

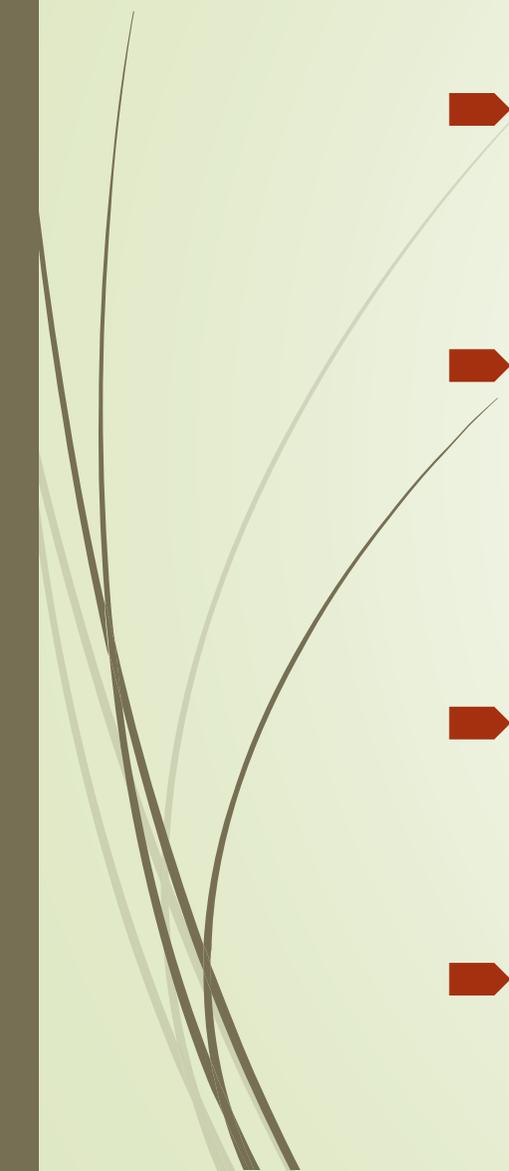
# American History

Talk 1: Before the Europeans (20,000 BC – 1493 CE)





# About this talk

- First Arrivals to the Americas
  - Native Americans (Indigenous Peoples before the European arrival)
  - The world 1600
  - First contact
- 



# Indigenous People: Common Assumptions

(2)

- ▶ Primitive hunter gatherers, living off game, fish, and berries
- ▶ Peaceful, living in a state of nature
- ▶ Housing all wood, tepees, temporary
- ▶ Egalitarian societies
- ▶ New world sparsely populated, waiting to be occupied

# North America, climates & hundreds of cultures 5-10 million inhabitants



# Mississippi Culture all that remains



# Mississippi Culture artifacts 1



**MONOLITHIC AXE**  
MISSISSIPPIAN



**OTHER-THAN-HUMAN-  
PERSON EFFIGY PIPE**



**MONOLITHIC AXE**

# Mississippi Artefacts 2



# Mississippi artefacts 3

(7)



# Mississippi artifacts 4

The screenshot shows a web browser displaying the 'SPIROMOUNDS' website. The navigation menu includes: EXHIBIT, SCHEDULE & EVENTS, COLLECTION, MAPS, LECTURES, SPONSORS, ACKNOWLEDGMENTS, and VIRTUAL TOUR. The main content area features four artifact cards, each with a 'VIEW DETAILS' button and a descriptive caption:

- HUMAN FACE EFFIGY WITH DEER ANTLERS**: A dark, carved wooden mask with large, branching antlers.
- ENGRAVED SHELL BEAD**: A circular, light-colored shell with intricate engraved patterns.
- HUMAN EFFIGY MASK**: A dark, carved wooden mask with large, circular eyes and a wide, toothy mouth.
- ENGRAVED SHELL CUP WITH DEPICTION OF BIRDMAN**: A light-colored, conical shell cup with a detailed engraving of a birdman figure.

