

Was the Final Jaredite War between the Maya and Olmecs?

This final Jaredite war was a war between the Maya and Olmecs. This evaluation is based on the following assumptions:

- The Maya were the Jaredites and the Olmecs were an independent culture that had assimilated into the Maya territories.
- The Olmec had evolved into a major civilization that had the power to take over the leadership of Mesoamerica.
- The Olmecs were refugees from the Shan Dynasty and arrived in Mesoamerica in about 1200 BC approximately 1000 years after the Tower of Babel.
- This final war was limited to the north countries (Either 1:1) and the Maya located in land southward were not necessarily involved. These peoples were remnants of the Maya civilization and are proposed to be the Lamanites that the Nephites associated with during the early part of the Book of Mormon.

These some of correlations were highlighted by Richard Hansen during his speech at the Library of Congress in 2014. [Hansen 2014] These relationships are outlined in Notes #1. The assumptions that the Olmecs were not the Jaredites is based on the lack of correlations that are outlined in Notes #2.

Coriantumr, the last survivor of the final war, was the ruler of the Jaredite nation just prior to the final Jaredite war and was the descendent of Omer who was the a descendent of a long line of Jaredite rulers going back to Jared. Coriantumr and the Jaredites were challenged by Gilead and his armies (possibly Olmec armies). Gilead and the others that challenged Coriantumr are not listed in the Book of Mormon text as being decedents of the Jaredite hieratical line of rulers, thereby appearing to be outsiders who were desirous of taking over the kingdom. This is first time in the Book of Ether that individuals were mentioned that are not a part of the line that goes back to Jared.

The following statement by Betty Meggers describes the intrusion of the Shan Dynasty refugees into Mesoamerica:

*About 1200 B.C., something unusual occurred; namely, the "sudden appearance of Olmec civilization in full flower" (Coe 1968:64; cf. Willey 1971:107; Heizer 1971:62; Clewlow 1974:9, 149). Although the presence of La Venta, San Lorenzo, and several other impressive sites has led to designation of the Gulf coast as the Olmec "core area," carbon-14 dates suggest **that Olmec influence was felt almost simultaneously over most of Mesoamerica.** [Meggers 1975]*

This statement implies that the Olmecs not only established a core center in the Tabasco-Veracruz area but also interspersed throughout many areas of Mesoamerica. This would mean that they assimilated to a large extent into the Maya civilization. This assumption is becoming more of a reality as current archeologists



continue to uncover evidences that the Olmec's had a strong presence within the lands of the Maya's. [Notes 4-5] There is also strong evidence the culture of the Olmecs had influenced or changed the Maya culture in a significant way. This relationship appears to have evolved over an eight-hundred-year period where the Olmecs likely gained in strength and reached the point where they could take on the mighty Mayan civilization.

It appears like there were many refugees from China and after eight hundred years of population growth their population numbers could be well into the millions. There were very few that settled in the La Venta area, so where did they all go? It's likely that a good percentage of them coexisted with Maya in the Guatemala, Belize and the Yucatan regions. See the map to the right that identifies areas were the Olmecs either settled, coexisted or had a great deal of influence.

When Gilead challenged Coriantumr, Gilead and the central Olmec army could have originated from La Venta the main center for the Olmec nation. The fact the La Venta was abandoned at the same time as the Jaredite war could be a legitimate link with the final war.

The Book of Ether never mentioned a reason why there was a division among the people that would cause such a devastating outcome. This leads one to wonder if the conflict was between two cultures rather than a divisive issue within a culture. If it was a divisive issue it would have likely been mentioned in the text.

The following scriptures in the Book of Ether suggest that it was a battle between two cultures: In **Ether 15:2**, Coriantumr express deep sorrow for the two million of his people that were lost. This implies that the people that followed Shiz were of another culture, possible Olmec.

*Ether 15:2 He saw that there had been slain by the sword already nearly two **million of his people**, and he began to sorrow in his heart; yea, there had been slain two million of mighty men, and also their wives and their children.*

In **Ether 15:13**, it tells of Coriantumr and Shiz gathering two different peoples, possibly the Maya (Jaredites) and the Olmec. This implies that there were two distinct groups of people.

Ether 15:13 And it came to pass that Ether did behold all the doings of the people; and he beheld that the people who were for Coriantumr were gathered together to the army of Coriantumr; and the people who were for Shiz were gathered together to the army of Shiz... 14,,they were for the space of four years gathering together the people,,,

Ether 14:20 points to a situation where most if not all of the participants were existing in the same territory. This implies that there was either a divisive issue within the various communities or that there were two distinct cultures. Research has revealed that the Olmec coexisted with Maya in numerous regions in Mesoamerica.

*Ether 14:20 And **they were divided**; and a part of them fled to the army of Shiz, and a part of them fled to the army of Coriantumr.*

Summary:

There is no direct evidence that the war was between the Maya and the Olmec, however there is ample circumstantial evidence to build a fairly strong case that the Maya were the Jaredites

and that they fought the Olmec to total annihilation. The strongest evidence is the fact that these correlations fit very well into the two hundred correlations of the Pasion River Model.

