

Carter Brehm – Chapter 11 Reading Questions

1. Describe the relationship between the Aztecs and the Toltecs.

- a. In general, the Aztecs took a lot of culture from the Toltecs. The Toltecs were masters of things like art, medicine, engineering, and they had mastered the calendar. The Aztecs borrowed these intellectual aspects heavily to build their empire. While visiting Chichen Itza, they also decided to emulate many architectural patterns.

2. Define the political and economic organization of the Aztec and Inca Empires.

- a. Both empires had a central ruler who had supreme power of the land, and they had similar religions that involved their leader being nearly godlike. However, unlike the Aztec empire, the Incas preserved their leader longer than his life, and continued to use his "wisdom" long after he had passed away using priests. As for the economic side, both empires had hunger for expansion, so new territories were constantly being captured and their people forced to worship the supreme leader.

3. Outline the social organization of the Aztec and Inca Empires.

- a. As stated previously, both empires liked to expand rapidly and conquer different peoples, so their population was always growing. The Incas forced them to fight in the Incan armies and do manual labor, but the Aztecs threw them into their caste system, which wasn't as bad as India because it wasn't very tied to religion. This allowed inter-caste movement.

4. Compare American societies with European societies.

- a. The main difference between the American and European societies was their relative inability to expand their land. Even if they were capturing small pockets of land, it was nothing compared to the expansion (and then the sharing of ideas) of European societies. Most advances made in Europe have been made by cultures coming up with an idea and then it spreading due to communication between societies.