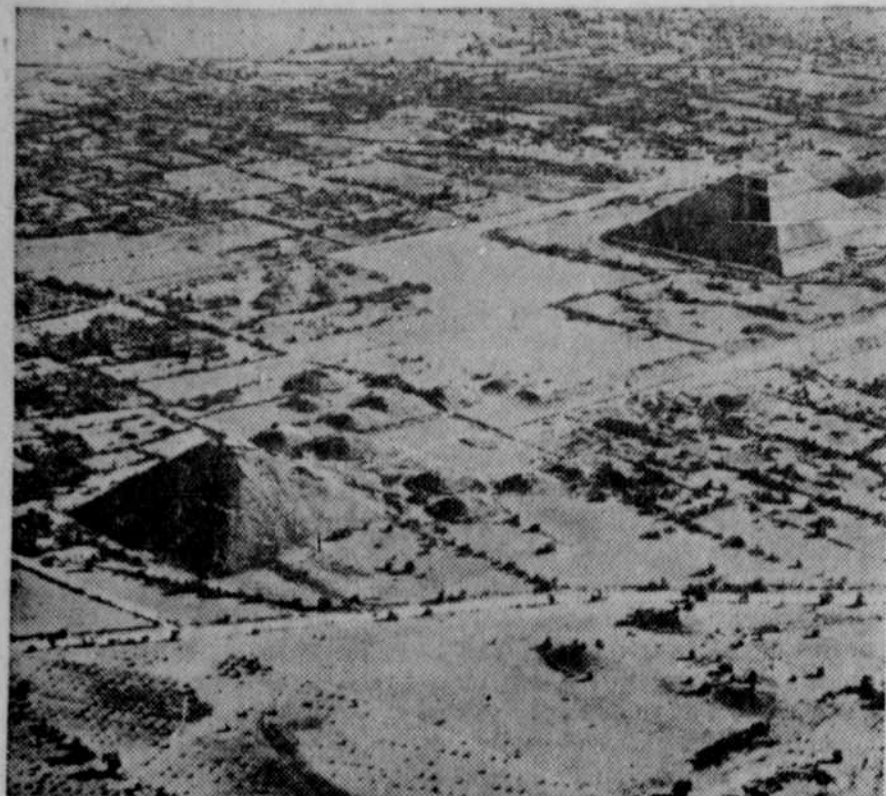


MEXICO—Marvel of History

● Long before Columbus, Aztec Indians lived under a mixed monarchy-democracy in which might was not always right.



Prepared by National Geographic Society, Washington, D. C.—WNU Service.

AZTEC warriors generally wore armor made from quilted cotton, three-fourths to an inch and a half thick, soaked in brine. Sometimes the legs also were encased in quilted armor and the outside of the entire suit was frequently covered with feathers, plates of gold, or of silver. The feathers played an important part in that they formed an elastic layer on the outside of the quilted cotton and made it even more effective protection.

The protection offered by such apparel was so effective against arrows and javelins that the Spaniards adopted and wore it. The use of feathers also made possible a differentiation of costume that indicated various subdivisions and companies in the military forces. Some uniforms had white and red feathers, others blue and yellow; some were green, and others simulated actual birds.

Some groups wore animal skins over their armor or painted it to resemble animals. Warriors of merit wore headresses, half mask, half helmet, many of which imitated the heads of jaguars, mountain lions, wolves, snakes, birds, and other creatures. The principal leaders and war chiefs were distinguished by the cut of their hair, by lip and nose plugs, by their wide and flowing mantles, and by towering plumes of green feathers.

The ordinary dress of the priests was black; even their bodies were stained black. But the color of the sacrificial priest was red. On the occasion of certain ceremonies various priests represented different gods and dressed accordingly. The habitations of the farmers and poorer classes were wattle and daub with thatched roofs.

Many of the houses were erected on piles because of the swampy condition of the city and the frequent floods. The walls of the structures in Tenochtitlan and other towns around the lake were covered with white plaster or were colored a dull, rich red.

Early American Beauty

From all accounts it was indeed a beautiful place. The green of its numerous trees, the sparkling blue waters of the surrounding lake and many canals, the gay splashes of color from flower beds on the roof tops and in the gardens, the multitude of canoes loaded with products from the field and garden, and the brightly hued garments of the populace, all contrasted with the white and dull red of the buildings to make an enchanting scene.

The daily life of the people was a busy one. Women were occupied with numerous household duties. The rooms and courtyards were carefully swept and cleaned. Corn, or maize, was ground to make meal for the tortillas, even as it is ground today in many parts of Mexico. There were rich sauces and other foods to prepare.

