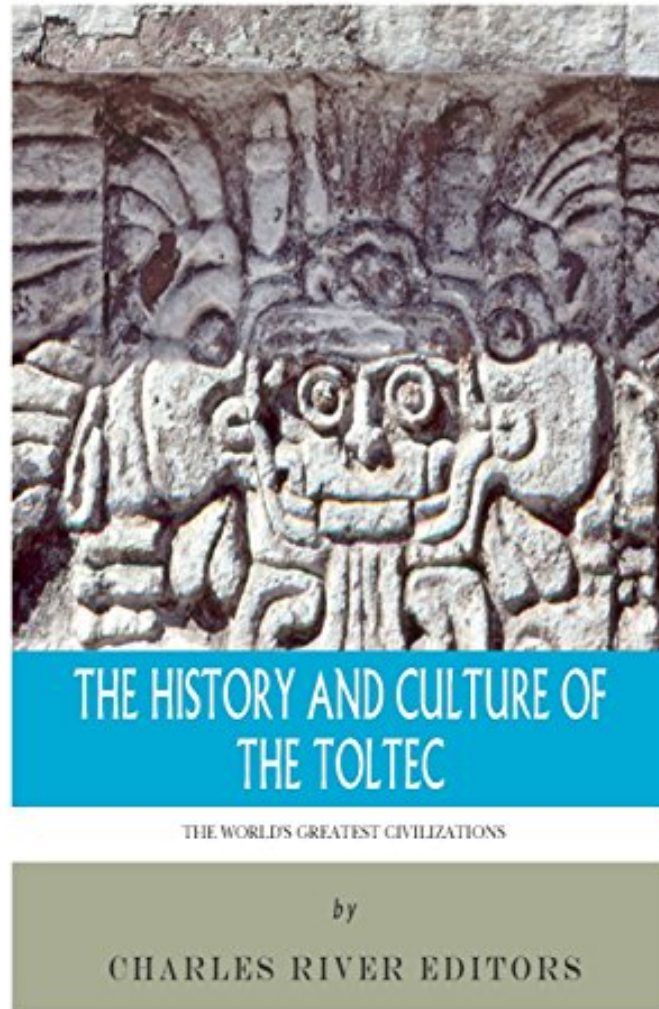


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The World's Greatest Civilizations: The History and Culture of the Toltec

Charles River Editors

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Charles River Editors : The World's Greatest Civilizations: The History and Culture of the Toltec before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised The World's Greatest Civilizations: The History and Culture of the Toltec:

2 of 2 people found the following review helpful. A great addition to a great line of fascinating books on people from a past that we should know aboutBy Ron ArnoldAnother in the excellent Charles River Editors library of well-written,

well-illustrated and thoroughly readable explorations of world culture that's rewarding to the interested layman. While describing the archaeological and social background of an important Mesoamerican people, *The Toltec* manages to cover nearly all the experts and avoid technical jargon that could put off the beginning reader in the field. The study of the Toltec people is lively and even rowdy, still rife with scholarly conflict over who they were and how they related to their neighbors in both space and time: were they direct descendants of the Olmec mother culture or later invading immigrants from north of the Valley of Mexico? Were the Toltec conquerors or trade partners who intermarried with the Maya in Chichen (later known as Chichen Itza)? Did the Toltec build or conquer an already-built Tollan, their capital city, and why is the name applied to two cities, Tula and Teotihuacan? Were the Teotihuacano Toltec related to the founder of the great polity of Copan in present-day Honduras, K'inich Yax K'uk' Mo, who came from Teotihuacan according to David Stuart's study of inscriptions on Copan's Altar Q? And how did we discover that these "altars" were actually thrones for rulers to sit on for ceremonies, not the platforms for human sacrifice (of which the Toltec did plenty in other settings)? These and many other questions are posed and investigated like a detective story with unpredictable plot twists in *The Toltec*. Highly recommended.

2 of 2 people found the following review helpful. Absorbing, Authoritative! By Dr. Johnson C. Philip The Toltecs were a civilization highly advanced in technology. It is a wonder as to how such an advanced civilization perished so completely. The book is highly enjoyable and each of its 8 chapters is full of fascinating information about this ancient culture and civilization. The charm of reading this book is enhanced by a liberal sprinkling of pictures. I must say that I was full of awe about this technologically advanced civilization by the time I can to the end of this book. As the intro says, the book does include *** Pictures depicting important people, places, and events. *** A bibliography for further reading. Recommendation: *** Well-written, absorbing book *** I highly recommend it

1 of 1 people found the following review helpful. competent introductory primer By C. D. Varn Aside from a strange chapter on Carlos Castaneda that has no relationship to the archeological and historical summaries of the rest of the book, this serves as a sufficient introduction to beginning to look into Toltec history in English. Very basic but designed to be that way, the bibliography itself is very useful.

*Includes pictures depicting important people, places, and events. *Includes a bibliography for further reading. The Toltec are one of the most famous Mesoamerican groups in South America, but they are also the most controversial and mysterious. The Toltec have been identified as the group that established a strong state centered in Tula (in present-day Mexico), and the Aztec claimed the Toltec as their cultural predecessors, so much so that the word Toltec comes from the Aztecs word *Toltecatl*, translated as artisan. The Aztec also kept track of the Toltecs history, including keeping a list of important rulers and events, that suggest the peak of the Toltec occurred from about 900-1100 A.D. From the moment Spanish conquistador Hernan Cortes first found and confronted them, the Aztecs have fascinated the world, and they continue to hold a unique place both culturally and in pop culture. Nearly 500 years after the Spanish conquered their mighty empire, the Aztecs are often remembered today for their major capital, Tenochtitlan, as well as being fierce conquerors of the Valley of Mexico who often engaged in human sacrifice rituals. Ironically, and unlike the Mayans, the Aztecs are not widely viewed or remembered with nuance, in part because their own leader burned extant Aztec writings and rewrote a mythologized history explaining his empires dominance less than a century before the Spanish arrived. Thus, even as historians have had to rely on Aztec accounts to trace the history and culture of the Toltec, they have had to deal with the fact that the evidence is fragmentary and incomplete. Given the fact that the Aztec leaders engaged in revisionist history, it becomes even more difficult to be sure that the Aztec accounts of the Toltec are accurate, with some scholars going so far as to call the Toltec culture nothing but myth. While scholars continue to debate whether the Toltec were an actual historical group, there is an added layer of mystery to the fact that the settlement at Tula has a lot in common with the famous Mayan settlement at Chichn Itz. The architecture and art at both sites are so similar that archaeologists and anthropologists have assumed they had the same cultural influences, even as historians struggle to determine the historical timelines, and thus whether Tula influenced Chichn Itz or vice versa. *The Worlds Greatest Civilizations: The History and Culture of the Toltec* comprehensively covers the history, culture, and controversy behind the Toltec, profiling their origins and their lasting legacy. Along with pictures depicting important people, places, and events, you will learn about the Toltec like you never have before, in no time at all.