

## Chapter 10 - The Americas

### Audio file

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### Transcript

#### Speaker 1

Hello, welcome to our podcast for Chapter 10 and the score. Chapter 10 is about the Americas, and as we start off to really get us getting started, we would love to explore some of the reasons as we see in our readings of the chapter of why the Americans were so important. And as we see in that pivotal event in the history of Americas, we really have to recognize really the motives of why Europeans wanted to explore the Americas, the the European explorers such as the Spanish, the French, English and Dutch all wanted a piece of the pie of the Americas. And especially to the teacher. On as we see in the beginning of the chapter, really as it's located in President of Mexico City, of course was an awe-inspiring city built on an island in the middle of Lake Texcoco. Its foundations can be traced back to the 14th century of the Aztecs, also known as Mexico, and it migrated into the area and established their capital over time. You know, Techland grew into a grand metropolis, anointment, temples busting markets and intricate canals, and so that really is something that we see that. Happens with that development of civilization in the Americas that really drew so many Europeans to the Americas, especially after the discovery in 1492, especially in 1519. The Spanish explore Anon Cortez and his men arrived on the shores of Mexico. Fueled by a combination of curiosity, their thirst for adventure, and the lower potential wealth. Cortez, along with his telexed Colon allies, embarked on a quest to conquer the Aztec Empire, which was ruled by the formal Emperor Moctezuma the 2nd. Cortez and his fellow explorers, like many others during the era of European expansion, were driven by desire to bring glory to their respective monarchs and accumulate wealth. The Spanish crown in. Particular saw the conquest of the new Territories as a means to enrich the roll call. 1st and solidify Spanish status as a dominant global power. Thus the Spanish explorers sought to report their exploits and claim territories in the name of the Spanish monarchy. And so that's where we really see that it gets us started where we really introduced this idea of the Americas and why it's so important. Especially for the Europeans, that allure of monetary game played a significant. Role in the conquest of Tenochtitlan. And other indigenous civilizations. The Aztecs, with their advanced agricultural practices, intricate trade networks and vast reserves of gold, silver and other precious resource. Just presented an irresistible opportunity to the European Conference as Cortez and his forces ventured deeper into the heart of the Aztec empire, they encountered the vast wealth and cultural splendor of tenacity to long. This lust for wealth and the desire for to make a name for themselves drove many European powers and explore and colonize the America. And that really is why we really have such a great interest in the Americas at this particular time is because that is what opened up so much of that development and expansion because Europeans were lusting so much for the will. So now as we move forward in Chapter 10, we want to go a little bit deeper on a journey to explore the rich. And fascinating history of the Americas, especially before 1500. And as we go a little bit deeper, we would like to really show the vast and diverse content. It is important to note that this discussion in this chapter will commence in what is often referred to as the middle of this historical narrative. Scholars widely believe that the earliest migrations to the Americas occurred thousands of years ago, with people crossing the land bridge known as Beringia. Which connected modern day Siberia and Alaska. These early migrants

eventually dispersed and settled in various regions across North and South America. Blame the foundations for the diverse indigenous cultures that would flourish in the Americas to come. However, while the Beringia migration is a crucial aspect of the peopling of the Americas, our focus today will shift to Meso America, a region encompassing present day Mexico and parts of Central America. Meso America holds a unique place in the chronology of the Americas and is the first section where scholars have discovered evidence of large settlements, agriculture and distinctive cultural traditions. The civilizations that emerged in Mesoamerica were characterized by remarkable achievements in agriculture, architecture, art, writing systems, and complex social structures. Cultures among the most prominent of Mesoamerica were the Olmec, Maya, Taíno, Zapotec, Toltec, and of course the Aztec, whose capital was discussed earlier, Tenochtitlan. Mesoamerican society developed sophisticated agricultural systems that allowed the cultivation of staple crops such as maize, beans, and squash. Domestication of these crops was a significant achievement, providing a stable food supply that supported the growth of permanent settlements and the rise of complex societies. The Olmec civilization, which emerged around 1200 BCE, is considered one of the earliest Mesoamerican cultures. They established ceremonial centers with impressive stone sculptures reflecting their religious and cultural practices. They greatly influenced subsequent civilizations in the region, particularly the Maya. The Maya civilization, known for its monumental architecture, intricate hieroglyphic writing system, and astronomical knowledge, flourished from approximately 2000 BC to 1500 BC. They built impressive cities with towering pyramids, palaces, and observatories. The Maya were skilled astronomers, as we've said, actually predicting celestial events and integrating them into their religious and social practices. Teotihuacan, located near present day Mexico City, was another influential city and reached its peak between the 1st and 7th centuries CE, boasting monumental pyramids, murals, and a highly organized urban layout. Teotihuacan's influence extended throughout Mesoamerica, leaving a lasting impact on subsequent cultures. The Aztecs established their capital at Tenochtitlan in the 14th century, with the last major civilization to dominate Mesoamerica before the arrival of the Europeans. They built a vast empire through military conquest and established a highly stratified society with a centralized government and complex religious practices and a tribute system that sustained them. By exploring Meso America, we gain a deeper understanding of the rich tapestry of indigenous cultures that really flourish in the Americas. Before 1500, the civilizations laid the foundation for the development of complex societies and left an indelible mark on the history, art, and cultural heritage of that region. While the story of the Americas begins with the migration of people across Beringia, we have chosen to really get into this podcast a little bit deeper with Mesoamerican due to its position as the first region where scholars have found evidence of large settlements. Agriculture and unique cultural traditions as we examine the civilization that thrived in Meso America, we can appreciate the remarkable achievements of indigenous cultures and their lasting contribution to the history of the Americas. As we move forward during this time, many residents of Meso America transitioned from a mobile hunter-gatherer lifestyle to a more sedentary way of life, with a greater reliance on agriculture and settled communities. Prior to this form of the period, Mesoamerica was populated by small bands of hunter-gatherers who moved in search of food and resources. These nomadic groups followed the seasonal availability of wild plants and animals, adapting their lifestyle to the natural cycles of the environment. However, with the advent of agriculture, particularly the cultivation of maize, we really see maize, bean, and squash communities in Mesoamerica were able to establish settled villages and engage in more permanent forms of habitation. Agriculture provided a stable food supply that allowed for the development of larger, more permanent settlements. As agriculture became more prevalent, American cities began to cultivate crops and fields

