



Chapter One

A Continent of Villages



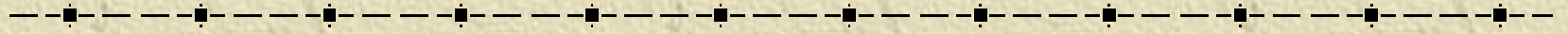
Part One:



Introduction



A Continent of Villages

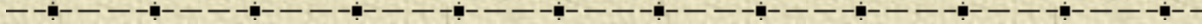


✦ What does the chapter title suggest about North American Indian societies before 1500?

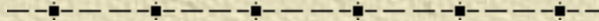
Chapter Focus Questions

- ✦ Who were the migrants that peopled the Americas?
- ✦ How did native cultures adapt to the regions of North America?
- ✦ How did the development of farming increase the complexity of native societies?
- ✦ What was the nature of Indian culture in the three major regions of European invasion and settlement?

Part Two:



Cahokia



Cahokia

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- ✦ An urban complex along the Mississippi that flourished from the tenth to the fourteenth century
 - ✦ Populated by about 30,000 people by mid-1200
 - ◆ Farmers with highly productive cultivation techniques
 - ◆ Craftsmen producing goods for continent-wide trade
 - ✦ Center of long-distance trading system
 - ✦ City-state sponsored by tribute and taxation
 - ◆ Mounds were monuments to the elite
 - ◆ Priests and governors could look down on people
 - ✦ Huge temple covering 15 acres and reaching 10 stories high showcased city wealth and power



Part Three:

Settling the Continent

Who Are the Indian People?

- ✦ The name “Indian” came from Christopher Columbus belief he had reached the Indies.
- ✦ Enormously diverse group of people
 - ◆ 2,000 separate cultures
 - ◆ Several hundred different languages
 - ◆ Many different physical characteristics
- ✦ Theories arose over the origins of the Indian peoples.
 - ◆ Native societies were the degenerate offspring from a superior Old World culture.
 - ◆ Joseph de Acosta believed that since Old World animals were present in the Americas, they must have crossed a land bridge used by humans as well.

Migration from Asia

- ✦ Map: Migration Route from Asia to America
- ✦ New genetic research links American Indians and northwest Asians.
- ✦ Beringia land bridge between Siberia and Alaska
 - ◆ Glaciers locked up enough water to lower sea levels, creating grasslands 750 miles wide from north to south.
- ✦ Three migrations from Asia beginning about 30,000 years ago
 - ◆ Traveled by land (ice-free corridor) and along coast
- ✦ Settlements on Great Plains have been dated as early as 10,000 B.C.E.

Clovis: The First American Technology

- ✦ Clovis tradition was a new and powerful technology.
 - ◆ More sophisticated style of making fluted blades and lance points.
 - ◆ Named for site of first discovery: Clovis, New Mexico
- ✦ Clovis bands were mobile, foraging communities of 30–50 individuals from interrelated families.
- ✦ Clovis bands migrated seasonally to the same hunting camps.



Part Four:

New Ways of Living on the Land

Hunting Traditions

- ✦ Massive climate shift beginning about 13,000 B.C.E. placed stress on big game animals
- ✦ Great Plains hunters concentrated on American bison (buffalo), requiring fast, accurate weapons.
- ✦ Folsom tradition was a refinement of Clovis.
- ✦ Hunters used spear-throwers to hurl lances at bison.
- ✦ Sophisticated hunting techniques included stampeding bison herds over cliffs.
 - ◆ Required sophisticated division of labor and knowledge of food preservation techniques

Desert Culture

- ✦ Desert Culture was a way of life based on small-game hunting and intensified foraging.
- ✦ Foraging followed seasonal routes.
- ✦ Skills included:
 - ◆ producing fiber baskets for collecting;
 - ◆ pitch-lined baskets for cooking;
 - ◆ nets and traps;
 - ◆ and stone tools.
- ✦ Spread to Great Plains and Southwest
 - ◆ West coast developed first permanently settled communities in North America

Forest Efficiency

- ✦ Eastern North America was a vast forest.
- ✦ Developed during Archaic period and included:
 - ◆ small-game hunting;
 - ◆ gathering seeds, nuts, roots, and other plants;
 - ◆ burning woodlands and prairies to stimulate growth of berries, fruits, and roots;
 - ◆ burning created meadows to provide food that attracted grazing animals for hunting;
 - ◆ and fishing
- ✦ Populations grew and settlements became permanent.
- ✦ Men and women held different roles.



