

## MYTH VS. FACT

### Native American

**Myth**—*Indians invented and first used scalping.*

**Fact**—The practice of scalping is seen as early as the 11th century in Europe with the Earl of Wessex who scalped all of his enemies. The English and Dutch bought these customs to the Americas. Scalp bounty was used as a means to pacify the settlers, as a means of retribution for Indian reprisals. In 1703 Massachusetts paid 12 lbs to its citizens for each Indian scalp.

**Myth**—*All Native Americans came via the Behring Strait.*

**Fact**—While some groups like the Inuit or Eskimos may have a connection, the majority of Ute-Aztec and other groups have different origin based histories. Archeology can trace native groups in the Americas beyond the 40,000 year figure accepted generally. Migrations were northward and not southward as generally thought. Geology shows the existence of other land masses 10,000 years ago where migrations took place. One archeological dig placed Native Americans as far back as 250,000 years. This was censored by Academia.

**Myth**—*The practice of mutilation in war was begun by Native Americans.*

**Fact**—Beyond scalping, Colonists practiced mutilation of bodies. In 1779, colonists attacked the Iroquois without mercy. Massacres included women and children. Colonists' troops mutilated the Indian bodies from the hip downward to make boot strapping. In 1828, Andrew Jackson boasted having preserved all of his Indian scalps and supervised the mutilation of 800 Indian Creek corpses including women and children. Among the mutilations included cutting off their noses to count and preserve record and slicing of long strips of flesh to make bridal reins for their horses.

**Myth**—*Indians were savages (held by both Spanish and Euro-Americans.)*

**Fact**—From cultural civilizing markers, Native Americans from the Arctic to South America were very civilized. Their communities reflected honesty, respect for the other, manners, sharing, gift giving and family unity. They believed in harmony and speaking words of truth. Because of the uncivil ways of Euro-American settlers and their manners (lying, cheating, killing etc) the Native Americans considered them not to be part of the "humans." The highly civilized State

cultures from the south (Aztec, Toltec, Teotihuacan, Mayan, and Inca) were centuries more advanced than the rest of the world in Science particularly Astronomy and Mathematics.

**Myth**---*Smoking introduced by the Native Americans (now a health hazard) was used socially among themselves*

**Fact**---Smoking was taken up by Euro-American settlers as a leisure pastime. To the Native American it was used as a sacred ritual. The object was not to inhale but rather to send good thoughts and words (which were spoken before) up to the sky, with the smoke being the carrier. The tobacco (unlike today) was pure and uncontaminated. Other uses include it as a medicine for a variety of ailments.

## Pre-Columbian

**Myth:** *The Aztecs and other tribes committed human sacrifice.*

**Fact**---This was a colonial invention by Church officials and the Inquisition who controlled all thought. Conquest and hegemony were main objectives behind conversion and empire building. Defamation of native cultures in the Americas was an old practice already in place in Europe by leading rulers and the Church. To the Native American, all life is Sacred, rivers, trees, animals, water etc.; these are all creations of the Great Spirit, emanations of Mother Earth and we are all part of the Web of Life, we are all brothers and sisters. The idea of human sacrifice goes against the principle of reincarnation, a belief held strongly by them. The approach of defamation by Euro-Americans is an old strategy used for millennia (Jews, Gypsies, Moors). It is an effective propaganda tool which conveniently conceals all atrocities committed on the native population.

**Myth**—*Pre-Columbian cultures were polytheistic and had many Gods.*

**Fact**---The idea of many gods can be traced to Greek culture with its pantheon of a multitude of Gods. This Western legacy was imbedded in the European mind and thus became part of the Western legacy that came to the Americas. The pre-Columbian cultures were very advanced in Science and understood the natural forces that operated on earth. They were not only part of a larger pattern of Mother Nature but were integrated in harmony with her. In Mexico, *Ketzalkoatl* was seen by the Europeans as an idol or God; this merely represented the force of Intelligence that is imbued in all humans. *Huizilipochitl* was seen as a God of war by the Spanish; it merely represented the force of will that we possess, the will to overcome difficulties, the will to create, the will to survive etc. These are all natural forces that were understood and seen with respect and honor.

**Myth**---*The word America comes from Americo Vespucci (Albericus Vespucci)*

**Fact**---The word comes from a region in what is now Nicaragua where the Spanish discovered gold. Sailors would speak of the area later in Europe. The original name was *Americac* which meant land of the high cliffs and deep waters. The word *Americ* became widespread. There was added confusion when the editor of Columbus confused the Latin genitive *Americi* (of America) with Almerigo. The rest is myth.

