

LIGHTEST MEXICO
LIGHTEST MEXICO 2
by John Abney

King Mitl rose to the throne in 1025 and brought some order to Tula. This great warrior not only managed to bring order into the prevailing chaos but had to solve a number of problems of his people.

He was unable to repress the war of the religious sects until 1046. Mexico City—Mitl, the third king of the Toltecs, died in October, 1085, in Tula (present state of Hidalgo). when he imposed his great authority to end the internal warfare among groups fighting to master the nation.

And now let us turn back a few pages in history. Famine broke out in 1070 and large numbers died of hunger. The city King Necaxoc, one of the wisest and kindest of the Toltec rulers of Tula sank into poverty for several years but the iron will of Mitl stepped down from the throne in 925 and left Tula which was considered (plus his organizational ability and the work he imposed on his people) the largest, most cultured and richest of all the cities in the Mexican plateau. Necaxoc went to Tlapallan to spend the last days of his life. Mitl launched a war to the south, reaching the domains of the Zapotecas and left Quetzalcoatl I on the throne. Quetzalcoatl ruled as king and and Mixtecas in Oaxaca. He would be joined by the armies of priest of the Toltecs.

He left his imprint there by building, populating and giving names to sites in his effort to establish a new empire and preserve the grandeur he adopted, Quetzalcoatl opposed the exotic doctrines which the Chichimeca of Tula. These rites included human sacrifice to Texcatlipoca. people tried to impose. He did not, however, respect the custom of ruling for 52 years only. Quetzalcoatl was ousted from the throne 10 years after he began ruling and Mitl stayed on the throne of his forefathers an additional eight years. Quetzalcoatl II took over. He was in favor of human sacrifice and of the bloody cult of Texcatlipoca. until his death in 1085. He was in favor of human sacrifice and of the bloody cult of Texcatlipoca.

His people loved him so much that they installed his widow on the throne. During his reign the advocates of human sacrifice held top government posts. She was wise Xiuhtlaltzin who ruled as the fourth Toltec "king" until 1089. In order to get more victims for sacrifices to their god, they when she died. She waged war against their neighbors to capture prisoners.

Mitl built several temples during his reign. One of the most famous This led to full-scale war, revolts and political changes which history was dedicated to the water goddess, represented by an emerald frog. For did not record. Therefore we do not know how long Quetzalcoatl II remained an emerald frog the water goddess must have whipped up enough showers to give them a great set of crops. in power nor the names of men who came after him to the throne.

We do know, however, that the war of the religious sects lasted 99 years from 947 to 1046.

King Mitl rose to the throne in 1025 and brought some order to Tula. This great warrior not only managed to bring order into the prevailing chaos but had to solve a number of problems of his people.

He was unable to repress the war of the religious sects until 1046 when he imposed his great authority to end the internal warfare among groups fighting to master the nation.

Famine broke out in 1070 and large numbers died of hunger. The city of Tula sank into poverty for several years but the iron will of Mitl (plus his organizational ability and the work he imposed on his people) made the nation survive and prosper again. Seeking power and independence, Mitl launched a war to the south, reaching the domains of the Zapotecas and Mixtecas in Oaxaca.

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Mexico City—Early in the morning of October 18, 1519, Hernan Cortes gave the signal to begin the massacre of the Cholulteca Indians. Blood ran in rivers and more than 6,000 Indians died at the hands of the Spaniards.

Let us check into history and contemplate the background of this mass murder.

Cortes had established peace with the Tlaxcaltecas and drawn up an alliance for his march against the Aztec capital of Mexico-Tenochtitlan but was undecided on the route to follow.

Cortes would have preferred to march through Calpulalpan, as his Tlaxcalteca allies advised, where he would be joined by the armies of Prince Ixtlixochitl but he wanted to show the Tlaxcaltecas that he was not afraid of the Cholultecas. So he took the highway to Cholula.

The kingdom of Cholula had been independent for a long time but was an ally of the Aztec confederacy and a bitter enemy of the Tlaxcaltecas. This enmity sprang from a clumsy treason on the part of the Cholultecas.

They were fighting as allies of the Tlaxcaltecas against the Aztecs and during the battle suddenly dropped back from the front ranks to take a position behind the Tlaxcaltecas. They then attacked the Tlaxcaltecas from the rear while the Aztecs attacked from the front.

This resulted in the massacre of the Tlaxcaltecas and ended a beautiful friendship.

Cortes left for Cholula with 6,000 Tlaxcaltecas whom he sent back before arriving in Cholula. He entered the city with his army amid warm acclaim.

According to Cortes, the city had 20,000 inhabitants, Cortes and his army were lodged in large houses and supplied with abundant food. His allies, the Cempoalteca Indians, told him they had seen women and children leaving the city and that the Cholultecas were putting up sharp sticks in the streets to disable the horses. The Cholultecas were also were digging trenches and storing stones on roofs.

This gave Cortes a rough idea of what the Cholultecas were planning.

Cortes told the Cholulteca noblemen that he would leave before sun up and told his captains about the attack prepared against them. He sent instructions to his Tlaxcalteca troops who had camped outside Cholula, to wait for sun rise and attack the city and kill the population.

The Spaniards prepared their arms, horses and artillery and set themselves up in the main courtyard where they geared for battle. Forty Cholulteca noblemen as well as the Indians who were to help him with the baggage visited Cortes to bid him farewell. It was indeed a farewell.