using techniques. As such as. Slash and burn agriculture this involve clear land by cutting down vegetation, burning it and then using the ashes as fertilizer. The agricultural practices were key to sustaining sedentary lifestyles and supporting. The transition to Sedentism brought about significant social and cultural change when several communities people could establish more complex structures, develop specialized labor roles, and engage in long term planning for resource management. These developments pave the way for the emergence of a more complex political and economic system, and, later, Mesoamerican civilization. It's very important to know that even as a sedentary communities emerge, some groups continue to gauge in seasonal mobility. This was often due to the availability of different resources in different regions or the need to access specific environments for gathering or hunting purposes. However, overall the trend towards Sanitiser M and the establishment of permanent settlements.

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Infant hallmark of the formative period in Mesoamerica. Especially during this formative period, a shift occurred in Mesoamerican societies from mobile hunter gatherer lifestyles to sedentary settlements. The adoption of agriculture allows for the establishment of permanent communities, leading to the development of a more complex social, economic, and political life. This transition set the stage. Were remarkable achievements that would unfold in Mesoamerica and centuries to come. During this time, many residents of Mesoamerica transitioned from this time of hunter gatherers mobility to really a sedentary lifestyle 2. Key advancements during this time was the domestication of crops and also the use of pottery vessels as storage. With the domestication of crops, surplus foods could be stored for future use. This is where the use of pottery vessels or stores became. Party vessels were not only durable and convenient for storing food and perishable materials such as gourds or baskets, but they also allow for better preservation and organization of resources. The advent of pottery and able communities to accumulate and store surplus food, contributing to increased stability and the ability to support. The appearance of pottery in different regions of Mesoamerica during the formative period Flex reflects the spread and adoption of the technology. Potter production is known to have emerged on the Pacific Coast of Chiapas, Highland Valleys and the Gulf Coast between 1900 BC and 1750 BC. The use of pottery vessels for storage and cooking had a profound impact on food preparation, preservation and the social dynamics. Dynamics within communities. The availability of domesticated crops and the use of pottery vessels for storage facilitate development of a more urban living patterns, surpluses of food allowed communities to sustain larger populations, and support the growth of settlements with increased stability and surplus resources specialized labor. Roles could emerge, such as artisans, traders and rulers contributed to the formation of complex societies and urban centers. As urban centers grew, other technological advancements such as the construction of elaborate architecture, development of trade networks and the evolution of writing systems further enhance the urbanization process. These advancements fostered cultural exchange, economic development, and the emergence of social hierarchies. Within urban communities and so as we see the domestication of crops and use of pottery. For storage were crucial technological advancements during the form of the period. As of America, these advancements provided a very stable food supply, allow really for the surplus food storage and contribute to accelerated transition to urban living. The parents of pottery in different regions reflected

