

**Reading Summary Instructions and Layout Sheet**

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**INSTRUCTIONS** Include the following two areas in your summary: (1) summary of the reading identifying three important points; and (2) what is your critical opinion of the reading. Discuss the elements of the reading that you believe were important and why, information that was not well supported, or areas you felt were lacking content or missing information. Describe your opinion by using examples from the reading.

**LAYOUT** Your summary should be: (1) written in twelve point font; (2) double-spaced; (3) have your name and date at the top header; (4) broken up into paragraphs. Intro, body, and conclusion; (5) be no longer than a page or 250 to 300 words; (6) be free of major grammar and spelling errors. Use your software spellchecker during and after you complete writing the assignment.

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**EXAMPLE**

Alexandro Timothy Garcia  
October 22, 2011  
Humanities 125 Introduction to Mexican Culture

**SUMMARY #1 PAGES 1-10**

Paragraph 1

In this paper, I summarize the content from pages 1-10\_\_\_\_\_.

Paragraph 2

Three main points of this reading include (1) \_\_\_\_\_ (2) \_\_\_\_\_ (3) \_\_\_\_\_.

Paragraph 3

My critical opinion of the reading is \_\_\_\_\_.

**For this writing assignment, you do not need to cite, although for the fact-finding paper you will...**

Traci Flora  
May 2, 2011  
CHIC 302 Ancient Mexican Culture

Summary #9 10/10

In this paper, I will summarize the reading *The Aztecs* chapter 7. The author's approach in this reading is two fold in that it is from an anthropologist and historian.

The three main points from this reading were the discussions about the city-states, specifically the politics and relations between them, tribute, and the empire of the triple alliance. City-states were called Altepetl in Nahuatl and closely resemble what was known in Europe as Kingdoms. Each city-state had their own King, palace, and place of worship; while they did remain somewhat autonomous after being conquered they did owe tribute to the triple alliance. Tributes came in many forms from feathers to blankets. The king of the city-state had no saying on the tribute and actually was not part of that process; tribute collectors would collect the tribute from the subjects versus the king having to get involved. This was a political decision that resulted in the king being allowed to remain politically secure in dealings with other kings. The triple alliance built it's empire with indirect rule leaving the city-states as they were unless the king was unwilling to be have open relations. This was a way for the alliance to expand it's empire without too much effort on their part.

My critical opinion of the reading was that it explained more fully how the Aztecs were able to expand their empire and become a great force in Mesoamerica. I had been under the impression that there was a total takeover of the city and Aztec rulers put into power to assert control over the conquered city-state. This was the opposite and I found it interesting that it a much less difficult process than I had originally thought for the Aztec. There was no destruction of cities just for being conquered. This was a very informative chapter on how the empire rose.

Smith, Michael E.  
2003 *The Aztecs* 2<sup>nd</sup> Edition pp. 147-171. Blackwell Publishing, Malden, Massachusetts.