli, from my understanding, can describe other headdresses but not the royal turquoise crown itself. It certainly felt a little tacky, if not outright sloppy. He then refers to the Mendoza council of four to supposedly corroborate his description only for us to see as plain as day that they are nothing alike. Apart from those complaints I really enjoyed his book and he does cover a lot in great detail and accuracy, but it could have felt a little more organic and verified. Superb Textbook on Aztec Life By Neodoering on May 28, This first-rate resource on the lives of the Aztec Indians covers just about every aspect of their society in both breadth and depth, from the physical terrain of the Aztec world to the structure of society, the nobility and the priesthood and the warrior classes, Aztec history and myths, trade and the merchant class, and the lives of the peasantry. Each chapter ends with suggestions for further reading, which makes this a comprehensive work. There are areas of great interest to the modern reader which are quite slight, though, as only 5 pages for the role of women in Aztec society, or only 4 pages of Aztec poetry, which I felt could have been much fleshed out from what is here. That said, what is here is quite well documented and thorough. The Aztecs were a military society, and their military lives get in-depth treatment in this book, as does their history of conquest and sacrifice. Aztec mythology is explored in enough depth to give you the flavor of it in all its nastiness, and the arts get a couple of chapters as well. I wanted more mythology as well, and more pictures of Aztec artworks. What is here is an excellent introduction to the Aztecs, well-grounded and far-ranging, and I guess it did its job in making me want more. Now on to some of the supplementary reading, and more of the Aztecs! Excellent, comprehensive and thorough By Fig on May 06, The most comprehensive guide of Aztec life in English I have ever come across. Garcia on Jul 02, This book is an excellent source of information for anyone to read on the Aztecs. It covers most aspects on the Aztecs from history to linguistics. Aguilar brings fresh ideas and concepts that are worthy of discussion. Basgall on Apr 05, In order to enjoy this book you must be a Mesoamerican "nut" of ancient Indian civilizations. The book is academic in nature, and organized in a textbook fashion. It gives synopses of Aztec life from the cradle to the grave by way of religion and warfare. Most of the language is turgid and scholarly, however there are gems of information buried within the book. The Aztecs were into human sacrifice, but one exceptional time eighty thousand four hundred hearts and heads were removed in four days which is a prodigious amount. The author repeatedly explained that this was a religious necessity to keep the sun rising each day and not a blood sport. The gods demanded it. Jared Diamond is his "Guns, Germs, and Steel" would lead one to believe that the Indian weapons were inferior to the Spanish steel and guns. It turns out that obsidian retains its sharpness and is superior to steel. The Aztec maquahuitl or obsidian sword could behead a horse in a single blow. Quilted cotton body armor that the Aztec developed was superior to Spanish mail, and many a Spanish hoplite adopted this for themselves. The final surprise is the beautiful Aztec poetry at the very end. This particular edition is in a Hardcover format. It was published by Facts on File and has a total of pages in the book. To buy this book at the lowest price, [Click Here](#).

Chapter 2 : Handbook to Life in the Aztec World - Manuel Aguilar-Moreno - Google Books

Since its violent dissolution in , the Aztec Empire of Mexico has continually intrigued us. Recent discoveries resulting from the excavation of the Templo Mayor in the heart of Mexico City have taught us even more about this fascinating culture.

