Week 1 response.Read Chapter 2 – in the Legacy of Mesoamerica

2. Read pp. 441-444 in the Legacy of Mesoamerica

1) The date range according to the chart on page 41 the postclassic period ranges from 1500-1000 AD. The late Postclassic period from 1200-1520 AD according to page 78.

2) Three cultural groups become prominent in the Last Postclassic period. They are the Aztec, Mixtec, and Mayan peoples according to page 78.

3) Some Deities from the Mixtec region included the rain god, Dzahui, the Mixtec version  
of the Nahua deity Tlaloc,  and the god of merchants Xiton or Xitondodzo. One important Aztec deity is Quetzalcoatl or the "Feather Serpent". He is the god of creation, a giver of life.  Some others included  Huitzilopochtli who was the patron of warriors, Tonatiuh the Sun God, and Tezcatlipoca God of the Night.  Some very important Gods for the Mayan people are K’awil the Lightning god, Chac the Rain God, and the Maize god.

4) My first question is did each group have there own calendar, or were they similar. My second question is if three empires were not close to each, how were they so similar. My final question is how was the aspect of homosexuality consider in each culture?

5) One of the things I learned from this reading is that Mixteco and Aztec differed in politics. The ruling nobility in Mixteco had complete control over everything. From production, religion, and policies. Unlike the Aztecs, the Mixtecs did not develop an administrative bureaucracy. The second thing I learned was that four important development shaped these three empires. The first being the domestication of corn, second the rise of the settled village, third  
development complex, and educated societies, and the fourth the continuing political and economic  
development of these societies.  The third thing I learned, was that gender was important in each society. Each played had a part in making the empire strong and were equally important. However, each society was different from what women could do, similar to today. In the Mixtec culture, women were able to rulers, while women in the Mayan culture had a more household role.  In the Aztec culture, men and women played different but parallel and equivalent roles in the goverment. They also could maintain the property, and had an income leaving them independent from their husbands.

Week 2 response Read . Read Chapter 3 – in the Legacy of Mesoamerica

 What is a Core Zone

Core Zone are societal networks, localized in four special geographic subregions of Mesoamerica (127)

- What are the Core Zones in Mesoamerica?

There are four main core zones of Mesoamerica. The first is the Central Mexico Core Zone(127). The Central Mexico core was the strongest of the four zones.  It was dominated by the allied Mexican, Texcocan, and Tlacopan states. They built there empires upon the ecologically rich and fertile land (127). The Second was the West Mexico Core Zone(129). West Mexico was dominated by a single empire, the Tarascan empire. This zone was unique because there were no serious competitor states. The third zone was Oaxaca Core Zone (130). This zone is located in what today is the state of Oaxaca, Mexico. This zone was different compared to the other two because there was no dominant imperial state.  The zone was made up many small kingdoms, that boundaries were constantly shifting. The four and final is the Mayan Core Zone (132). This zone was the southernmost and occupied areas of today's Guatemala and the Yucatán  
Peninsula. The zone comprised of small kingdoms and empires. The Mayan empire was the largest and most influential.

-  What are the Core Zones in the Andes?

The core zone in the Andes is know as the white heron. (11sept19 lecture)

-What is the relationship between a tlatonani, ajpop, and inca?

In the Valley of Mexico Tlatoani was the primarily secular figure who ruled over the affairs of state from the palace and was the chief spokesman. (96) In the area, highland Guatemala, another term for ruler was the title of ajpop. Meaning he of the mat or councilman. (121) Inca literally means ruler of the inca. (09sept19 lecture). All three of these terms are just other names for being at the head of state. All made important decisions that impacted thousands of people.

- Compare a Calpolli and Ayllu

 Calpolli are families that belong to a larger group. Families and individuals did not own land in Aztec society, the calpulli did. A calpulli was like a clan or small tribe. Many of the families in a calpulli were related to each other. Ayllu basically means family. They do not have to be blood-related.  It's like a tribe they live together and act as a family.(Lecture  09Sept19)

Week 3 response Read Read Chapter 14 in the Legacy of Mesoamerica

What kind of food and produce and you purchase in this market? Have you ever purchased food at a market like this? How would you approach this situation?

In this market, there are many different type of fruits and vegetables. Some fruit that are in the video are bananas, watermelon, limes, and avocados. (video 2:07) There is much more produce in this video, however, I could not identify them all. I have been to something similar when I was in Japan. My husband and I went to the market and it was overwhelming. There are so many smells, colors, and sounds. Each level had something different. I just took my time going there each different sections and tried as many items that I could.

