

## 3.6

### **Oaxaca Barrio**

- Initial founders from Oaxaca
- Later immigrants from Oaxaca and Oaxaca colonies elsewhere
- Children moving around a great deal (with mother)
- Ex. 409 – born in Teo, moved to Oaxaca, then returned
- Possible explanation – taking the kids home to visit the grandparents; cultural connection
- 80 percent of burial population are immigrants, or born in Teo but spent part of childhood elsewhere
- Continued interaction with Oaxaca and Oaxaca colonies elsewhere
- Women moving across Mesoamerica with children
- Women link to homeland
- Women maintaining the ethnic identity

### **Merchant's Barrio**

- In a good neighborhood
- Upper-middle to upper class area; well off neighborhood
- Lived in clusters of circular houses
- Maintain Gulf Coast architectural traditions
- Distinct cuisine (no tortillas)
- About 900 people in this neighborhood; sample of 29 burials analyzed
- Mostly immigrants, over half (67%), who lived there long term
  - All but one of the immigrants were men (in sample)
  - Women were not usually immigrants from the Gulf Coast, were usually local
  - Here, the men were the carriers of the ethnic identity because they were a different culture
  - No evidence for children visiting from homeland
  - Men moving around Mesoamerica in this case

Why does Merchant's Barrio have a different immigration pattern from the Oaxaca Barrio?

- Merchant's Barrio citizens may have been trying to maintain their cultural identity; there were not interested in mixing their culture with locals

### **Teotihuacan: Bone Isotope Summary**

- Confirm Teotihuacan was a huge, multi-ethnic pilgrimage center
- Reveal surprising amount of pre-Hispanic movement, migration (not known from traditional archaeological evidence)
- Reveal new types of cultural contact (ex. you can't see intermarriage with traditional evidence)
- Different ethnic patterns of migration
- Transformed our view of Mesoamerican prehistory

How do deathways relate to social differences?

- Differences in treatment of dead express important social differences

Reconstructing Sociopolitical Structure

- (Thomas 1989 article)
- Archaeologists divide pre-state societies into two categories:
  - Positions of leadership are open to all
    - Egalitarian (bands, tribes) – anyone has the opportunity or potential to become a leader in that society
    - Leadership is based on achievement or accomplishment
    - Achieved status
    - Everyone is equal at birth (as far as the shot at being leader)
  - Positions of leadership are restricted
    - Inegalitarian (rank, chiefdoms) – not everyone has the opportunity to become a social leader
    - Leadership is restricted based on genealogy
    - Ascribed status (born into)
    - Some are privileged at birth
- Burial treatment:
  - Achieved status
    - High status treatment is limited to *some* adults (not all adults get high status treatment, but those that do are *only* adults)
  - Ascribed status
    - High status treatment limited but includes *some* infants, children, and adults
    - High status treatment cross-cuts age lines
- Ex. Moundville Chiefdom (Alabama)
  - High status treatment at burial:
    - Burial in or near mound was considered a high-status burial
    - Buried with copper items (copper was highly valued and rare because it had to be imported)
    - Effigy vessels, probably used in ritual activities
    - Southern Cult items (pottery, shell, bone, metal that are carved with particular types of symbols)
    - Gorgets
  - Some infants and children were buried with high status treatment in Moundville; shows that it was an ascribed status community
  - The individuals buried in the center of the mound were buried with copper axes, which marks achieved status *within* ascribed status (as they were all adults)

- o Commoners – adult burials have more low value grave goods than children, infants (getting more goods is something you achieved during your life)
- o Deathways express the social pyramid

#### Social Memory

- What impressions and emotions do people “take away” from the funeral?
- How do these reinforce social values and patterns?