the spread and adoption of this technology. Fueling the growth of urban centers and development of complex societies in America and Mesoamerica especially. Now as we move forward, we really like to discuss the Olmec. The Olmec played a significant role in shaping subsequent Mesoamerican cultures, but they were not the sole driving force behind the region's development. The Olmec civilization emerged around 1200 BCE and thrived until approximately 400 BCE. They established a series of ceremonial centers in the Gulf Coast region of Mexico, notably at sites such as San Lorenzo and La Venta. The Olmec are renowned for the colossal stone structures, including the iconic Olmec heads, which reflect their distinctive art style and religious practices. Like other civilizations, the Olmec made significant advancements in various aspects of Mesoamerican culture that developed a complex agricultural system, including terrace fields, irrigation, and drainage, to support their growing population. The Olmecs also engaged in long distance trade networks, exchanging goods such as Obsidian with neighboring regions. Furthermore, the Olmec played a crucial role in the development of Mesoamerican writing and calendrical systems. They created one of the earliest known writing systems in the Americas, consisting of hieroglyphic symbols. The Olmec also developed a sophisticated cylindrical system that influenced subsequent Mesoamerican cultures. The Olmec cultural, artistic, and technological advancements had a lasting impact on the region. Many subsequent Mesoamerican civilizations, including the Maya, Zapotec, and Aztec, were influenced by Olmec traditions. They adopted certain aspects of their culture, and the Olmec can be seen as the mother culture or a major influence on later Mesoamerican civilization. It is important to recognize that the rapid development, however, during this time. The Olmec civilization was not solely driven by the Olmec. Other contemporary cultures and regions also made significant contributions to the region's development. For example, the Maya civilization, which thrived from around 2000 BCE to 1500 CE, developed independently in the lowland regions of Mesoamerica and made remarkable achievements in various fields including agriculture, architecture, writing and mathematics. As we discussed the Olmec, they were one of the earliest and most influential, but they are not the only one. The Olmec are a part of this group as well, and the impact of both the Olmec and the Maya, though not fully understood, is an area of ongoing research and scholarly debate. While the exact nature and extent of the influence are still being explored, it is widely recognized that the Olmec played a significant role in shaping the trajectory of Mesoamerican civilization. We know, as we discussed before, that the Olmec civilization predates the rise of the Maya and established several ceremonial centers in the Gulf Coast region of Mexico. By the time that the Maya civilization began to emerge, the Olmec culture and artistic achievements, including their extended art style, were likely known to the Maya through trade, cultural interactions, or possibly even direct migration. One of the notable areas of Olmec influence on the Maya is the realm of art. In Olmec art, the Olmec style, characterized by the creation of colossal heads and other stone sculptures, has been found in various Maya regions, indicating the diffusion of artistic motifs, and possibly this or political symbolism. The Maya incorporated and adapted these artistic elements into their own artistic conditions. Additionally, the Olmec may have had influence on the development of the Maya writing system. The Maya script, which consists of hieroglyphic symbols, shows similarities to certain Olmec hieroglyphics. This suggests that the Olmec may have played a role in the development of early writing among the Maya. Furthermore, the Olmec emphasis on ceremonial centers, complex religious practices, and social hierarchies likely influenced the Maya's own architectural and social development. The Maya built impressive cities with monumental architecture, including temples, palaces, and ball courts, reflecting their own distinct cultural and religious practices. And while the Olmec influence on the Maya is acknowledged, it is important to recognize that the Maya civilization

