

THE PEOPLES & CIVILIZATIONS OF
THE AMERICAS BEFORE THE ARRIVAL
OF EUROPEAN SETTLERS



WISCONSIN GLACIATIONS



- ICE AGE LEADS TO LOWERING OF OCEAN LEVELS...
- RESULTS IN A FUSION OF LANDMASSES
- BETWEEN THE PRESENT -DAY BERING SEA & CHUKCHI SEA
- A MASSIVE SUBCONTINENT CALLED *BERINGIA* - NOT A 'LANDBRIDGE'
- OVER A THOUSAND MILES WIDE - ROUGHLY THE DISTANCE BETWEEN NEW YORK & OMAHA
- COMPARE TODAY; THE SPAN OF THE BERING SEA TODAY IS JUST 60 MILES

WISCONSIN GLACIATIONS



- HUMAN INHABITANTS FROM NORTHEASTERN ASIA ARRIVE ON *BERINGIA*
- THEY LIVE THERE FOR THOUSANDS UPON THOUSANDS OF YEARS; HUNTING WOOLY MAMMOTHS, YAKS, ANTELOPES AND VARIOUS PLANT LIFE ENOUGH TO SUSTAIN LIFE
- TO SAY THAT *BERINGIANS* 'MIGRATED' TO WHAT BECAME NORTH AMERICA IS *INCORRECT*
- *BERINGIANS* LIVED ON THE SUBCONTINENT FOR A SPAN OF OVER 50 CENTURIES

WISCONSIN GLACIATIONS



- WHEN THE EARTH'S CLIMATE BEGINS TO WARM UP; THE ICE BEGINS TO RECEDE
- BEYOND THE HUMAN CONSCIOUSNESS OF TIME
 - OCEAN & SEA LEVELS RISE OVER THESE THOUSANDS OF YEARS SUBMERGING LOW - LYING ISLANDS INCLUDING *BERINGIA*

WISCONSIN GLACIATIONS



- THE PEOPLE OF *BERINGIA* NOW LIVE COMPLETELY ISOLATED FROM OTHER PEOPLES AND CONTINENTS FOR THOUSANDS OF YEARS TO COME

- CIVILIZATIONS GROW IN NORTH & SOUTH AMERICA ANYWHERE BETWEEN 70,000 B.C. & 40,000 B.C.

The main Hemispheric Civilizations



- **THUS; INDIGENOUS PEOPLES WERE ALREADY WELL -ESTABLISHED RESIDENTS OF THE WESTERN HEMISPHERE BEFORE THE TRANSFORMATIONS OF HUMAN SOCIETY IN EUROPE**
- **ONE THE EVE OF 1492 THE HEMISPHERIC POPULATION WAS BETWEEN 75, 000,000 AND 100,000,000 ; WITH AT LEAST 12,000,000 NORTH OF MEXICO**
- **LEONARD THOMPSON & POLITICAL MYTHOLOGY - WHY?**

The main Hemispheric Civilizations



- MAYAN SOCIETY BASED ON HIEROGLYPHIC WRITING SYSTEMS, MATHEMATICS, CALENDARS
- TRUE EXTENT OF DEPTH OF MAYAN CIVILIZATION MAY NEVER BE KNOWN
- AFTER 1000 CE THE TOLTECS AND AZTECS EMERGE AS DISTINCT CIVILIZATIONS
 - TENOCHTITLÁN - CHIEF CITY OF THE AZTECS
 - MORE PROSPEROUS AND ADVANCED THAN ANYTHING THE SPANISH INVADERS HAD SEEN IN EUROPE
 - AQUEDUCT SYSTEM FOR CLEAN DRINKING WATER
 - HERNAN CORTÉS NOTED IN HIS JOURNAL THAT THE WEALTH & PROSPERITY HE SAW WERE UNIMAGINABLE

The main Hemispheric Civilizations



- AZTEC SOCIETY TOOK ASPECTS OF MAYAN CIVILIZATION
 - WAR TRIBUTE & SACRIFICES
 - HUITZILOPOCHTLI, AZTEC WAR GOD
- RESENTMENT AGAINST TRIBUTARY SYSTEMS LEADS TO DIVISIONS BETWEEN INDIGENOUS PEOPLES ON EVE OF EUROPEAN INVASION...
 - THE INCAS OF PERU WERE ANOTHER CIVILIZATION THAT AROSE AROUND THIS TIME...
- THEIR EMPIRES WERE MORE WEALTHY & POWERFUL THAN THAT OF THE AZTECS

The Peoples & Nations of North America



- NORTH AMERICAN MOUND BUILDERS
 - ADENA & HOPEWELL PEOPLES
 - GREAT SERPENT MOUND, OHIO.
 - TEMPLE MOUND BUILDERS, CAHOKIA, ILLINOIS
- FROM THE TEMPLE MOUND BUILDERS A NUMBER OF NATIVE AMERICAN PEOPLES EMERGED...
- NATCHEZ WERE ONE OF THE LAST OF THE TEMPLE MOUND BUILDERS...