**Myth**---*Aztecs and Indians have a long history of drinking.*

**Fact**---Actually, dipsomania was strictly prohibited before the arrival of the Europeans. The sages had long figured out that it was detrimental to your overall health, mind and spirit. It was the Spanish that introduced and encouraged drinking. It was an intentional as a means for control. The Spanish became the first vendors of alcohol. In the U.S., Indian agents traded alcohol (and infected blankets) to the Indians and thereby introduced dipsomania.

**Myth**---*The Aztecs had an empire with emperors or kings, an aristocracy and a class system.*

**Fact**---The concept of empire, emperors is Roman. King, Queens and subsequent aristocracy is predominantly European. All of the trappings related to Conquest are of Roman/European influence. When newcomers to the Americas interpreted, they saw the world in a Western cultural and governing paradigm. All Native American groups to the contrary have a communal structure with democratic electing councils. In the more sophisticated Confederated structures, there are three different levels of government and where women have their own councils and decision making. Order and Diplomacy were paramount for a harmonious structure. Benjamin Franklin got many of his ideas for government from the the Confederation of the Iroquois.

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## Mexican

**Myth**---*Mexicans are dirty, lazy and prone to insanity.*

**Fact**---Prejudice against Mexicans is seen very early in colonial U.S. Much of this has its origin in hatred against all Catholics. There is a corpus of literature reflecting not only hatred but hyperbole and fabrication. It was also racially motivated as Mexicans were seen as “half breeds” prone to insanity. It is in the primers, histories and even the pulpit. (John Cotton, Thomas Hooker) The war against Mexico was inevitable since it was earmarked for invasion/conquest as early as 1767 by Benjamin Franklin. Defamation was once again in order.

**Myth---***Whipping and branding of slaves in the Americas by both the Spanish and Euro-Americans is a unique practice developed in the Americas.*

**Fact----**This practice stems directly from the Romans and was introduced into Europe after the expansion of the Roman Empire. The branding on the cheeks and/or thighs of Native Americans was extended moreover, to African slaves.

**Myth---***Indian codices are used to support the views of human sacrifice, cannibalism and barbarism of Aztecs. Mexican and U.S. histories support this view.*

**Fact---**The Florentine Codex is the most widely used Codex for interpreting the Aztecs. This was written by a clergyman (Bernardino de Sahagún) that used Christianized natives as informants. It is not pre-Columbian. All written material was under the control and censorship of the Inquisition, specifically the *Consejo de las Indias* after 1550.. Moreover, King Phillip of Spain ordered that all materials written must have his approval. Sahagún was constantly in trouble with his Order for even thinking about writing on “Indian” culture. They punished him by taking away his informants leaving him without counsel or direction. There is evidence from Sahagún himself regarding the Church and Inquisition tampering with his work; ergo the fabricated insertion by Councils of the Inquisition of countless barbaric deeds of the native culture.

**Myth---***The Virgin of Guadalupe is of Mexican origin.*

**Fact----**The origin is Spanish from the region of Extremadura dating back to 1335. An Islamic image was found by a Gil Cordero near the Guadalupe River. This was venerated and soon King Alfonso XI made it official by declaring the site for worship and further ordered a temple to be built on site. Later, pilgrimages are common. Even Queen Isabela, Columbus and Cortés are frequent pilgrims. Columbus names an island in the Caribbean after the Virgin (Guadalupe, later changed by the French to Guadaloupe) and moreover, carries her banner. Cortés will also carry her banner everywhere for protection. He introduces the idea and image into Mexico. When a replica of her is used by one of the competing churches, friar Francisco Bustamante protests in his now famous sermon denouncing it as a questionable tactic for conversion and a ploy to bring in income from alms, donations and pilgrimages of the populace. Research shows that it is the work of more than one artist and that it is not on maguey cloth but in fine palm shawl with decidedly mediocre Byzantine artistic influence. The authenticity of the image is shrouded in much contradiction, distortion and fabrication of early colonial mythologists.

**Myth**—*Mexicans and other groups believe that their ancestors ate dogs.*

**Fact**---This is one of the many misinterpretations and distortions due to the new and wondrous variety of animals and fauna in the Americas. The Spanish just did not want to use the native names; instead, they gave them names of animals that they were used to seeing in the old world. A turkey was first called a rooster, and then a peacock as it currently remains in Mexico. Why do we call it turkey when it is native to the Americas and certainly not Turkey. The quadruped referred to here was a *Techichi*. It was not part of the canine family. In fact it did not bark. It was raised for fine cuisine which was famous in pre-Columbian times. There were ample names for all of the canine family from wolfs to the now famous Chihuahua hairless specie in this highly civilized and educated culture.