* Describe the shamanic roots of Mesoamerica

They lived in small nomadic bands, and it may have had spiritual beliefs and practices that were possibly like other the nomadic hunters’ gatherers in other parts of the world. These communities were scattered throughout Mexico and Central America around the time between 40,000- and 10,000 BC.  (506, 507)

* Explain how agriculture and property come together.

As new technologies evolved in relation to food production, more complex social forms developed to regulate, defend, and renew the vulnerable infrastructure of settled life: homes, equipment, storage facilities, fields, and water supplies. Agriculture and sedentary life also required social control related to property rights. One new form of social control was the expanded importance of families as the basis of new permanent residential pattern, and ancestral rights to property and access to water for irrigation. These patterns probably came to form the ideological foundation of the city states, kingdoms, and empires that followed in subsequent periods. (507,508)

* What does the image on 513 remind you of? Name the entity it reminds you of, and explain what his or her role is in Mesoamerica.

The image reminds to me of Huitzilopochtli, the hero-deity of the Mexica. The Huitzilopochtli a patron of war and human sacrifice. Huitzilopochtli also symbolized the Aztecs’ responsibility for maintaining the life of the Sun by feeding it sacrificial blood. He is also the god of the southern direction. (99)

* Use lecture and the reading to describe the tonalli.

The tonally is the individual human destinies. At given moments and places, are brought by the gods. These tonalli, or destinies, will determine everything in each human life, from birth to death. Its role in individual destiny were once, apparently, determined by the calander which used the birthdate and associated deities ( 515, 528) In the notes the Tonalli resides in the brain. And is what radiates heat in your body. Also, if you are frightened the tonalli has left and you have to bring back the tonalli (lecture 16sept19)

Response 4 . Read Chapter 14 in the Legacy of Mesoamerica

Sun response <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=V05syG7pNO4>

* Omeyocan is the place of duality, where both male and female, dark and light, harmonious, and violent, mother of creation and the giver of life gave life to the four forces of the universe (02.32).
* The four Tezcatlipoca's are four forces or gods are given rise. Each god represented the cardinal point. They include the god of east, west, north, and south (02.58).
* The god of the day and god of the night was given the power to create a world order (04. 15).
* The four suns ended up being as follows. The first god became jaguar, the second sun became wind sun, the third sun became, rain sun, the fourth sun became ye water sun, and the last sun became an earthquake (21).
* The start of the year in the central Mexican calendar is marked with the crocodiles, which marks the day one of the 20 days in a month (34.32).
* When the first human arrives on the earth, they were eaten by the giant crocodiles known as Cipactli. The first people were Giants (06.22).
* The creation was solved by four suns when they agreed to settle their differences and made a sacrifice (09.04)
* Quetzalcoatl's went to the underworld to retrieve the ancestors borne where he is accompanied by his soul companion. The soul companion was the dog which was cremated with the corpse.  Quetzalcoatl's wandered the underworld four times to recover the bones (14.02).
* According to the story, the sky has 13 levels. The higher most level was the place of duality where the godmother stays.  The 12,11,10 and 9 levels were inhabited by the four suns. The lowest level is known as the land of dead or realm of mictlantecuhtli (09.53).
* The tecciztecahatl and Nanahuatzin were chosen by the four suns to serve as the sun. According to Ramiro Hernadez, Tecciztecahatl was chosen because he was strong and wealthy (40.18). On the other hand, Nanahuatzin was chosen to be the sun because he was ill and poor.  However, Tecciztecahatl took an opportunity to make a sacrifice to gain immortality.

Response 5Read – Absolute Monarchy in Spain - Kamen

**What is an absolute monarchy?**

The absolute monarch is the type of political leadership whereby the monarchs have Supreme autocratic authority.  By 1474, to 1516, the Spanish government was led by the crown before it went dramatic changes in its political system. The Spanish political leadership was modified to state powers, provincial and urban authority.  It reduced the excesses of the crown (13).

**When did Spain become an absolute monarchy?**

 Spain became an absolute monarchy state in 1439.  King Juan II demanded the absolute power of the king, such that all other rights and laws were subject to him.  The king argued that his authority was from god but not from men.  The king defended his position by saying that Isabela and the Catholic monarchs applied the term absolute monarch for seven times.  The ruling was extended to the leadership of King Philip II.