Aztec songs and stories describe four great ages of the past, each destroyed by some catastrophe wrought by vengeful gods. War was thereby waged to feed the Sun his holy food and therefore perpetuate life on Earth. For them it was nextlaualli, the sacred debt payment to the gods. But these executions worked just effectively as a grim reminder for foreign dignitaries, lest they ever consider war against the empire. Even the name Aztec is debated by scholars. The word is not really indigenous, though it does have a cultural basis. Prescott in his publication *The History of the Conquest of Mexico*. They enjoyed a peaceful existence T his remarkable handbook by Manuel AguilarMoreno introduces us to a cultural awakening that we have been privileged to witness over the past two decades. Our knowledge of the Aztec civilization has changed dramatically. All over the world, at different points in time, heads of state have had to devise astounding dramas and public spectacles to foster public trust in their military policies. The Aztec were no different. Itzcoatl allied himself with Nezahualcoyotl, the deposed heir to the throne of Tetzcoco, the Acolhua kingdom lying on the eastern shore of the lake. Together the two kings attacked Azcapotzalco. The siege lasted more than days and only concluded when Maxtla relinquished his throne and retreated into exile. Itzcoatl and Nezahualcoyotl then rewarded the Tepanec lords who had aided them in overthrowing the tyrant. Itzcoatl died in and was succeeded by his nephew Motecuhzoma Ilhuicamina. Motecuhzoma I, as he was later known, charted the course for Aztec expansionism for the remainder of the 15th century; he was succeeded by his son Axayacatl in . As a prince, Axayacatl had proven himself a capable military commander, and now he sought to capitalize on the conquests of his illustrious father by surrounding entirely the kingdom of Tlaxcala to the east and expanding imperial control over the Mixtecs and Zapotecs of Oaxaca to the south. By , Axayacatl had died. Ahuitzotl reorganized the army and soon regained much of the territory lost under the previous administration. He then initiated a program of longdistance campaigning on an unprecedented scale. The empire reached its apogee under Ahuitzotl, dominating possibly as many as 25 million people throughout the Mexican highlands. In , a band of Spanish adventurers stood above Lake Tetzcoco and gazed upon Tenochtitlan. They journeyed until one day they witnessed a tree being ripped asunder by a bolt of lightning. The seventh and last tribe to emerge from the mountain, the Mexica, took the event as a sign that they were to divide and follow their own destiny. They continued to wander for many more years, sometimes hunting and sometimes settling down to farm, but never remaining in any one place for very long. After the collapse of Tula, the capital of a Toltec state that dominated central Mexico from the ninth to the 13th centuries, they decided to move south to Lake Tetzcoco Texcoco. Impoverished and without allies, the Mexica were soon subjected to attacks by local Toltec warlords, who forced them to retreat to an island where they witnessed a miraculous vision of prophecy: Having little to offer other than their reputation as fearsome warriors, the Mexica had no other choice than to hire themselves out as mercenaries to rival Toltec factions. Eventually they were able to affect the balance of power in the region to such a degree that they were granted royal marriages. The Mexica, now the most powerful of the seven original Aztec tribes, incorporated their former rivals, and together they conquered an empire. Eventually they gave their name to the nation of Mexico, while their city of Tenochtitlan became what we know today as Mexico City. Between and three successive Mexica emperorsâ€” Acamapichtli, Huitzilihuitl, and Chimalpopocaâ€” served as the vassals of a despotic Tepanec lord named Tezozomoc of Azcapotzalco. Sharing in the spoils of victory, they each succeeded in expanding the Mexica domain south and east along the lake. However, when Tezozomoc died in , his son Maxtla seized power and had Chimalpopoca assassinated. Colonial writings and diagrams appeared to indicate that the base of the Great Temple was approximately feet square with four to five stepped levels rising to as much as feet in height. Staircases were constructed on the west side that ended before two shrines constructed at the summit. However, it would be only systematic archaeological excavation that could either confirm or deny what the

Spanish invaders had actually witnessed. On February 21, 1519, Mexico City electrical workers were excavating a trench six feet below street level to the northwest of the main cathedral when they encountered a monolithic carved stone block. Archaeologists were immediately called to the scene to salvage what turned out to be an Aztec stone disk carved with a relief in human form. Who is the cause of what is in her womb? We must kill this wicked one who is with child! Each wielded his weapon, and Coyolxauhqui led them. At last they scaled the heights of Coatepec. There was a central market where thousands of people sold everything from gold, silver, gems, shells, and feathers to unhewn stone, adobe bricks, and timber. Each street was devoted to a particular commodity, from clay pottery to dyed textiles, and a special court of judges enforced strict rules of transaction. All manner of foods were bartered: The city was divided into four districts. Six major canals ran through the metropolis with many smaller canals that crisscrossed the entire city allowing one to travel virtually anywhere by boat, the principal means of economic transportation to the island. Scholars estimate that between 1500 and 1520, people lived in Tenochtitlan in the Basin of Mexico, more than four times the population of London at that time. There were also three major causeways that ran from the mainland into the city. These were spanned with drawbridges that when taken up, sealed off the city. Freshwater was transported by a system of aqueducts of which the main construction ran from a spring on a mountain called Chapultepec on a promontory to the west. Even though the four districts had temples dedicated to the principal Aztec gods, all were overshadowed by the Great Temple, a human-made mountain constructed within the central precinct and topped by dual shrines dedicated to the Toltec storm god Tlaloc and the Chichimec war god Huitzilopochtli. Inside were found the remains of an entire wardrobe, headdress, and mask for a priest of the temple of Tlaloc, the ancient Toltec god of rain and fertility whose shrine stood next to that of Huitzilopochtli at the summit of the Great Temple pyramid. The most dramatic changes to our perception of the Aztec have come with a critical reappraisal of the histories of the conquest itself. Their steel weapons may have had an impact initially, but they soon ran out of gunpowder and by had eaten their horses. So what really accounted for their incredible achievement? The fact is that the Spaniards owed their success not so much to superior arms, training, and leadership as to Aztec political factionalism and disease. Initially these troops were drawn from disaffected states lying to the east and west of the Basin of Mexico, especially Tlaxcala, but by even the Acolhua of Tetzaco, cofounders with the Mexica of the empire, had appointed a new government that At this point there are many variations to the story, but it appears that when Coyolxauhqui and her brothers reached the summit of Coatepec, they immediately killed Coatlicue. Then Huitzilopochtli was born in full array with his shield and spearthrower. At once he pierced Coyolxauhqui with a spear and then struck off her head. Her body twisted and turned as it fell to the ground below Snake Mountain. Huitzilopochtli next took on the brothers in equal measure and slew each of them in kind. It was not long before the archaeologists discovered parts of a grand staircase and then the massive stone serpent heads, literally signifying Coatepec, surrounding the base of the pyramid itself. The Great Temple had been found by decoding a 1,year-old legend. Since the INAH has carried out nearly continuous excavations, uncovering no less than six separate building episodes of the Great Temple as well as numerous smaller temples and palaces of the surrounding precinct. Extending excavation north to the point of even tunneling under Mexico City streets, archaeologists have found an incredible new structure called the House of the Eagles, named for stone and ceramic statuary portraying the heraldic raptor. This latest discovery has yielded even greater art treasures. To what extent the Spaniards were conscious of strategy in coalition building and to what extent they were actually being manipulated by Indian politicians is unknown. Further aiding the Spanish conquest was disease. Prior to the arrival of the Europeans, smallpox and typhus were unknown in Mexico, and there was no understanding by either the Europeans or the Indians that disease was caused by contagious viruses. Before long, however, successive epidemics raged through the Indian population, each time taking away as many as 25, 50, and sometimes even 75 percent of the inhabitants of a citystate. His important and valuable collaboration is a true act of faith and friendship, going back to childhood. Michael Smith, and Dr. Special recognition to Claudia Schaab, Melissa Cullen-DuPont, Katy Barnhart, and the editorial staff of Facts On File for their enlightening support and orientation during the writing process of the book. I wish to thank my friends and colleagues Dr. Mary Ellen Miller, Dr. Guillermo de la I would like to extend special thanks to the many people who with their unconditional support made it

