Maya Post-Classic Period

-Migration to the North: Cities in the southern lowlands= abandoned; Northern Yucatan flourished due to migration; Switch from religious focus to agriculture and trade.

-Adapting to the new territory: Yucatan had a dryer terrain; The Maya switched their reliance on surface water to ground water resources= cenotes; The Maya focused on CHAC.

-In the South: The Maya abandoned major cities; Went into smaller settlements; Extended families with chiefs/alcaldes; Agriculture dominated their life; Maintained a strong Belief system.

-United Community: Joint stock company (everyone helped each other); Combined forces to promote common good, and spread the burden of risk to all members; Collective works and assignment of public works projects to residents.

Maya Areas at the Time of Contact

- Chactemal: A few kilometers from Calderitas in present day Quintana Roo covering the whole area as far south to Guinea Grass. Chetumal controlled the area including the mouth of the Hondo, New river, and to Progresso Lagoon.

- Dzuilinicob: The area within the New River (Dzuilinicob river), and the Xibun river to the south and as far west as the Macal River. A major Maya group and city was located in the Western region and the city was called Tipu.

- Manche Chol: Group of Maya that spoke Manche Chol. Includes areas within: south east Peten, northeast Alta Verapaz, around Golfo Dulce, Lower Motagua, and in Belize from Monkey River to Sarstoon.

Sailing East

- Religion in Europe: The Catholic church had the pope at as its head (1492); The clergy held high power; Christianity Vrs Islam.

- Crusades: A series of medieval (religious) wars 1300s-1400s to reconquer lands from the muslims; A duty to convert non-believers; La Reconquista

- Trade: Marco Polo visited China in the 1200s establishing routes; Europeans bought from Arab merchants; Europeans enjoyed: spices, sugar cane, pepper, ginger, perfumes, gold

- Threats to the trade: Arabs only accepted gold as payment (PAYMENT- THREATENED); Heavy taxation across areas= high prices for goods; The rise of the Ottoman empire (Muslim) did not allow free trade (TRADE THREATENED).

- Greed=Sea: One Ship could carry ½ year supply of goods; Can we travel east? Stories of monsters, boiling seas, edge of the world.

Columbus’ Propositions
- Maritime tools: **Astrolabe**: a graduated quarter circle of wood, with sighting holes mounted on one edge and a plumb-bob hanging from the apex; **Magnetic Compass**: was mounted in a glass box/bowl for more accurate information; **The Caravel**: Three movable sails to tackle against wind. Pulley, wrenches and pivots facilitated work.

- Cristoforo Colombo: Genoese: 1450-51 became involved in sailing; Buying and selling maps; Ptolemy argued that the world was round; Al-Farghani and Paolo Toscanelli calculated the distance around the equator; Rejected by the Portuguese: Isabella and Ferdinand of Castille agreed to the project.

- Why the Spanish Agreed? The Canaries was a realistic staging post; Beat/ level the race with the Portuguese for trade; It would help to convert new people to Christianity.

- The Conditions: The areas “discovered” will be property of Castile; Only Castilians can settle the area; Columbus would be the Viceroy; Columbus would receive 10% of the wealth generated.

Contacting the Maya

- First Voyage: Nina, Pinta, Santa Maria; Martin and Vicente Pinzon (94 men); Sighted an island in the Bahamas area on October 11th 1492 (San Salvador); The Santa Maria was destroyed= establishing a settlement called La Navidad; Guanacagari helped them to establish a fort.

- Incursions in Chactemal: 1. A Ship travelling to Jamaica Shipwrecked and some of the Spanish men reached to the northern region; Gonzalo Guerrero and Geronimo de Aguilar; 2. Fransisco de Montejo: 1527-29: attacked the region but under estimated the Maya; 3. Alonso Davila: went into Chactemal and found it empty; he created a town named Villa real: he defeated a small Maya band. “Nachancan answered “I do not desire peace, the tribute you desire will be paid in turkeys in the shape of spears and maize in the shape of arrows;” The Maya used guerrilla tactics; 1532: the Spanish were defeated; Gonzalo Guerrero Married Zacil Ha; (daughter of Nachancan)= Mestizos; 4. 1544: THE PACHECOS: GASPAR, MELCHOR (son) AND ALONSO (nephew); Launched a campaign against the Maya; Men and women were garroted and thrown into lakes with weights tied to them, hands, ears, noses were chopped off, others were ripped to pieces etc; The Pachecos established Bacalar; Chetumal was never taken over.

- Incursions in Dzuilinicob: The Spanish could not control Tipu; Another contact was when the governor of Bacalar visited Tipu; Friars Fuensalida and Orbita visited Tipu in canoes; The Maya welcomed them and the Friars thought the Maya were converted to Christianity; Discovered that the Maya: were still practicing their religion; After the Friars left the Maya burnt down the churches.

- Manche Chol: In the 1600’s the Spanish had converted many Manche Chol and shipped the others to the Guatemalan highlands; the others that stayed were wiped out by diseases; Dominicans tried to convert them; Joseph Delgado; the British were already here.