developed its own unique characteristics and achievements. The Maya's rapid rise to sophistication can be attributed to the combination of factors including their own ingenuity, resourcefulness and the favorable environmental conditions in which they thrive, and so we cannot rule out the influence of the Maya, although not still fully understood, it is significant. It can be seen in various aspects. Of Maya culture, including art, writing, architecture and societal organization. That all makes cultural legacy likely contributed to the Maya's accelerated development. But the Maya also had their own independent contributions and achievements that propel them to remarkable levels of sophistication. So as we move forward, let's start to talk about Teotihuacan. Teotihuacan was a major pre-Columbian city located near present-day Mexico City. It reached its peak in about the 1st and 7th centuries CE and it's considered one of the largest and most influential cities in the ancient world. Teotihuacan was characterized by impressive urban planning, monumental architecture and cultural influence. The city features iconic structures such as the Pyramid of the Sun, the Pyramid of the Moon and the Temple of the Feathered Serpent. These pyramids and temples showcase the city's architectural prowess and its religious significance. The urban layout of Teotihuacan was carefully planned with wide, straight avenues and an organized grid pattern of residential complexes. The city had a complex social structure with distinct neighborhoods, extensive trade networks, and a highly organized government. Teotihuacan's influence extended beyond its immediate region, the city was a major center of trade, with goods flowing in and out of various parts of Mesoamerica, and its cultural and artistic styles, including the distinctive mural paintings influenced subsequent civilizations in Mesoamerica such as the Maya and Zapotec. And as we move forward, let's start to really talk more about the Aztec civilization. The Aztecs are also known for their military prowess, urban planning and architectural achievements. They were skilled builders and constructed impressive structures as well, including the Pyramid of the Feathered Serpent, which features intricate stone carvings, depicting feathered serpents. The Aztec architecture at Tenochtitlan exhibited influence from earlier civilizations such as Teotihuacan. The Aztec civilization also left a lasting impact on Mexican American culture through their mythology and religious beliefs, they were the feathered serpent deity associated with learning, art and wind. And the myth of that feathered serpent, along with other Aztec legends, became important elements of the later Aztec civilization. The Aztecs are also credited with disseminating knowledge and skills in various fields, including metallurgy, agriculture and arts. They had significant influence on neighboring regions and the Aztecs were very prominent civilizations in Mesoamerican history. Teotihuacan's urban planning, monumental architecture and culture influence left an indelible mark on subsequent civilizations, while the Aztecs' military prowess, architectural achievements, and with their practice influence development of Mesoamerica. Both civilizations played a crucial role in shaping the history and cultural heritage of Mesoamerica. Next, let's go a little bit deeper as we talk about the Aztec civilization, specifically the Aztec Empire, which drew significant attention from the Spanish conquerors during their arrival in Mexico. The Aztecs, also known as the Mexica, established a powerful empire. In the 14th and 15th century CE with their capital city located in Tenochtitlan in present-day Mexico City. The Aztec Empire was characterized by its complex political organization, extensive trade networks, monumental architecture, and vibrant cultural practices. The empire encompassed a large territory with its influence spreading across much of central Mexico. The Spanish conquistador Hernán Cortés led the expedition that ultimately resulted in the conquest of the Aztec Empire in 1519. Cortés arrived in Mexico and sought to exploit the wealth and resources of the region. The Aztec Empire, with its reputation for mass riches through its tribute system. The Spanish conquistadors who saw potential monetary gain from their conquest. The Spanish initially formed alliances with indigenous groups that were enemies of the Aztecs such as the Tlaxcalans, with their

support and the aid of superior weaponry, the Spanish were able to defeat the Aztec forces and ultimately conquer Kina Chelan in 1521. The Spanish conquest of the Aztec empire had profound consequences for the region's history. It led to the dismantling of Aztec political and social structures, their position of Spanish colonial rule, and the introduction of Christianity in the Americas. The conquest also resulted in the widespread loss of indigenous lives, the destruction of cultural artifacts and monuments and disruption of traditional ways of life despite the conquest and subsequent colonization, the Aztec civilization left a lasting impact on Mexico's cultural heritage. Many aspects of the Aztec culture, such as art, language, religious practices and agricultural techniques continue to influence Mexican society today. The ruins of Tenochtitlan, now located beneath Mexico City, served as a reminder of the once mighty Aztec Empire and its rich history. The Aztec empire, with its wealth, power and cultural complexity, through significant attention from the Spanish conquerors during their rival in Mexico. Conquest of the Aztecs. Spanish had far reaching consequences for the region, marking the beginning of Spanish colonial rule and profoundly altering the course of Mesoamerican history. And so as we move from the Aztecs and the conquering by the Spanish, we start to really discuss also other areas of the Americas, especially the Pacific Coast. The Pacific Coast and the Andean culture of Americas have left a wealth of material culture that provides valuable insights for archaeology and historians. The dry climate of certain regions, particularly the Andean Highlands, has contributed to the preservation of artifacts, structures and even human remains, allowing for a better understanding of these. In the Andean region, civilizations such as the Inca, Moche, Nazca and Chavin have left remarkable material remains. The Inca, known for their vast empire. Of the 15 and 16th centuries, constructed in precious stone structures as the Machu Picchu. Which continued to offer visitors to. Today, the well preserved ruins of these sites provide important insights into Inca architecture, engineering techniques and social organization, the Moche civilization, which thrived between the 1st and 8th century CE on the northern coast of Peru, left behind an extraordinary amount of material culture. Their elaborate pottery vessels to depict intricate scenes of daily life ceremonies and mythical narratives providing valuable information about the cultural practices and beliefs. Similarly, the Nazca civilization, famous for its cinematic Nazca Lines, created intricate geoglyphs in the desert floor. These giant drawings of animals, plants and geometric shapes only visible from the air offer insight into the Nazca worldview and their artistic expression. And Chavin culture, dating back to around 900 BC, producing impressive stone sculptures into textiles and complex architectural structures. As the size of Chavin, the Anasazi these artifacts contribute to our understanding of their religious beliefs, iconography, and ceremonial practices from the Pacific Coast of South America. The ancient cultures left behind an abundance of pottery, metalwork and architectural remains, the dry coastal climate, has also preserved these artifacts remarkably well, allowing archaeologists to study and analyze them in detail. These artifacts provide valuable information about the cultural practices, trade networks, and artistic traditions of these civilizations. The study of material culture from the Pacific Coast and Andean cultures has significantly enhanced our understanding of ancient American civilizations. It has shed light on various aspects of their societies, including their technological advancements, economic systems, artistic expression, religious beliefs and social structures. And so as we move forward. We can see. That the Pacific Coast and Andean cultures of the Americas have left behind a wealth of material culture that has been preserved in part due to the dry climate of the region and the nature of these artifacts has greatly contributed to our knowledge of these ancient civilizations. And has helped shape our understanding of the rich and diverse history of the Americas as well. And so as we move even further, we can now look forward to seeing the large platform mounds that really are part of the story, Chavin civilization, those large platform mounds. Don't they know

