

CHAPTER 6

WHAT'S THE SIGNIFICANCE?

Axum: Second-wave-era kingdom of East Africa, in present-day Eritrea and northern Ethiopia; flourished from 100 to 600 c.e. (*pron.* AX-uhm)

Bantu expansion: Gradual migration of Bantu-speaking peoples from their homeland in what is now southern Nigeria and the Cameroons into most of eastern and southern Africa, a process that began around 3000 b.c.e. and continued for several millennia. The agricultural techniques and ironworking technology of Bantu-speaking farmers gave them an advantage over the gathering and hunting peoples they encountered. (*pron.* BAHN-too)

Batwa: Forest-dwelling people of Central Africa who adopted some of the ways of their Bantu neighbors while retaining distinctive features of their own culture; also known as “Pygmies.” (*pron.* BAHT-wah)

Cahokia: The dominant center of an important Mississippi valley mound-building culture, located near present-day St. Louis, Missouri; flourished from about 900 to 1250 c.e. (*pron.* cah-HOKE-ee-ah)

Chaco Phenomenon: Name given to a major process of settlement and societal organization that occurred in the period 860–1130 c.e. among the peoples of Chaco canyon, in what is now northwestern New Mexico; the society formed is notable for its settlement in large pueblos and for the building of hundreds of miles of roads (the purpose of which is not known). (*pron.* CHAH-koh)

Chavín: Andean town that was the center of a large Peruvian religious movement from about 900 to 200 b.c.e. (*pron.* cha-BEAN)

Mana: A Polynesian belief in the spiritual power or energy of individuals who had achieved great accomplishments or success.

Maya civilization: A major civilization of Mesoamerica; flourished from 250 to 900 c.e.

Meroë: City in southern Nubia that was the center of Nubian civilization between 300 b.c.e. and 100 c.e. (*pron.* MER-oh-ee)

Moai: Massive stone faces built on Rapa Nui.

Moche: An important regional civilization of Peru, governed by warrior-priests; flourished from about 100 to 800 c.e. (*pron.* MO-che)

Mound Builders: Members of any of a number of cultures that developed east of the Mississippi River in what is now the United States and that are distinguished by their large earthen mounds, built during the period 2000 b.c.e.–1250 c.e.

Niger Valley civilization: Distinctive city-based civilization that flourished from about 300 b.c.e. to about 900 c.e. in the floodplain of the middle Niger and that included major cities like Jenne-jeno; the Niger Valley civilization is particularly noteworthy for its apparent lack of centralized state structures, having been organized instead in clusters of economically specialized settlements.

Piye: Ruler of Kush (r. 752–721 b.c.e.) who conquered Egypt, reuniting it under his rule.

pueblo: “Great house” of the Ancestral Pueblo people; a large, apartment building–like structure that could house hundreds of people.

Tapu: Polynesian concept of a person or place as sacred and protected. As punishments for violating *tapu* could include death, the system often used religion to reinforce social and political hierarchies.

Tatau: The Polynesian practice of body art or tattoo.

Teotihuacán: The largest city of pre-Columbian America, with a population between 100,000 and 200,000; seemingly built to a plan in the Valley of Mexico, Teotihuacán flourished between 300 and 600 c.e., during which time it governed or influenced much of the surrounding region. The name Teotihuacán is an Aztec term meaning “city of the gods.” (*pron.* teh-o-tee-WAH-kahn)

Wari and Tiwanaku: Two states that flourished between 400 and 1000 c.e. in the highlands of modern Bolivia and Peru. At their height they possessed urban capitals with populations in the tens of thousands and productive agricultural systems.