The Peoples & Nations of North America



- CONTINUING AGRICULTURAL INNOVATIONS RAISE NATIVE AMERICAN POPULATION, ESTIMATES VARY FROM 80 MILLION TO 120 MILLION WITH AT LEAST 5 MILLION TO 8 MILLION IN NORTH AMERICA.
- OVER 2200 LANGUAGES WITH AT LEAST 650 IN CENTRAL & NORTH AMERICA.
 - COMPLEX & AGRARIAN SOCIETIES
 - IN SOUTHEAST HOPI & ZUNI PRACTICED IRRIGATION, BEST KNOWN FOR FLAT-ROOFED MULTILAYERED VILLAGES CALLED PUEBLOS

The Peoples & Nations of North America



- SOUTHEASTERN NATIVE AMERICANS (CHEROKEES, CHICKASAWS, CREEKS, CHOCTAWS, SEMINOLES) MORE ATTUNED TO AGRICULTURE.
- NORTHEASTERN TRIBES (MICMACS & MAHICANS) EMPHASIZED HUNTING & GATHERING.
 - MANITOU
 - SHAMANS
- NO CONCEPT OF INDIVIDUAL OWNERSHIP
- INTERTRIBAL WARFARE WAS CHIEFLY CEREMONIAL WITH VERY LITTLE OR NO BLOODSHED

The Peoples & Nations of North America



- ❖ FIVE NATIONS OF THE IROQUOIS
(MOHAWKS, ONEIDAS, ONONDAGAS,
CAYUGAS AND SENEICAS)
- ❖ DECISION-MAKING AUTHORITY WAS
MATRILINEAL
- ❖ WOMEN LEADERS & WOMEN ON TRIBAL
COUNCILS

Europe, 1000 – 1450 A.D.



- EUROPEANS HAD ALREADY MADE CONTACT WITH AMERICA 500 YEARS BEFORE COLUMBUS
- VIKINGS (SCANDINAVIAN) EXPLORERS HAD VISITED REGIONS IN THE NORTH ATLANTIC
 - SETTLEMENTS HOWEVER HAD FAILED
 - EUROPE BECOMES AWARE OF THE WORLD OUTSIDE ITS BOUNDARIES THROUGH THE CRUSADES (1095 AD – 1272 AD) AND THE RENAISSANCE
- GEOGRAPHERS, SCIENTISTS BEGIN TO TAKE AN INTEREST IN UNDERSTANDING THE WORLD AROUND THEM

Europe, 1000 – 1450 A.D.



- ADVANCES IN THE UNDERSTANDING OF THE ART OF SAILING
 - EUROPEANS LEARN ABOUT ASTROLABE & SEXTANT FROM MUSLIM & ARAB SAILORS ENCOUNTERED IN THE MEDITERRANEAN & WESTERN ASIA; THROUGH THESE CONTACTS EUROPEANS ALSO CREATE BETTER SAILING SHIPS CALLED *CARAVELS*
 - GUNPOWDER, COMPASS, STERNPOST RUDDER WERE ALL CHINESE INVENTIONS THAT THE EUROPEANS BEGAN TO UTILIZE
- LEARNT ABOUT TRADE WINDS AND WESTERLY'S THAT CAN CARRY SHIPS GREATER DISTANCES BY SAIL

Preparations for the invasion



- OPPORTUNE MOMENT IN HISTORY FOR EUROPEAN VOYAGES :
- OTHER NATIONS AND CIVILIZATIONS (FOR EXAMPLE, CHINESE & SOUTH ASIAN) NO LONGER HAVE FLEETS ON THE HIGH SEAS
- VOYAGES ARE EXTREMELY EXPENSIVE TO FINANCE; BUT ARE BACKED BY *RENAISSANCE* PRINCES OR THOSE SEEKING WEALTH
 - PRINCE HENRY/JOHN I OF PORTUGAL
 - FERDINAND & ISABELLA OF SPAIN

Preparations for the invasion



- CHRISTOPHER COLUMBUS; A GENOESE MARINER, CONVINCES THE SPANISH PRINCES OF THE LURE OF THE WEALTH OF THE ORIENT
 - VOYAGES FINANCED BY SPAIN
- CHRISTOPHER COLUMBUS ENDED UP IN THE BAHAMAS
 - ARAWAKS
 - *INTER CAETERA*
- THE POPE "DIVIDES" THE AMERICAS BETWEEN THE SPANISH & THE PORTUGUESE
 - NOBODY ASKED THE INHABITANTS OF THESE LANDS WHAT THEY THOUGHT...
 - OTHER EUROPEAN POWERS LEFT OUT OF THE "DIVIDE"