**How did Spain's system of governance in the 15th and 16th centuries vary from Mesoamerican and Andean styles of governance in the same period of time?**

By the 15th and 16th century, Spain was ruled by the king.  Spain had a fragmented ruling system, but around the early 15th century, it formed a single form of government system which was ruled by the monarchs (15).  The monarchs were the Kings who delegated the state affairs.  Around 1439, Spain adopted the absolute monarch system where all powers and people, including the spiritual leaders, were under the king.  On the other hand, the Mesoamerican and Andean style of governance was sophisticated.  The Mesoamerican and Andean were headed by the emperors.  All the chiefs in their territory were supposed to pay tribute to the emperor.

Response 6 Read “A Handful of Adventures”

1) Why did Nahuas want to invade Central America?

The Nahuas wanted to invade Central America to expand their territory and take control of their neighbors. The Nahuas also felt that the Spaniards invasion of their land was as a result of the weakness of the Totonac forces (Columbus, 7).

2) What are the two rival Nahua groups discussed in the reading?

On multiple occasions the reading mentions the Nauhas and the Oaxacans so I assume the rival groups were groups from central Mexico vs. groups from Southern Mexico who competed for privileges and supported the Spanish conquest (pg. 77, pgs.129-131).

3) Who is Pedro de Alvardo?

He led a massacre in Tenochtitlan as of the natives celebrating important festivals or rituals. ( Colombus 25)

4) Name all of the ethnic groups that helped invade the K'iche' Maya. How did each group help occupy this region?

The ethnic groups that helped invade the K'iche' Maya include the Toltec who occupied the region by moving south and invading the K'iche' region. Toltec gained control over the South K'iche' region and began to diffuse their cultural practices into K'iche' culture. The Kaqchikel, the Tz'utujil, the Ixil, and the Uspanteko. Invaded the Notehrn K'iche' region after forming a formidable alliance with the Tlaxcalans (Columbus, 9). This alliance teamed up with the Spanish and Tlaxcaltec forces marched to the cities with the K’iche’ region, making the inhabitants their slaves. Other ethnicities led by Alvarado, the Ajpop Tzotzil, and SinacamKahiImox, teamed up and invaded K’iche’ from the East.

5) Could Spaniards have invaded Central America alone? Explain.

There is no way the Spaniards could have invaded Central America on their own because the region had been dwarfed by civilization. The Maya had also established temples, constructed long lasting and complex civilization invented stunningly accurate calendars, sustained a large population, and used written language and advanced mathematics to interact and collaborate amongst themselves (Columbus, 17). The Aztecs were the most powerful native civilization in the western hemisphere that the Spaniards found very strong to invade on their own. It would have been very difficult for the Spaniards to single handedly invade such a strong, powerful, civilized, and organized kingdom that has ever existed in the Central American land.

Response 7 Read – Indian Conquistador

**How did indigenous people help Spanish efforts in Peru?**

The indigenous people were a significant resource for the Spaniards during the invasion of Peru. The native communities knew the region better than the Spaniards involved in the invasion, which increased the chances that the Spaniards would conquer Peru in their efforts to colonize them. The Natives were available in appropriate numbers, which made the efforts to have them as allies yield positive consequences. They significantly outnumbered the African slaves, who were relatively expensive, making the potential use of slaves an expensive undertaking (Invisible warriors 51). Men involved in the fight provided services to the Spaniards that included the use of strength such as fighting and transport of different commodities used in the war effort. On the other hand, the women acted as companions for the Spaniards, to the extent that some ended up settling with them as servants following the conquest (Invisible Warriors 51). the roles of the indigenous people in helping the Spanish efforts in Peru were diverse and had significant consequences on the social structure following the invasion.

**How did race/ethnic identity work among indigenous groups in Mesoamerica and Peru in the early stages of the conquest?**

Race played a critical role in determining the positions taken by different individuals involved in the campaign in South America. African slaves played a pivotal role in the Spanish conquest of Mesoamerica and Peru. There was a limited effort to provide them with the reward that could extensively communicate their contribution to the course (Invisible Warriors 61). The Spanish agreed with the argument that the African slaves were especially well skilled in battle as some of them had been captured in war, which provided some form of combat experience, while others had a significant motivation to achieve combat success due to advantages associated with being a conquistador. the general view that they could only live as subject to the Spanish conquerors, serving as gatekeepers and other menial positions, adversely affected the perceptions of the population therein, which in turn affected the welfare of the black population. Consequently, race played a significant role in the early stages of the conquest by determining the level of motivation among the participants in addition to the benefits available to them during the period.

**Discuss what you learned about the ethnic backgrounds of conquistadors in Latin America?**

One of the things I learned was about the conquistadors’ ethnic backgrounds and there effort to eliminate racial effects in determining who could qualify for the position. The Spanish had identified value in making use of the African experience in combat and consequent motivation as a tool to achieve further conquests in various campaigns in Latin America. (Invisible Warriors 61).  They would even be involved in the creation of companies that ended up enriching the slaves so much to the extent that others managed to find their way and live out the rest of their lives in Spain. The ethnic background of the conquistadors in Latin America was extensively diverse, and with a significant impact on their welfare and success in different campaigns in the region.

