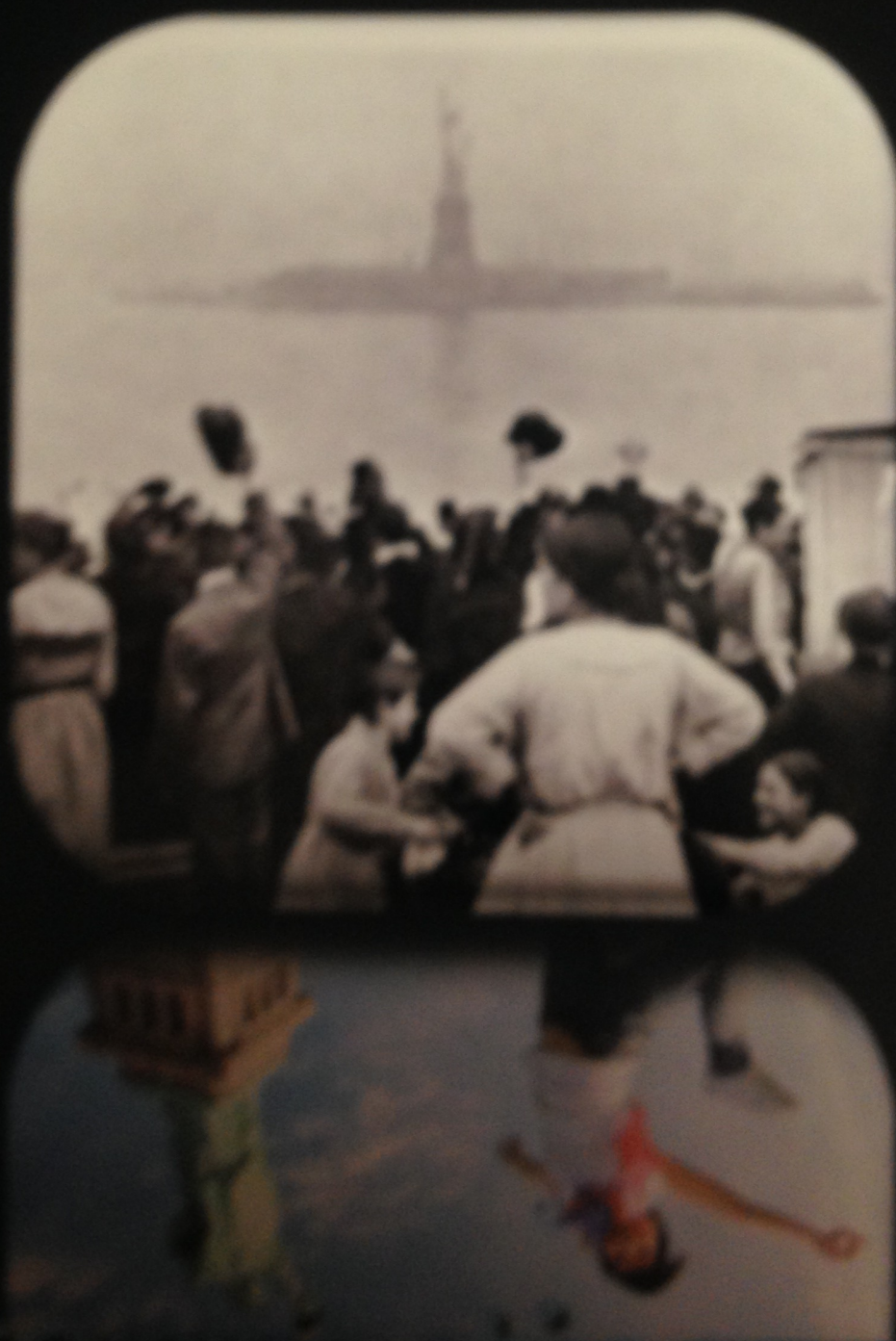


# AMERICAN HISTORY

ALAN BRINKLEY

AP  
edition



connecting WITH THE PAST

## THE "CLOVIS" PEOPLE

# ARCHAEOLOGISTS AND POPULATION DIVERSITY

This new evidence suggests, therefore, that the early population of the Americas was much more diverse and more scattered than scholars used to believe. Some people came to the Americas from farther south in Asia than Mongolia—perhaps Polynesia and Japan. Recent DNA evidence has identified what may have been yet another population group that, unlike most other American groups, does not seem to have Asian characteristics. Thus it is also possible that, thousands of years before Columbus, there may have been some migration from Europe or Africa. Most Indians in the Americas today share relatively similar characteristics, and those characteristics link them to modern Siberians and Mongolians. But that does not prove that Mongolian migrants were the first and only immigrants to the Americas. It suggests, rather, that Mongolian migrants eventually came to dominate and perhaps eliminate earlier population groups.

Later in the Archaic period, people began to expand their activities and settle in larger, more permanent communities. Among them were the smaller animals that were hunted, and baskets for gathering berries. Later, some groups began to farm. In the Americas, the most important crops were corn, beans, and squash. Farming, of course, took place in agricultural areas. In agricultural areas, farming slowly began to form, creating a more permanent settlement.

The most elaborate earl is now the United State in what is now Mexico. empire in the America mountainous region of spurred by a powerful “world shaker”). He stretching along almos It was an empire creat Pachacuti’s agents fan the benefits of the er hoped to control. Mos themselves with the l novative administrati network of paved road

Another great civil Americans, the people Central America. Org as early as 10,000 B.C Americas—of the Ol B.C. A more sophisti 800 A.D. in parts of C sula of Mexico, in an used to describe the Mayan civilization d system similar to the agricultural system, of the continents.

## BUS

THE "ARCHAIC"  
PERIOD