the Chico and laid at the Highland Center at the Chovan? The author demonstrate A continuity of architectural features and cultural practices in ancient Peru. The Norte Chico Civilization, also known as Cairo Soup Base Civilization, merges around 3000 BC along the northern coast of Peru, and it's considered one of the earliest complex societies in Americas. The simulation exists of several large. Settlements, including coral as. Perot and Supe, and one of the distinctive features of Norte Chico. Site is the presence of monumental platform mounds. These mounds were constructed by pile up layers of earth and stone, creating elevated platforms that serve various purposes. Such as ceremonial administrative functions. The mounds of coral presenters include the impressive pyramid, Mylar, or main pyramid, which is one of the largest structures at the site. Later, especially at the Chavan Deltar, we also find the presence of large platform mammals. Indicating a continuation. Of architectural practices from earlier civilizations like Norte Chico. The Showband site, monumental stone structures including the Castillo or castle and Tempo Viejo or Old temple, which are constructed on elevated platforms. The significance of these platform miles in both Norte Chico and Shovan culture suggests they shared cultural tradition and perhaps the transfer of architectural knowledge. Or religious concepts from one region to another. These mounds serve as important ceremonial and social spaces, emphasizing the importance of ritual activities and communal gatherings within these ancient societies. Now as we. We like to further talk about the Chievo civilization which emerged after the decline of the Moche culture flourish along the northern coast of Peru from 9th to 15th century CE. The changing people build a highly organized and centralized state with Chan Chan as its capital chin Chin. An archaeological site located near the modern day city of Trujillo and is considered one of the largest Adobe cities. In the world. Covering approximately 20 square kilometers or 7.7 square miles. The site consists of several wall compounds, known as citadels or palaces, which are residents. Of the elite. And ruling classes. The layout of Chanchan reflects the Chimos urban planning and architectural skills. The cities were divided into 9 distinct citadels, each with its own ceremonial spaces residential. Areas and administrative administrative structures. The citadels were interacted by the networks of roads, canals and plazas, showcasing the chimneys advanced. The Chinnu was renowned for the mastery of Adobe construction. The walls of Chan Chan were adorned with intricate and elaborate release depicting various boutiques such as animals, mythical creatures and geometric patterns. These reliefs provided insights into human art, culture, and religious beliefs. Despite their impressive achievements, the Chimu civilization eventually faced decline, was conquered by the Inca Empire in the late 15th century. The Incas incorporated elements of the Chimu culture into their own, but Chenchen lost its status as the political center of the reading of the. Today, Chanchan is considered a UNESCO World Heritage Site and is important archaeological archaeology today. Chan Chan is a UNESCO World Heritage Site and an important archaeological and historical attraction, excavations and ongoing research continued to provide valuable insights. Into the Chamber of civilization and its significance into the history of pre Colombian pre. Pre Colombian Peru. As we have somewhat been discussing all along through the last several chapters, we have discussed the Inca Empire and their conquest, the Inca Empire under the leadership of. Experienced significant expansion during these early years and managed to conquer various ethnic groups and territories in the Indian region, including the China. Get to Chewy and Chima. Makuti, also known as Pachacutec, became the knight ruler of the Inca state around 1438. Under his leadership, the Inca Empire underwent a period of rapid expansion and consolidation. By Takeuti initiated a series of military campaigns that resulted in the conquest of neighboring regions. One of the notable conquests to in Pachakuti's brain was that of a Chanka, an ethnic group located in the southern Andes. The change cuts were significant rival to the Inca and their defeat solidified the Incas. Power in