# Cahokia City. Iowa

(9)



# Mississippi Cultures 1200 AD



# Cahokia (700 AD – 1400+ AD?)

(11)



# Pueblo culture New Mexico, Arizona 100-1500 AD

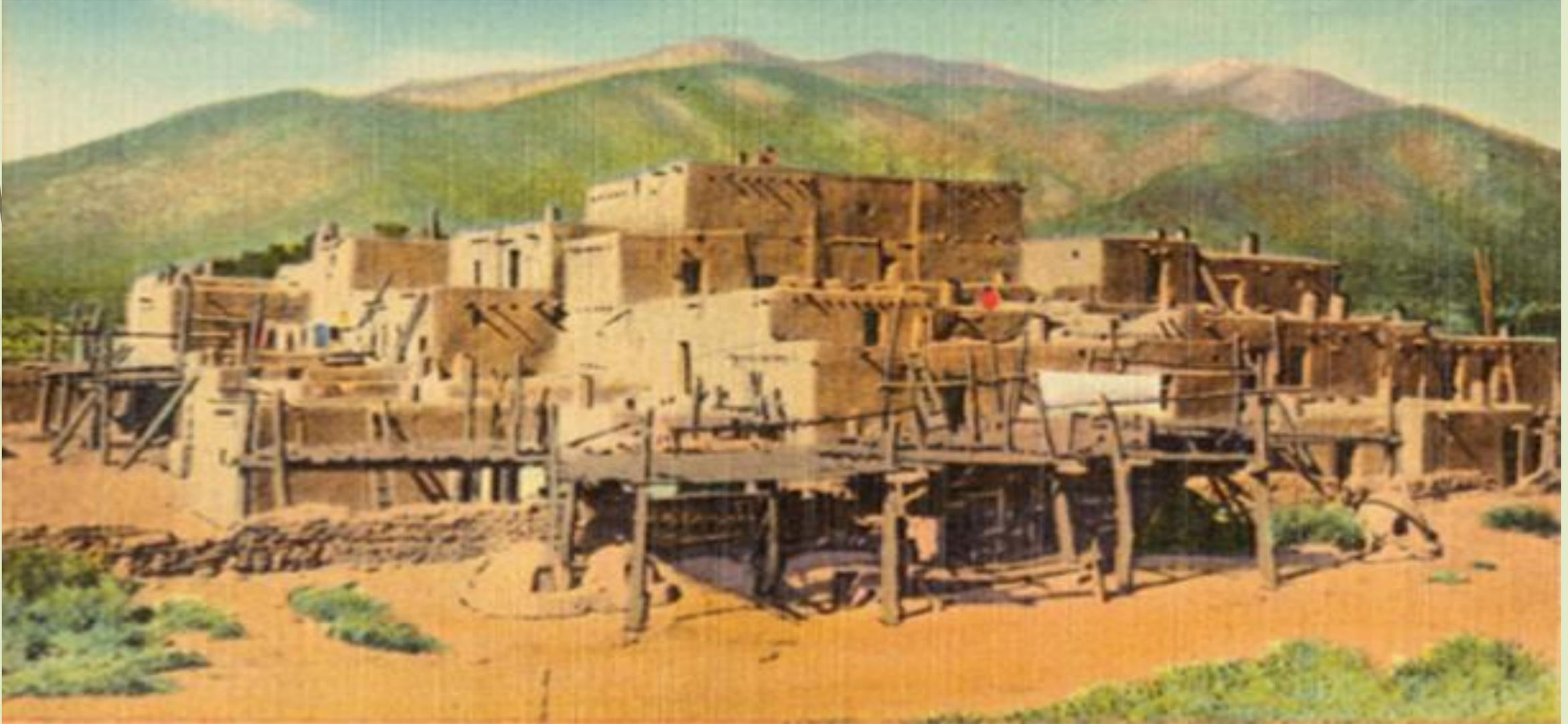


# Pueblo settlement 1000 -1500 CE

(13)