Notes:

Note #1: Establishing the correlations between the Jaredites and the Maya:

- The Jaredite nation that encompasses the hill Ramah must be the greatest nation, none greater. Ether 1:43
- Early Maya-Jaredite settlements near hill Ramah coincide with the Tower of Babel time frame. It was the place of their first landing.
- Jaredite-Maya population levels reached over 10 million
- Facial characteristics of the people near the Tower of Babel are the same as the some of the current pure Maya tribes.
- The Jaredites who live primarily in the land northward should be to the north of the land southward
- There must be evidence of Nephite resettlement in Jaredite lands
- The narrow neck should be relatively close to the hill Ramah and the neck should be wider than fifteen miles.
- Ancient trade route should pass by hill Ramah
- There should be an ancient city east of hill Raman that would be an excellent candidate for the Jaredite city of Ablom (Cerros or Santa Rita).
- The Jaredites have a written language
- There rock cavities to hide Ether in and around the proposed site of hill Ramah
- There are caves for Mormon to hide the records
- There is evidence that preparations were made for war near the sire of hill Ramah
- The Narrow Neck Complex has multiple connections to the proposed of hill Ramah
- The proposed narrow neck has an ancient city that corresponds to Jaredite time line
- The early Maya settlers have traditions that were practiced by their homeland in Mesopotamia
- The proposed hill Ramah should be an integral part of the upright hour glass model
- The proposed hill is a land of many waters, rivers and fountains.
- There is evidence of a horrific destruction that is associated with the proposed hill
- There is a logical Jaredite war route that terminates at hill Ramah
- There are no mountains north of the narrow neck or the primary Jaredite country
- There is an eastern seashore north of Ripliancum
- Hill Ramah is south of the Waters of Ripliancum
- Hill Ramah is relatively close to Zarahemla
- There is an extensive agriculture land base near hill Ramah
- There is an extensive supply of raw material near Ramah to make war weapons
- There is evidence of actual weapons

Notes #2 The lack of correlations between the Olmec and Jaredites

- Their settlements commenced over 1000 years after the Tower of Babel

- They never qualified in becoming one of the greatest ancient nations
- Their facial characteristics do not match the peoples of the Tower of Babel
- The core Olmec territory (the land northward) was never resettled by the Nephites
- The areas around La Venta and San Lorenzo would not qualify as a “promised land”



Notes #3 Similarities between the Olmec and the Shang Dynasty

Traits shared by the Shang and Olmec Civilizations: [Meggers 1975] [Xu 1996]

- Writing – Motifs on stone carvings have been interpreted as symbols and three of these resemble Shang characters.
- Jade – Jade was prized in China, In Mesoamerica, as in China, Jade was a primary commodity of long distance trade.
- Batonsas Symbol of Rank – Olmec depictions of a man holding an object with a bifurcated upper end, a shape represented among the badges of rank employed by the Shang.
- Feline Deity – Feline depictions of Shang style a carved into an altar at La Venta. Dragon like attributes that similar to China are found in the Olmec inscriptions.
- Worship of Mountains – Mountains seem to have played a significant role in Olmec religion and mythology, similar to the Shang religion.
- Cranial Deformation – There are striking similarities between the skull deformations of the Olmecs and the Chinese.



- According to Dr. Cyphers, the “Olmecs were not very large but quite muscular”. This does not coincide with the large breastplates that were brought back by Lemhi’s expedition party that also found Jaredite record written by Ether. [Hansen 1997]

Other similarities: [Cyphers 1994] [Meggers 1975]

- At about 1200 B.C., there was a quantum change in Mesoamerica from a village farming way of life to Olmec civilization; a similarly abrupt transformation took place about 500 years earlier in China, when the Shang Dynasty was imposed on a pre-existing Neolithic population.
- The Shang and the Olmec are credited with the possession of writing, a reliable calendar, a social structure capable of procuring and directing labor for large-scale construction, an organized religion administered by a priesthood, and a trade or

acquisition network that channeled materials from distant sources to the administrative or ceremonial centers; both treated jade as a material of exceptional value.

- The settlement pattern of both cultures consisted of small, scattered villages, the inhabitants of which contributed labor, luxury goods, food, and other commodities and services to centers occupied by an aristocracy. Among the Olmec, the nature and composition of the latter is unknown; among the Shang, the documents describe a hierarchy composed of a sovereign, administrators of differing rank, and feudal lords.
- The principal structures in Olmec centers and Shang capitals were rectangular earth platforms surmounted by perishable wattle-and-daub buildings; the main axis of the components and the site as a whole was north-south. Underground drains, dedicatory caches, and tombs are among the associated features.
- Shang documents indicate that the emperor and the subordinate lords employed specific types of jade batons as symbols of authority and rank; Olmec base-reliefs depict elaborately attired men, some of whom hold a staff or plaque of similar shape in one or both hands.
- The feline was a major focus of religious expression among both Shang and Olmec, and was associated with the earth. Depiction ranges from realistic to highly stylized and from fanged and snarling to gentle and placid. Frequently, the lower jaw was omitted. Serpents and birds were also emphasized and features of these animals were sometimes combined in the iconography of both cultures to produce a dragon.