The older men taught the young boys. When they became older they were sent to schools and prepared for either the priesthood or the military service, or were apprenticed to merchants or artisans. There were schools for girls as well, but unless they went into one of the religious orders their education was not so rigorous as that of the boys. Girls were married between the ages of 11 and 18, all arrangements being made by their parents or priests.

Democratic Government

Whether the entire organization was a monarchy or a democracy is largely a matter of definition. Even after the inheritance of office became established, men were nominally elected to their positions and when not satisfactory were ousted. There were slaves, but they were not slaves in the present accepted sense of the word. The labor of the people in this group belonged to another, but their persons did not, and

Relics of a civilization which antedated the coming of the Spaniards are shown here. The pyramids of the sun and the moon of San Juan Teotihuacan, photographed from the air, give imposing evidence of the industry and ability of the ancient builders.

it was entirely possible for a slave to have slaves of his own. The owner of a slave's labor could not sell it to another person without the consent of the laborer.

The organization of the city was elaborate. After settling on the islands the Aztecs separated the area into four quarters. In each of these was a phratry composed of kindred peoples or those of common descent. There were 20 Kin to a phratry. Each Kin elected and deposed its own officers, consisting of a governor and a group of "Elder Brothers," or council.

At the head of each phratry was a war captain. These four captains served on the great council of the tribe in company with one representative from each Kin, Elder Brothers, and certain of the temple priests. There was a smaller council, composed of one speaker from each Kin, which met every 20 days in a directing and judicial capacity.

At the head of the entire tribal organization were the Chief of Men and the Snake "Worm." The Chief of Men, elected by the council, was the executive officer. He later became the king or emperor. Toward the end of the Aztec dominance in the Valley there was a definite lineal descent of the office of Chief of Men, but even then he was voted upon by the council.

Crime and Punishment

There were two major divisions of crime among the Aztecs. One was the crime against a person's own group, the other an offense against another group. The group to which an offender belonged was obligated to see that he was brought to justice. Murder was punishable



With carefully carved knives like these, the domineering priests of Aztec times cut out the hearts of sacrificial victims.

by death. Intemperance, except for those who had attained to the age of 70 years, also carried the death decree. Theft had varying degrees of punishment, according to the amount or nature of the stolen goods and the number of offenses charged against the individual. The stealing of gold or silver was a major crime and offenders were flayed.

A priest who broke the law was put to death. Slanderers were punished by their own Kin. They had their lips cut off. The legislative power was vested in the ruler. He laid down the laws and stipulated the penalties for the violations of his edicts. Each phratry had a magistrate, elected for personal ability and integrity. The Aztecs were remarkable for their day and age; in fact, were superior to some modern governments, because there was an impartial treatment of all cases brought before the magistrates. The lowliest laborer and the richest noble were accorded equal justice.

NATIONAL AFFAIRS

Reviewed by CARTER FIELD

A survey of the political situation in the Eastern states indicates that only the New England states are likely to go Republican. Indications point to a tough fight in the next congress for the thirty-hour week. Roosevelt got a real break in the New York Democratic convention.

WASHINGTON.—Maine and Vermont, the only two states which gave their electoral vote to Alf M. Landon two years ago, are the only two states absolutely sure of going Republican this November. More than that, the Republican leaders who know what is going on do not even claim, in private conversations, that the G. O. P. will carry enough states to make a formidable showing—not enough to make a total of one-third of the electoral votes if this were a presidential election.

Maine has already had her election, and will send a solid Republican delegation of three to the house. That's what she did in 1936. Vermont will also send a solid Republican delegation, of one to the house, and re-elect a Republican senator.

New Hampshire is doubtful, though indications are that she will defeat Sen. Fred H. Brown, Democrat, and elect not only a Republican senator but two Republican representatives.

In Massachusetts the Republicans hope, but are far from sure, that they will be able to elect a governor, due as much to the hatred of various Democratic groups for the Democratic gubernatorial nominee, James M. Curley, as to the strength of their own ticket. There is no senator to be elected this year, and the Republicans do not hope for any gains in the house. The Democratic sweep never hit the Bay state's congressional delegation as it did most other states. She has ten Republicans and five Democrats now in the house.

Republican leaders have little hope for anything in Rhode Island, and, since the renomination of Sen. Augustine Lonergan despite his being one of the anti-court packing group of purge fame, they have virtually no hope in Connecticut, although the Nutmeg state has a solid Democratic delegation of six in the lower house. The answer here is that there has been no Republican solidarity since the passing of J. Henry Roraback. Any one of the Republican factions striving for supremacy would rather see the Democrats win than any other one of the Republican factions.

Whole of New England Shapes for Republicans

So the whole of New England shapes up for the Republicans, from present prospects, as a gain of one senator, in New Hampshire, and one representative, also in New Hampshire, and one governor, in Massachusetts, with none of these gains absolutely sure!