**Myth**---*The quadruped alluded to as a dog is extinct. The Indians must have eaten them to extinction.*

**Fact**---The *Techichi* alluded to by the Spanish as a dog, was a succulent dish prized by the natives. It was the Spanish who ate them in such quantities that it drove them to extinction. When there was a shortage of beef from the Island of *Española* in the Caribbean, the Spanish began to eat up the remaining supply of *Techichi*. They ate all of them until they became extinct.

**Myth:** Christopher Columbus proved that the world was round and not flat.

**Fact:** In Western culture this is credited to Aristotle. The myth in the United States is credited to Washington Irvin in one of his works of fiction. The Queen never sold her jewels. The business venture was paid by the Crown and/or investors of the Court.

**Myth:** Christopher Columbus was the first to discover America as a totally new land for the Crown.

**Fact:** Research shows that several Norsemen came into “Vinland” before Columbus. The British later claim Robert Cabot, but in reality he was Italian. The truth is that Columbus never knew where he went or where he was. He thought he was in Asia. In one of his voyages he describes he has just crossed the river Ganges which is in India. Ergo the misnomer of Indian to all of the autochthonous inhabitants of the Americas. He died never knowing where he had been.

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## Chicano/Chicana

**Myth**---*Cattle drives from Texas to Kansas were driven by young white men called cowboys.*

**Fact---**Research shows that a great number of the cowhands were actually Mexican and/or Black. Ranching and its methods were introduced by the Spanish *Vaquero*, or one who handles cattle. Southwest history and school textbooks to date have been reluctant to show the facts.

**Myth---***The Texas Rangers were characterized by justice and fair play without prejudice to Mexicans.*

**Fact---**The research clearly shows the Texas Rangers to be a ruthless para-military organization that protected the special interests of the powerful and crooked white Texan ranchers. It was notorious for beating and killing Mexicans, often defenseless citizens. The infamous Rangers killed as many as 5,000 Mexicans circa 1915.

**Myth**—*Every defender of the Alamo fought to the end.*

**Fact----**The battle of the Alamo is shrouded with myth and self aggrandizing assumptions. There was no line drawn. At least five were taken prisoners including Crockett and very likely Travis and Bowie. These were executed by General Santa Anna. The black servants were released since they were there by force of their owners and Mexico had long abandoned slavery. Women and children and others were allowed to leave.

**Myth**—*The battle of San Jacinto was a glorious battle that was won by unparalleled bravery and military skill.*

**Fact**—Research demonstrates that it was not a battle but an ambush of a defenseless Mexican army that was largely asleep. Luck and lack of sentries favored a massacre for the Texas army of Sam Houston. What is not told in the history books is that over 180 defenseless Mexican women and children were murdered in cold blood.

**Myth**—*Sam Houston and General Santa Anna were bitter enemies.*

**Fact---**The fact is that they were brothers of the same order of Masons with parallel ideas and philosophy. This is one of the reasons Santa Anna is not executed but rather is allowed to travel and negotiate terms and is set free.

**Myth---**The song “The yellow rose of Texas” referred to a typical Texas belle.

**Fact----**The song referred to a young Negro slave named Emily. Current lyrics in the song state “She’s the sweetest little rose that Texas ever knew but in the XIX century the early Texans sang “She’s the sweetest rose of color, this darky ever knew”.

**Myth---**Newcomers (adventurers, slave owners, criminals etc) to Mexican Texas got along well with the Mexican citizens.

**Fact---**Except for the peaceful families, the majority of the newcomers, largely from the South were described by one historian as the “dregs of American society”; they were uneducated, coarse in their manner, lawless and racist against the existing Mexican populace. A common saying among these uncivilized newcomers was “a Mexican is no better than a Darkie”.

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## Ancient Cultures

**Myth--***The Nazi holocaust was about the plan to exterminate only Jews.*

**Fact---**While Jews were the majority target group, other ethnic groups were singled out as unwanted by the Nazis. The other major group singled out was the Gypsies. In fact, there were 1.5 million gypsies that were killed by the Nazis.