The "Archaic" period is a scholarly term for the history of humans in America during a period of about 5,000 years beginning around 8000 B.C. In the first part of this period, most humans continued to support themselves through hunting and gathering, using the same stone tools that earlier Americans had brought with them from Asia. Some of the largest animals that the earliest humans in America once hunted became extinct during the Archaic period. But people continued to hunt with spears—for example, the Indians in the area later known as the Great Plains of North America who, then as centuries later, pursued bison (also known as buffalo). Bows and arrows were unknown in most of North America until 400–500 A.D.

Later in the Archaic period, population groups also began to expand their activities and to develop new tools to facilitate them. Among them were nets and hooks for fishing, traps for the smaller animals that they gradually began to pursue, and baskets for gathering berries, nuts, seeds, and other plants. Still later, some groups began to farm. Through much of the Americas, the most important farm crop was corn, but many agricultural communities also grew other crops such as beans and squash. Farming, of course, requires people to stay in one place. In agricultural areas, the first sedentary settlements slowly began to form, creating the basis for larger civilizations.

THE GROWTH OF CIVILIZATIONS:  
THE SOUTH

The most elaborate early civilizations emerged south of what is now the United States—in South and Central America and in what is now Mexico. In Peru, the Incas created the largest empire in the Americas. They began as a small tribe in the mountainous region of Cuzco, in the early fifteenth century—spurred by a powerful leader, Pachacuti (whose name meant "world shaker"). He incorporated into his empire lands stretching along almost 2,000 miles of western South America

AP\* EDITION 2014 UPDATE

# GIVE ME LIBERTY!

AN AMERICAN HISTORY

ERIC FONER

THIRD  
EDITION



---

## THE FIRST AMERICANS

### THE SETTLING OF THE AMERICAS

The residents of the Americas were no more a single group than Europeans or Africans. They spoke hundreds of different languages and lived in numerous kinds of societies. Most, however, were descended from bands of hunters and fishers who had crossed the Bering Strait via a land bridge at various times between 15,000 and 60,000 years ago—the exact dates are hotly debated by archaeologists. Others may have arrived by sea from Asia or Pacific islands. Around 14,000 years ago, when glaciers began to melt at the end of the last Ice Age, the land link became submerged under water, once again separating the Western Hemisphere from Asia.