the region. With the the feet of the chakras, Patrick Hoodie expanded his influence over the territories and incorporated them into the Inca Empire. Furthermore, as we see Patrick County extended Inca Empire of that caucus. Speaking people who inhabited a vast area. In the southern. Andes, through military campaigns and strategic alliances. Secluding succeeded in subjugating the various feature ethnicities and integrating them into expanding the Inca Empire. A notable conquest of the Inca Empire on the Pachakuti's ring was the coastal chibo. Achievement, as we've discussed before, were a powerful civilization along the northern coast of Peru with their capital of Chan, Chan and wit. Patrick cooties, very extensive military campaigns and political movers. He was able to successively conquer them and incorporate their territories and resources into his new Inca Empire. These conquests not only expanded the territorial boundaries of the empire, but also increased its wealth, resources, and political influence on jakutis military success, laid the foundation for the subsequent expansion of the Inca Empire under his successors. But the cooties rain marked a significant turning point in Inca history, establishing the Inca empires, a dominant force in the Ambien region. His conquest laid the groundwork for the Inca imperial ambition and set the stage for further expansion and consolidation of that empire in the following decades. Pachakuti the rule of the Inca Empire with this massive military campaigns was very successful. That resulted in the conquest of various ethnic groups and territories, including the Chaka. These conquests expanded the Inca empires reach and solidified their power in the Indian region, paving the way for further expansion and establishment of one of the largest pre Columbian empires of the Americas. So now as we move a little bit further, let's go to the north. The formation of the Panamanian land bridge around 2,000,000 years ago played a crucial role in shaping the biological and cultural diversity of the two American continents. Before the formation of the land Bridge, North America and South America were isolated land masses with distinct ecosystems and species. The separation led to the evolution of unique plant and animal species in each region. For example, species like llamas, alpacas evolved in South America while bison bears and wolves developed in North America. These distinct ecosystems and species composition influence the availability of resources and ecological niches for human populations. The migration of humans from Asia to the Americas is believed to have occurred primarily, as we said before, through the Bering land bridge. There appeared to the lower sea levels around 2:20 thousand and 12,000 years ago. These separate development of North and South Americans, flora and flora, meant that human populations, as they made their way over, encountered different environments, resources, and challenges. Contributing to the diversification of cultures and some of the patterns across the continents and North America, various indigenous cultures developed complex societies such as the Mississippian culture in the southeast. The ancestral Portland in the southwest. And that your Confederacy in the Northeast, these societies exhibit advanced agricultural practices, monumental structure and social complexity. In South America, civilizations like the Inca, the Moche, Naraka, and Maya and Mesoamerica rules with sophisticated agriculture systems. Mono architecture, intricate cultural and social structures. These civilizations develop advanced agricultural techniques, including terrace farming, irrigation systems, and sophisticated. Those two distinctive evolutionary paths really lay the groundwork of how these two distinctive cultures have developed. The the availability of this resources, ecological adaptations and cultural practices played a significant role in shaping the diversity of a nation's cultures. And their respective settlement patterns across the continents. It is important to really recognize the rich cultural heritage and diverse history histories of the indigenous people in both North and South America, which are all shaped by millions of years of separate development and evolution. The the geological separation of North and South America until the formation of the Panamanian land bridge around 2,000,000 years ago resulted in distinct biological



and cultural developments in each region. Creation influence the pace, patterns and diversity of human settlements in Americans, but unique ecosystems, resources and cultural practice shaping each indigenous civilization that erodes on both continents, especially in North America. The introduction of maize. Or what we often refer to as corn, beans and squash from northern Mexico played a significant role. In the transition. To the century culture in Southwest region or what? Is now the United States. It's the agricultural trios commonly referred to as the three sisters, provided reliable and sustainable food source and supported development of settled communities. And consumption of maize, beans and squash in the southwest are believed to have started around 2000 BC. These crops offered several advantages that contribute to the transition from nomadic or seminomadic lifestyles to sedentary settlements. Maize, with its high caloric value and versatility. Became a staple crop that provided a reliable food source. Its cultivation allowed for the production of surplus foods, which could be stored and used during peers, so scarcity space maze could be processed into various forms, such as grinded into flour or cooking it as a nutritious food source. Beans as well when growing alongside ways. Offered a complementary nutritional value. Beans are rich in protein, in which combined with mass create a balanced diet. They also help replenish the nitrogen content in the soil, enhancing the overall productivity of the agricultural system. Squash, with its vining nature, helps suppress weed growth and conserve soil moisture. Its large leaves provide exchange, producing evaporation and helping to maintain. Soil moisture level squash was also valuable food source, providing vitamins and nutrients, and the cultivation of all three cops allow communities in the southwest to establish permanent settlements and transition from the hunter gatherer lifestyle. The ones centered around agriculture. Nearer communities could focus on agricultural activities leading to the development of more complex social and economic cultural systems. Also, with the introduction of. A newer variety of maize known as maize orcho. Played a significant. Role in the flourishing of sedentary villages in the southwest and the South. The development of large pithouse villages around 500 BC may still show, also referred as the April Maze offered. Advantages that were better suited to the air conditions of the region and facilitated the growth of agricultural communities. Maize the ocho is characterized by larger kernels and eight rows of kernels on each cob. These larger kernels were more easily meal, making the processing of maize more efficient for the communities. The improved milling process allowed the production of finer flour and enhance the overall utilization of many ways as a food source. That adaptability of maze that would show to air conditions was crucial in the Southwest, but water resources were limited. The varieties of maize demonstrated below tolerance to drought. And was more efficient in water utilization compared to earlier. Its cultivation supported agricultural productivity and air environments and helped sustain their communities and regions where water scarcity was a significant concern. The availability of maize day Osho is a reliable and productive crop, provided the stable food source that really. Enable larger and more permanent settlements, especially in the American Southwest. Surplus food production communities have the ability to support a greater population, leading to the formation of larger villages and the construction of more sustainable penthouse. Structure that appearance of larger pithouse villages around 500 BC marked a significant transition in the social and cultural organization of the indigenous communities in the southwest. These villages consisted of multiple interconnected pit houses which served as dwelling storage spaces and communal areas. The presence of larger, more permanent settlements facilitated social interactions, trade networks and development of complex social and economic system. It is very important for us to note in this podcast that the adoption and cultivation of maze. Ultra were not. The sole factors responsible for these transformations, development of sanitary villages and complex. Cultural complexity in the southwest were the results of a complex interplay

