

## Art of the Aztec Empire

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### Challenge Projects

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**Introduction:** By taking on either of these projects you will be allowed the option of foregoing, or not being required to complete, the Midterm and Endterm Reading Reviews or Examinations. No Incomplete grades or assignments will be permitted in this instance. So, please consider your options carefully. Which ever of the following two options that you might choose, the final project effort should be included in your final portfolio submission at the end of the term.

#### **Option 1: The Case of Human Sacrifice and Institutionalized Violence**

Because of the controversial nature surrounding the question of Aztec human sacrifice I have decided to opt for a final project offering that would pit you against the world of Aztec scholarship. If you would like to address either the question of (a) Aztec human sacrifice, or (b) Aztec militarism and empire building, you may do so with a thoroughly researched paper challenging the notion of either Aztec human sacrifice or warfare and empire. In order to begin this effort you would need to draw from works such as that of David Carrasco's "City of Sacrifice" and other reputable sources. If your effort is to challenge the existence of human sacrifice, you may draw on both traditional and non-traditional scholarly and non-scholarly resources. You are cautioned however to provide sufficient evidence so as to weigh the evidence both for and against your position.

#### **Option 2: Jennings' Aztec Day Journal**

In this project lab you will read the Gary Jennings' book Aztec from cover to cover and prepare a weekly journal in which you recount your experiences and reactions to Gary Jennings' recounting of the life of an Aztec nobleman. Your journal may take an electronic or typewritten paper (typewritten or very legible handwritten) format. Your objective in this option is to recount your feelings, reactions, and understanding of Aztec civilization on the basis of this fictional – albeit very detailed reconstruction – account of the greatness and decline of the Aztec empire as recounted by the protagonist, Mixli. Please be sure to prepare journal entries with sufficient detail pertaining to the text to convince me that you have thoroughly read and considered, pondered and reacted to, the Jennings book. If you prepare a handwritten journal, you should be sure that the journal is sufficiently legible so that your professor can interpret your thoughts on the readings in question.