Caste War

The British Meet the Maya 1700s

-The Maya had retreated in land; There is no record of any interaction at the conception of the British settlement; Pirates were illiterate; On 1779 attack all records were burnt by the Spanish. ******

-The British wanted to extract timber products and the Maya saw them as threat to their territory and independence.

-The British talking about the Maya "The Indians who live near the English are so inconsiderable that it is unnecessary to take any notice of them.”

-The wild Indians: Central Belize and northwestern region; Living in scattered small villages; Near the Belize River Valley.

-How did the Maya attack the British? Launched small raids on camps; No centralized major attacks were launched.

-effects of British expansionism: The Maya retreated further in land; The British made sure to divide the Maya and the Slaves; The Maya attacked camps; British brought ammunitions and troops to the settlement.

The Caste War Key Players

-Yucatan Peninsula: A northeastern projection of Central America, lying between the Gulf of Mexico to the west and North and the Caribbean Sea to the east.

-Republic of Yucatan: Part of the Mexican Empire 1823. Centralist took power in Mexico (all power centered in Mexico City). Santiago Iman took control of Valladolid and declared Yucatecan independence in 1840.

-YUCATECOS: General term used for white descendants (Peninsulares and Criollos). Held power in major urban centers. High in the social pyramid: Caste system.

-Santa Cruz Maya (Cruzoob): Rose to fight for independence as a Maya state in the 1840s. Rebellion started in Tepich and Tehosuco in 1847. Legend of the Talking Cross: Cruzob and Chan Santa Cruz. Controlled up to Bacalar and Rio Hondo (south) and the borders of Campeche, Valladolid, and Merida (North).

-Icaiche/ los Pacíficos del sur: Signed a peace treaty with Yucatecan authorities. Capital Chichanha. 1851 signed a treaty with Mexico this caused war with the Santa Cruz Maya. Many Icaiche migrated south into Peten and British Honduras.

-British Honduras: English got into Maya land entering into Icaiche and San Pedro Maya Land.

The Caste War Causes

-Began with the revolt of native Maya people of Yucatán, Mexico against the Yucatecos.

-Caste system: A class structure that is determined by birth. Loosely, it means that, if your parents are poor, you’re going to be poor, too. Birth and ethnicity determined the social position

-Capitalism and Caste System: A system based on private ownership of capital (land and wealth) and labor (laborers and labor).

- Focuses on profits regardless of land or people

- Agrarian issues are solved with violence

- Modernization broke Maya traditions

The War Begins

Maya rebellion: Jacinto Uc de los Santos 1761 led a rebellion in Cisteil. He renamed himself King Canek but was captured and turned into limbs.

Planning the Rebellion: Manuel Ay (Chichimilla), Cecilio Chi (Tepich), Jacinto Pat (Tihosuco). Santiago Mendez (Yucatecan leader) killed Manuel Ay. Yucatecos persecuted other Maya leaders.

STUDY THE IMAGES:

Yucatecan desperate response: Requested international aid; All men 16-60 were called to serve; Banned the sale of guns and alcohol to the Maya; Negotiated= Maya wanted a separate nation; 1848- Mexico sent troops and money in exchange for Yucatan to annex to Mexico.

Maya weaknesses: Maya did not attack Merida or Campeche; Abandoned the war to plant and generals did not have strict control over soldiers; Division: Venancio Pec killed Jacinto Pat (1849); Late response to Mexico’s Army.

Yucatecan Forces Advance: 1848: Took Tihosuco and Valladolid. 1849: Took Bacalar to stop arms trade with the British.

- British needed Maya friendship to cut logwood in Quintana Roo and they met with Maya leaders

The TALKING CROSS: Jose Barrera found a talking cross: Chan Santa Cruz. God’s chosen people, “the Cruzob.”

MAYA FIGHTING EACH OTHER! Yucatecos negotiated peace with the ICAICHE; The Cruzob attacked the ICAICHE; ICAICHE rewarded: control over their land, no taxes, kept their leader.

The Maya Fight each other: Icaiche Maya sign a peace treaty with Yucatecos (British co-signed). Cruzob attacked and war began. Icaiche kept their land, weapons, paid no taxes, and kept their army.

Cruzoob counter 1858: Invaded Bacalar and captured prisoners demanding 8,000 pesos for release; Controlled southern forests, charging rent, establishing a government; The Icaiche moved closer to Belize.

Spencer-Mariscal Treaty 1893: Recognized the Rio Hondo and a small part of the northwest as the boundary. Mexico and BH agreed not to trade guns with the Maya. CRUZOB DEFEATED.

Fueling the War

English trade with the Cruzob: English provided guns and ammunitions; British paid rent to cut logwood and Mahogany on Maya land; Cruzob entered Belize to capture deserters and collect rent.

English seeking apology 1849: English officers disarmed and questioned. General Puc: invited the officers to drink aniseed, hauled and pulled them, slapped them, made them kiss him, and made them dance and sing; English feared Cruzob invasion.

The Icaiche? Northwest Belize part of their homeland; British paid rent= when defaulting in payment they were attacked; 1857 1,000 Icaiche migrated into Yalbac- Now called San Pedro Maya.
-San Pedro Vrs Icaiche: British intended to use the San Pedro against the Icaiche; Asuncion Ek (San Pedro commander) received firearms to protect British interests.

-Icaiche Attacks: Demanding rent and ownership of land; Luciano Tzuc attacked San Roman Rio Hondo; Marcos Canul attacked forests below Rio Bravo and Qualm Hill; The British blamed their companies for not paying rent and the San Pedro for not defending.