possible for me to author this work. I can truly say that without their help this project would not have been possible. I am grateful to Dr. Pohl, curator and lecturer of pre-Columbian art at the Princeton University Museum, for honoring me with the meaningful foreword to this book. His continuous advice and friendship have been very important in the development of my academic career. Special thanks to Fonda Portales, who with great energy, enthusiasm, and excellence undertook the titanic task of editing the whole manuscript. She was of critical help in maintaining my mental sanity. Luis Enrique Garay, Dr. Juan Lozano, and Dr. Silvia Garza Tarazona, Dr. Sebastian Van Doesburg, Dr. Rafael Moreno Villa, Prof. Marilyn and Giorgio Buccellati, Dr. Eduardo Douglas, Eduardo Torres, Dr. The two groups fought with different weapons and had completely opposing concepts of war. The Aztec strategy was not to defeat enemies by ruining their cities or massacring their population. Their conception of war was rooted in rituals, conventions, negotiations, and rules. On the other hand, the Spaniards utilized the characteristics of total war: They approached their Aztec enemies with words of apparent peace and then suddenly attacked and massacred them. In battle, instead of taking captives, the Spanish killed as many warriors as they could. The Aztec were unable to decipher the mechanisms of the total warfare of the Spaniards, and the repressive policies that the Aztec had had with subjugated Indian groups proved to be fatal.

Chapter 3 : Handbook to Life in the Aztec World - Manuel Aguilar-Moreno - Oxford University Press

Describes daily life in the Aztec world, including coverage of geography, foods, trades, arts, games, wars, political systems, class structure, religious practices.

Chapter 4 : Handbook to life in the Aztec world (edition) | Open Library

Handbook To Life In The Aztec World (Facts On File Library Of World History) - Kindle edition by Manuel Aguilar-Moreno. Download it once and read it on your Kindle device, PC, phones or tablets.

Chapter 5 : Handbook to Life in the Aztec World; ISBN:

Handbook to Life in the Aztec World has 30 ratings and 5 reviews. Since its violent dissolution in , the Aztec Empire of Mexico has continually intri.

Chapter 6 : [PDF/ePub Download] handbook to life in the aztec world eBook

Handbook to life in the Aztec world. [Manuel Aguilar-Moreno] -- "The word renaissance means "rebirth," and the most obvious example of this phenomenon was the regeneration of Europe's classical Roman roots.

Chapter 7 : [PDF] Download Handbook To Life In The Aztec World â€“ Free eBooks PDF

The treatments of Aztec government structure and warfare organization are sufficiently comprehensive, as is a detailed description of the large number of gods that comprise the Aztec pantheon.

Chapter 8 : Handbook To Life In The Aztec World (Facts on File Library of World History) - PDF Free Down

To the mestizo and Indian people who struggle daily to improve the quality of life and social justice in our beloved, but long-suffering country of Mexico.

Chapter 9 : Handbook to Life in the Aztec World : Manuel Aguilar-Moreno :

Captures the essence of life in great civilizations of the past. Each volume in this series examines a single civilization,

DOWNLOAD PDF HANDBOOK TO LIFE IN THE AZTEC WORLD

and covers everything from landmark events and monumental achievements to geography and everyday life.