

ENGAGEMENT MATERIALS

Saving Western Civilization One Student At A Time

DID YOU KNOW PIECE #2

Native Americans engaged in brutal inter-tribal warfare highlighted by massive casualties, scalping, beheading, and taking of slaves. Also, violence wasn't performed only on males. As we heard in the last video, women and children were recipients of this violence as well. It was common to kidnap women and children from other tribes on the regular. But it was more common just to send a small raiding party out and slaughter a bunch of them and then go home.

All-out war was relatively rare in native American societies compared to the other forms of violence and warfare they practiced. And by "relatively rare" we mean all-out war once a year or once every couple years. Obviously, that's not rare at all. That's far more frequent than war in civilized societies, even today. But at that time in the Americas, war every year or so was rare compared to the almost constant form of violence used by primitive peoples, and that is "the raid".

Raids were performed by small groups, a handful of men, sneaking into another territory, killing a few people, and quickly retreating back to their own tribe. Women and children were commonly killed in raids, as opposed to in war where mostly men were killed. Why were women and children more commonly killed in raids? Because they were the ones commonly targeted in raids. You could kill them quicker than men, and they could also be killed more silently. You might be able to sneak in, kill half a dozen women and children and be gone before anyone even realized what happened. Remember, this is what raids were all about. Kill a few people very quickly, and get out. Raids were very frequent and very deadly.

An extension of the raid is the massacre. These were also usually done sneakily and quickly, but were meant to kill as many people as possible at one time. In massacres, the enemy was taken by surprise, often at night while they slept. Their homes might be set on fire while they were asleep inside, then murdered one at a time as they ran out. We read an example of this in the last video, in the account from Cartier. The intent was to kill as many people as possible, and the result, more often than not, was that these massacres completely ended the occupation of the village. Meaning, either they massacred everyone, or there weren't enough people left to survive. A village would often never recover from a massacre.

There are many many archeological sites of massacres before the arrival of Europeans. We are just going to discuss two briefly.

The Castle Rock Pueblo was a village located in Southwestern Colorado. The Pueblo people are the ones we referred to as Anasazi in the last video, when we looked at their cave and rock art. Remember that? These are the people who built those very impressive cliff-dwellings that so many of us are familiar with. Almost all students are shown pictures of these when they study Native American history. What they don't tell you is that they built their homes in these cliff alcoves out of the need to be able to protect themselves from attacks, like a fort, because they were always at war with other tribes.



Now, these people have always been called the Anasazi, but we are not supposed to call them that anymore because that name was actually given to them by the Navajo. It means “ancestors of the enemy” or “ancient enemy”. That’s how the Navajo referred to them. So, it’s not their real tribal name, it’s a name given to them by someone else, and so we’re not supposed to call them that. But the problem is, we don’t know their real tribal name. Nobody does. And we have to call them something. They have to call themselves something. So, since we aren’t allowed to use Anasazi anymore, it’s been decided that it’s better to just refer to them as the Ancestral Puebloans, which is totally worse. That’s like not having a name at all. Furthermore, the name Pueblo, the one they want us to use, is ALSO not their real tribal name. That name was ALSO given to them by somebody else. Wanna guess who gave them that name? I’ll give you a hint, Pueblo means “village” in Spanish. It also means “people” in Spanish. Village...and people. So, instead of having a Native American name, Anasazi, that has meaning, given to you by Native American people, you’d rather be named what European explorers called you, who couldn’t even bother to ask you what your actual name is, but just called you a word which is so general as to mean nothing at all? “Hey, look at these guys we just found. Should we ask them what their name is? Nah. Let’s call them...people. Yeah, that’s good.”

The Anasazi, who were ancient enemies of the Navajo, meaning they’ve been killing each other for a very long time, had a small village in a place we call Castle Rock. Not Stephen King’s castle rock in Maine. This Castle Rock is in Southwestern Colorado, very near the Utah border. Somewhere around the year 1280 AD, many, perhaps all, of the residents of the Castle Rock Pueblo were killed in a single massacre event. Archeologists identified 41 complete human remains of Anasazi who were slaughtered, scalped, mutilated, decapitated, dismembered, and cooked. None of the bodies were buried, which means either there were no survivors, or that anyone who did manage to escape never came back. Here is a table of the sex and age distribution of the remains. As you can see here, one newborn, 4 babies, 7 children, a couple teens, and the rest adults.

Our second example is the Crow Creek Massacre up in South Dakota where archaeologists found a mass grave containing the remains of almost 500 men, women, and children who had been slaughtered, scalped, and mutilated during an attack on their village around 1325 AD. All the houses were burned, and the 500 who were murdered represented more than 60 percent of the tribe’s population. In modern times, we would call these two massacres genocides.

Massacres often killed very large percentages of the tribe population. Lawrence Keeley in his fantastic book, *War Before Civilization*, which I have quoted from several times in this engagement, said that when compiling the known numbers, Native American massacres killed an average of 10% of the victim’s population. In comparison, that would be like 12 million Americans being killed in a single air raid in WWI. (p. 68)

One thing that’s notable about the bodies in the mass grave at Crow Creek is that there are almost no women and young girls between the ages of 12-19, which means they were most likely intentionally not killed. It’s not because all the 12-19 year old girls were able to get away. They’re not in the grave because they were taken away as slaves. We’ll look a little more at the way women and children were treated prior to the arrival of Europeans in the next video.

90% of the people in this mass grave were scalped. 90%. That’s like 450 scalps. And many are missing hands and feet indicating those were taken as trophies. Crow Creek stands as the largest massacre that has ever occurred in North America. Yes, that includes even after the arrival of the evil Europeans, and the entire history of the United States.

One final note, before we end this video. It is important that you know that these massacres exactly match the evidence of massacres that took place in Europe, but which took place 4k years ago in France and 7k years ago in Germany. Now, why would a massacre in North America in the relatively recent year of 1325, match so closely to



massacres happening in the Stone Age in Europe in 5000 BC? It's not a coincidence. We've already discussed why. Think about it for a second. It's because 7k years ago, Europe was at the same stage of development that the Americas were in the 1300's.

