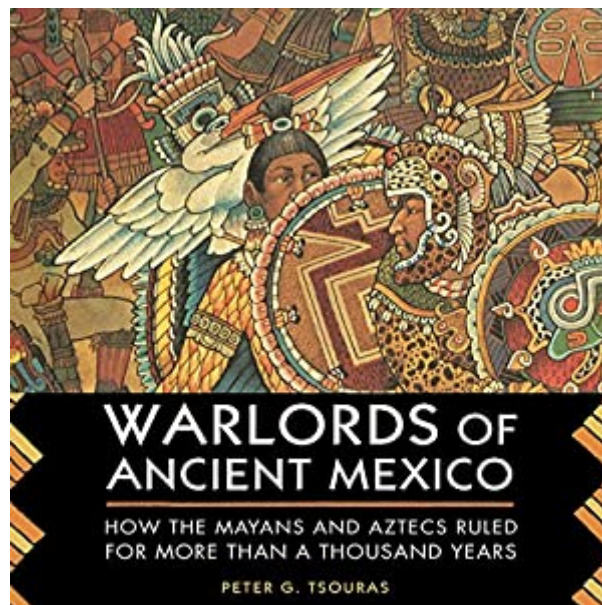




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Warlords Of Ancient Mexico: How The Mayans And Aztecs Ruled For More Than A Thousand Years



Synopsis

Learn the unbelievable true history of the great warrior tribes of Mexico. More than 13 centuries of incredible spellbinding history are detailed in this intriguing study of the rulers and warriors of Mexico. Dozens of these charismatic leaders of nations and armies are brought to life by the deep research and entertaining storytelling of Peter Tsouras. Tsouras introduces the reader to the colossal personalities of the period: Smoking Frog, the Mexican Machiavelli, the Poet Warlord, the Lion of Anahuac, and others... all of them warlords who shaped one of the most significant regions in world history, men who influenced the civilization of half a continent. The warlords of Mexico, for all their fascinating lives and momentous acts, have been largely ignored by writers and historians, but here that disappointing record is put right by a range of detailed biographies that entertain as they inform. Students of the area, historians working in American history, and long-term visitors and tourists to the region will gain a much clearer understanding of the background history of these territories and the men who formed and reformed them.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

Very interesting reading; I have both the audio and digital version - needed to SEE and HEAR the words in the Nahuatl language. Caution: as a history book, there are a lot of names and dates - could be overwhelming at first.

A great book for someone who is a beginner like me about Mesoamerica better than any novel I could not put it down !! Never realized the bravery mixed with ferocity of the ancient Aztecs and Mayans

Great illustrations!

Peter Tsouras, best known for his excellent alternative history books, gives us a work on a very neglected subject: warfare in pre-Columbian America. The author gives the reader a brief overview of the strategic picture in Central America at the time as well as the lay of the land. He begins with the Toltecs and their overarching superiority as a civilization as well as the legend of Quetzalcoatl - important since it has a vital role in the story of the later Aztec or "Mexico". Frankly, the author spends little time on the Maya. The focus of this book is on central Mexico. Although the reader must wade through often difficult to pronounce names and words, there's a lot of solid military history. The states of central Mexico were bellicose and expansionist - as well as having religions based on human sacrifice. This is a topic ignored by many historians and numerous television specials, leaving the reader with the impression that the Americas were peaceful utopias until the bad, bad white people came. The reality is diametrically opposed with bloodthirsty kings and emperors leading armies of highly skilled, valiant and disciplined warriors against those of their neighbors. The pre-Columbian Americas were violent places where empires and city states vied with each other, making alliances, absorbing territories of weaker states and making war for plunder or expansion. One thing the reader will note is the commonality with warfare in the West, in Asia and all other places in the world. Some things are universal: discipline, training, logistics, alliances, ruse, strategem, etc. Most of the book focuses on the most successful people we have extensive documentary evidence of: the Aztec or Mexico. They rose slowly from a weak vassal of great empires to conqueror of most of central Mexico. This rise was based on one thing - their skill at war. The Mexica rose by dint of their skill at war and ended up reversing their position as vassal into leader of an alliance that was almost unstoppable in warfare. Another thing apparent to the reader is the absolute savagery of the pre-Columbian peoples. At the end of the day, despite their achievements, they were bloodthirsty and genocide was a standard practice (though emperors often spared particularly wealthy or productive populations for their own profit). The Aztec were the pinnacle of slaughter, sacrificing tens of thousands in a single festival and using relays of priests to continue the slaughter as some would tire, others would take over. This is very much a military history with very little (but, still, there is some) culture, literature, architecture, etc. The illustrations are very good and give the reader an idea of what these people, battles and cities looked like. But, for a military-oriented book, there's little about their weaponry. I was dissatisfied with the descriptions of their weapons and armor, Photos of reconstructed weapons were very much

needed. Also, there was very little about their fighting formations. Still and all, this is a fine book and a solid four stars that I do recommend to those interested - or just wanting a change of pace in their military history reading.

interesting, but lacks real writing and history

Loved the author's style - short and informative, even humorous enough to entertain. He relies heavily and maybe even exclusively on Diego Duran, so of course for a deeper research one must read more sources, preferably primary, but for a quick overview I would recommend this work greatly!

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