

TRANSPORTATION UTOPIAS

1.26

COMMUNICATION TECHNOLOGIES

- Pan Americanism depended on travel, and travel depended on physical connectivity.
- Intersected with push towards a US modernity centered around new technologies and engineering feats:
 - Inter American railway (late 19th century)
 - The Panama Canal (1914)
 - Pan American Airways (1920s)
 - The Pan American highway (1920s)



THE IMPORTANCE OF THE AIRPLANE

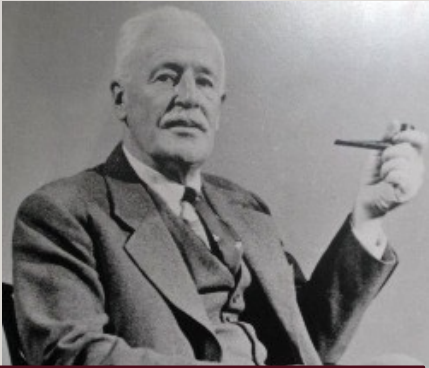
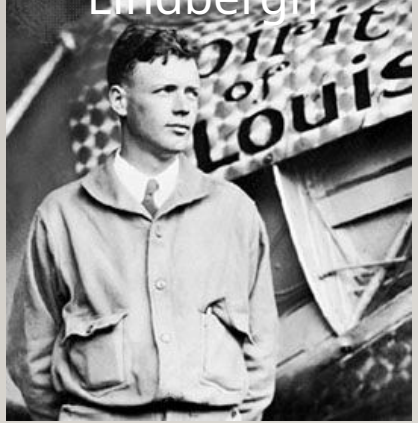


The Sikorsky amphibian
aircraft S38

- In what context were airplanes first used?
 - Military. Especially, for reconnaissance. WWI – 1914.
- Question: What to do with airplanes during peace times? (1920s)
 - Carry mail
 - Facilitate business connections
 - Travel and leisure
 - Scientific exploration
- Fostering Pan Americanism – “I come here to learn” (Elihu Root)

"FIVE DAYS OVER THE MAYA COUNTRY"

Charles
Lindbergh



A.V. Kidder



Anne Morrow

- What kind of text is this? Remember that it was published in "The Scientific Monthly".
 - "Scientific", but more of an adventure narrative. Closer to a popular science publication, like National Geographic.
 - The Lindberghs – aviation hero, celebrities
 - Kidder – the Carnegie Institute
- Where are they flying over? What is the "Maya country"?
- What is the objective of this exploration?
 - "To test the aeroplane as an agency for archeological exploration in tropical countries and to determine whether or not the ruins of Maya cities could be located from air". (194)

Mexico,
Guatemala



Ruins of Tikal (Guatemala)

“FIVE DAYS OVER THE MAYA COUNTRY”

- Each group is assigned a section of the text. Discuss and prepare to comment with the class: What are some of the key ideas in these lines? What words stick out to you? How can you connect it to previous conversations from the class?
 - Group 1: pg. 195
 - Group 2: pg. 196
 - Group 3: pg. 197
 - Group 4: pg. 199
 - Group 5: 201-202
 - Group 6: 203-205
- Let's analyze the images. What is their purpose? What story do they tell?

“FIVE DAYS OVER THE MAYA COUNTRY”

- Enterprise of knowledge
 - The “civilized” discovering the “uncharted”
 - Photographs and **mapping** – advantage of being above
 - The authority of scientific discourse
- Adventure – new discovery, conquest, after WWI
 - Rise of archeology in Western universities – i.e., Egypt, Middle East.
- “Uninhabited” – where are the Mexican, Guatemalan people?
 - Not really here. Some are working on the ruins, gov’t officials.
 - Civilizations are in the past. Current indigenous groups have “fallen” (195).

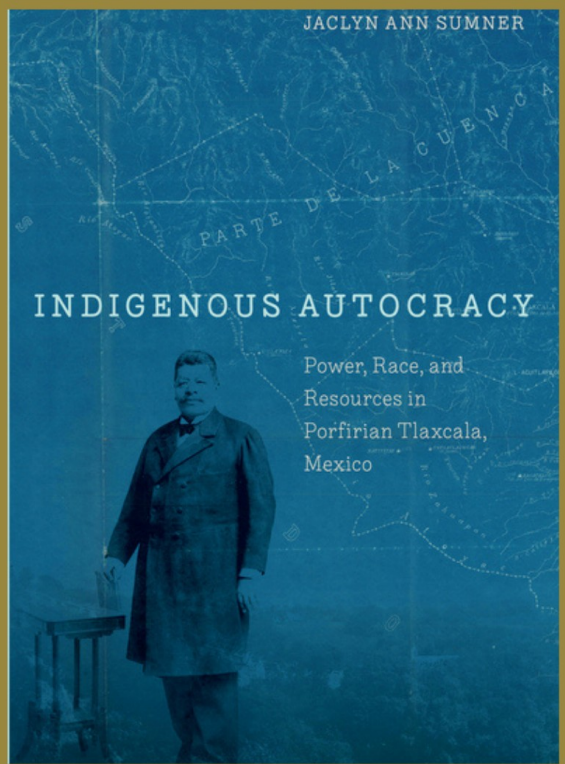


“FIVE DAYS OVER THE MAYA COUNTRY”

- What is the purpose of this text? Let's discuss.
 - Make barbarous terrain legible: logics of time, distance, speed to measure and divide up land. A way of knowing and understanding the Other by giving it order.
 - But, does it involve much communication with the populations that live there?
 - Very little. Kidder never talks to anyone (except local authorities).
 - Selling an *idea* of Latin America as a place that is exotic and full of adventure. Lots to be gained by investing in this place. Uses scientific language to legitimize himself. Remind you of someone?
 - Columbus!

NEXT CLASS

- Monday: We meet in Tate 202 for presentation “An Indigenous History of Mexico”, guest speaker Dr. Jaclyn Sumner (Presbyterian College). 12pm. Pizza served. Leave at 12:50 if nec. Regular attendance.



The book cover for "Indigenous Autocracy" by Jaclyn Ann Sumner features a blue background with a faint map of Mexico. A portrait of a man in a dark suit and bow tie stands on the left. The title "INDIGENOUS AUTOCRACY" is in white, with the subtitle "Power, Race, and Resources in Porfirian Tlaxcala, Mexico" to its right. The author's name "JACLYN ANN SUMNER" is at the top.

COLLEGE of CHARLESTON
LATIN AMERICAN AND CARIBBEAN STUDIES

“An Indigenous History of Mexico”

presented by

Dr. Jaclyn Sumner
Associate Professor of History at Presbyterian College

Monday, January 29 at 12pm
TATE 202

Co-sponsored by the Department of History

Join us for PIZZA!

FOR NEXT WEDNESDAY

- First major assignment: Read the article "Imperial Mechanics" by Ricardo Salvatore. Written reflection due before class, typed, through OAKS.
- Detailed information, including rubric, in OAKS > Course Info module.
- No additional homework.