History in North and South America did not begin with the coming of Europeans. The New World was new to Europeans but an ancient homeland to those who already lived there. The hemisphere had witnessed many changes during its human history. First, the early inhabitants and their descendants spread across the two continents, reaching the tip of South America perhaps 11,000 years ago. As the climate warmed, they faced a food crisis as the immense animals they hunted, including woolly mammoths and giant bison, became extinct. Around 9,000 years ago, at the same time that agriculture was being developed in the Near East, it also emerged in modern-day Mexico and the Andes, and then spread to other parts of the Americas, making settled civilizations possible. Throughout the hemisphere, maize (corn), squash, and beans formed the basis of agriculture. The absence of livestock in the Western Hemisphere, however, limited farming by preventing the plowing of fields and the application of natural fertilizer.



# EXPERIENCE HISTORY

— — — — —

INTERPRETING  
AMERICA'S  
PAST

— — — — —

...e objects from  
... variety of materials.  
This image of a human  
hand, discovered in a  
Hopewell mound, was  
cut from a single sheet  
of mica.

their ancestors had done to the remarkable mound builders from Wales.

These fanciful tales were discredited in the late nineteenth and twentieth centuries. In recent decades archaeologists working across the Americas have discovered in more detail how native peoples built the hemisphere's ancient architecture. They have also helped to make clear the degree to which prejudice and politics have blinded European Americans to the complexity, wonder, and significance of America's history before 1492. Fifteen thousand years of human habitation in North America allowed a broad range of cultures to develop, based on agriculture as well as hunting and gathering. In North America a population in the millions spoke hundreds of languages. Cities evolved as well as towns and farms, exhibiting great diversity in their cultural, political, economic, and religious organization. ○○○○○

## A CONTINENT OF CULTURES



### IMMIGRANTS FROM ASIA

RECENT BREAKTHROUGHS IN ARCHAEOLOGY AND genetics have demonstrated that the first inhabitants of the Americas arrived from Siberia at least 15,500 years ago BP\* (For more details, see the After the Fact essay "Tracking the First Americans," beginning on page 22). Gradually these **nomads** filtered southward, some likely following

\*Before the Present, used most commonly by archaeologists when the time spans are in multiple thousands of years. This text will also use CE for Common Era, equivalent to the Christian Era or AD; BCE is Before the Common Era, equivalent to BC.

laborers an estimated  
or a quarter-mile across  
then structure covers  
curiosities and marvels.  
ted ancient artifacts,  
Indian civilizations that  
e in their mind's eye the  
aced the boundaries of  
land along a looping  
dered down that a man  
ar as I can judge, in  
n in the wall about  
through which the  
s astonished by the  
"what feeble and  
Washington! They  
o a brick wall."  
to drive Indians west  
and smaller reservations,  
continent's ancient sites.  
xpelled from American  
s. Politicians, writers,  
mounds to peoples of  
ans, or Japanese. Many  
about King Madoc from  
th century, had left  
the mysterious mounds  
ats resembled Welsh  
to offer poetic justice,  
g punishment for what  
centuries. In recent  
detail how native peoples  
r the degree to which  
der, and significance of  
North America allowed a  
and gathering. In North  
ed as well as towns and  
s organization. oooo

etics have demonstrated  
om Siberia at least 15,500  
essay "Tracking the First  
ard, some likely following  
ple thousands of years. This text

the Pacific coastline in small boats, others making their way down a narrow, glacier-free corridor along the eastern base of the Rocky Mountains and onto the northern Great Plains. There they found and hunted a stunning array of huge mammals, so-called megafauna. These animals included mammoths that were twice as heavy as elephants, giant bison, sloths that were taller than giraffes, several kinds of camels, and terrifying, 8-foot-long lions. Within a few thousand years the descendants of these Siberians, people whom Columbus would wishfully dub "Indians," had spread throughout the length and breadth of the Americas.

This first colonization of the Americas coincided with, and perhaps accelerated, profound changes in the natural world. The last Ice Age literally melted away as warmer global temperatures freed the great reservoirs of water once locked in glaciers. A rise in sea levels inundated the Bering Strait, submerging the land bridge, and creating new lakes and river systems. The emergence of new **ecosystems**—climates, waterways, and land environments in which humans interacted with other animals and plants—made for ever greater diversity. The first human inhabitants of the Americas had fed, clothed, warmed, and armed themselves in part by hunting megafauna, and some combination of overhunting and climate change resulted in the extinction of most of these giants by the end of the Ice Age. As glaciers receded and human populations increased, the first Americans had to adapt to changing conditions. They adjusted by hunting smaller animals with new, more specialized kinds of stone tools and by learning to exploit particular places more efficiently.