Part Five:

**The Development of
Farming**

Mexico

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- ✦ People living in central Mexico developed farming of maize about 5,000 years ago.
 - ✦ Other American crops included potatoes, beans, squash, tomatoes, peppers, avocados, chocolate, and vanilla.
 - ✦ Agriculture stimulated sedentary lifestyle and rise of large, urban complexes.
 - ✦ Teotihuacan had 200,000 inhabitants.
 - ✦ Mesoamerican civilizations were characterized by an elite class of rulers and priests, monumental public works, and systems of mathematics and hieroglyphic writing.

Increasing Social Complexity

- ✦ Farming stimulated increasing social complexity.
- ✦ Families were grouped into clans that bound people together into a tribe.
- ✦ Tribes were led by clan leaders or chiefs and advised by councils of elders.
 - ◆ Chiefs were responsible for collection, storage, and distribution of food.
- ✦ Gender strictly divided labor.
- ✦ Marriage ties were generally weak.
- ✦ Growing populations required larger food surpluses and led to war.

The Resisted Revolution

- ✦ Adoption of farming was a gradual process taking hundreds of years.
- ✦ Climate, abundant food sources, and cultural values sometimes led to rejection of farming.
 - ◆ People often adopted farming simply as a way to increase food production.
- ✦ Foraging could provide more varied diet, was less influenced by climate, and required less work.
 - ◆ Studies have shown that farmers were more subject to different diseases and famine than foragers.
- ✦ Favorable climate was pivotal to the adoption of farming.

The Religions of Foragers and Hunters

- ✦ Foraging and farming shaped religious traditions.
- ✦ The Hunting Tradition was:
 - ◆ centered in relationship between hunter and prey;
 - ◆ had the vision quest as a ritual; and
 - ◆ organized around individual shamans.
- ✦ The Agrarian Tradition was:
 - ◆ centered on idea of fertility;
 - ◆ employed ritual festivals to mark changing of seasons; and
 - ◆ organized into cults and priesthoods.

Farmers of the Southwest

- ✦ Farming began to emerge in the Southwest during the first millennium B.C.E.
- ✦ The Mogollon
 - ◆ The first to practice settled farming way of life growing maize, beans, and squash
 - ◆ Lived in pit houses in permanent villages near streams along the Arizona–New Mexico border from about 250 B.C.E. to C.E. 1450
- ✦ The Hohokam:
 - ◆ Grew maize, beans, squash, tobacco, and cotton
 - ◆ Villages in the floodplain of the Salt and Gila rivers between C.E. 300 to 1500
 - ◆ Developed the first irrigation system in America north of Mexico
 - ◆ Shared many traits with Mesoamerican civilization.

The Anasazis

- ✦ Anasazi farming culture arose on the plateau of Colorado River around Four Corners area where Arizona, Utah, Colorado, and New Mexico meet.
 - ◆ Built densely populated, multistoried apartment complexes (*pueblos*) clustered around kivas
 - ◆ Grew high-yield maize in terraced fields irrigated by canals
 - Supplemented vegetable diet by hunting with bow and arrow
 - ◆ Culture consisted of 25,000 communities that extended over area larger than California
 - ◆ Declined because of extended drought and arrival of Athapascan migrants, leading to abandonment of Four Corners area.

Farmers of the Eastern Woodlands

- ✦ Farming culture in eastern North America was dated from the first appearance of pottery about 3,000 years ago.
- ✦ Woodland culture combined hunting and gathering with farming
 - ◆ Sunflowers, small grains, tobacco
 - ◆ Developed a complex social structure
- ✦ Adena culture occupied Ohio River basin from before 1000 B.C.E. to about C.E. 250.
 - ◆ Established custom of large burial mounds for leaders

The Hopewell Culture

- ✦ Hopewell people settled in Ohio-Mississippi Valley between 200 B.C.E. and fifth century C.E.
- ✦ Hopewell culture adopted Adena custom of burial mounds.
 - ◆ Mounds became larger and more elaborate
 - ◆ Rare and precious artifacts from trade network were included in burial mounds of great leaders
- ✦ Long-distance trade network
 - ◆ Obsidian from the Rocky Mountains
 - ◆ Copper from the Great Lakes
 - ◆ Mica from the Appalachians
 - ◆ Shells from the Gulf Coast

