

Anthro Reading 2

Postulate of difference involves superiority

Postulate of equality involves indifference

Indians devote a lot of time towards interpretation of messages (such as astrology)

Every event out of the ordinary is considered the herald of an upcoming unlucky event

Aztecs believed events could not occur if not previously announced

Society as a whole, with priests as intermediaries, decide the fates of individuals

no such thing as personal opinion and individual initiative

why sacrifice so commonplace in aztec society

Life not shaped by free will, but preordained events as future is revealed

Communication of spaniards: man-to-man

Communication of natives: man-to-worlds

Montezuma refusal to communicate with invaders

He seeks info from god, not from man

Montezuma no longer succeeded in informing himself about enemies

Columbus also failed to communicate with his men

This failure of inter human communication is why natives failed to see spaniards as invaders

Mayas and Aztecs see in cycles rather than linear

Past and future are the same thing

Spaniards see their ease of conquest as the proof of christian superiority

Cortes searches first for an interpreter - information

La Malinche = Aztec interpreter who converts to Spanish culture

Christianity seeks to be universal and thus is intolerant

Cortes refuses to see divine interpretation - once he does, he is no longer successful

Lotta Indians die

slave trade

Spaniards want instant wealth

Homogenization of values by money

Sacrifice, from this point of view, is a religious murder: it is performed in the mae of the official ideology and will be perpetrated in public places, in sight of all and to everyone's knowledge. The **victim's identity is determined by strict rules. He must not be too alien, too remote. The sacrifice is performed in public and testifies to the power of the social fabric, to its mastery over the individual**

Massacre, on the other hand, reveals the **weakness of this same social fabric. The more remote and alien the victims, the better: they are exterminated**

without remorse, more or less identified with animals. Unlike sacrifices, massacres are generally not acknowledged or proclaimed, their very existence is kept secret and denied.