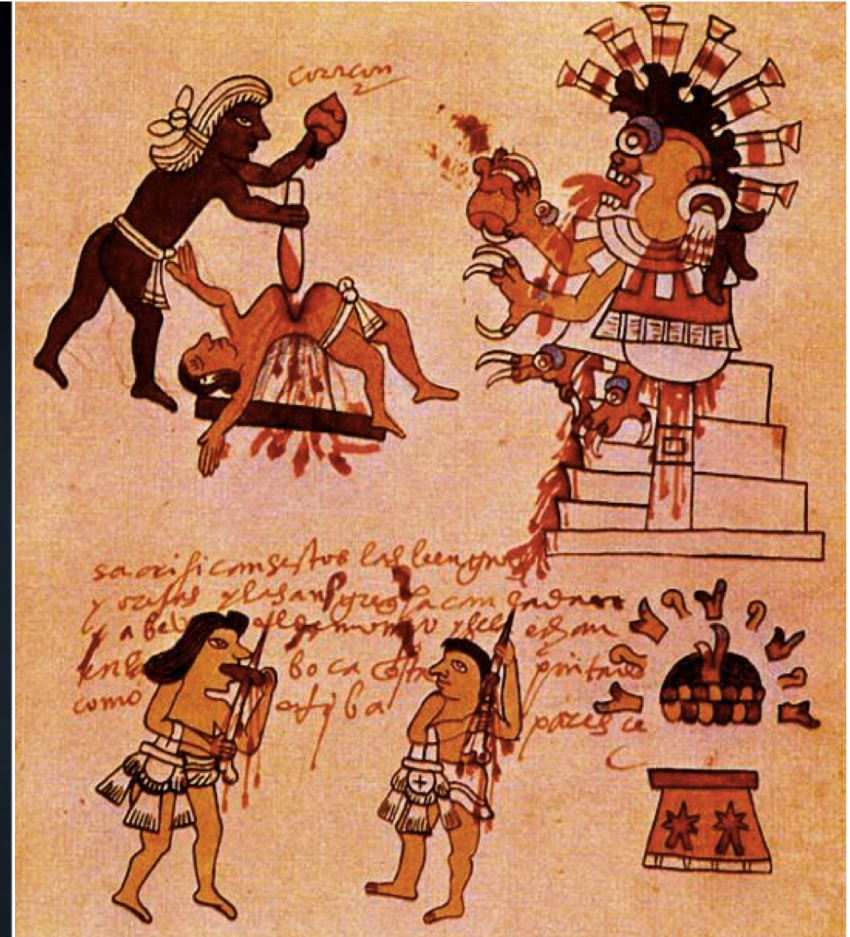


SSWH₁: ANALYZE THE ORIGINS, STRUCTURES, AND INTERACTIONS OF SOCIETIES IN THE ANCIENT WORLD FROM 3500 BCE/BC TO 500 BCE/BC



Element E: Explain the rise of the Olmec.

Economic

- ❑ Civilizations also developed in the Americas in this period.
- ❑ Geographic isolation made them more unique but they followed many of the same patterns of civilizations in Afro-Eurasia.
 - Agricultural villages based on the cultivation of corn, beans, and squash emerged about 3500 BCE.
 - These villages grew into a variety of urban centers around 1200 BCE, the most influential of which was the Olmec culture found in the modern Mexican states of Veracruz and Tabasco.
- ❑ The Olmec economy like other ancient civilizations was dominated by agriculture but sophisticated trade networks and craft production also existed.



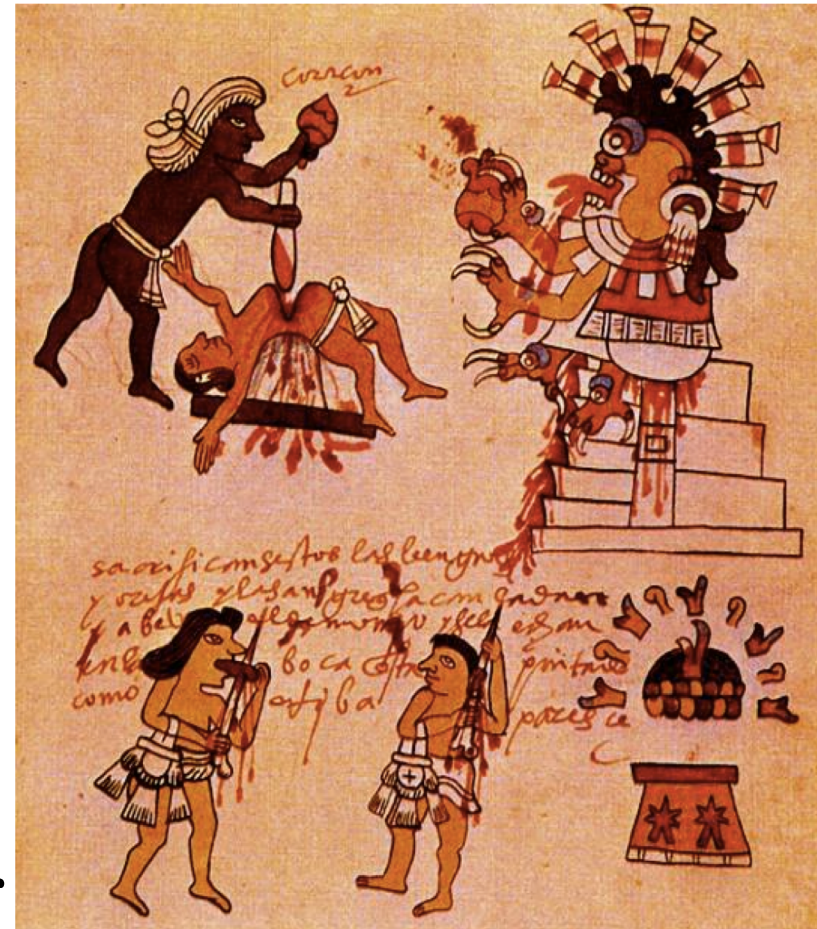
Political

- ❑ Sophisticated urban planning based on the movement of the stars, the creation of monumental artwork including several giant Olmec head statues, and the construction of monumental architecture indicate a strong central government able to mobilize the labor of the population over time.
 - Each Olmec city was likely independently ruled by a hereditary monarch who maintained power by presenting himself as an intermediary to the gods.



Religion

- These rulers, assisted by a class of priests, performed awe inspiring rituals on large platforms in the center of each city that included bloodletting and human sacrifice.
 - These rituals served to reinforce the power of the state and laid the cultural foundations for the civilization that followed.



Intellectual and Technological

□ Paintings, monumental architecture, monumental artwork (Large heads of rulers).