between environmental conditions, technological innovations, social interactions, and cultural practices. It is one of the many factors that really led to phenomenal growth, especially in the Southwest, especially as it provided a reliable food source and enhanced agricultural product productivity in an arid environment and contributed to the development of larger pithouse villages. Of course, to larger civilizations to David to populate and. Growth and that really led to complex social systems. So let's move a little bit farther as we move into our chapter and talk about the Chaco phenomenon. Chaco phenomenon represents a significant cultural and architectural development in the ancient Puebloan civilization. It's a coin culture centered in Chaco Canyon. Regional President New Mexico is known for its remarkable architectural achievements, including the construction of massive stone buildings known as the Great Pueblos. These pueblos were multi-story constructions characterized by intricate masonry large rooms. And interconnected passageways. The great Pueblos found in Chaco Canyon, such as Pueblo Bonita and Chitral Catel served as ceremonial, administrative and social centers of the surrounding communities. These structures were not just dwellings, but also communal spaces that facilitated social gatherings, rituals and economic activities that that coincide, society demonstrated. As engineering and architectural skills as they were to construct these large scale buildings with precise. Alignment to celestial events, the strategic position of doorways and Windows in relation to the movement of the Sun and Moon suggests an intimate connection between the charcoal and and astronomical observations. The checkpoint phenomenon also involved the construction. Of extensive Rd. Networks called Chaco Roads, which connected various checkpoint sites. Throughout the region. These roads served as trade routes and facilitated cultural exchange among different communities within the Chechnyan society. The reason behind the rise and. Decline of the Chacoan culture. And the purpose of the great Pueblos continue to be a subject of scholarly debate, even to this. Day some theory suggests that the great Pueblos served as the sinners of religious and ceremonial activities, while others purpose that they represent symbols of political power and social hierarchy within the Chicagoan. Right. And as we see them merges of these great Pebble sediments as part of the czecho phenomenon around 900 CE represents A notable development in the ancient Puebloan. Civilization and the southwest. The construction of these massive stone structures along the development of Rd. networks, highlights and architectural and social complexity of the Chechen society. And so now we really want to discuss also the groups that lived along the Pacific. Coast of North America. Several of them. Continue to live a very sedentary culture that really thrive by relying on the rich abundance of the ocean resources surrounding them. Rather than agriculture. These cultures develop sophisticated systems to exploit the diverse marine and terrestrial ecosystems of the coastal region. Providing them with a. Diverse range of resources for sustenance and material needs. This Pacific Coast culture had access to a wealth of resources, including various fish species, sea mammals such as seals and sea lions, shellfish, waterfowl, game animals, wild plants and timber from the surrounding forests. They developed advanced fishing techniques such as using Nets, tarps and hooks to catch fish. And other marine species. They also employed skills. Building techniques to navigate the coastal waters and engage in maritime activities. And with this, we see the utilization of ocean resources truly played a crucial role in the economies and cultural practice of these cultural these coastal cultures. Fish and marine animals were not only important sources of food, but also provide materials for making tools, clothing and other essential items. The collection of shellfish and other marine invertebrates. Was a significant activity, providing A valuable source of protein and shell material for backing ornaments, tools and utensils. This reliance on ocean resources also shape the social organization and cultural tradition of these cultural cultures. Social communities often form complex social structures with specialization and fishing to make and other