**Myth---***Gypsies originated from the Slavic countries like Czechoslovakia.*

**Fact---**Actually their origin is from northern India. They made their way to Czechoslovakia by way of Asia Minor in the 11th century arriving in the 13th century. Distrust due to a different lifestyle and language contributed to their widespread persecution and homeless wandering. The stereotype of tramps and thieves unfit for work exacerbated the situation. Hanging, flogging and mutilation of Gypsies were commonplace. Their language is related to ancient Sanskrit and also to modern Hindustani.

**Myth---***Nazis made soap from the bodies of Jews.*

**Fact---**There is no evidence to support this idea. There is evidence that the Nazis would continuously remind Jews that they were going to make soap from them but this was a twisted and sadistic way to inflict mental torture on the Jews.

**Myth---***Hitler concealed his background because he was Jewish.*

**Fact---**Hitler’s father was an illegitimate child; thus there were no records of his true line for Adolph Hitler. What is known is a true disposition in his family for mental illness. This perhaps, was his real secret.

**Myth**—*Palestine was always an Arab country.*

**Fact**---The name of Palestine is derived from Philistines, an Aegean people of the 12th century. Romans crushed the Jews in the 2nd century and applied the name of Palaestina to Judea to minimize “Judaic” identity. Actually, Arabic did not become the language of the populace until after the Muslim invasions of the 7th century.

**Myth**-- *The word “Jew” found in the Gospels follows an accurate translation.*

**Fact:** This one of many mistranslations in the Bible, in this case from the Aramaic and Greek words. It should read Judean, or a person living in the geographic area known as Judea. There were other distinct groups that were also Judeans.

**Myth:** *Jews killed Jesus Christ.*

**Fact:** The mistranslation and insertion into the Bible of the word Jew puts into perspective 1,500 years of blaming all Jewish people for the crucifixion of Jesus.

**Myth:** *“Jews” and “Christians” living at the time of Jesus and 300 years thereafter were separate distinct groups from two separate traditions.*

**Fact:** Biblical research from both Jewish and Christian sectors maintain that no person then could be labeled a Jew or a Christian; No one could say there was Judaism or Christianity. The individualization of these two groups does not occur until the times of Constantine or 300 years later.

**Myth:** *Muslims worship a moon-God.*

**Fact:** Arabs believe that there is only One God, the Creator, the Sustainer, known as *Allah*. Even Arabic-speaking Christians use the same word for the Almighty.

**Myth:** *Muslims do not believe in Jesus.*

**Fact:** The *Qur-ran* recalls the miraculous birth, teachings and miracles performed by God’s permission of Jesus (Isa in Arabic). There is even a chapter named after his mother, Mary (Miriam in Arabic). The distinction is that the Muslims see him a fully human prophet and not in any way divine himself.



**Myth:** *Most Muslims are Arabs.*

**Fact:** Actually, Arabs make up only 15% of the world's Muslim population. The largest population is in Indonesia. Muslims represent one fifth of the world's population: Asia—69%, Africa—27%, Europe—3%.

**Myth:** *Muslims are violent, terrorist extremists.*

**Fact:** Terrorism cannot be justified under any valid interpretation of the Islamic faith. The *Qur'an* teaches hope, faith and peace; message—faith in God and justice among fellow human beings. Muslim leaders and scholars do speak out against misinterpreted or twisted teachings.

**Myth:** *Islam promotes “jihad” to spread islam by the sword and kill all unbelievers.*

**Fact:** *Jihad* in Arabic means “to strive”. Other related meanings are effort, labor and fatigue. The basic idea is to practice religion in the face of oppression or persecution. Before the invasion of the Crusaders in 1096-1099, the *jihad* was in practice but among themselves, a type of missionary practice. Fighting evil in your personal heart is an example of *Jihad* as well. To spread Islam by the military sword is a last place option.

**Myth:** *Islamic prayer is just a ritualized performance with no heartfelt meaning.*

**Fact:** Prayer is a time to stand before God and express faith, give thanks for blessings and seek guidance and forgiveness. One must be modest, submissive and respectful to God. Bowing and prostrating expresses humility before the Almighty.

**Myth:** *The Qur'an was written by Mohammad and copied from Christian and Jewish sources.*

**Fact:** The *Qur'an* was revealed to Muhammad over a period of two decades calling people to worship the One Almighty God. It contains stories of Biblical prophets; these stories are not merely copied but they are oral traditions from prophets that also preached the message of God.

