#### Noah Edward Hall

Chapters 4 and 9 homework

Tuesday 7pm, History Gym 113

#### CHAPTER 4: AFRICANS ACROSS THE SEA

1.The author opened up chapter four with the encounter between Cadamosto and the Gambians to provide a clear description, on part of the Portuguese, of the African seamanship and prowess of maritime warfare.

2. It is clear that the Gambians at the time had excellent knowledge of maritime warfare and developed navy with a hierarchical structure.

3.Specific examples of Alkebu-lan navigational ability include, but are not limited to: the Zopoli; sewn boats large enough to carry twelve tons of cargo across the niger; the Talking Book records the oral tradition of the MAli Empire which had a vst fishing fleet; and the armies and riverine navies of the the first Mali and later Songhay, had huge boats laden with grain, ivory, and other commodities that could travel swiftly and salong along the niger.

4.Some prevailing myths about ancient boats and the sea include: that sea was harder to traverse than “ten saharas”; Africans were naked barbarians with a boatless culture; European ships of the fifteenth century must have been superior to those of a thousand or two thousand years earlier; Africans had no knowledge of the sea; never had mariners; never made boats; nurtured a landlocked race; Alkebu-lan empires ended at the edge of the desert.

5.Some prevailing attitudes among European and Americans toward pre-columbian crossings of the ocean include: the assumption that the west & asia have always been the leader in technological progress; the watercraft of pre-columbian times could have crossed the oceans only accidentally and by miraculous good fothune.

6.Van Sertima refutes the aforementioned assumptions by providing data on winds, currents, and natural African-to-American routes; the major inventions in maritime navigation that transformed European shipping during the renaissance had been made before Christ; the system of latitudinal and longitudinal coordinates predate the Columbian era; the lateen sail hoisted on the Spanish and protuguese caravals came from the arabs; Africans were navigating the atlantic before yashua;

7.Thor Heyerdahl proved that Kemitan ships built with papyrus reed were capable of traveling across the Atlantic from Africa to America.

8.The Swahili Mtepe, and her younger sister the Dua la Mtepe, were able to alternate between the use of oars and sail so that the ship was not at the mercy of the wind and current and could maintain course and speed against them both.

The Spanish caraval used by Columbus for the atlantic crossings did not have this dual-capability. Instead, they could only travel by sail, forcing the Spanish to wait up to 8 months at a time to set sail from port while waiting for a good wind to take them where they wanted to go; and due to this fact – it could actually take longer to complete the Africa-to-America journey than the simplest African boat.

9.Acciddental African voyages would have been likely to make their landfalls within the same wind and current bands, striking points in the region of the Gulf of Mexico, the Caribbean, or the northeastern corner of South America. In addition, once cast into the mid-atlantic, it is almost impossible to avoid the South American coast.

There are two main currents from African to America: the Guinea current and the Canaries current. The former flows eastward along the Guinea coast, with frequent cycles out to sea where it joins the south equatorial current, the latter flows southward along the coast of aFrica to Cap Blanc or Cape Verde where its plits to the south along the coast or into the Atlantic and bcomes the North Atlantic equatorial current that strikes the American coast from the Guianas through the Antilles.

This current leaves the African continent along the coast of Senegal and Gambia, which is the Atlantic border of Mali, and where the fleets of Abubakari the Second sailed for the western Lands.

10. The purpose of this chapter was to provide scientific and historical irrefutable proof of not only African maritime successes and victories, but also to exemplify the ease in which African seaman could navigate the Africa-to-America route.

CHAPTER 9: AFRICAN-EGYPTIAN PRESENCES IN ANCIENT AMERICA

1. The heads found at La Venta, Tres Zapotes and other locations were carved from a single block of basalt resting upon prepared foundations of unworked slabs of stone. The heads had workmanship that is delicate and sure, with proportions perfect and amazingly negroid in character. The heads were between 6 feet and 9 feet, each weighing over 10 tens with circumferences surpassing 18 feet. The heads were described as massive, military, menacing, fullness of lips with broadly fleshed noses.

The stones had dots and crosses, which when decoded, gave a date of November 4, 291BC.

2. Nine samples of wood charcoal were taken, and five samples related to the original construction of the court gave an average reading of 814BC, plus/minus 134 years.

3. Van Sertima would put the stone heads within nine years between 688BC and 680BC.

4.Irwin said, based on the turned up shoes, that either the Etruscans (least likely), the Hittites (landbound and declined empire), and Phoenicians were responsible; with the Phoenicians, by simple process of elimination, being the most logical choice for the identity of Uncle Sam. She said Uncle Sam was a Phoenician with African servants or slaves.

Baily’s theory was for the Blacks in ancient America to be mercenary troops of the Phoenicians.

5.Van Sertima refutes both theories based on the fact they both share the same basic weakness: an inability to look through the window of ancient history with eyes untinted by the ethnocentric dyes of their day.

At the time the heads were crafted, the Phoenicians were mercenaries of the Egyptians, and the time period when Phoenicians attempted to colonize West Africa was too was to account for the negroid heads.

In addition, irwin’s interpretation of ancient text was invalid – the Africans did not wear the kettles on their head, but “bore” the kettles to carry tribute.

6.The list of pertinent items to support the case for contact is plentiful: the finding of patently Egyptian statuettes buried three meters deep in the stern beaches; the step pyramid found in America can be traced to ancient Babylon and Egypt; Mexican mummification like the mummified figure in the sarcophagus at Palenque; Egyptians buried parts of the corpse in four canopic jars (Horus jars), in which certain organs were palced in each and assigned a color scheme that match the scheme of ancient mexico; similarities between Alkebu-lan fascination with horses & dogs, which resemble the olmecs who began to sculpt little clay dogs attached to wheels or tiny chariots with wheels (which is virtually their only use of the wheel) ; similar burial customs like the twisted rope designs on sarcophagi, golden mummy masks, anda small hole in the top slabs of death chambers for the release of the soul or the flight of the bird-of-death; and the ritual involving placement of a green stone in the mouth of the corpse; weaving techniques such as the loom; Egyptian surgical procedures like trepanning (trepanation; fitted megalithic masonry; other ritual practices like the wearing of false beards by high priests, the use of purple as an exclusively royal and priestly color, incest between royal siblings, royal paraphernalia like the ceremonial umbrella and litter and the bird serpent motif in coats of arms and royal diadems.