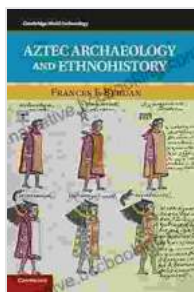


Aztec Archaeology And Ethnohistory: A Journey into the Heart of an Ancient Empire

The Aztecs, a Mesoamerican civilization that flourished in the Valley of Mexico from the 14th to 16th centuries, have left an enduring legacy upon the world. Their empire was vast and opulent, and their cultural achievements were remarkable, including their advanced system of writing, their sophisticated calendar, and their awe-inspiring monumental architecture. However, the Aztecs remain an enigmatic civilization, with many aspects of their society and history still shrouded in mystery.



Aztec Archaeology and Ethnohistory (Cambridge World Archaeology) by Christopher Knight

★★★★★ 5 out of 5

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Print length : 366 pages



Two disciplines that have played a crucial role in unlocking the secrets of the Aztecs are archaeology and ethnohistory. Archaeology, the study of human behavior through the excavation and analysis of material remains, provides a window into the Aztecs' material culture, while ethnohistory, the study of cultures through written and oral accounts, offers insights into their beliefs, social customs, and political organization.

Archaeological Discoveries: Unveiling the Tangible Legacy of the Aztecs

Archaeological excavations at Aztec sites have uncovered a wealth of artifacts that provide valuable insights into the daily lives of the Aztecs. Archaeologists have unearthed evidence of their homes, temples, palaces, workshops, and markets. They have also uncovered a vast array of objects, including pottery, jewelry, tools, weapons, and sculptures. These artifacts provide clues about the Aztecs' technological skills, their artistic sensibilities, and their religious beliefs.

One of the most important archaeological discoveries is the Templo Mayor, the great temple of the Aztec capital, Tenochtitlan. Excavations at the Templo Mayor have revealed a complex and elaborate structure that was the center of Aztec religious life. The temple was dedicated to the gods Huitzilopochtli and Tlaloc, and it was the site of numerous rituals and sacrifices.

Another important archaeological discovery is the Great Pyramid of Cholula. Located in the city of Cholula, the Great Pyramid is the largest pyramid in Mesoamerica. It was built over a period of several centuries and was dedicated to the god Quetzalcoatl. The pyramid is a massive structure, and it is estimated that it contains more than four million cubic meters of material.

Ethnohistorical Accounts: Unraveling the Written and Oral Traditions of the Aztecs

In addition to archaeological evidence, ethnohistorians have also relied on written and oral accounts to reconstruct the history and culture of the Aztecs. These accounts were written by Spanish missionaries and

conquistadors who encountered the Aztecs in the 16th century. They provide a valuable glimpse into the Aztec worldview, their social customs, and their political organization.

One of the most important ethnohistorical sources is the Florentine Codex, a collection of Aztec texts that was compiled by the Franciscan friar Bernardino de Sahagún. The Florentine Codex contains information on a wide range of topics, including Aztec history, religion, mythology, and social customs.

Another important ethnohistorical source is the Codex Mendoza, a pictorial manuscript that was created by Aztec scribes in the mid-16th century. The Codex Mendoza contains historical accounts of the Aztec empire, as well as information on Aztec tribute payments, military campaigns, and religious ceremonies.

Integrating Archaeology and Ethnohistory: A Holistic Approach to Aztec Studies

By combining archaeological evidence with ethnohistorical accounts, scholars have been able to develop a more comprehensive understanding of the Aztec civilization. Archaeology provides concrete evidence of the Aztecs' material culture, while ethnohistory offers insights into their beliefs, social customs, and political organization. Together, these two disciplines provide a holistic perspective on the Aztecs, one that allows us to appreciate the full complexity and richness of their civilization.

The study of Aztec archaeology and ethnohistory is an ongoing process, and there is still much that we do not know about this fascinating

civilization. However, the progress that has been made in recent decades has given us a much deeper understanding of the Aztecs and their world.

: Aztec Archaeology and Ethnohistory as a Window into the Past

The Aztecs were a remarkable civilization that left a lasting legacy on the world. Through the combined efforts of archaeologists and ethnohistorians, we have been able to gain a glimpse into their lives and their culture. The study of Aztec archaeology and ethnohistory is an ongoing process, and it is one that continues to yield new insights into this fascinating civilization.

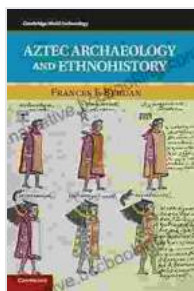
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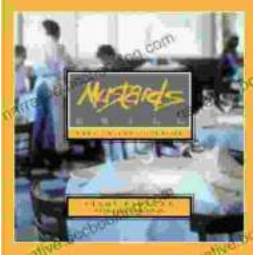
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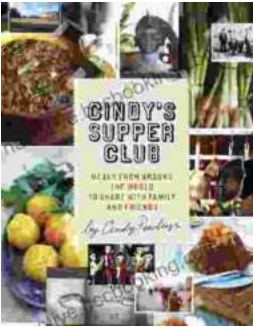
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