Response 8<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=BwO7PlBOFjk>Read – Invisible Warriors

**1) How a small group of Spaniards was able to topple Tenochtitlan**

The small group of Spaniards with the massive force of indigenous take over Tenochtitlan.  The first reason why they won was because Montezuma let them into the City, Cortes captures Montezuma and acts as his puppet. (lecture 10/21/19) The second is Pedro de Alvarado slaughtered the elites of Tenochtitlan or other leaders of the triple alliance. Leading them leaderless and in chaos. (lecture 10/23/19) This chaos lead gave the Spaniards to regroup with a larger indigenous force. With this large force the siege the city.

**2) How Muslims (the Moors) Influenced Seville?**

           The Muslims influenced Seville by building strategic Gold Tower and pillars to prevent the inversion of Christians. They set the pace of the Christian movement by setting prisons to detain those perceived to invade Seville (video 3:41-3:59).

**3) Why the Cathedral of Seville Has The Columbus' Tomb?**

           The largest cathedral in the world featuring the largest water piece with over 80 chapels. It is an iconic building and thus serves as the Columbus' Tomb to signify the honor given to the Italian navigator and explorer (video 3:13-3:40) . Also, the Cathedral of Seville has Columbus's tomb because it signifies a time in which they were one of the most powerful and significant nations.  (lecture)

**4) Why Tlaxcala is so important to the Conquest of Central Mexico?**

Tlaxcala was so important to the conquest of Central Mexico because it was allied to Spaniards to build a strong force against the Aztecs. It was the strategic point of supplying the Spaniard military during the Spanish conquest that led to the destruction of the Aztec empire. The alliance was significant in establishing a strong Spanish control of central Mexico through the indigenous invasion of the triple alliance orchestrated by the Spanish Huexotzinco people and Tlaxcalaa(leacture 10/23/19). Tlaxcala was also significant in helping the Spaniards, to conquering other indigenous tribes to enable Spaniards to settle and control them.

Response 9 “Bigamy, Polygamy, and Crimes against the Sacrament of

Matrimony” Bristol

**What kind of documents did you read for this week?**

The documents this week included records from proceedings and evidence related to cases associated with sexual morality in history. They included accounts presented to inquisitions made on sexual misconduct for people accused of engaging in practices such as bigamy and polygamy, all of which relate to the Spanish crown’s perception on marriage.

**What connection do you see in all of these documents?**

One of the common factors in the presented documents relates to the significant belief among the accused persons that they were engaging in rightful activities. A woman could be so convinced that she had to stay away from her husband when he was abusive to the extent that she would even fail to return to him following sentencing for bigamy (pg.220). In yet other incidences, a Catholic priest could dismiss the idea of engaging in sin, believing that he had the authority to di whatever he wished with the congregants, irrespective of sexual immorality in such actions (pg. 230).

**Why did the church think it was so important to stop polygamy?**

The church’s position on polygamy was entirely based on morals in society. Cases in which individuals sought relations with alternative spouses, at times based on the argument that they received information that their original spouses had died (pg. 219). Consequently, the church, through the crown sought to implement laws that could prevent such incidences, the consequences of which included a ban on polygamy and bigamy.

**Did they effectively stop polygamy?**

The church may not have been effective in helping stop polygamy, but it reduced its popularity so much to the extent that people would actively engage in helping the church identify and respond to cases of polygamy. Directions such as having the bishops make an effort to understand an individual’s marital background before issuing marriage licenses helped stop potential cases of bigamy and polygamy (pg. 218).

Response 9 “To Have Health There Was Nothing That he Wouldn’t Take”

**What influence did African religion and healing practices have on colonial practices?**

The African healing and religion practices had a great impact on colonial practices since the colonialists used religion and health to reach out to the Africans. The colonialist came as missionaries who concentrated on introducing new religious and health practices to the natives. These two hopes caused confrontation as various communities rejected the new religion and health practices and preferred theirs. Most of the colonial practices differed from those of the natives. This reduced their chances of embracing the new methods (Page 156). Additionally, most of the Africans trusted healers and diviners for health and religious matters, respectively. As a result it was hard for the colonialists to change the mindsets of the Africans.