#### DIVERSIFIED SOCIETIES

So it was that between 10,000 and 2,500 years ago distinctive regional cultures developed among the peoples of the Americas. Those who remained in the Great Plains turned to hunting the much smaller descendants of the now-extinct giant bison; those in the deserts of the Great Basin survived on small game, seeds, and edible plants; those in the Pacific Northwest relied mainly on fishing; and those east of the Mississippi, besides fishing and gathering, tracked deer and bear and trapped smaller game animals and birds. Over these same centuries, what seems to have been one original, common language evolved into regional dialects and eventually into a multitude of distinct languages. Linguistic diversity paralleled other sorts of divergences, in social organizations, kinship practices, politics, and religion. Technological and cultural unity gave way to striking regional diversity as the first Americans learned how to best exploit their particular environments. Glimpses of these profound changes may be

found today in burials, stone tools of long-term or repeated occupation.

## Civilizations of Ancient

### AGRICULTURAL REVOLUTION

To the south, people began domesticating crops. Over the next few centuries, farmers added other crops including especially corn to an agricultural system that transformed life through much of the Americas. Some crops could be dried and stored, allowing these societies to settle in one place.

By about 3000 B.C., villages began to form. Societies, the Olmec, Teotihuacán, and others, began to supply the growing population. While some societies were on the move, others worked the land. Some priests reflected the humble, hardworking, skillful people who were central to the artistic display.

### OLMEC CITY-BUILDERS

The Olmecs, the first major civilization in the Americas, constructed monumental buildings, and their art was carved in basalt. The Olmec culture spread throughout Mesoamerica, and their trade with neighboring peoples was extensive. The Olmecs' example had inspired the development of a small town in central Mexico, Teotihuacán. The city had bustling markets, decorated with mural paintings. The city had temples, palaces, and schools for the nobles and priests, schools for the commoners. At its peak, Teotihuacán spanned 15 square miles and had a population of nearly 200,000—making it the largest city in the Americas.

