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They Came Before Columbus: The African Presence in Ancient America (Journal of African Civilizations)

By Ivan Van Sertima



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They Came Before Columbus reveals a compelling, dramatic, and superbly detailed documentation of the presence and legacy of Africans in ancient America. Examining navigation and shipbuilding; cultural analogies between Native Americans and Africans; the transportation of plants, animals, and textiles between the continents; and the diaries, journals, and oral accounts of the explorers themselves, Ivan Van Sertima builds a pyramid of evidence to support his claim of an African presence in the New World centuries before Columbus. Combining impressive scholarship with a novelist's gift for storytelling, Van Sertima re-creates some of the most powerful scenes of human history: the launching of the great ships of Mali in 1310 (two hundred master boats and two hundred supply boats), the sea expedition of the Mandingo king in 1311, and many others. In *They Came Before Columbus*, we see clearly the unmistakable face and handprint of black Africans in pre-Columbian America, and their overwhelming impact on the civilizations they encountered.



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Editorial Review

Amazon.com Review

This controversial book by Ivan Van Sertima, the Guyanese historian, linguist, and anthropologist, claims that Africans had been to the New World centuries before Columbus arrived there in 1492. Citing--among other things--the huge Negroid-looking Olmec heads of Central Mexico and the similarities between the Aztec and Egyptian calendars and pyramid structures, Van Sertima pieces together a hidden history of pre-Columbian contact between Africans and Native Americans. He also puts forth the possibility that Columbus may have already known about a route to the Americas from his years in Africa as a trader in Guinea. The ideas in this book have been debated and discussed since its first publication in 1976; even those who choose not to believe Van Sertima's theories should take his argument seriously. --*Eugene Holley, Jr.*

Review

"Fascinating."

—*The Atlantic Monthly*

"An immensely impressive book . . . well-written and clear."

—*Essence*

"I can't praise this book enough! I kept shaking my head over its power."

—*Ishmael Reed*

"Comprehensive and convincing . . . a big boost to black cultural history."

—*Publishers Weekly*

From the Inside Flap

"*They Came Before Columbus* reveals a compelling, dramatic, and superbly detailed documentation of the presence and legacy of Africans in ancient America. Examining navigation and shipbuilding; cultural analogies between Native Americans and Africans; the transportation of plants, animals, and textiles between the continents; and the diaries, journals, and oral accounts of the explorers themselves, Ivan Van Sertima builds a pyramid of evidence to support his claim of an African presence in the New World centuries before Columbus. Combining impressive scholarship with a novelist's gift for storytelling, Van Sertima re-creates some of the most powerful scenes of human history: the launching of the great ships of Mali in 1310 (two hundred master boats and two hundred supply boats), the sea expedition of the Mandingo king in 1311, and many others. In *"They Came Before Columbus*, we see clearly the unmistakable face and handprint of black Africans in pre-Columbian America, and their overwhelming impact on the civilizations they encountered.

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Now a day folks who Living in the era wherever everything reachable by connect with the internet and the resources inside can be true or not demand people to be aware of each details they get. How many people to be smart in having any information nowadays? Of course the answer then is reading a book. Reading through

a book can help persons out of this uncertainty Information specially this They Came Before Columbus: The African Presence in Ancient America (Journal of African Civilizations) book because book offers you rich information and knowledge. Of course the knowledge in this book hundred per cent guarantees there is no doubt in it you probably know this.

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