

4 月度木曜例会

4 月度木曜例会(10/04/01)

本日のゲストスピーカーはコロンビアの美人 Maria さん。京大のドクターコースで経済を研究中、日本滞在は現在 4 年目、もうすぐ赤ちゃんが生まれます。ちなみにご主人はチェコ出身。スピーチのタイトルは“Pre-Columbian Culture of Latin America”という非常に大きなテーマです。コロンブスが来る以前のラテンアメリカの文化と言う意味ですから広い範囲と長い歴史をどう取りまとめるのか、興味が沸きます。本論に入る前にトレビアをひとつ、毎年 Miss Universe でコロンビア代表は必ず上位に入ります。国内でも多くの beauty contest が開催され miss prison まであるような。それだけ美人が多いということでしょうね。

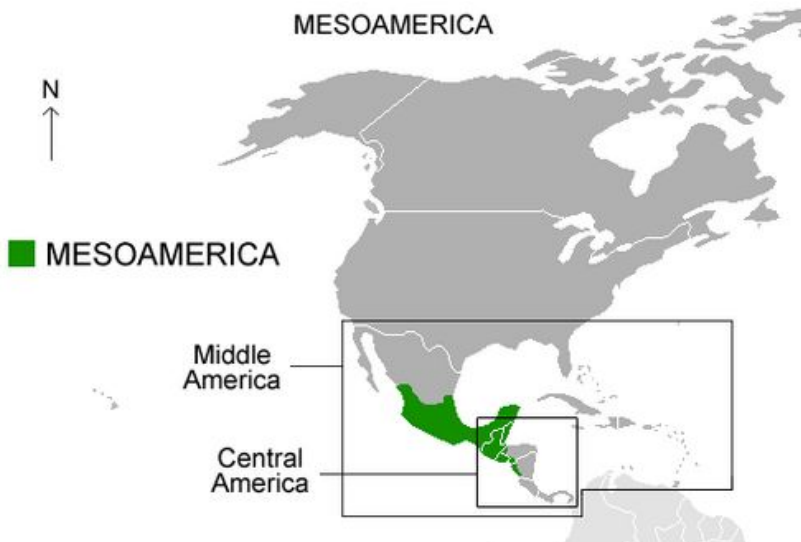


コロンビアの国土は日本の 3 倍、人口は 1/3、東南部はアマゾンのジャングル、東部はパンパス、中西部は 3 列に連なるアンデス山脈、そして太平洋とカリブ海に面した地域を持ち首都は Bogota、標高が何と 2,600M です。麻薬、ゲリラの誘拐、貧富の差等がまずイメージされますね。

今日は5つにテーマ分けして解説されました。

- 1) OLMEC (1,400BC~400BC) メキシコ湾岸の San Lorenzo, La Venta 周辺
- 2) MAYA (2,000BC~1,500AD) Yucatan 半島をメインとした Mesoamerica
- 3) AZTEC (1,325AD~1,521AD) Central Mexico, Nahuatl speaking peoples
- 4) MUISCA (? ~1,500AD) Colombia Bogota 周辺
- 5) INCA (1,200AD~1,533AD) Western South America

INCA については昨年 9 月ペルーの Sebastian さんが詳しく解説してくれました。また Mesoamerica とは？下記の図を参照下さい。



1) OLMEC

They were the first Mesoamerican civilization and laid many of the foundations for the civilizations. The Olmec practiced ritual bloodletting, human sacrifice and played the Mesoamerican ballgame, The most familiar aspect of the Olmecs is their artwork, particularly the aptly-named colossal heads. 巨石人頭像は高さ3M 程度、La Venta には 33M の The Great Pyramid の跡も残されている。Writing system,カレンダー、

ゼロの発見、残されている像から神話も見られる。火山活動により文化は消滅した。



2) MAYA

The Maya is a Mesoamerican civilization, noted for the only known fully developed written language of the pre-Columbian Americas, as well as its art, architecture, and mathematical and astronomical systems. Initially established during the Pre-Classic period (c. 2000 BC to 250 AD), according to the Mesoamerican chronology, many Maya cities reached their highest state development during the Classic period (c. 250 AD to 900 AD), and continued throughout the Post-Classic period until the arrival of the Spanish. At its peak, it was one of the most densely populated and culturally dynamic societies in the world.

Mayan languages are spoken by at least 6 million indigenous Maya, primarily in Guatemala, Mexico, Belize and Honduras.

・Cacaoの生産がBC600に始まった。車輪の原理は、土偶などの遺物に出てくるにもかかわらず、実用化しようと考えていなかった

3) AZTEC

メキシコ中央高原に Maya 文明を受けつつ高度な都市国家を形成した。In 1323, the Mexicas were shown a vision of an eagle perched on a prickly pear cactus, eating a snake. This vision indicated that this was the location where they were to build their home.

1325年、首都 Tenochtitlan 建設、Mesoamerica 文明の王国を営んだが 1521年スペインの Hernando Cortes に征服された。その折、Tlaxcala was never conquered by the Aztec empire, but was engaged in a state of perpetual war. During the Spanish conquest of Mexico, Tlaxcala allied with the Spaniards against the Aztecs. The Confederacy of Tlaxcala has been the Aztecs' long-time enemy.

The Aztecs are credited with domestication of the subspecies of Wild turkey, Of the various crops grown by the Aztecs, maize was the most important. The Aztecs made tortillas from the corn meal. Other crops that the Aztecs relied upon were avocados, beans, squashes, sweet potatoes, tomatoes,

右、The Coat of Arms of Mexico, from Aztec mythology



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4) MUISCA

The Muisca people were organized in a Confederation that was the union of states, which kept their own sovereignty within the greater political body. The Confederation was not a kingdom, as there was no absolute monarch, nor was it an Empire because it did not dominate other ethnic groups or peoples.

Accordingly, the Muisca Confederation cannot be compared with other American civilizations such as the Aztec Empire or the Inca Empire. The Muisca Confederation was, however, one of the biggest and best organized

confederations of tribes on the continent.

Gold was imported, but it was so abundant that it became one of the preferred material for the Muisca handicraft. The many handicraft works in gold and the Zipa tradition of offering gold to the Guatavita goddess contributed to create the legend of El Dorado.

Emeralds: Even today Colombia is the first producer of emeralds of the world.

石造物やピラミッドのような遺跡はあまり無い。

5) INCA

詳細は Sebastian さんとダブるので省略。特筆は

The Inca were the first civilization to use the freeze-dry method of storage.

An important Inca technology was the Quipu, which were assemblages of knotted strings used to record information, the exact nature of which is no longer known. Originally it was thought that Quipu were used only as mnemonic devices or to record numerical data.



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彼女は日本で学んだ New Technology を発展途上国でどのように使いこなそうか、そして日本文化をどのように活用しようか、等がテーマだそうです。また来ていただき、現在のコロンビアについてじっくりと討議しませんか。