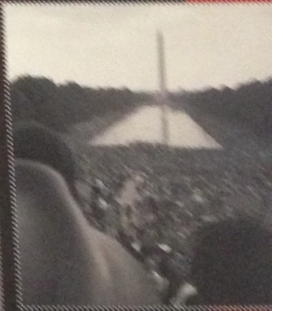
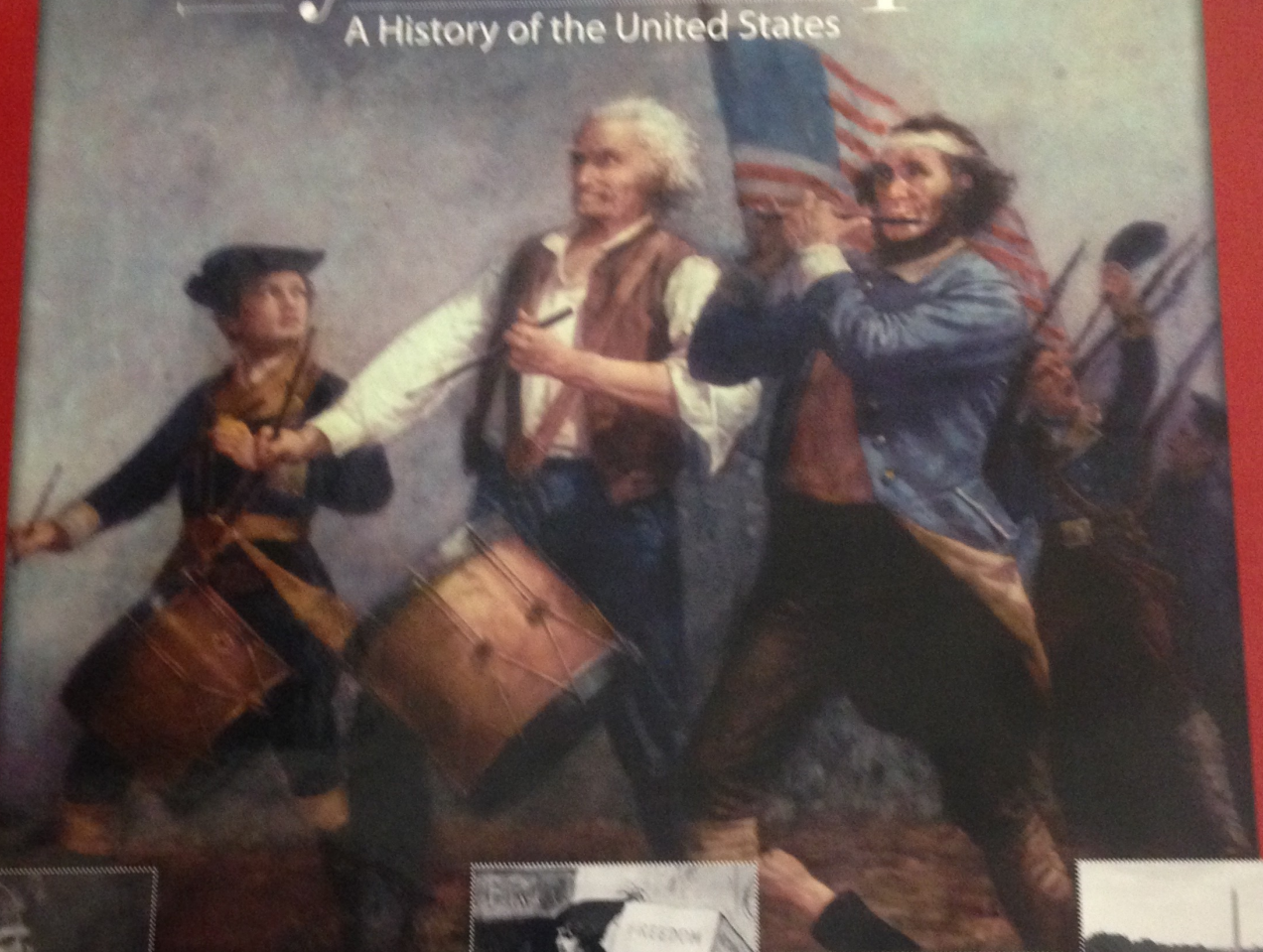
### MAYAN CIVILIZATION

More impressive than the Olmecs was the Mayan civilization, which came to dominate the Yucatán Peninsula. The Mayans, who lived in the lowland jungles of Mesoamerica, built cities filled with palaces, bridges, aqueducts, and observatories, and pyramids to honor their gods. The Mayan priests developed a written language, and the Mayans discovered the zero, and the calendar more accurate than any other in the world. Between the third and ninth centuries, the Mayan civilization boasted some 50 urban centers. The Yucatán Peninsula, Belize, Guatemala, and Honduras were part of the Mayan world.

AP<sup>®</sup> Edition

# By the People

A History of the United States



James W. Fraser

AP<sup>®</sup> is a trademark registered and/or owned by the College Board, which was not involved in the production of, and does not endorse, this product.

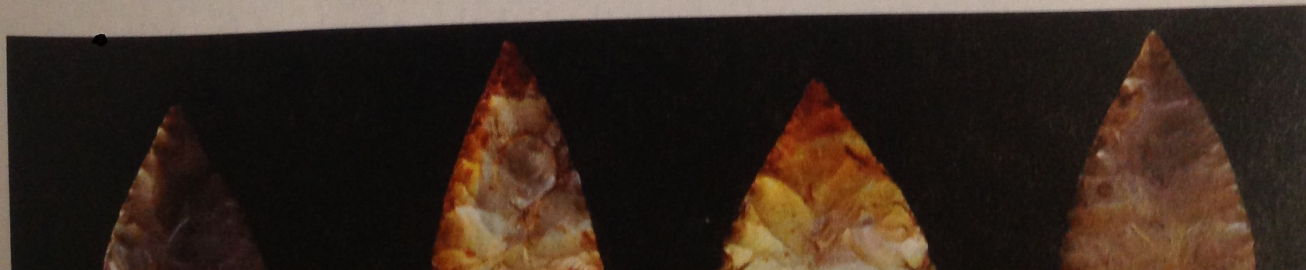
This land was wide enough for animals, including mammoths and the human hunters who followed them, to cross. But when the glaciers melted, oceans rose, and what anthropologists now refer to as the **Bering Land Bridge** disappeared under what is now the Bering Sea. Any further human migration had to be by boat, which would explain the rapid expansion of human communities from Alaska to the southern tip of South America.

