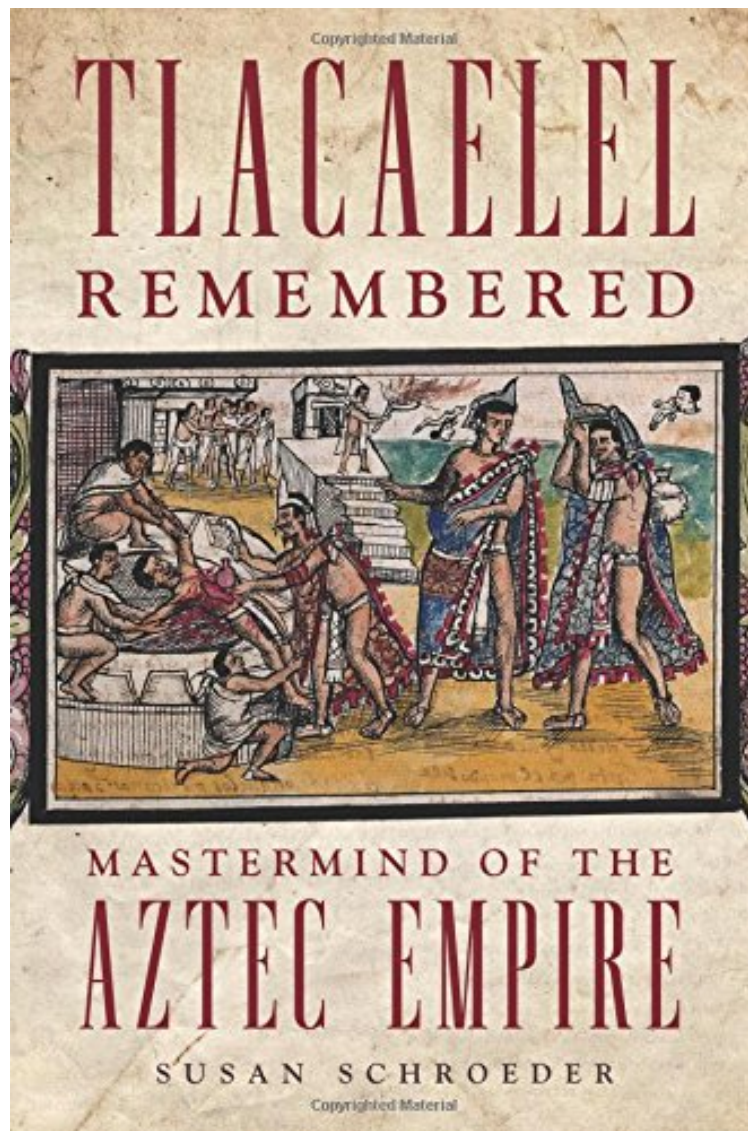


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Tlacaelel Remembered: Mastermind of the Aztec Empire (The Civilization of the American Indian Series)

Susan Schroeder Ph.D

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Susan Schroeder Ph.D : Tlacaelel Remembered: Mastermind of the Aztec Empire (The Civilization of the American Indian Series) before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Tlacaelel Remembered: Mastermind of the Aztec Empire (The Civilization of the American Indian Series):

2 of 2 people found the following review helpful. Fascinating Biography of a Pre-Colombian LeaderBy K

Paul Tlacaelel, probably the most important man in Aztec history, gets a biography. I was expecting a lot of jargon and inconclusive analysis of a very small amount of surviving information, but I was pleasantly surprised to see that Tlacaelel was written about extensively by Nahua historians like Duran and Chimalpahin, and as such the book is actually able to provide a detailed account of Tlacaelel's entire life - complete with illustrations from the codices, a few maps, a glossary of important Nahua words and a plethora of speeches attributed to Tlacaelel by the Nahua historians. The book is well written and well sourced. I would love to see more biographies of figures in pre-columbian North and South American history in this style. 0 of 2 people found the following review helpful. It's the best book I've seen on Tlacaelel. By Casey Coleman. It's the best book I've seen on Tlacaelel, but then it's the only book I've seen focus on just him. It reads like a dissertation, which I suspect it originally was. 0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. An Aztec Machiavelli. By Albert A. Nofi. A summary of the review on StrategyPage.Com. In what is a genuinely groundbreaking effort, Prof. Schroeder (Tulane) has produced the first biography of a critically important figure in Mesoamerican history, Tlacaelel (fl. c. 1400- c. 1490), a man previously thought by some historians to be more myth than real. Schroeder draws upon several histories written in the aftermath of the Spanish conquest by clergymen and the Hispanicized members of Aztec nobility, including some of Tlacaelel's own descendants, as well as upon archaeology, genealogy, Aztec codices, official documents, and other sources, to argue that not only was Tlacaelel a real person, but that he was a politician on par with Machiavelli. While perhaps Richelieu would be a better analog, Schroeder certainly makes an excellent case that while serving as chief minister to his brother Motecuhzoma I (r., 1440-1469) and three later emperors, Tlacaelel played an important role in the development of Aztec hegemony in central Mexico. The book includes a great deal of detail on Aztec politics and religion, and Schroeder at times makes useful comparisons with events in Roman and other histories. An interesting, learned, and complex work, this is primarily useful for the serious scholar of Mesoamerican or comparative history. For the full review, see StrategyPage.Com

The enigmatic and powerful Tlacaelel (1398-1487), wrote annalist Chimalpahin, was the beginning and origin of the Mexica monarchy in fifteenth-century Mesoamerica. Brother of the first Motecuhzoma, Tlacaelel would become the most powerful, feared, and esteemed man of all that the world had seen up to that time. But this outsize figure of Aztec history has also long been shrouded in mystery. In *Tlacaelel Remembered*, the first biography of the Mexica nobleman, Susan Schroeder searches out the truth about his life and legacy. A century after Tlacaelel's death, in the wake of the conquistadors, Spaniards and natives recorded the customs, histories, and language of the Nahua, or Aztec, people. Three of these chroniclers: fray Diego Duran, don Hernando Alvarado Tezozomoc, and especially don Domingo de San Antn Mun Chimalpahin Quauhtlehuanitzin wrote of Tlacaelel. But the inaccessibility of Chimalpahin's annals has meant that for centuries of Aztec history, Tlacaelel has appeared, if at all, as a myth. Working from Chimalpahin's newly available writings and exploring connections and variances in other source materials, Schroeder draws the clearest possible portrait of Tlacaelel, revealing him as the architect of the Aztec empire's political power and its military might: a politician on par with Machiavelli. As the advisor to five Mexica rulers, Tlacaelel shaped the organization of the Mexica state and broadened the reach of its empire: feats typically accomplished with the spread of warfare, human sacrifice, and cannibalism. In the annals, he is considered the second king to the rulers who built the empire, and is given the title Cihuacoatl, used for the office of president and judge. As Schroeder traces Tlacaelel through the annals, she also examines how his story was transmitted and transformed in later histories. The resulting work is the most complete and comprehensive account ever given of this significant figure in Mesoamerican history.

Susan Schroeder's exhilarating, highly engaging book provides an authoritative account of the mighty Mexica nobleman Tlacaelel, proving not only that such a figure did exist, but that his fingerprints on military alliances, political strategies, and even novel forms of human sacrifice can be found everywhere in the momentous rise of the Mexica capital in the fifteenth century. A scholarly tour de force. David Tavrez, author of *The Invisible War: Indigenous Devotions, Discipline, and Dissent in Colonial Mexico*