David Carrasco THE AZTECS A Very Short Introduction

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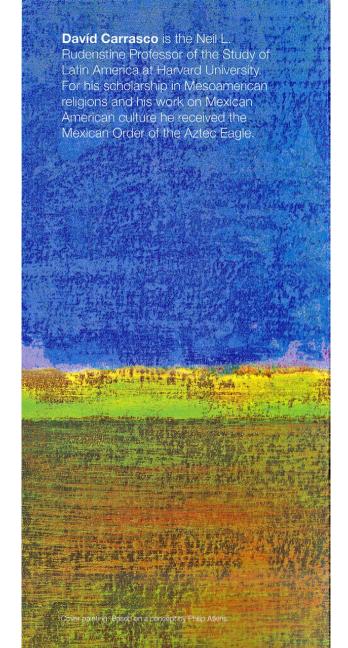
Drawing on a wide range of sources. including the Aztecs' own writings. David Carrasco here sheds light on everything from the cosmic significance of their capital city to the contributions women made to daily life and the empire. Carrasco offers a compact history of the Aztecs, outlining the rise of the Aztec empire, the arrival of the Spaniards, and urban life in Mesoamerica. He also explores Aztec religion - which provided both justification for and alternatives to warfare, sacrifice, and imperialismas well as Aztec poetry, philosophy, painting, and especially monumental sculpture and architecture. He concludes by looking at how the Aztecs have been portrayed in Western thought, art, film, and literature.

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David Carrasco

THE AZTECS

A Very Short Introduction

'Carrasco offers a comprehensive vision of ancient Aztec civilization based on his profound knowledge of the ideological underpinnings of Mexica life and culture. His insights bring us closer to an understanding of the origins of this society, the reasons for their meteoric military and commercial rise, the motivations for their ritual practices, the special role of women and children, the subtle interplay of language, philosophy and art, and the influence they continue to exert in Mexico and the United States.

> Leonardo López Luián. Director of the Templo Mayor Project, El Instituto Nacional de Antropología e Historia, Mexico City

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