The Conquest & Destruction of the Hemisphere



- AFTER 1510, SPANISH INVADERS BEGIN TO FAN OUT ON THE MAINLAND
- COLUMBUS'S RUTHLESS DESTRUCTION OF HISPANIOLA IS AN INDICATION OF THINGS TO COME
- 1492 : 8,000,000 PEOPLE ON HISPANIOLA
- 1496: 1/3 - 1/2 OF THE EIGHT MILLION HAVE PERISHED AT THE HANDS OF COLUMBUS AND THE INVADERS
- THE WORD "PACIFICATION" - FAMILIAR TO PEOPLE TODAY WAS COINED BY THE SPANISH DURING DRIVE TO EXTERMINATE THE INDIGENOUS PEOPLES

The Conquest & Destruction of the Hemisphere



- BETWEEN 1510 - 1560 NINETY PERCENT OF MEXICO'S INDIGENOUS POPULATION OF TWENTY - FIVE MILLION IS WIPED OUT DUE TO EUROPEAN DISEASE AND SPANISH BRUTALITY
- THE OTHER MAJOR CIVILIZATION OF THE HEMISPHERE, THE INCA, ARE WIPED OUT EQUALLY BY EUROPEAN DISEASE AND MILITARY EXTERMINATION

The Conquest & Destruction of the Hemisphere



- ENCOMIENDA SYSTEM - THE "DISTRIBUTION" OF COMMUNITIES, NOT LAND, AMONGST SPANISH OFFICIALS TO DO WITH AS 'THEY PLEASE'
- DE LAS CASAS- LONE VOICE OF SPANISH DISSENT AGAINST ATROCITIES IN THE AMERICAS
- THE SPANISH EMPIRE IS CONCERNED ONLY WITH THE EXTRACTION OF WEALTH; THE INDIGENOUS PEOPLES ARE WORKED TO DEATH IN THE GOLD AND SILVER MINES
- HORRIFIC DROPPING - OFF IN INDIGENOUS PEOPLES LEADS TO THE ESTABLISHMENT OF SLAVERY IN THE HEMISPHERE

The Great Schism & the ascent of English seapower



- 1517 : THE PROTESTANT REFORMATION SPLITS WESTERN EUROPE
 - INTERNAL CIVIL WARS
- ENGLAND BECOMES A PROTESTANT POWER AND SPAIN REMAINS LOYAL TO THE CATHOLIC CHURCH
- ENGLISH *PRIVATEERS* NOW ATTACK SPANISH TREASURE SHIPS RETURNING TO EUROPE
- DEFEAT OF THE SPANISH ARMADA (1588)
- ENGLISH MERCHANTS URGE ELIZABETH I TO FOLLOW SPANISH EXAMPLE TO SEIZE 'RICHES' OF THE WESTERN HEMISPHERE

Failed landing at Roanoke Island



- THE FAILURE OF THE ROANOKE LANDINGS
- DIFFICULTIES IN SUBSISTING WITHOUT REINFORCEMENTS & SUPPLIES
- SETTLEMENTS DISAPPEAR WITHOUT A TRACE
- LESSONS LEARNED: MUST POOL RESOURCES TO FINANCE EXPEDITION
- "JOINT - STOCK COMPANIES" - MERCHANTS & CROWN (ROYAL GOVERNMENT INCLUDING MONARCH) FINANCE SETTLERS & SETTLEMENTS TO PREVENT CATASTROPHIC LOSSES

First English settlement (1607)



- 1570 - 1600: SPANISH MILITARY EXPEDITIONS & DISEASES HAVE WROUGHT HAVOC AMONGST THE INDIGENOUS PEOPLES IN THE LAND TO BE CLAIMED AS *VIRGINIA*
- THREE GENERATIONS OF INDIGENOUS PEOPLES HAVE BEEN WIPED OUT BY 1608 ALREADY BY THE SPANISH & FRENCH
- 1607: 104 ENGLISH SETTLERS ARRIVE IN WHAT BECOMES JAMESTOWN

Extermination of the Powhatan Nation



- EARLY ADMIRATION FOR INDIGENOUS AGRICULTURAL INGENUITY, SYSTEM OF GOVERNANCE
- BUT INDIGENOUS PEOPLES ARE EARMARKED FOR 'EXTERMINATION'
 - JOHN SMITH / RALPH LANE
 - HOSTAGE - TAKING
 - VIOLATION OF TREATIES
- 1697: POWHATAN'S NATION HAS BEEN WIPED OUT
- 1700: 60,000 ENGLISH SETTLERS IN VIRGINIA V. APPROXIMATELY 500 OR SO REMAINING
 - AN EXTERMINATION RATE OF 95%
 - NO SIGN OF MYTHICAL RICHES FOUND IN SOUTHERN AMERICA; BUT TOBACCO BECOMES REASON FOR ESTABLISHMENT OF ENGLISH COLONY IN VIRGINIA