



INDIGENOUS EMPIRE

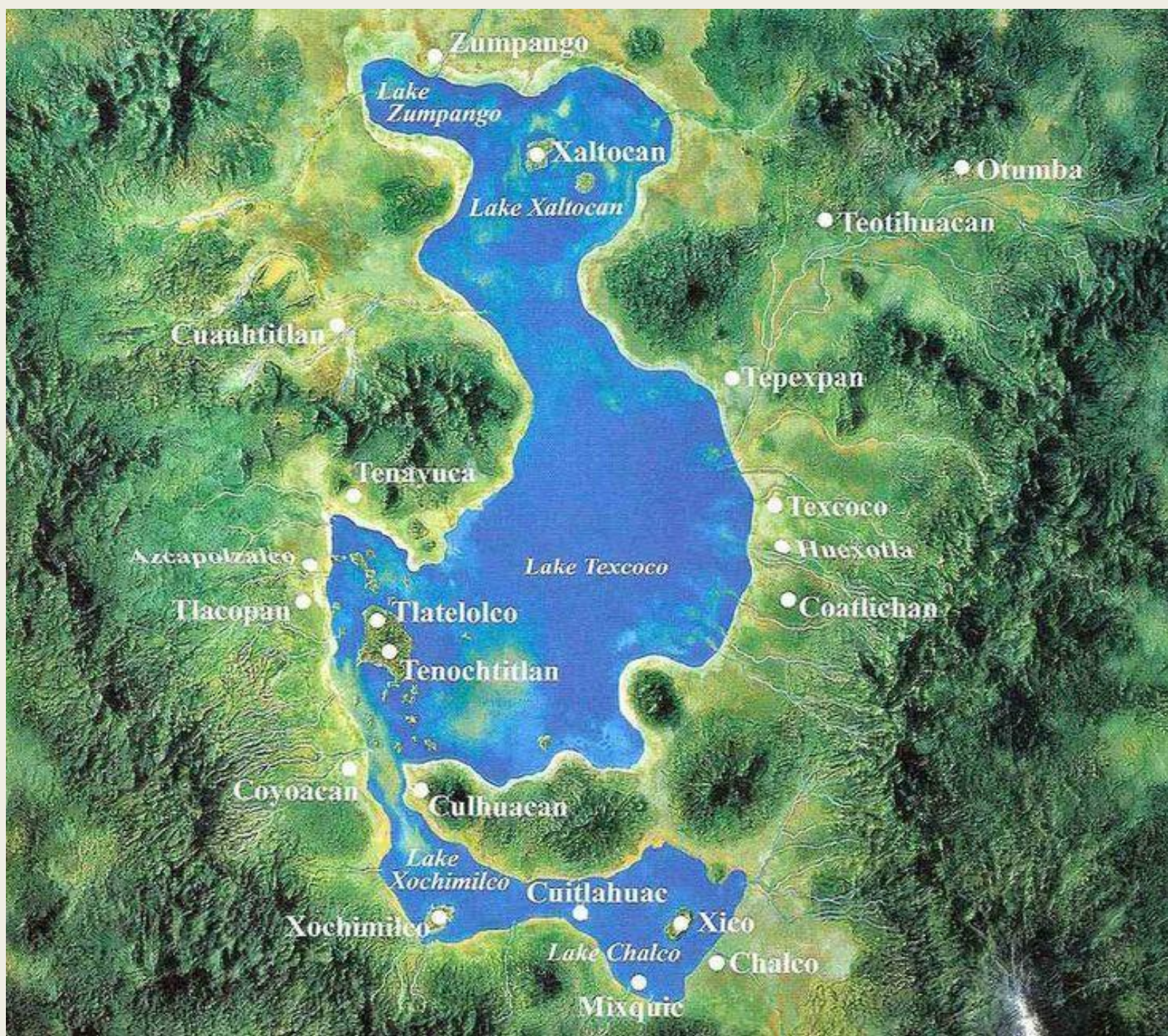
The Aztecs and Inca Before Contact



Mesoamerica & the Aztecs

- By 1400, lots of diversity in Mesoamerica
- Lots in common, culturally:
 - Sedentary
 - Hereditary rulers
 - Agricultural
 - Religion
 - Saw hunter-gathers as inferior
- Ca. 1200 = Mexica migrate to the Valley of Mexico
 - Eventually settled on an island in Lake Texcoco
 - Tenochtitlan







