

# OFFICIAL HISTORY VS. NATIVE HISTORY:

## TIGIVERSATION VS. CULTURAL REALITY.

(THE MEXICAN AUTOCHTHONOUS LEGACY)

ARNOLDO CARLOS VENTO, PH.D.

(OUTLINE OF VIDEOTAPED LECTURE )

1. Why should we question and look critically at the official version of the Culture and Worldview of pre-Conquest Native cultures?
2. What is the political/religious legacy of Europe and the West? What was the political-religious impact of the Christian Crusades on European nations? What were the motives behind Conquest? Why were they justified? What was its origin? What do the Middle Ages have in common with the Conquest of the Americas?
3. With regard to Native culture and rituals why was there no objectivity in the writings of Spanish chroniclers and Christianized native writers of Codices during Post-Conquest times?
4. Why is it so easy to believe the official version of the Spanish post-Conquest chroniclers?
5. There were attempts by the early clergy to learn the language of the Natives...what was the goal? Why was the culture and philosophy of Native cultures negated and condemned?
6. It has been documented by scholars in Colonial history that the Middle Ages were transported to the Americas by the Spanish. What factors contribute to the making of a medieval like society? How does it impact thought?
7. During the XIX century in the U.S, there was unbridled racism against Mexicans, from the pulpit to the primers. What fueled this racism?
8. What are the essential differences between the pre-Conquest Native American world view and the essentially Greco-Roman –Western worldview?

9. Today, the official historical model of pre-Columbian peoples is a reflection of post-Conquest Spanish feudal society and a widespread defamation of Native Spiritual practices, largely from documents that were altered by the Inquisition via the *Consejo de las Indias* (1550). Prior to the European arrival, how were the Confederated Nations of Anahuak structured economically, governmentally and culturally specifically since its third period of development when it gained independence from the Chichimecas (1426-1520)?

(1) PROBLEM OF SOURCES

There are a series of problems with the sources that have been used heretofore for the interpretation of pre-Columbian cultures and their respective worldview:

- (a) Forced confessions secured by torture by the Santo Officio or Inquisition. These were used as evidence of human sacrifice or other defamatory and/or accusatory issues. This practice had already been in place in Old Spain since 1122 and more recently during the times of Columbus, was secured by secret application by Queen Isabela after Castilla and Aragón were unified via the marriage of Isabela and her cousin Fernando. This is transported to the Americas with bishops as the enforcers of the Inquisition (Diego de Landa in Yucatán, Juan de Zumárraga in New Spain.). There was in place the *Index Librorum Prohibitorum*, an index of prohibited or censored Works in addition to the headquarters for censure and alteration of documents, The *Consejo de las Indias* or Council of the Indies in 1550. One must remember that all of these strategies had already been used successfully in Spain against Jews and Moors i.e. accusations of human sacrifice (Jews) torture, forced confessions and death as early as 550 A.D. with the Councils of Toledo. The alteration of documents or the invention of history via defamation was well established before coming into the Americas. It was these same procedures that were transported to the Americas and used against all Native cultures.

DISTORTION AND/OR ALTERATION OF WORLDVIEW  
VIA POST CONQUEST CODICES

The first objective of the military (Conquistadores) was to get rid of the infrastructure comprised of governmental leaders and Scientific/Spiritual guides of Society. Those that escaped the massacres (25 million wiped out in the first 40 years) were largely children and women. The women were used as sexual

objects and the children were instructed to forget their culture, ideas, worldview and sacred symbols. (hegemony) They even instructed the children to stone their elders and/or parents if they mentioned any of their ancient knowledge. This was seen by the church as noble and dignifying for they as children would become martyrs! The church since the Middle Ages had been following the dictum of St. Augustine i.e. if it is not within the Church, it is within the realm of the Devil. Ergo it is heretical ...ergo it is to be condemned. This is enforced violently by the Santo Oficio or Inquisition. Beyond stoning and burning of millions of innocent people, largely because they were different, the second objective was to do away with their writings. The first Bishop of New Spain, Juan de Zumárraga burns priceless pre-Columbian codices in his own patio for ten days, with the malicious intent of wiping away the pre-Columbian worldview. Moreover, by 1521, King Charles the V of Spain decrees that all documents written in New Spain must be reviewed by the Ecclesiastical and Inquisitorial Councils and these included all Codices that were written by Christianized natives under the auspices of the Church. Thus, these new altered writings reflecting the views of the Inquisition became the history for future historians, anthropologists, archeologists and Art historians. This became the official version of Native American society.