Mississippian Society

- ✦ Introduction of bow and arrow, development of new maize variety, and switch from digging sticks to hoes were basis of Mississippian culture.
 - ◆ Developed sophisticated maize farming
 - ◆ Centered around permanent villages on Mississippi River floodplain, with Cahokia as urban center
 - Linked by river transportation system.
 - ◆ Built large effigy earthworks
 - ◆ Complex division of labor headed by elite class of rulers
 - Tasks of preventing local conflict, storing food supplies, and redistribution of food required leadership class with power to command.

The Politics of Warfare and Violence

- ✦ The late thirteenth century brought a climate change marked by 150 years of cool, dry weather.
- ✦ Climate change may have caused an increase in violence and social disorder
 - ◆ Hunting communities organized small raids on farming communities.
 - ◆ Farming communities fought to gain land for cultivation.
 - ◆ Highly organized tribal armies developed
 - The bow and arrow was the deadly weapon of war.
 - Scalping originated among warring tribes.
 - ◆ Eventually, many cities collapsed and people scattered forming small decentralized communities.



Part Six:

**Cultural Regions of North
America on the Eve of
Colonization**

The Population of Indian America

✧ Map: Indian Settlement before European Colonization

✧ The population of the Western Hemisphere in the fifteenth century may have numbered 50 million or more.

✧ Population varied by cultural region.

- ◆ Largest populations were centered in Southwest, South, and Northeast--culture areas where first encounters with Europeans occurred.

The Southwest

✧ Map: Southwestern Indian Groups on the Eve of Colonization

- ✧ Aridity central fact of life in Southwest, though a number of rivers flow out of mountain plateaus.
- ✧ Most peoples practiced dry farming or irrigated agriculture, living in villages.
 - ◆ Dispersed settlements separated by as much as a mile
 - ◆ Pueblos had a commitment to communal village life
- ✧ Region home to Yuman, Pimas, Pueblos, and most recent arrivals, Athapascans who developed into Navajo and Apaches.

The South

- ✦ Map: Southern Indian Groups on the Eve of Colonization
- ✦ Mild climate with short winters and long summers proved ideal for farming.
- ✦ Large populations lived in villages and towns, often ruled by chiefs.
- ✦ Region home to Choctaw, Chickasaw, Creeks, and Cherokees.
- ✦ Many groups decimated by disease following the arrival of Europeans resulted in poor documentation of history

The Natchez

- ✦ The Natchez lived in floodplains of lower Mississippi Delta.
- ✦ Class society ruled by “Great Sun” and a small group of nobles ruling the majority
- ✦ Persistent territorial conflict with other confederacies elevated warriors to an honored status.
- ✦ Practiced public torture and human sacrifice of enemies
- ✦ Chiefdoms were unstable, resulting in scattering of people into smaller decentralized communities.

The Northeast

✧ Maps: “Northeastern Indian Groups on Eve of Colonization”

✧ Colder part of eastern woodlands with geography of coastal plains, mountains, rivers, lakes, and valleys.

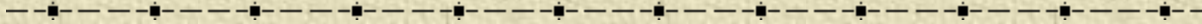
✧ The Iroquois:

- ◆ Lived in present-day Ontario and upstate New York
- ◆ Grew corn, beans, squash, and sunflowers
- ◆ Matrilineal family lineage centered around longhouses
- ◆ Formed confederacy to eliminate warfare

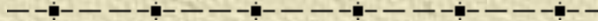
✧ The Algonquians:

- ◆ Comprised at least 50 distinct, patrilineal cultures
- ◆ Were organized into bands with loose ethnic affiliation in north
- ◆ Farmed and lived in villages in south

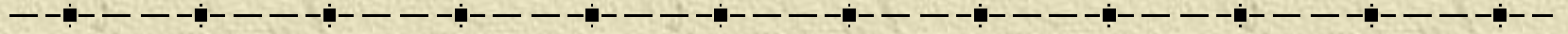
Part Seven:



Conclusion



A Continent of Villages, to 1500



✦ Media: Chronology, Chapter 1