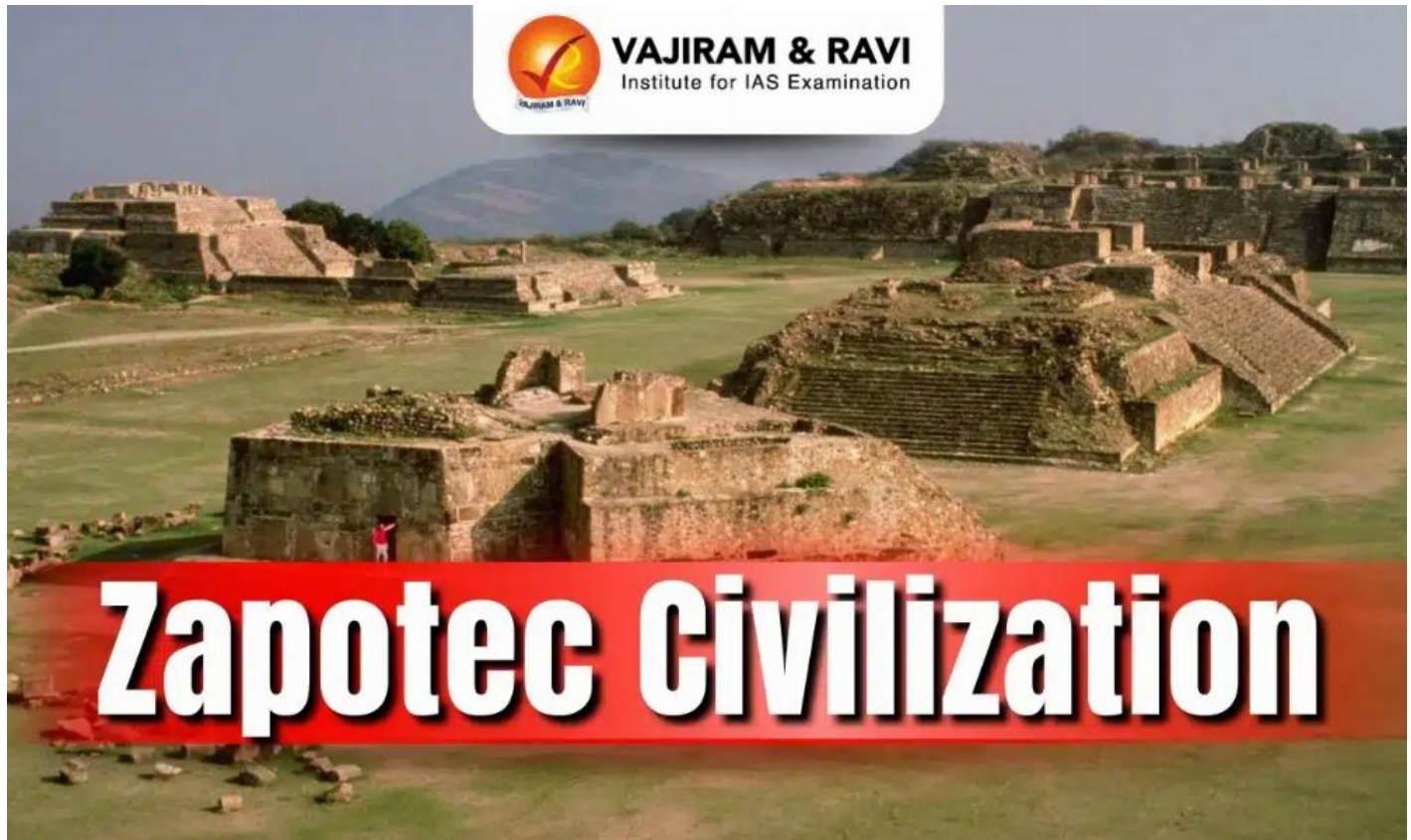


## Zapotec Civilization

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### Zapotec Civilization Latest News

Archaeologists in Mexico recently discovered a 1,400-year-old tomb from the Zapotec culture that features well-preserved details, including a sculpture of a wide-eyed owl with a man in its beak, multicolored murals and calendrical carvings.

### About Zapotec Civilization

- The Zapotec civilization thrived in the **Valley of Oaxaca, Mexico**, characterized by its high elevation and reliance on irrigation from the **Atoyac River and its tributaries**.
- **Emerging from hunter-gatherer** societies, the Zapotecs **transitioned to agriculture**, developing **skills in weaving, pottery, and stone masonry**.
- By the Classic period (**200 BCE-100 CE**), they established a **highly centralized state**, with **Monte Albán as their capital**, featuring **impressive public architecture** and a distinct **social hierarchy separating nobles from commoners**.

- This society was marked by a **professional priesthood and a state religion**, where **rituals included human sacrifice** and complex ceremonies.
- The Zapotecs also **innovated in calendar systems and writing**, contributing to Mesoamerican culture.
- The Zapotec state was one of the **earliest examples of centralized government in Mesoamerica**.
- It was also one of the **first to experience the drawbacks of urban living**, particularly the **need to conquer others** in order **to obtain sufficient food** to sustain an urban civilization.
- The **civilization's art and architecture** reflect a deep **intertwining of religion and political power**, **influencing** subsequent cultures like the **Mixtec and Aztec civilizations**.
- **Decline:**
  - Decline around 900 CE shifted the capital to Mitla and later Zaachila.
  - **Conflicts with the Aztecs in the 15th century** and **submission to Spanish rule in 1521** highlight their resilience amid conquests.
  - **Today, their descendants preserve languages and traditions**, making the Zapotec legacy a living part of Oaxaca's cultural tapestry.

**Source: LS**

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Source: <https://vajiramandravi.com/current-affairs/zapotec-civilization/>

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