### **The Land Bridge, Clovis Culture, and Recent Discoveries**

Most anthropologists used to believe that the first immigrants to the Americas were the **Clovis people** who might have come to North America around 13,000 years ago. The Clovis people took their name from a site near what is now Clovis, New Mexico, where a trove of 13,000-year-old arrow and spear points was found in 1929. The points, which were fluted so they could be attached to spears, were obvious signs of human activity and were the oldest human artifacts found in the Americas up to that time.

Recent excavations in central Texas, however, found primitive spear tips that are at least 15,500 years old, much older and less sophisticated than those found at Clovis. Archaeologists have discovered similar evidence at many sites elsewhere in the Americas. Because no Clovis-like spear tips have ever been found in Siberia, most anthropologists now believe that the Clovis spear point was an invention that early Americans developed long after they had lost contact with Asia.

Newer anthropological evidence also suggests that not all of the first peoples of the Americas walked to get there. Other peoples may have crossed the oceans thousands of years before the first Europeans ever set foot in the Western Hemisphere. Whenever and however the first inhabitants of the Americas came, their descendants adapted to their new lands, spread out across the Americas, and created a wide range of languages and civilizations. By 14,000 years ago, various peoples were living in every part of North and South America.





FOR THE AP® COURSE

# AMERICA'S HISTORY

EIGHTH EDITION

Henretta | Hinderaker | Edwards | Self

AP® is a trademark registered by the College Board, which was not involved in the production of, and does not endorse, this product.

with an appreciation for their diverse societies and cultures.

## The First Americans

Archaeologists believe that migrants from Asia crossed a 100-mile-wide land bridge connecting Siberia and Alaska during the last Ice Age sometime between 13,000 and 3000 B.C. and thus became the first Americans. The first wave of this migratory stream from Asia lasted from about fifteen thousand to nine thousand years ago. Then the glaciers melted, and the rising ocean submerged the land bridge beneath the Bering Strait (Map 1.1). Around eight thousand years ago, a second movement of peoples, traveling by water across the same narrow strait, brought the ancestors of the Navajos and the Apaches to North America. The forebears of the Aleut and Inuit peoples, the "Eskimos," came in a third wave around five thousand years ago. Then, for three hundred generations, the peoples of the Western Hemisphere were largely cut off from the rest of the world.

### IDENTIFY CAUSES

What factors allowed the development of cities in central Mexico and the Andes?

During this long era, migrants dispersed through the continents as they hunted and gathered available resources. The predominant flow was southward, and the densest populations developed in

1450–1700

central Mexico — home to some 20 million people at the time of first contact with Europeans — and the Andes Mountains, with a population of perhaps 12 million. In North America, a secondary trickle of migration pushed eastward, across the Rockies and into the Mississippi Valley and the eastern woodlands.

Around 6000 B.C., some Native American peoples in present-day Mexico and Peru began raising domesticated crops. Mesoamericans cultivated maize into a nutritious plant with a higher yield per acre than wheat, barley, or rye, the staple cereals of Europe. In Peru they also bred the potato, a root crop of unsurpassed nutritional value. The resulting agricultural surpluses encouraged population growth and laid the foundation for wealthy, urban societies in Mexico and Peru, and later in the Mississippi Valley and the southeastern woodlands of North America (Map 1.2).

## American Empires

In Mesoamerica and the Andes, the two great empires of the Americas — the Aztecs and Incas — dominated the landscape. Dense populations, productive agricul-