Mesoamerica & the Aztecs

- 1370s = new Aztec empire
- Challenge of Azcapotzalco

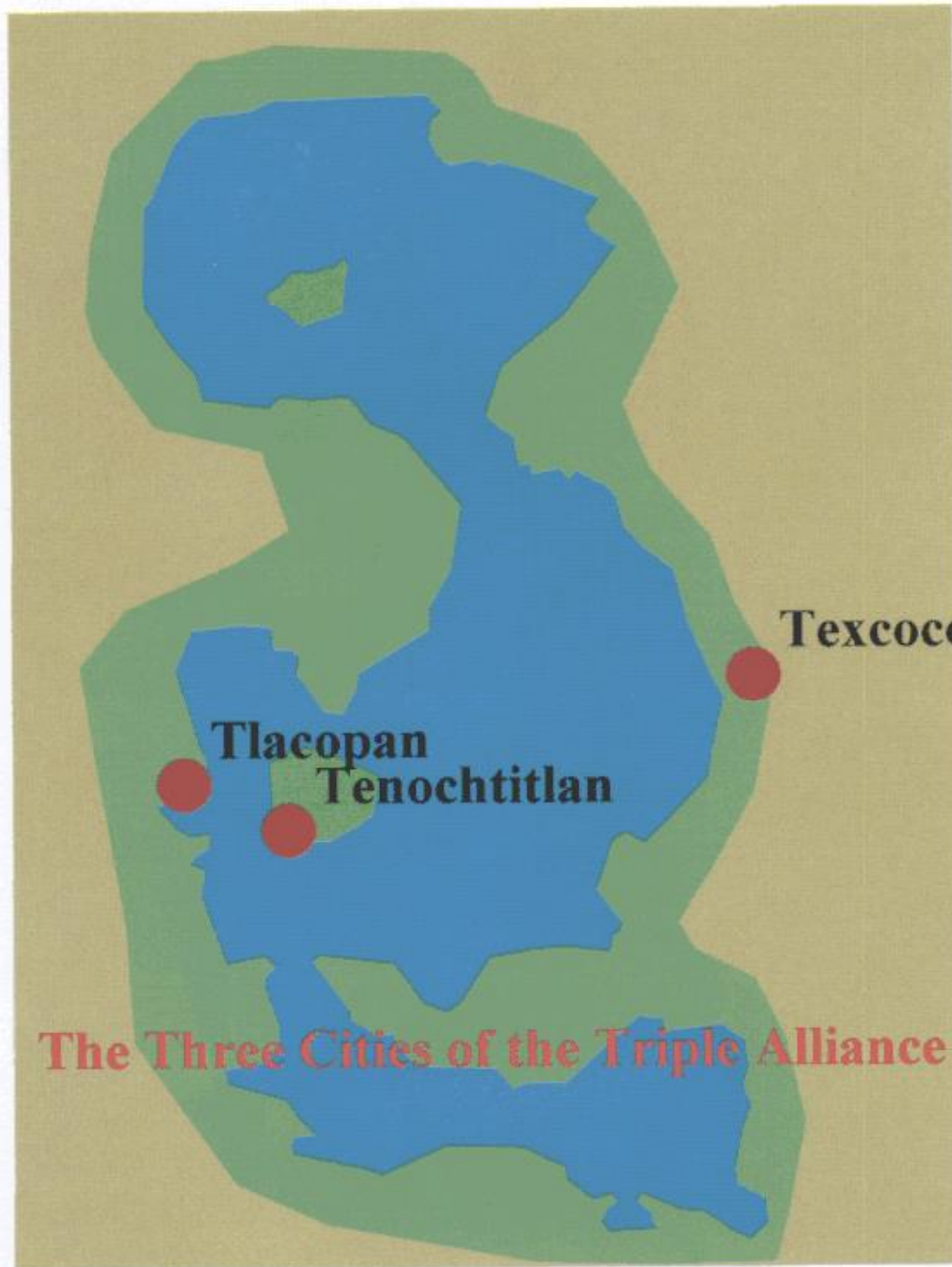




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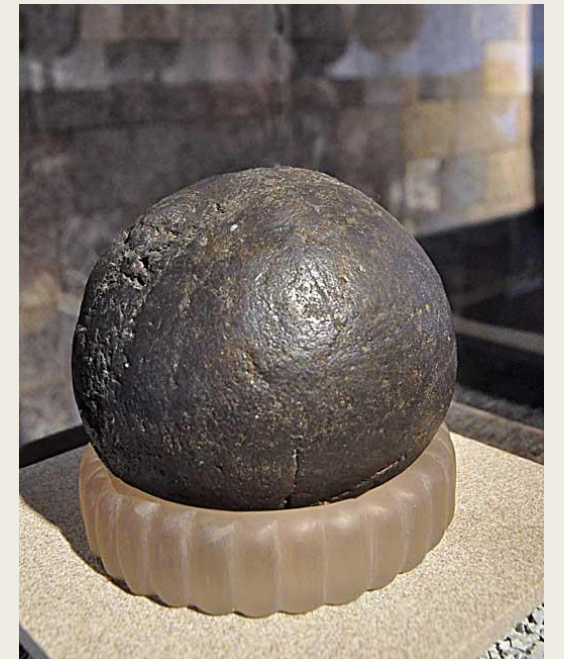


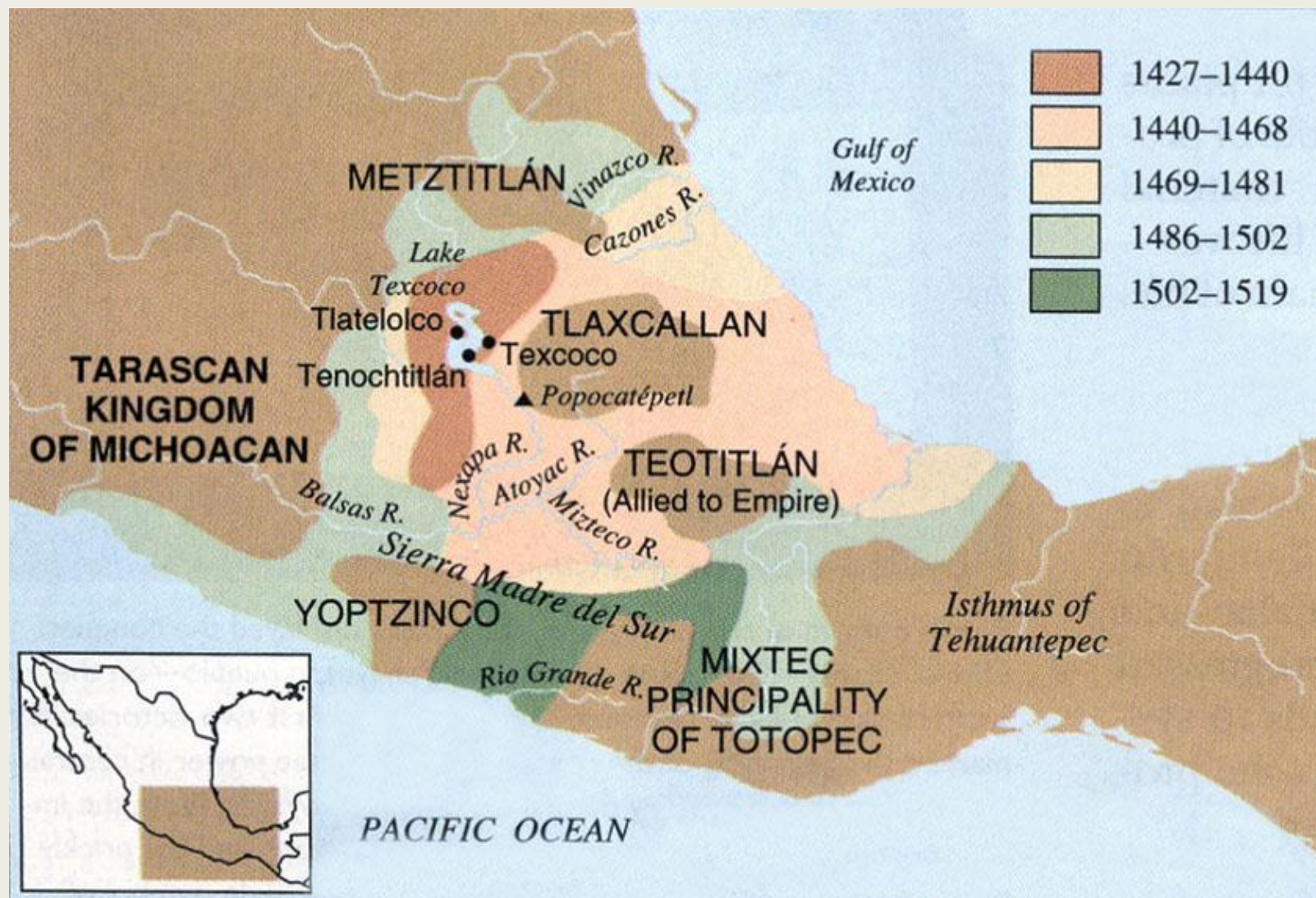


The Three Cities of the Triple Alliance

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- 1479 = humiliating loss to Tarascans
- Imperial Politics
 - Tenochtitlan & Texcoco get 40% each
 - Tlacopan gets 20%
 - Propaganda
 - “chosen people”