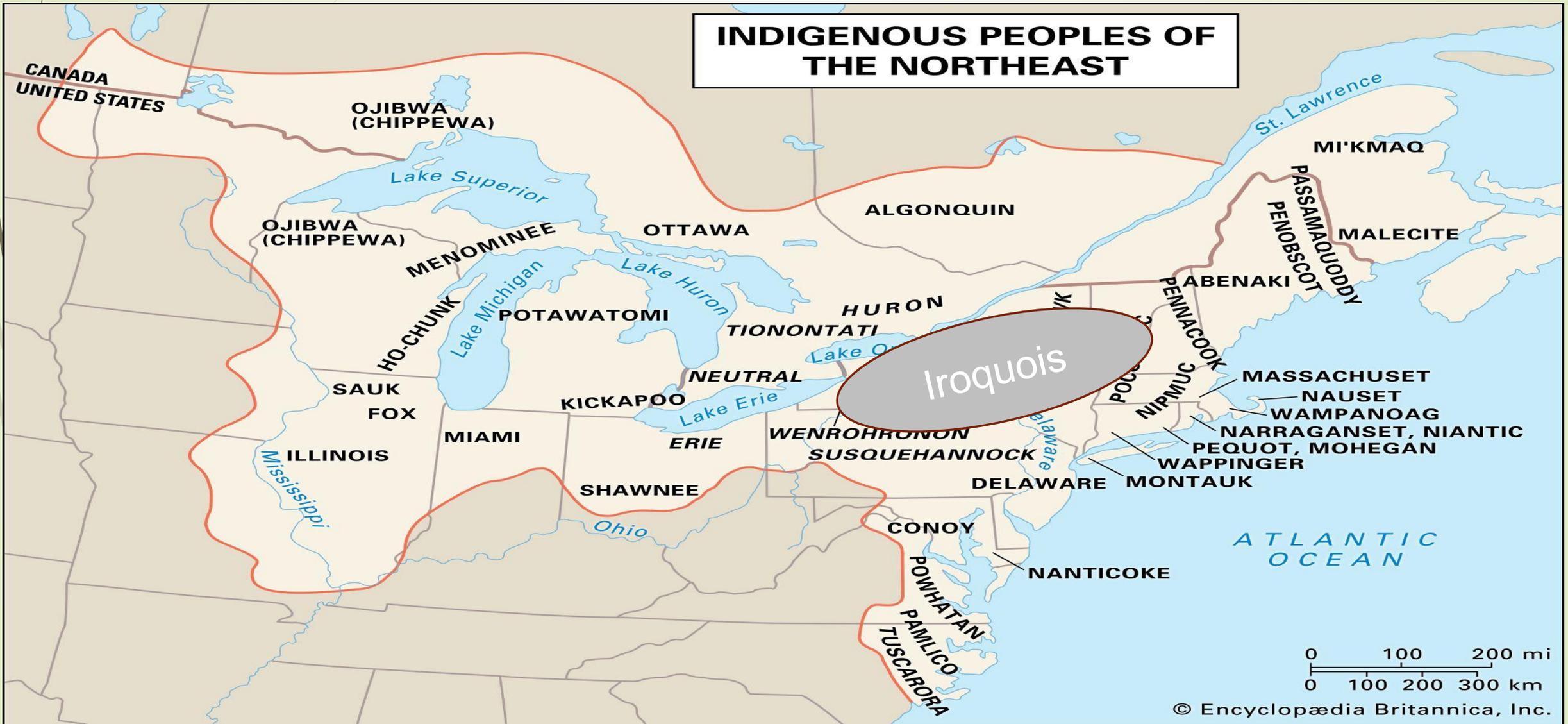
# Pueblo Indians South west



# The Jester Clown



# North East Indigenous Peoples 1450...1700



# Iroquois ambassadors to London 1700



# Iroquois Long House

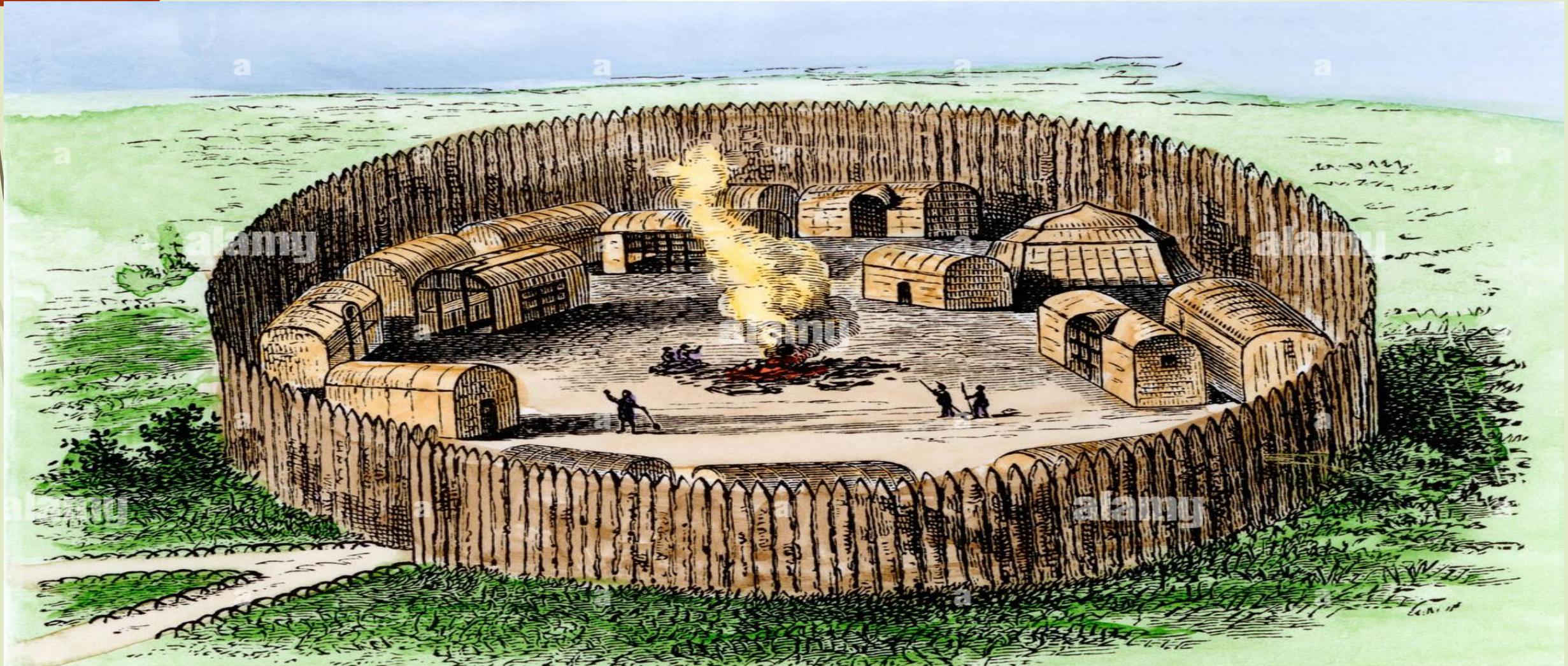


# Iroquois settlement



# Iroquois fort

(18)



# Great Law of Peace...Wampum belts...symbolic writing



# 3 sisters: corn, squash, and beans



# North American Indigenous Peoples

- ▶ Complex cultures, hunter gatherer and agricultural societies
- ▶ Structured, mostly matrilineal based, mostly consensus leadership
- ▶ Oral Tradition, no written languages
- ▶ Land 'owned' by tribe, allocated to individual
- ▶ Intensive warfare, slave raiding
- ▶ Common beliefs in 'Great Father', ancestors, spirits, life in all things
- ▶ No use of advanced metals or wheels
- ▶ No large draft animals, oxen, horses or immunities from related diseases