specialized activities. They engage in trade and exchange. Networks facilitating the circulation of goods and ideas among the coasts. The abundance of these resources along the Pacific Coast allowed for the establishment of permanent settlements, characterized by permanent or semi permanent. Dwellings and villages. These settlements often feature intricate architectures, such as large plant houses and totem poles among the indigenous people of this northwest coast. And as we wrap it all up for that particular part of the chapter in the podcast, we see that the secondary culture along the North America Pacific Coast flourished, especially by harnessing the abundant ocean resources available to them. These coasts develop sustainable economies and intricate social structures. Their reliance on marine resources shape. The way of. Life, cultural traditions and the formation of permanent settlements along the Pacific Coast. So now let's move a little bit closer to us and discuss the Cahokia. The Cahokia are located along the Mississippi River from present day. Saint Louis was a significant center of the mound, being mound building. Cultures of North America. The Cahokia site is one of the most prominent and well studied archaeological science associated with this recipient culture, which flourished from about 800 CE to 1500 CE. Cahokia was a complex and densely populated urban center that emerged as the focal point of the Mississippian civilization. It served as a hub for political, economic and religious activities, drawing people from surrounding regions to engage in trade, social gathering and ceremonial events, and the true hallmark of the Cahokia architecture was its large earthen mounds we often hear much about them still to this day, especially in our region. Of the South. These mounds were constructed by piling up earth and clay, creating monumental structures that serve various functions large and most impressive, mounds at Cahokia is known as Monk's mounds, which stand as one of the largest prehistoric earthworks in north. It is believed to have served as a ceremony and administrative center, possibly housing the residences of ruling elite. The layout of Cahokia featured a central Plaza surrounded by mounds, with residential areas and smaller sunlight mounds sites extending outwards. The community was organized into hierarchical social structure and rulers, priests, artisans and farmers playing distinct roles in the society. The hierarchy is prominent in is evident from the archaeological remains found at the site, including artifacts such as pottery tools and ceremonial objects, as well as evidence of long distance trade connections. The influence of the Cahokia extended over a vast territory with evidence of its cultural. And economic interactions reaching as far as the Great Lakes regions and. The Gulf of Mexico. The decline of the Cahokia and the Mississippian civilization is still the subject of scholar debate. As we've said about many other cultures and civilizations, but factors such as environmental changes, social and political upheavals, warfare, and resources depletion have been proposed as possible causes. By the time European explorers arrived in the region, Cahokia had. Already been abandoned and its significance had already diminished. Today Cahokia, my own state historic site, preserves the remnants of the ancient city and provides insights into the vibrant and complex society that once thrived there. Hope yet, Sir, as a significant. Center of the Mountain Bend and culture in North America. Particularly associated with the Mississippian civilization. And of course, as we have said, the impressive earthen mounds and complex urban layout point to its role as a political, economic and religious hub. The legacy of Cahokia continues to intrigue researchers and offer valuable insights into the rich cultural history of ancient America. And as we wrap this chapter up, chapter 10 in the podcast that we can really see so much about the Americas. We know that the earliest recognizable civilization in the Americas emerged in Mesoamerica, a region that encompasses present day Mexico and parts of Central America during the archaic period. This archaic period in Mesoamerica spans from around 8000 BC to 2000 BC and is characterized by the development of sedentary settlements, the cultivation of crops, and the emergence of complex cultural traditions during this archaic period, Mesoamerican societies transitioned from a predominantly

nomadic or semi-nomadic lifestyle to a more sedentary way of life. They began to establish permanent or semi-permanent settlements and engage in agricultural practices such as the cultivation of maize, beans, and other domestic plants. This transition to agricultural and sedentary living laid the foundation for subsequent developments of complex civilizations. In the Americas, as well, American civilization of the archaic and formative periods made significant contributions to agricultural trade, art, architecture, writing systems, and religious practices. Their achievements set the stage for later advanced civilizations that flourished in the region, such as the Aztec and the Maya. It is important to note that while Mesoamerica witnessed the earliest recognizable civilizations in the Americas. Because there were other cultural developments occurring in their region as well. For example, in South America, civilizations such as Norte Chico and the Chauvin culture emerged during the similar time frames, leaving their own legacies in terms of architecture, societal organization and cultural expression. As we see, human migration to the Americas is estimated to occur very early by at least 15,000 BC with the earliest recognizable civilizations emerging in Mesoamerica during that archaic period. The archaic and subsequent formative years witnessed the transition to the sedentary lifestyle, the development of agriculture, the rise of complex cultural traditions, and laid the foundation for later advanced civilizations in Mesoamerica and beyond.

Speaker 2

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