Aztec Religious Belief

- Predicated on earlier cultures
 - Quetzalcoatl & Tlaloc (god of rain)
- Most important god = Huitzilopochtli
- Allowed the conquered to keep their traditions . . .
 - . . . So long as Huitzilopochtli became part of them . . .
 - Aztecs adopted many gods of the conquered
- Some cool gods:
 - Ometeotl (“Two-god”) = creator-god
 - Tezcatlipoca (“Smoking Mirror”) = ruler of everything
 - Xochiquetzal = fertility goddess



Aztec Religious Belief

■ Religious rituals

- Calendar = 18-month year, 20-day month
- Human sacrifice
 - Gods gave pieces of themselves, so humans should reciprocate
 - Daily bleedings by priests
 - Freaked out Spanish . . .
 - Sometimes involved cannibalism
- Human sacrifice probably increased under Aztec rule



Livin' La Vida Mexica

- Most people = peasant-farmers
- Household = basic society unit
 - Gendered
- Artisans
- Nobles (5-10% of pop.)
 - Largely hereditary
- Slavery through debt or POWs
 - Some sold themselves into slavery
- By 1500, millions living under Aztec rule



The Incan Ascension

- Predicated on earlier cultures/societies
- Ca. 1200 = collapse of Tiwanaku
 - Inca filled the power vacuum
- By 1400s, premier power in the Andes



Ambition Unbound

After centuries as a growing local power, the Inca dreamed of a greater realm. They went on to conquer 300,000 square miles in a few generations.

1 ca 1400
Having subdued their neighbors, Inca kings launch their first conquests beyond the Cusco region.

2 ca 1470
Pushing to the coast, the Inca defeat the Chimú Empire and carry off many Chimú artisans.

3 ca 1500
Turning south, the Inca capture a vast territory, extending their reach to the edge of Patagonia.

4 ca 1532
In a final thrust along the eastern slope of the Andes, the Inca expand farther into the Amazon Basin.

THE INCA EMPIRE

Employing a shrewd combination of diplomacy, intermarriage, and military coercion, the Inca conquered a vast realm extending 2,500 miles along the mountainous spine of South America. At their height, they ruled as many as 12 million people, who spoke at least 20 languages. This fractious conglomeration quickly fell apart after the Spanish conquest in 1532.

WILLIAM E. McMULTY, LAWSON PARKER, AND LISA R. RITTER, NGM STAFF. LANDSAT IMAGE (INSET); GLOBAL LAND COVER FACILITY

SOURCES: BRIAN S. BAUER, UNIVERSITY OF ILLINOIS AT CHICAGO; R. ALAN COVEY, SOUTHERN METHODIST UNIVERSITY; TERENCE N. D'ALTROY, COLUMBIA UNIVERSITY

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 - Systematic, forced relocation
- Incan expansion halted
- 1525 = death of Huayna Capac & civil war



Andean Religious Belief

- State religion centered around Inti (sun god)
 - Forced conquered to adopt Inti worship
- Mummification of ancestors
- Attachment of spirits to certain places
- Human sacrifice
 - Reserved for special occasions
 - Kept equilibrium between humans and gods



Life as an Average Incan

- Peasant-farmers
- *Ayllu* = basic unit of society
 - Sharing resources & labor
- Gendered
- More opportunity for women than most cultures
 - Fell apart with Spanish arrival
- Nobles & outsiders



Similarities & Differences?

