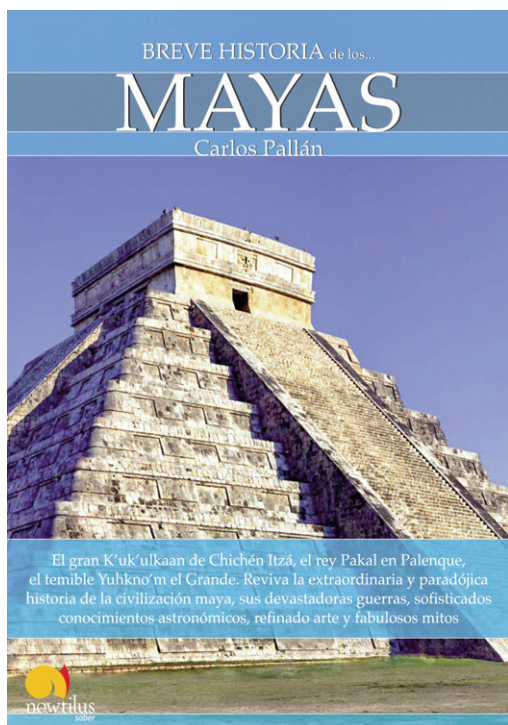


BRIEF HISTORY OF THE MAYANS

BREVE HISTORIA
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Carlos Pallán Gayol

Learn about the great K'uk'ulkaan of Chichen Itza, the king Pakal in Palenque, the fearsome Yuhkno'm the Great. Relive the extraordinary and paradoxical history of the Mayan civilization, their devastating wars, their sophisticated astronomical findings, their refined art, and their fabulous myths.



Synopsis

A Brief History of the Mayans gives the reader a look at that vast Mayan world, rich in historical depth from Antiquity to today. This book offers an understanding of impressive intellectual achievements, exquisite works of art, and fascinating mythical episodes, all of which rival those marvels of Ancient Greece, Rome, and Egypt.

This book responds to the general fascination that still exists today for the Mayans, even more than for all other ancient civilizations. It focuses on the period of splendor with its majestic cities – now ruins covered by tropical jungle brush – where a multitude of kings, queens, priests, and warriors lived and died. Through the deciphering of hieroglyphics and the interpretation of the fascinating images adorned on buildings, monuments, pottery, and codices, the author unearths the secrets of their past, their ancestral thinking, and their rich mythology.

Biography

Carlos Pallán (México, 1974) has a degree in archeology from the Escuela Nacional de Antropología e Historia (ENAH). As a researcher he has participated in projects at the Universities of Harvard, Bonn and La Trobe. He has written academic and general interest books on history, epigraphy, iconography, and mythology of the Classical period.



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Did you know that...

...the Mayans had the astronomic knowledge to predict eclipses and to map the cycles of Venus and Mars?

...the Mayan calendar was so sophisticated that it allowed you to register a specific day millions of years in the past and thousands of years in the future?

... the Mayans didn't have animals for hauling cargo at their disposal, nor did they have use of the wheel, but this did not prevent them from building temples so immense that they surpassed in volume the biggest European cathedrals?

... they developed a base 20 number system?



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