**Myth:** *When Jesus spoke to the people, he spoke in Hebrew.*

**Fact:** When Jesus spoke, he spoke in Aramaic, the Semitic language of his region. The Semitic culture, cosmology and psychology is very different from the Greek language-based orthodoxy.

and theology that is present in the current translations of Bibles that stem from Greek, Latin, Romance Languages to modern English. Since language conveys culture and cosmology leading to a distinct worldview, it becomes paramount to understand that a shift in culture, cosmology and psychology was enacted by the Roman Church via Greek translators. Thus, it moved from an essentially Eastern Semetic worldview to a Western Greco/Roman worldview.

**Myth:** *The oldest manuscript of the Gospels is derived from the Greek.*

**Fact:** Biblical scholars generally agree that among manuscripts written in the language of Jesus i.e. Aramaic, the *Peshitta* is one of the most authentic and oldest: It reveals the culture, cosmology and psychology of Aramaic middle eastern metaphysics to which Jesus belonged.

**Myth:** *Jesus was obsessed with the idea of apocalypse.*

**Fact:** Aramaic research and translations show that from an Aramaic culture and cosmological standpoint, Jesus was not obsessed with endings but rather with beginnings. Renowned biblical scholar Dr. Neil Douglas Klotz has shown via Aramaic translations that Jesus' experience was not "apocalypse now" but "genesis now".

**Myth:** *In most current organized Christian religions the word "poor" (Blessed be ye poor..) implies a person that is needy or has little material possessions.*

**Fact:** Jesus used the Aramaic word *meskina* which relates not so much to a person that is needy in material things but one whose existence has a limited sense of "Self" that has become weakened, dissolved or enervated.

**Myth:** *The word "prophet" in the Gospels refers to a person who foretells the future.*

**Fact:** Jesus uses the Aramaic word *nabiya* which a person who listens to the divine voice within and acts upon it.

**Myth:** *A false prophet in Christianity is a person who does not foretell the future correctly.*

**Fact:** The word for false prophet in Aramaic is *nabiya dagaluta* and in the Aramaic culture to which Jesus belonged, it was not one who does not foretell the future correctly. Rather it meant people who allow their true divine image to become so covered with the projections of others that they can no longer look honestly into the mirror of their own hearts for a true reflection. The voice that desires fame is tyrannizing their inner self. In this sense, the roots of the word *dagaluta* show an action of heaping or piling up something, as well as deceiving oneself or denying one's nature. In our modern Western society, these are the "yes-persons", those that follow others, follow trends, emulate the rich and famous, special interests driven people: the

powerful politicians, greedy executives, doctors, clergy and lawyers. These, by this definition or meaning are the false prophets; they no longer are looking honestly at the mirror of their own hearts for a true reflection.

**Myth:** *Regarding the Negro slave problem, the British generally were more sympathetic than the Americans*

**Fact:** Americans and the British have generally held the same attitudes regarding race and capital. Prof. Shenkman cites that in 1881, Oxford professor of history Edward A. Freeman remarked: "The best remedy for whatever is amiss in America would be "if every Irishman should kill a Negro and be hanged for it."

**Myth:** *In the XIX century certain women had certain privileges like being among Senator friends at the Capitol.*

**Fact:** Actually all women were not allowed to step on the Senate floor until 1830.

**Myth:** *President Grant did not have any racist ideas about Jews.*

**Fact:** In late 1862, General Grant issued the following order: "The Jews as a class violating every regulation of trade established by the Treasury Department orders are hereby expelled from the department within twenty four hours."

**Myth:** *Education was seen as a positive tool for women by the Medical profession.*

**Fact:** In the late 1900's many doctors regarded increased female education as a primary factor in the decline of female health. They saw it as physically and mentally destructive causing depression and physical abnormalities leading in the end to the destruction of a woman's inherited immunity.

**Myth:** *American Presidents have never publicly made racist statement on Black or African-Americans.*

**Fact:** According to Celine Childs, President Nixon stated "America's black could only marginally benefit from federal programs because Blacks are genetically inferior to Whites"

**Myth:** *The idea of Hell as a place for eternal punishment was known at the time of Jesus.*

**Fact:** Actually the idea of Hell as a place for eternal punishment was unknown at the time of Jesus. The idea of Hell did not arise until much later with Greek interpretations of the message and life of Jesus. In neither Old Hebrew nor in the Aramaic of Jesus' time was there anywhere to damn a person to. The concept does not come from the Semitic cultures of the Middle East

during the time of Jesus but rather from the Greek translators that were assigned the task of translating scripture into a more modern format 300 years later. This process is known as Tigiversion or the twisting of the original text to achieve a new idea and in this case to achieve moreover, a new theology. This became the sacred word of the theology that was to follow for all Christendom.