- Expansion through military force
 - Control through alliances with local leaders
- Historical narratives as propaganda
- Human sacrifice
- Depended on earlier cultural developments
- Differences?
 - Inca were more centralized
 - Incan women had more power/opportunity
 - Aztec had a more 'free' market

The Tainos & Caribs

- Tainos

- Most numerous culture in the Caribbean



The Tainos & Caribs

■ Tainos

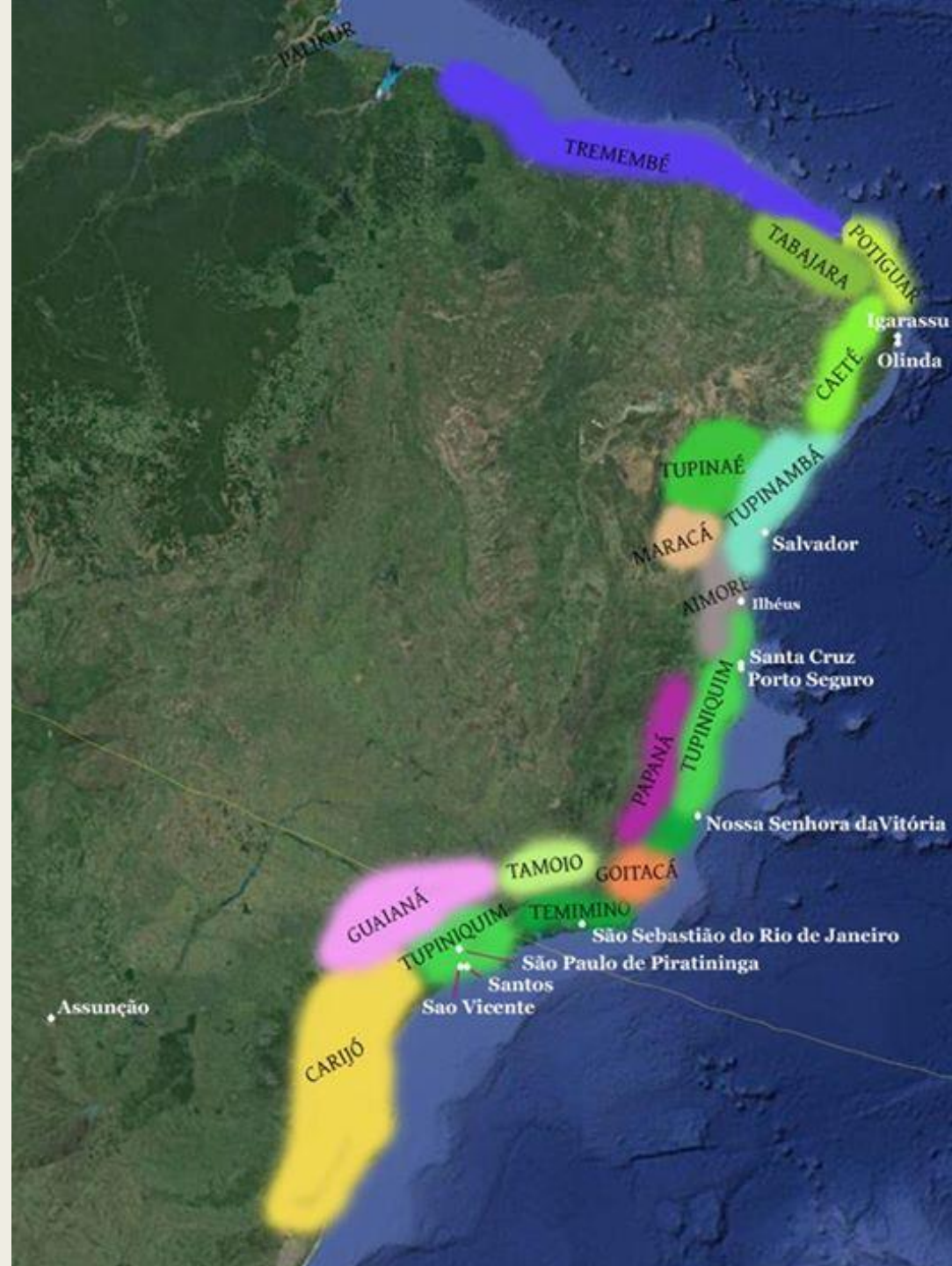
- Most numerous culture in the Caribbean
- Depended on agriculture
 - Manioc
- Men ruled, but matrilineal
- No class system
- Destroyed by Spaniards

■ Caribs

- More violent
- Occasionally raided the Tainos
- Agricultural



The Tupi



The Tupi

- Depended on agriculture and hunting
- Produced red dye from brazilwood tree
- Badass outfits
- 400-800-person settlements
 - Council of male elders
 - Gendered society
- Relatively aggressive
 - Intertribal warfare



Pueblos of the Southwest

- “Pueblos”?
- Survival was hard in the southwest
 - Need for irrigation & trade
- Community over the individual
- Heavily gendered
- Disappointment to the Spanish
 - “Other Mexico”?