The most optimistic Republican to whom the writer has talked does not believe there is a chance for the Republicans to gain a senator in New York, though two are being elected in November. Some think Thomas E. Dewey might beat Gov. Herbert H. Lehman, but not many. But the really important point is that the Empire state, whose 47 electoral votes are an absolute necessity to a Republican presidential victory, is expected to elect two Democratic senators this fall, and to elect 29 Democratic members of the house to 16 Republicans!

In Pennsylvania re-election of Sen. James J. Davis is regarded as certain, but that is not a gain. There is also the probability of gaining a Republican governor. The Keystone state will tell the story of whether the Republicans make any substantial gain in the house this campaign.

In New Jersey there is another real battle, with odds about even as to whether ex-Sen. W. Warren Barbour, Republican, can defeat his Democratic opponent. Barbour's election would be a gain.

Just two probable senate gains from the Mason and Dixon's line to Canada!

See Tough Fight Ahead for Thirty-Hour Week Law

Every indication is that the fight for the 30-hour week is going to be closer in the coming session of congress than ever before, with the distinct possibility, though not probability, that it will be enacted. When the proposal was first made by the then senator—now justice—Hugo L. Black, it was regarded as fantastic. There was loud clamor from business that it was impossible, that it simply could not be worked, and that it would wreck returning prosperity. Sentiment for the idea was obviously greater in the last session of congress, but its supporters realized that it did not have any possibility of mustering a majority vote, and hence it was not seriously pressed. But the situation has changed. Curiously enough, while in all the "purge" contests, save that in the Sixteenth New York district, the more conservative candidate won, this more radical proposal is now obviously going to be stronger in the next congress than the one that is expiring. Most important in bringing about this change of sentiment is the continuance of the unemployment problem—the fact that it is increasing. So that a definite proposal to remedy the situation forces attention, especially when no one is proposing anything which sounds more sound economically. Not that there is general opinion that the 30-hour week is sound, economically. Quite the contrary. But its friends are fond of remarking that it is a situation which confronts us, not a theory, and that something must be done.

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More Government Spending Seen as an Alternative

The only alternative that has been suggested, incidentally, is still more government spending. Nobody likes this very much except a comparatively small minority who agree wholeheartedly with Harry L. Hopkins, and who worry no more about the mounting federal debt than Mariner S. Eccles of the federal reserve board.

Not only that, but not even the most fanatical Hopkins follower believes that if government spending were doubled all unemployment would be eliminated. The problem would still be present.

Second in importance in the elements bringing about a stronger sentiment for the 30-hour week is the able fight already begun for it by William Green, president of the American Federation of Labor. It must be recalled that Green's prestige and influence on Capitol Hill have been boosted almost beyond exaggeration since the last meeting of congress.

Green's record of primary victories is extraordinary.

Real Break for New Deal in New York Convention

President Roosevelt denies having had anything to do with the action of the New York state Democratic convention, but if he had "planned it that way" it could not have served his purposes any better. It was a break for the New Deal from soup to nuts.

Had the original setup been followed and Gov. Herbert H. Lehman been nominated for senator, no one doubts very much that he would have been elected—but he would have been decidedly a "yes, but" Democrat in the senate.

He would have followed the White House when he thought it was right, and differed when he thought it was wrong. This was evidenced by his letter to Sen. Robert F. Wagner on the Supreme court issue, in which he opposed the President's pet policy. And is evidenced even more importantly—because after all the Supreme court enlargement is generally regarded as dead—in his differing fundamentally with the President about government spending. He thinks the federal government should retrench.

The man nominated for the seat made vacant by the death of Sen. Royal S. Copeland, to which Governor Lehman aspired, is James M. Mead of Buffalo. Mead is a 100 per cent New Dealer.

Expect Democrats to Win All Three Major Offices

Washington assumes now that the Democrats will win all three major offices, re-electing Governor Lehman and Senator Wagner, and electing Mead to Copeland's seat. Mead has had no state-wide experience as a candidate, but he is a good campaigner. He will run like the proverbial bear cat in Buffalo and through Erie county, and will of course get the full organization vote in New York city.

It had been desired to run him for governor if Lehman refused to stand for renomination.

Friends thought he could beat most Republicans, but it was the growing conviction that Lehman was the only man who could beat Thomas E. Dewey which resulted in such tremendous pressure being put on to change Lehman's mind.

It is the expectation of observers here that Dewey cannot beat Lehman, which makes the whole slate such a break for Roosevelt. With Dewey elected governor in 1938, and two years to make good and enhance his national reputation, he might have constituted a real threat to the Democracy in 1940. If he is not elected, there is no one yet on the horizon who can become such a menace. Certainly no one who could start off with the prestige, national publicity and lack of opposition that Dewey boasts.