At the signal of a musket shot the Spaniards attacked furiously and killed every Cholulteca in sight. Meantime, the Tlaxcaltecas rushed into the city like a pack of lions. Cholula became a fiery furnace with all houses and temples blazing and blood running through the city. Many Cholultecas killed themselves by jumping from the major temple, preferring this to what the Spaniards had in store for them.

After killing more than 6,000 Cholultecas the Spaniards sacked the city taking with them all the gold and silver they could find. They rewarded the Tlaxcaltecas by letting them take all the feathers, clothing and salt. And allowing them to carry the Spanish gold and silver over the mountains.

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Mexico City--A lady from California writes that she is planning a trip to Mexico City, Acapulco and Veracruz and she would like information on points of interest in these places. She also wants to know what kind of clothes to bring and if they will hold a bullfight here on Christmas day.

Well, in Mexico City you probably will want to see Chapultepec Castle, the National Museum of History, University City, the Lagunilla market which is spread over two blocks of street on Sunday mornings and the big Cathedral. There are hundreds of interesting places around the city and you might do well to take a guide with a car to show you around. Acapulco has the old Fort San Diego but just about everything else there is new. You should rent a car and drive around the city and just look. Veracruz has an old fortress, an antique lighthouse and the cafes beneath the arcades on the main plaza. Sit in one of these sidewalk restaurants for an hour and you'll see everything from shrimp vendors to a gentleman with a shocking machine. For a peso he will tune up your system if you don't mind being electrocuted. As to clothing you should bring winter wear for Mexico City and summer things for Acapulco and Veracruz. They are strictly tropical. I couldn't say for sure that a bullfight will be held on Christmas Sunday but as an educated guess I would be inclined to say yes. Few things can make them suspend a bullfight in Mexico. You can get tickets several days in advance for the fights. Best way to work it I think is to ask at your hotel. The travel agency there will have some for sale and if there is no travel agency, the hotel can always send a boy to pick up your tickets down town.

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IS IT NECESSARY TO GET A PERMIT RENEWAL EACH SIX MONTHS FOR RETIRED PEOPLE?

No. When you are given your papers as a retiree you can climb in the hammock and forget it. There are two or three categories under which you may retire here but none of them call for leaving the country each six months.

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WHAT INTEREST IS PAID ON SAVINGS ACCOUNTS IN MEXICO? GUARANTEES?

Banks normally pay 4.5 per cent but there are some institutions here that pay up to 9 per cent. I'd suggest you check with a lawyer here and find out the best place to put your money. Money invested in government operated institutions is guaranteed by the government. You need not have fears about that.

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IS THERE A HIGHWAY FROM GUADALAJARA TO PUERTO VALLARTA?

They are working to push one through now but at present all they have is a dirt road which is very bumpy. I wouldn't advise anyone to try driving it until the new highway is completed.

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INFORMATION ON RESTAURANTS IN MEXICO CITY?

Suggest you pick up a book by John Wilhelm called Guide to Mexico City. It lists all the restaurants and tells what type of food they serve.

(Questions on Mexico? Write John Abney, Damas 106, Mexico City 19, Mexico.)

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Mazatlan, Mexico--The independent sovereign state of Sinaloa was created by congressional decree on October 13, 1830. The state constituent congress was installed in March, 1831, and the constitution was issued in December of that year. The state was divided into 11 districts.

In Cahita dialect, the word "Sinaloa" means round cactus fruit. The name probably was adopted because of the fruit's abundance in the area.

Roots of the word are "sina," which means cactus fruit, and "lobola" which means round. The word originally was Sinalobola which was shortened to Sinaloa.

Delving back in history, we find that the territory of Sinaloa around the sixth century of our era was populated by various tribes.

The Chimalhuacanos made up the most important tribe. They had formed a sort of confederation of villages extending through what now are the states of Sinaloa, Nayarit, Jalisco and Colima.

Other important tribes in the region were the Cahitas, Tepehuanos, Mayos and Yacoreques. These tribes maintained their freedom despite all efforts by the Aztecs and Tarascans to conquer them.

Hloodthirsty Nuno Baltran de Guzman left Mexico City on December 20, 1529, heading an expedition to conquer the west. After bloody battles in which he conquered Indian villages in Jalisco, he moved to Nayarit and Sinaloa.

His scorched-earth policy left a sad imprint of his passing.

Whole tribes, learning of his approach, fled to the mountains to save

themselves from the Spanish adventurer. His own men hated him and followed him only because of the terror he instilled in them.

Beltran de Guzman founded the village of San Miguel de Navito in the Sinaloa region. This village was moved on September 29, 1531, to San Miguel de Culiacan which finally became the state capital we now know as Culiacan.

Muno's nephew, Diego de Guzman, organized another expedition in 1533 and moved north of Culiacan to a site known as Guamuchiles and then followed the Mocorito River to where it joined the Sinaloa river.

The expedition then traveled toward Ocorino and into the territory of Sonora. Diego de Guzman left a good number of Spaniards at each site to guarantee subjection of the Indians to the Spanish Crown.

The Indians apparently submitted to the Spaniards but uprisings were frequent until viceregal authorities sent another expedition headed by Vazquez de Coronado, who defeated the Indians and hanged their chief, Ayapin.

This discouraged the Indians and nobody wanted to be the leader of the tribes. So the Spaniards took over Sinaloa and ran it their own way.

Sonora and Sinaloa were under one government as the Interior Western Provinces during the 300 years the Spaniards visited Mexico. Their histories therefore are closely linked.

They remained a single state called the Western State after Mexico won its independence from Spain, in accordance with the Constitution of 1824.

The village of El Fuerte became the state capital and Juan Miguel Riesgo was the first governor. And everybody has lived happily forever after.