# Why no 'advanced culture in North America? (Thomas Sowell: 'Conquest & Cultures')

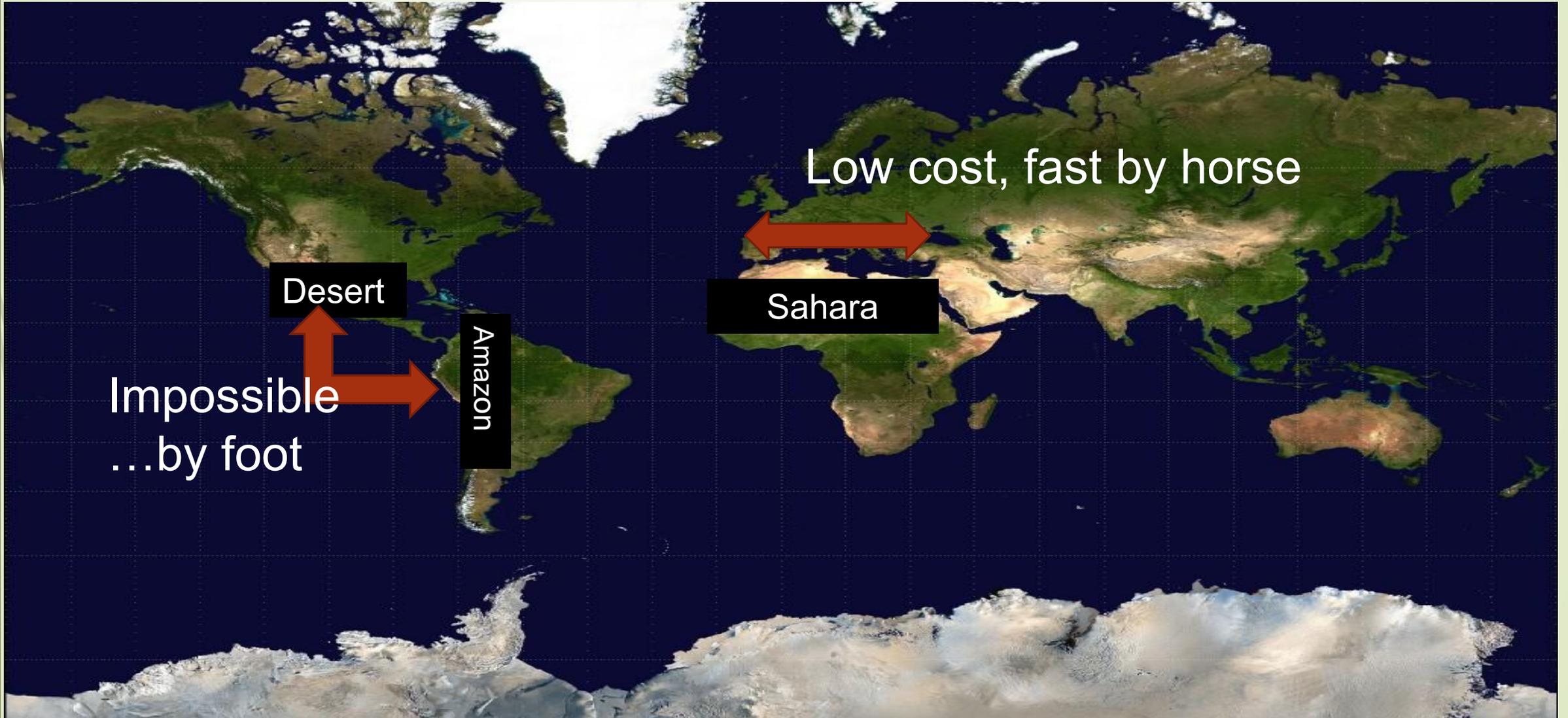
- ▶ Europe and Asia's 20,000 year head start
- ▶ East West trade (Asia > Europe) easier than North>South America (Arabs>Europe, not Aztec>Iroquois)
- ▶ No 'pack animals' (horses, oxen, cows, sheep)
  - ▶ Impossible to trade in volume, everything delivered by hand
  - ▶ Expansion slow and difficult. Long distance conquest impossible
  - ▶ No incentive to develop wheels and means of transportation

# North America Tribes



# Cultural Transfers

Middle East > Europe vs North South America



# Great Plains... 1700's



# South East Creek



# Pueblo Family



# South West Family (2)



# Iroquois lacross players



gettyimages  
Smith Collection/Gado

# Californian Indian 1700's



# Iroquois Chief Joseph Bryant 1750



# Great Plains India circa 1800





# Summary

- perfectly adapted to land and climate
- Complex cultures, not 'stone age' cultures
- Freed from the diseases associated with large animals...and associated immunities
- Fragmented, disunited...and vulnerable