Thus Lehman is put in the position of disposing of the one man calculated to frighten the New Dealers, and at the same time putting in the senate a man who will vote for New Deal measures to which Lehman knows now he will find himself in political situation, to put it mildly.

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Great Britain Plays Safe

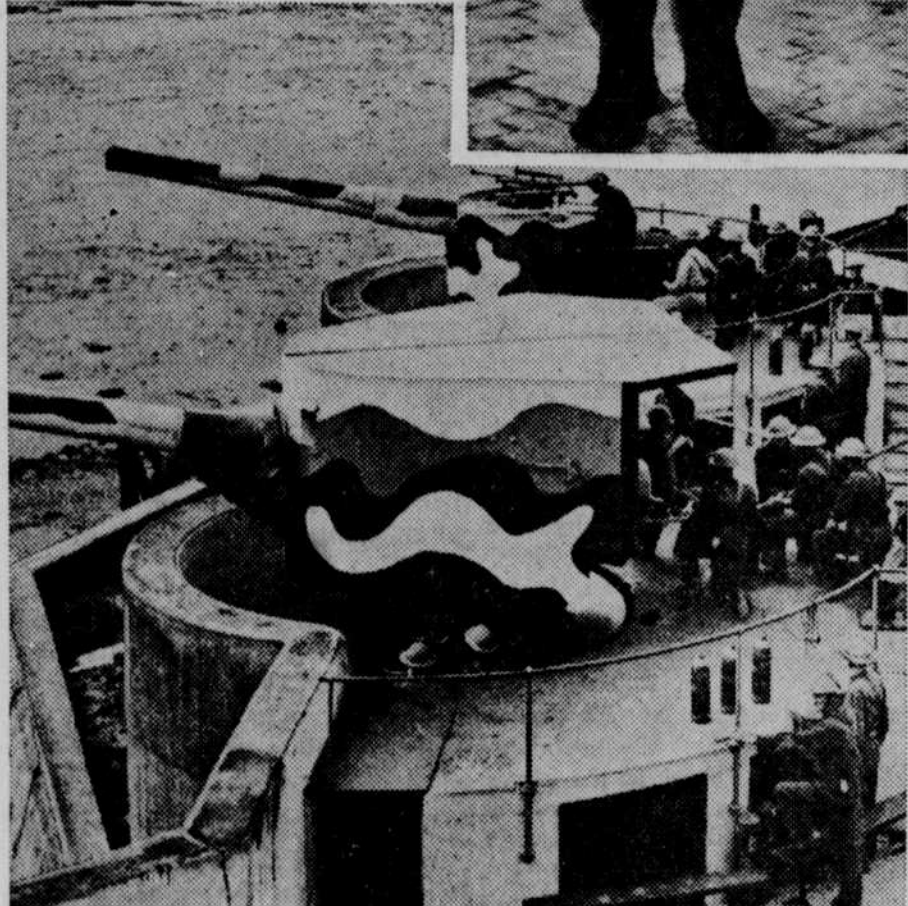


Picture Parade

Though England has not been invaded for 1,000 years, modern airplanes bring danger of bombing and gas raids. So A.R.P. (Air Raid Precautions) has been organized to teach civilians how to wear masks and defend themselves against bombs. Most masks sell for 75 cents and the government has an extra 40 million on hand.



This year, Britain is spending \$1,715,000,000 on rearmament, building anti-aircraft guns (above) and fixing out defense troops with oilskin suits (right) as protection against disastrous mustard gas. Though the nation is outwardly calm, A.R.P. has perfected an amazing organization of 600,000 community "wardens" who will have charge of A.R.P. fire brigades, first aid units, evacuation and contamination squads. Moneyed classes are building underground bomb-proof shelters where they will retire to live in comparative comfort during raids. But poorer classes cannot afford this luxury, indeed cannot even afford gas masks.



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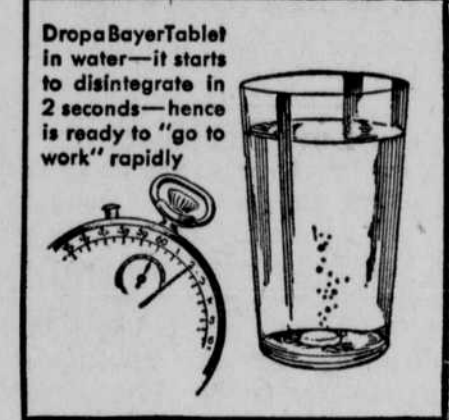
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Culture a Study

Culture is then properly described not as having its origin in curiosity, but as having its origin in the love of perfection; it is a study of perfection.—Matthew Arnold.

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What We Share
Not what we give, but what we share—for the gift without the giver is bare.—Lowell.

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Every Moment
There is not a moment without some duty.—Cicero.

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