Notes #4 Evidence of Olmec influence has been found in the following Maya locations:

1. Ceibal
2. Palenque
3. Salama
4. Northern Yucatan
5. Belize
6. Southern Guatemala
7. Balancan
8. Cuello
9. Belize
10. Copan
11. Izapa

Note #5 The settlement pattern of Olmecs and the relationship with the Shang Dynasty [Meggers 1975]

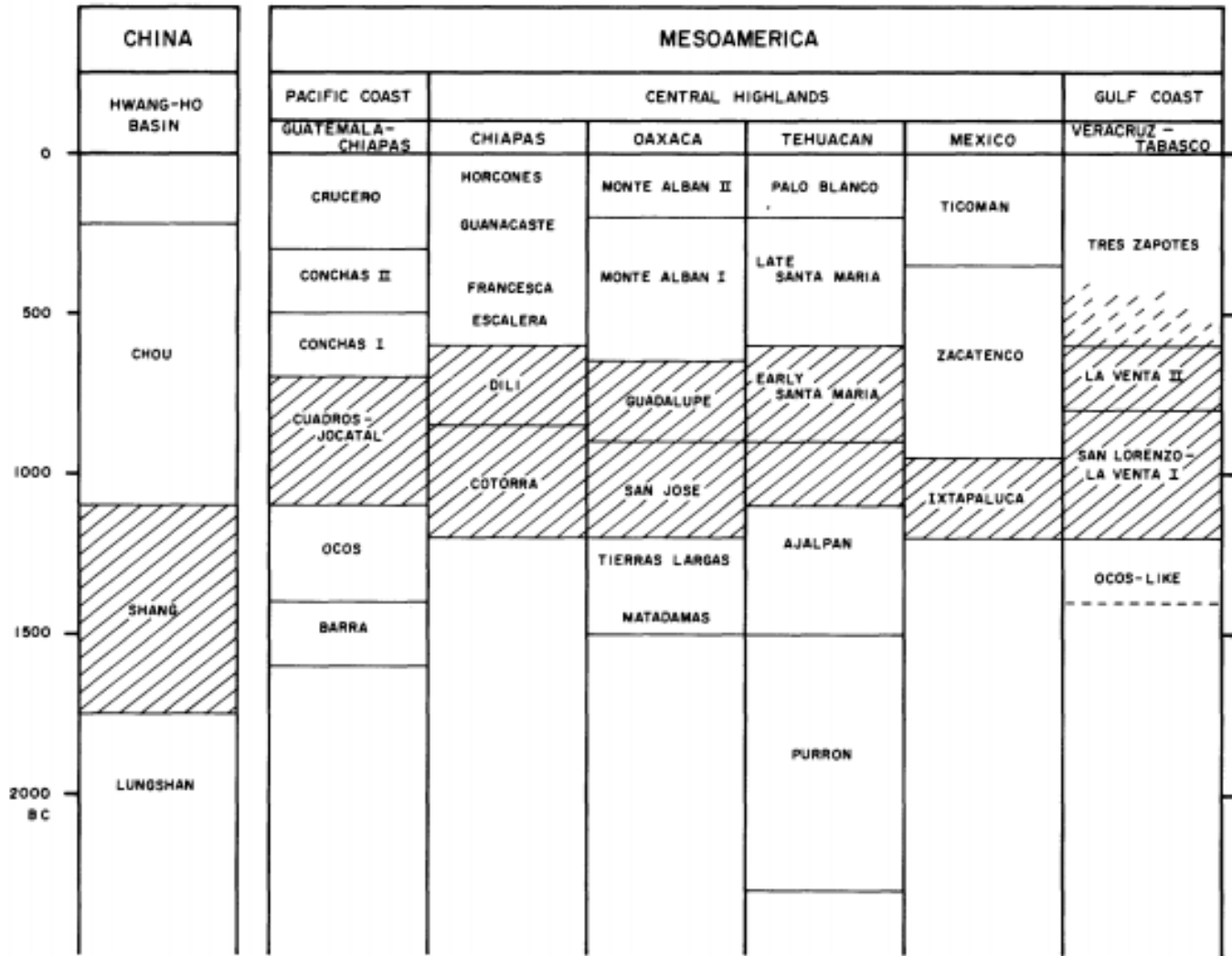


Figure 1. Comparison of the chronological positions of the Shang and Olmec civilizations (diagonal hatching) (after Green and Lowe 1967; Coe and Flannery 1967; MacNeish, Peterson and Flannery 1970; Tolstoy and Paradis 1971; Coe 1968).

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