



Commentary:

BLACKS IN ANCIEN

By
Clyde-Ahmad Winters

When Columbus arrived in the New World, he found that African merchants were already trading goods and living in the Americas among Indians. Many early European colonists discovered that the American Indians had many stories about Blacks once inhabiting parts of Mexico, Central and South America. These same Europeans were surprised to discover that many American Indians worshipped Black gods.

Years later, scholars, reading the journals of the Spanish explorers and colonists which made references to these Blacks, in pre-Columbus America could not believe that Blacks had lived in the New World before Columbus.

They believed that Blacks had come to America only as slaves. These same scholars did not know that before the slave trade there were many African trading ships sailing the Atlantic ocean, carrying goods from one end of the West African coast to the other. But after the demand for Black slaves in the New World grew, many Africans refused to sail their vessels too far away from shore, so they would not be captured by slave traders and sold into slavery.

Even though many scholars ignored the stories and artifacts discovered by archaeologists which indicated Africans arrived in America before Columbus, other scholars like W.E.B. DuBois, J.A. Rogers, and Leo Wiener have presented convincing evidence which shows that the first civilizations in Mexico were founded by Africans.

Today, due to the research of Ivan van Serima and Alexander von Wuthenau, we have pictorial, archaeological and linguistic data which makes it clear that Africans built



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the earliest civilizations in the New World. We do not know when these Blacks arrived in the Americas. But scientists theorize that over 3,000 years ago a group of African sailors sailing along the West African coast in their papyrus trading vessels were caught in a storm and drifted aimlessly out to sea. Here, in the Atlantic Ocean they were captured by the South Equatorial current and carried across the ocean towards the Americas.

As these hardy souls soiled across the Atlantic, they studied the heavens, watching the position of the stars overhead. The sailors made maps indicating the exact position of the stars, so they could hopefully use the maps later to help them return to their homeland.

Although they tried to break free from the current which carried their boat towards America, it was too strong.

Upon arriving on dry land they found themselves in a land we now call Mexico. Here they cleared the thick jungle and constructed a village for themselves.

Though these sailors were safe, they longed to return home. The more curious explored the new land, and began to experiment with the local plants to discover which plants they could eat for food. Soon the settlers were rested and a segment of them decided to attempt a return voyage to their African homeland. They agreed that if a current could carry them to this new land, the same current could probably return them home.

Upon reaching this conclusion, they gathered supplies and put them on board their ship for a return voyage home.

Reaching the location of the current

which brought them to this new land, the African sailors put up their sails and waited for the current to take control of their ship. After months of drifting on the ocean, one day the lookout spotted a familiar landmark, which indicated they had returned home.

The sailors told the people about the new land across the great sea. Many of the explorers, seeing the prospect of a better way of life in the new land across the sea, collected their belongings and set sail for the Americas. Using their star maps which indicated the exact location of the South Equatorial current, they reached the current and made it safely to the village they had built in Mexico.



As babies were born the population of the village grew, and additional colonists arrived in Mexico from Africa. The increase in population led to the migration of these African colonists to new areas across Mexico by land, or down rivers to places where new villages could be built to provide homes for people. As these African colonists expanded their territory, they met American Indians practicing a stone age culture. Though many of the Indians became their enemies, other Indians seeing the importance of the Blacks in stimulating culture and civilization joined the Blacks to build beautiful cities and temples in Mexico.

In these villages the African colonists continued their arts and crafts. To keep in constant communication the people established extensive trade routes in Mexico and Central America. Extensive irrigation networks were built to supply water to the fields where corn was grown, to feed the people.

These African colonists occupied most of Mexico. It was these people who built the first civilizations of the New World. At Izapa in 1358 BC, astronomer-priests invented the first American calendar. At La Venta, Chiapas, Teotihuacan and Tlatilco, numerous sculptures of these blacks have been found. Many of them date back to the Second millennium BC.

The most important ancient African empire in Mexico was the Olmec civilization, which lasted from 1500-1100 BC. These Africans built beautiful plazas in front of their temples where they placed huge carved heads 8 feet high, painted black, and weighing tons.

The Olmec empire was spread from Yucatan in the East, to Guerrero and the Pacific coast on the west through Guatemala, Salvador and Costa Rica on the southwest. Here the Olmecs built fine temples. They invented their own writing which was later adopted by the Maya civilization. Their efficient agricultural practice supplied them with abundant food to feed the large, earliest Afro-American community—the Olmecs.

By around 100 BC the Olmec empire went into a period of decline. Although there were no longer any Afro-American empires by this time, there were still many pre-Columbus Black villages located in Mexico. This is noted by the discovery of numerous statues and sculptures of Africans dating to various periods throughout Mexico.

As years passed many Indians forgot the contribution of the Blacks to ancient Mexico, and they soon fought them in wars. Those Indians who knew their history such as the Aztecs and Mayas, often made their gods in the image of the African founders of Mexican civilization.

In the Mayan text these Blacks are frequently depicted, as gods and traders. Due to the technological and scientific skill of the Africans the American Indians frequently employed them in temple building and as astrologers.

Due to the abundance of African colonists in Mexico, and mixed marriages between Africans and Indians, many words in modern languages are of African origin.

Due to the importance of Africans in the development of ancient America, long after they disappeared from history such groups as the Aztecs continued to worship Black Gods such as Quetzacnal, and the Maya god Ek Chuah.



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