

Art of the Aztec Empire

MD 4: End Term Readings Review

Introduction: The purpose of this review is to provide a basis for assessing your reading and review of the works of Esther Pasztory and Richard Townsend. As such, your essays are intended to provide a forum within which you can demonstrate your understanding of Aztec art and civilization. In each case, your essays should be sufficiently detailed, albeit brief, and reflective of the information provided in the aforementioned works. So that I can ascertain where you drew your information from, please cite page numbers and authors in the context of your essays (e.g., Townsend, 2000: 132). Please note that the question in Part 1 is required, and for Part 2, you must respond to at least two of the four options available. The question in Part 1 should represent no less than three typewritten (double-spaced) pages of text, while the questions in Part 2 should constitute no less than one page of typewritten text. Due Date: This Major Deliverable is due within 13 days.

Questions**Part 1: Required**

1. Please provide a brief (minimum three page) overview of the rise and fall of Aztec civilization. In your narrative you should highlight and emphasize at least three pivotal or key events that you believe were absolutely essential to Mexica Aztec historical development. Be prepared to cite dates, towns and cities, and other related names in your narrative.

Part 2: Answer Two of the Following Three Questions

2. Esther Pasztory goes to considerable lengths to document that much of that which constitutes Aztec art was in fact borrowed from earlier civilizations. Using Pasztory as your guide, please identify at least two major monuments or elements of style in Aztec art that Pasztory attributes to an earlier civilization. Be prepared to briefly identify the purported origins of the style or monument, and describe its basic characteristics.

3. Who were the *Pochteca* and how did they figure into the religious, artistic, and commercial life of the Aztec empire? In your response you should be prepared to first identify and describe the group in question, and then move to a brief statement of their importance in Aztec society.

4. The *Huey Tlatoani* were the “Great Speakers” or rulers of the Mexica Aztec kingdom and empire. Briefly identify and describe the particular significance of at least three of the “Great Speakers” of *Mexico-Tenochtitlan*. In your response you should be prepared to highlight both their achievements (e.g., monument building) and failures (e.g., failed wars)...and those events and circumstances that may serve to explain their respective contributions or shortcomings.