**How did Mesoamerican and west central African healing and religious practices compare? What was similar, what was different? How did they compare to Spanish viewes and practices?**

The similarity between west-central African healing and Mesoamerican is their consideration of natural or spiritual causes of maladies before the treatment of diseases. They did not comprehend the disparity between spiritual and physical matters (Page 159). Additionally, they trusted that spiritual matters cause some diseases. One of the significant differences between West-Central African healing and Mesoamerican is that the latter believed that the visible universe is multitiered, this is not the case with the West Central Africans who believe in ancestors and spirituality. West-central African healing and Mesoamerican are different from Spanish practices and views since the latter understood the different between noncorporeal and physical reams, which was not the case on the other side.

**What is witchcraft?**

Witchcraft is perceived as a practice of magical abilities and skills. Witchcraft is regarded as the consultation of natural powers in order to terminate an illness. The powers used in witchcraft are believed to be supernatural (Page 159).

**Have you ever tried non-Western healing? If so, please explain your experience. If not, tell us what trepidation you have about trying it?**

I have used natural herbs for minor things like sore throat, allergies, and anti-inflammation. I have not gone past that, as I trust in the system I know. I tend to be more holistic with my doggos than myself.

**Who is A**

I think A is either Ana de Pinto is said to be a mulatto woman who treated an individual by applying a poultice to Bartolome’s stomach. Additionally, she is associated with magical healing. She believed in the concept that sicknesses are caused by physical and supernatural causes (Page 150). Or A can be Ana de Vega is a healer who treated the sick through exorcism. She mostly believed in some social beliefs like witchcraft. In fact, she trusted that the existence of some worms on the client’s waste materials was a sign of witchcraft (Page 183).

Response 10 <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=GSV7yHKBx48&feature=emb_title>

“From Parallel and Equivalent to Sperate but Unequal:

Teoncha Mexica Women, 1500-1700

**How did the property rights of Nahua Women change after the conquest?**

After the conquest, women’s property rights reduced systematically from 16th to 17th Centuries based on the disproportionate access to justice between males and females. In the 16th Century, women’s participation in legal cases was low compared to men. As such, men gained relatively superior property rights compared to women (p.137). However, society still allowed both male and female children to inherit properties from their parents ( p.126). In the 17th Century, women's property rights were compromised further by their access to justice, given that they were less likely than men to instigate property litigation. Besides, the women's wills were rarely presented in courts to facilitate their property claims. As such, women's modes of acquisition of properties reduced further.

**Palacio de Bellas Artes**

Palacio de Bellas Artes is a Mexican cultural center that hosted some of the important events in the City, including music, dance, and art exhibitions among others ( 1:20-1:25). However, its greatest relevance is its testament to the proactive strategies in art used to promote gender issues and studies in Mexico. It also promoted the pieces of art developed by females in the 20th and 21st Centuries in an attempt to facilitate gender equality.

**What is Gender Parallelism?**

Gender parallelism defines a socioeconomic and political environment in which both males and females have specific roles that complement one another. For instance, gender parallelism practiced in the 14th and 15th Centuries, Mexica was influenced by Nahua’s cultural beliefs, values, and practices Schroeder, (p.125-126). Among these cultural elements included the Nahua's ideology on kinship, division of labor, and work processes that inspired gender parallelism.

**How did the Property Rights for Indigenous women change during the colonial period?**

During the colonial period, Mexico adopted a cognatic system in which people’s kinship through both their males and female ancestors. This system facilitated the existence of gender parallelism in the Mexican Society. As such, society allowed both male and female children to inherit properties from their parents (p.126). Other than inheritance, women also acquired independent properties through dowry payment and resources acquired from work. Correspondingly, the society also allowed the separation of the properties brought into the marriage by both men and women.

**Factors that Accounted for the Deterioration of the Status of Women in the Society**

The status of women in the colonial period was reduced through patriarchy and the disappearance of institutions in which more women held significant legal powers. Patriarchy facilitated the implementation and sustenance of systems that exalted and promoted male gender at the expense of the female gender in the colonial periods as demonstrated by the fact that men were the main drivers of property-related lawsuits instigated by their wives in the 17 Century (p.139). Secondly, the disappearance of institutions where women held significant powers compromised the ability of women to promote their welfare and advocate for their issues in the communicate (p.140). As such, women's access to justice reduced significantly in the 17th Century.

**The Role of Women in Armed Conflicts**

Women tend to assume different roles in armed conflicts compared to men. Correspondingly, biased gender roles also manifest during armed conflicts in which women are given subordinate roles such as attending to the injured fighters and preparation and supply of food to fighters (p.142). Correspondingly, the society projects women are vulnerable people who need the protection of men during armed conflicts in any country.