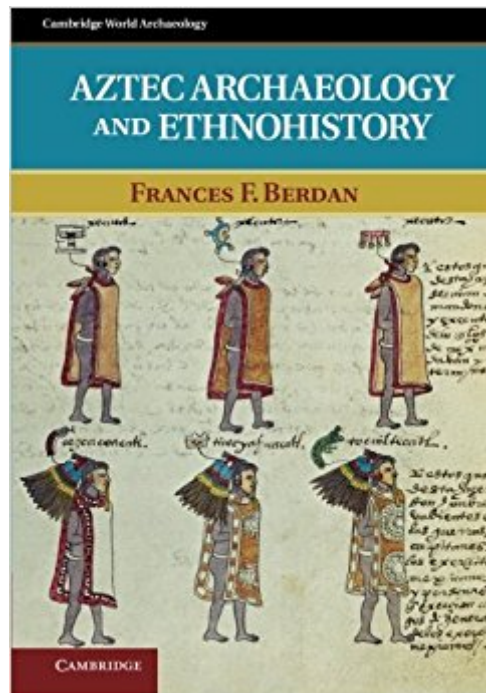


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Aztec Archaeology And Ethnohistory (Cambridge World Archaeology)



Synopsis

This book provides an up-to-date synthesis of Aztec culture, applying interdisciplinary approaches (archaeology, ethnohistory, and ethnography) to reconstructing the complex and enigmatic civilization. Frances F. Berdan offers a balanced assessment of complementary and sometimes contradictory sources in unravelling the ancient way of life. The book provides a cohesive view of the Aztecs and their empire, emphasizing the diversity and complexity of social, economic, political, and religious roles played by the many kinds of people we call "Aztecs." Concluding with three integrative case studies, the book examines the stresses, dynamics, and anchors of Aztec culture and society.

Book Information

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"Anthropologist Frances Berdan draws on her decades of ethnohistoric research that she combines with the latest findings from archaeology to offer a new authoritative account of the Aztecs and how the Mexica came to dominate the largest pre-Hispanic empire in Mesoamerica." Deborah L. Nichols, Dartmouth College "In this book Frances Berdan, for years a leading light of Aztec studies, has given us a wonderfully accessible, clearly written book that places her vast knowledge of Aztec society, culture, and technology on full display. It will be treasured for many years as an up-to-date and authoritative source on one of the most influential and best-studied pre-Hispanic societies." Richard Blanton, Purdue University "This is an outstanding volume that is a major contribution to not only Aztec research but also to Mesoamerican studies as a whole. Written by a preeminent Aztec

specialist, it is remarkable for both its breadth and depth of research; it covers virtually all aspects of Aztec society and culture in great and lucid detail. Aside from perhaps the great Florentine Codex compiled in the sixteenth century, I can think of no other work that so thoroughly discusses Aztec civilization." Karl Taube, University of California, Riverside

This book provides an up-to-date synthesis of Aztec culture, encompassing topics of history, economy, social life, political relations, and religious beliefs and ceremonies. It offers an integrated view of Aztec life, grappling with thorny issues such as human sacrifice and the controversial role of up-and-coming merchants. The book meshes data, methods, and theories from a variety of disciplines including archaeology, ethnohistory, ethnography, and art history.

Excellent product. Excellent service.

Great read

This book is a survey of the Aztec culture by one of the preeminent experts of the field, written lovingly and in an extremely readable style (even for a general reader such as myself). The author's bio states that Berdan is Professor Emerita; she has already published many academic papers and books in this subject, and I get the feeling that this book is a kind of summary of her life's work on the Aztecs intended for a wider audience. The book presents an essentially state-of-the-art understanding of the Aztec culture, to a bounded yet meaningful level of detail. The 37 pages of end-notes and references enable the interested reader to pursue the topic to any depth desired.

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